

DISCOVER PARKS IN ALBERTA & SASKATCHEWAN

Travel time: 21 days from/to Calgary
Distance: Approximately 3,306 km



Experience unspoiled nature, the endless expanses of prairie, the breathtaking range of the Rocky Mountains, a variety of wildlife, vibrant cities and relics of the long history of this region of Canada. Alberta and Saskatchewan have much to offer, so pack your curiosity and hit the open road.

Day 1: Arrive in Calgary, Alberta

Welcome to Calgary, Alberta's largest city! It's a modern city, with a variety of cultural attractions. For the best view of the city, visit Calgary Tower – a 190-m landmark with an observation deck and a revolving restaurant. Visiting Calgary in July? The Calgary Stampede is a must. Stampede Week begins on the first Friday in July, kicking off with a parade. www.visitcalgary.com

Day 2: Drive to Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta (259 km)

Leave the big city flair behind and head out on a journey through nature. On the way to Waterton Lakes National Park, you'll spot plenty of wildlife - antelope, coyotes, eagles, moose, and other species. The park offers terrific opportunities to enrich your photo album. <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/waterton>

Day 3: Waterton Lakes National Park

Spend the day exploring everything that Waterton Lakes National Park has to offer. Visit breathtaking Red Rock Canyon and enjoy a boat ride across Upper Waterton Lake. The trip takes you along the 49th parallel. Bear's Hump offers a rewarding short hike with a fantastic view of Waterton. <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/waterton/activ/experiences/randonee-hiking/promenades-walks>



Day 4: Drive to Historic Reesor Ranch (360 km)

Today you cross over into the prairie province of Saskatchewan. Among numerous accommodation options is a special highlight – an overnight stay at Historic Reesor Ranch. The century-old working cattle ranch is located just outside of the West Block of Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. www.reesorranch.com

Day 5: Historic Reesor Ranch

Start the day like a real cowboy with a hearty breakfast. After a short introduction to western riding, explore the surrounding hills and enjoy the breathtaking vistas that make this area so special. Following your trail ride, consider an ATV tour or relax in nature as you meander through the forest on their marked trail. After a home-cooked supper, guests gather to hear cowboy stories and poems by the local bard.

Day 6: Drive to Grasslands National Park (356 km)

After breakfast, make your way east along Hwy 1 to Maple Creek. Nestled in the heart of the southwest, Maple Creek is conveniently located eight kilometers south of Hwy 1. Stroll along the sidewalks and visit some of the unique shops located in the newly acclaimed Heritage District.

Today's route takes you further south through the prairies to Grasslands National Park. Along the way, stop at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. The unexpected mountain-like oasis reaches an elevation of 1,392 m above sea level, marking the province's highest geographical point.

After a day of exploring, you have arrived in Val Marie. Stop by the visitor centre before heading into the West Block entrance of Grasslands National Park. <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/sk/grasslands>

Day 7: Grasslands National Park

Grasslands National Park shows us the original North American prairie in all its beauty. In the West Block, take the Ecotour Scenic Drive and view Plains bison as they roam the land, grazing on native grasses. Black-tailed prairie dogs, pronghorns and various species of snake make their home here. Backcountry hikers and campers will have a field day in the East Block. Backpack your way through the gorgeous hoodoo-strewn landscape of the Valley of 1,000 Devils or take a drive on the 11-km Badlands Parkway. This new paved route has six scenic viewpoints highlighting some of Saskatchewan's most spectacular vistas.



Day 8: Drive to Regina (347 km)

During today's journey to the province's capital, you will get to know and love Saskatchewan's endless prairie landscape. As an alternative to the Trans Canada Highway, you can choose the route via Old Wives Lake - this salt lake is home to a Migratory Bird Sanctuary. During a stopover in Moose Jaw, enjoy a lunch at the Yvette Moore Gallery and visit the popular Tunnels of Moose Jaw. The tunnels are where Al Capone and company allegedly engaged in bootlegging activities during Prohibition. <https://tourismregina.com> <https://tunnelsofmoosejaw.com>

Day 9: Regina

Saskatchewan's provincial capital, Regina, is home to Canada's only training academy for the next generation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Visitors can take a guided tour of the training depot and visit the adjacent RCMP Heritage Centre. For an evening stroll, head to Wascana Centre. The park is larger than Vancouver's famous Stanley Park, and is home to many species of birds.

Day 10: Drive to Manitou Beach (180 km)

Today, head to Manitou Beach. The intense mineral concentration of Little Manitou Lake draws people from around the world for the water's reputed healing properties. Manitou Springs Resort & Mineral Spa lets you try out the water in a relaxing indoor pool. After a soak, put on your dancing shoes and kick up your heels at Danceland, an old-fashioned dance hall with one of the last horsehair-sprung dance floors in North America. <https://manitousprings.ca>

Day 11: Drive to Saskatoon (124 km)

Following a restful sleep, enjoy breakfast and begin thinking about your day in Saskatoon. Saskatchewan's largest city is described as being the best of both worlds – dynamic urban energy in sync with nature. Saskatoon delights with its picturesque cityscape. Seven bridges cross the South Saskatchewan River, which meanders through the city, earning it the nickname "Paris of the Prairies". In the evening, enjoy the sunset while strolling along the scenic riverside walk.

<https://discoversaskatoon.sk.com>



Day 12: Saskatoon

A recommendation for travellers to Saskatoon – come with an appetite. The city’s food and drink scene is phenomenal. Start your day with breakfast in the popular Riverside neighbourhood. A stroll through downtown Saskatoon offers plenty of shopping, as well as cultural attractions.

On the city’s northern edge sits Wanuskewin Heritage Park, a National Historic Site that has yielded evidence of human occupation dating back 6,400 years. Traces of every cultural group that existed on the Northern Plains have been discovered here. Authentic First National culture and traditions are experienced through dance performances, exhibitions and Indigenous art and hands-on activities. An onsite restaurant serves traditional First Nations cuisine with a contemporary twist. <https://wanuskewin.com>

Day 13: Drive to Champêtre County (51 km)

Art lovers will enjoy the Remai Modern, an art museum that features dazzling exhibits from artists around the globe. It boasts the world’s largest collection of Picasso linocuts, along with nearly two dozen ceramic works by the Spanish master.

<https://remainmodern.org>

A short 30-minute drive from Saskatoon brings you to Champêtre County – a country-themed resort. Relax in an idyllic setting and enjoy home cooked meals and activities, including playing horseshoes, a scavenger hunt and the Lost Corral Maze. Unwind with a delicious supper before heading back into the city for your last night in Saskatoon. <https://champetrecounty.com>

Day 14: Drive to Prince Albert National Park (229 km)

Take your time and enjoy the drive to Prince Albert National Park (PANP). Opened in 1928, PANP delights visitors with its forests, lakes, beaches, trails and resident wildlife. Its centrepiece is Waskesiu Lake, which boasts long sandy beaches and an impressive marina. The park is also home to Canada’s only herd of Plains bison in their historic range. <https://parks.canada.ca/pn->

[np/sk/princealbert](https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/sk/princealbert)

Day 14: Prince Albert National Park

Today, a day full of outdoor adventure awaits you. Hiking, canoeing, swimming, mountain biking, fishing, wildlife viewing – PANP offers all of this and more. Explore nature through interpretive programs, guided hikes and outdoor theatres. Learn about Grey Owl, the famed conservationist, and journey to his cabin on the shore of Ajaawan Lake.



Day 16: Drive to Edmonton (622 km)

Your destination for the day is Edmonton. Today's tour takes you along the southern border of the boreal coniferous forest across Saskatchewan into Alberta.

Day 17: Edmonton

Welcome to the capital of Alberta, Edmonton is also known as 'Festival City,' with over 50 festivals annually. Visit the Royal Alberta Museum, where the heritage of Alberta's people and natural environment are told through meaningful stories. For shopping fans or those who want to become one, a trip to the West Edmonton Mall is a must. The largest shopping mall in North America delights not only with its countless stores, but also with its indoor amusement park with a river course, wave pool and bungee jumping tower. <https://exploreedmonton.com>

Day 18: Drive to Jasper National Park (364 km)

Following Canada Highway 16, you will reach the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and eventually Jasper National Park. The largest national park in the Canadian Rockies offers spectacular hiking trails and sightings of rare animal and plant species. Relax on the shores of majestic Maligne Lake or take a bus to Athabasca Glacier. <https://parksCanada.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper>

Day 19: Jasper National Park

Take your time to experience the wonder of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Hikes, mountain bike tours, canoeing or rafting trips ... adventure awaits! Don't forget your camera.

Day 20: Drive to Banff National Park (287 km)

Another highlight of the Canadian Rocky Mountains awaits you in Banff National Park, Canada's oldest national park. Discover the beautiful glacier-fed Moraine Lake and visit the famous Peyto Lake, which is almost mystical with its shimmering turquoise color. For the best view, take a cable car ride up the 2,451 Sulphur Mountain. <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/banff>

Day 21: Drive to Calgary (127 Km)

After three spectacular and unforgettable weeks, you will arrive back at your starting point Calgary.