

# RVC Newsletter 2022

## LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

### Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden

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nikkayuko.com

Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden was opened for Canada's Centennial in 1967. Built to recognize vital contributions made to Lethbridge by its citizens of Japanese ancestry, the garden blends Japanese garden traditions with local greenery. This symbol of international friendship sits elegantly on the edge of Henderson Lake Park in central Lethbridge.

- Design — revered landscape architects from Osaka
- Tradition — Kyoto-made sculptures and architecture
- Daily programming — sumo, anime, happy hour
- Special experiences — meditation, tea ceremonies, tours
- Winter Light Festival — more than 120,000 lights
- Nikka Yuko Bunka Centre — cafe, store

### Fort Whoop-Up

Natasha Gray  
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fort.galtmuseum.com

Nestled in the banks of the Oldman River, Fort Whoop-Up is a replica of the original (and notorious) fur trading fort built in the late 1800s. Through interactive storytelling and displays, experience the story of the buffalo robe and illegal whiskey trade, and the people of this region, which includes the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), other First Nations, Métis, Canadians, Americans, and British settlers.

- Tour — video display, guided tours with knowledgeable interpreters
- Wagon rides — river valley
- Programming — picnic packages from local farm to table restaurant

### Galt Museum & Archives

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galtmuseum.com

The Galt is home to important artifacts and stories of Lethbridge and Southern Alberta. The Galt Museum, already well-respected in Alberta's museum community, has a growing national profile and is committed to international museum standards.

- Collection — 17,000 artifacts and more than 1 million archival documents and photographs
- Exhibits — rotating world-class exhibits, special events, school and community programs
- Shop — the Museum Store offers unique local gifts and historical publications
- Gardens — 2 gardens with native prairie plants, trails to coulees and bridge views

### Helen Schuler Nature Centre

403-320-3064  
hsnc@lethbridge.ca  
lethbridge.ca/nature

Escape to a pristine paradise in the heart of the city with a visit to the Helen Schuler Nature Centre. Tour Lethbridge's only LEED-Gold certified facility to learn about its environmentally friendly features, including solar panels, low-flow water fixtures and two stunning living roofs. Discover state-of-the-art permanent displays showcasing the Lethbridge River Valley's three unique eco-systems and check out what new feature exhibits are on. Then explore the trails — three species of cottonwoods, wildlife and plenty of picture-perfect selfie spots.

- Outdoor Discovery Tours for adults, children, EAL classes
- Led by one of their interpretive staff
- Bird watching, animal tracking, geocaching and sustainable Building Tours



## REGIONAL ATTRACTIONS

### Waterton Lakes National Park

[waterton.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:waterton.info@pc.gc.ca)  
[pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/waterton](http://pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/waterton)  
 or  
[mywaterton.ca](http://mywaterton.ca)

Waterton Lakes National Park is nestled into the southwest corner of Alberta, where the prairies meet the Rocky Mountains. Nowhere else in the world will you find a World Heritage Site, an international peace park, a dark sky park and a biosphere reserve all rolled into one. Waterton Village delivers restaurants, shopping, waterfront trail and beaches. This **UNESCO World Heritage Site** delights both those looking for auto tours and more adventurous back country exploration. Red Rock Canyon, Cameron Falls, and Cameron Lake are easy highlights.

- World-class trails — Akamina Ridge, Carthew-Alderson, Crypt Lake
- Boating — rentals and tours on Upper Waterton Lake; boat rentals at Cameron Lake
- Scenic drives — Chief Mountain Highway, Red Rock Parkway, Bison Paddock Loop Road
- Prince of Wales Hotel — epic views and legendary tea
- Nature — 1400 varieties of wildflowers. 200 bird species, Wildflower Festival
- 133 km from Lethbridge

### Dinosaur Provincial Park

*Andrew Hunt*  
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[albertaparks.ca/parks/south/dinosaur-pp](http://albertaparks.ca/parks/south/dinosaur-pp)

Dinosaur Provincial Park is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the richest dinosaur fossil locales in the world. This stunning badlands destination is home to the highest concentration of late Cretaceous period fossils in the world.

- Visitor Centre — souvenirs, interactive exhibits, movies
- Tours — guided hikes, 5 self-guided trails, outdoor fossil displays
- 49 different Dinosaur species found in the park (around 5% of the world's known species)
- Bird watching (May–June)
- 195 km from Lethbridge

### Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park

[writingonstone@gov.ab.ca](mailto:writingonstone@gov.ab.ca)  
[albertaparks.ca/parks/south/writing-on-stone-pp](http://albertaparks.ca/parks/south/writing-on-stone-pp)

Well worth its designation as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park / Áísínai'pi is significant culturally and geologically. Visitors can explore unique hoodoo rock formations and encounter petroglyphs and pictographs carved and painted on sandstone walls. This special place is spiritually important for the Blackfoot people.

- Visitor Centre with interpretive displays and gift store
- Trails — marked hoodoo trail, 930-hectare experienced backcountry hiking zone
- Milk River — beaches, swimming, paddling
- Wildlife — rattlesnakes, pronghorn, 160 species of birds
- 128 km from Lethbridge

### Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump

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[headsmashedin.ca](http://headsmashedin.ca)

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. In use prior to European contact for nearly 6,000 years, the site is located in the Porcupine Hills, a short drive from Lethbridge. This ancient well-preserved jump and award-winning interpretive centre is an unparalleled introduction to the rich culture and history of the Blackfoot people.

- Interpretive Centre — award winning architecture
- Gallery — contemporary Blackfoot culture art exhibits
- Tours — self-guided trails and local Blackfoot guided tours
- Programming — daily summer interpretive programming, landscape and archaeological
- 71 km from Lethbridge





## Alberta Birds of Prey Foundation

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burrowingowl.com

The Alberta Birds of Prey Centre offers visitors the unique opportunity of an interactive experience with Alberta's wildlife. Visitors can enjoy the opportunity to have a live owl sit on their arm for a once-in-a-lifetime photo. Using ancient falconry training methods, daily interpretive programs take place where a trained eagle or hawk will fly free and land just a few feet away from visitors. Primarily an outdoor experience, visitor admissions help this non-profit organization return injured and orphaned owls, hawks, and eagles back to the wild.

- Situated on a 70-acre wetland area site
- Local bird life — hawks, falcons, eagles and owls
- Visitor Centre — 2,000 sq foot, gift shop, information centre
- 18 km from Lethbridge

## The Fort Museum of the North West Mounted Police

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nwmpmuseum.com

The Fort Museum of the North West Mounted Police is dedicated to preserving the history of the North West Mounted Police and the First Nations of Southern Alberta. The museum is a re-creation of the original Fort built in 1874 and is the birthplace of the famous RCMP Musical Ride. The Fort is the only on-site Musical Ride in all of Canada performing the original NWMP Musical Ride in July and August.

- 8 buildings, over 9,000 artifacts, and an archival collection
- Restored sites — Fred Kanouse Trading Cabin and Sir Frederick Haultain's Law Office
- Groom-A-Horse program
- 49 km from Lethbridge

## Remington Carriage Museum

info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com  
remingtoncarriagemuseum.ca

Located in the rolling foothills of southern Alberta, the Remington Carriage Museum in Cardston provides visitors with an authentic experience with 19th and early 20th century horse-drawn transportation.

- Largest collection of horse drawn vehicles in North America
- Over 270 carriages, buggies, wagons and sleighs
- Carriage rides in a Park Touring Carriage
- Seabiscuit and George "The Iceman" Woolf Monument
- Interactive displays, horses, a working restoration shop, carriages, wagons, sleighs
- 80 km from Lethbridge

## Castle Mountain Resort

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skicastle.ca

Castle Mountain is owned and operated by skiers who are driven by adrenaline, not profit. Ski the longest fall line among all Canadian Ski Resorts.

- 863 m vertical, 94 trails, 8 bowls and 3,592 acres
- Almost 9 metres of annual snowfall
- Powder Stagecoach Cat Skiing - one of North America's only resort-based cat skiing
- Snowshoe Tours as well as the Full Moon Snowshoe & Fine Dining Experience
- Season from the end of November until mid-April
- Summer activities such as hiking, horseback riding or road cycling
- Huckleberry Festival
- 145 km from Lethbridge



## Bar U Ranch National Historic Site

[pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/ab/baru](https://pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/ab/baru)

The Bar U Ranch is your opportunity to live like a cowboy! Ride into history on a wagon pulled by Percheron horses to discover the life of a ranching cowboy from the late 1800s at the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site. Try your hand at cowboy skills, learn about the old-style ranching ways, wander through the rustic and authentic buildings or sit around the campfire and listen to old-time tales.

- Roundup Camp, Cookhouse and historic ranch buildings
- Experiences — horse-drawn wagon shuttle, learn how to rope
- Visitor Centre — reception area, fireside lounge, heritage displays, video theatre, restaurant, gift shop and restroom facilities
- Walking trails — include Riparian Trail, Viewpoint Trail, Pekisko Creek Trail
- Bus/RV parking is available
- Accessible facilities (Visitor Centre is fully accessible, Historic Site has limited accessibility)
- 170 km from Lethbridge

## SERVICES AND OUTFITTERS

### Paradise Canyon Golf Resort

[golf@playinginparadise.com](mailto:golf@playinginparadise.com)  
[playinginparadise.com](https://playinginparadise.com)

Protected by the hills and cliffs of the Old Man River, Paradise Canyon Golf Resort exists as an oasis amidst the harsh characteristics of Southern Alberta. This championship golf course is complete with clubhouse, driving range and on site accommodations. Golfers of all levels will be both thrilled and challenged.

### Henderson Lake Golf Course

[hendersonlakegolf.com](https://hendersonlakegolf.com)

Henderson Lake Golf Club is a gem in the City of Lethbridge — a beautifully mature, 18-hole course that has been delighting golfers of all skill levels for over 95 years. If you go on foot, the experience of golfing here is very much a walk in the park. A canopy of cottonwood trees lines the edges of every hole, and there are gorgeous views of the neighboring lake on much of the back nine. The course offers many challenges to be sure, but when golfing at Henderson Lake most people find themselves feeling completely at ease. In response to COVID-19, Henderson Lake Golf Club has implemented new safety protocols.

- The driving range is temporarily closed
- Pull carts and rental clubs are not available for use until further notice



## Uplift Adventures

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[upliftadventures.ca](http://upliftadventures.ca)

Uplift Adventures operates in the Crowsnest Pass. They have won provincial tourism awards and continue to inspire sustainable outdoor recreation throughout the Canadian Rockies, specifically Waterton, Castle Mountain, and the Crowsnest Pass. Their ultimate dream is to create Conservation Tourism to rebuild some of the damaged landscapes from historical mining, exploration, and neglected trail use in the Canadian Rockies.

- Summer activities — Crowsnest Pass hikes, Waterton Wildflower walks, multi-day backpacking trips
- Winter activities — snowshoeing and ice walks
- Gear rentals
- Courses — beginner, navigation wilderness first aid
- 138 km from Lethbridge

## My Fly Guy

Shane Olsen

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[myflyguy.ca](http://myflyguy.ca)

Lethbridge and area's only full service fly shop. They are just a quick stop on the way through to some of the best fly fishing Alberta has to offer. They have everything a novice would need to get started as well as lots for the intermediate and advanced fly anglers. They are also a full certified outfitter / guiding operation. My fly guy would love to show you the best Southern Alberta has to offer!

## Oldman Outfitters

Jason Dobirstein

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[oldmanriveroutfitters.ca](http://oldmanriveroutfitters.ca)

Professionally-guided fly fishing holidays and outdoor adventures in and around the best trout streams in Alberta. Oldman Outfitters Fly Fishing Adventures offers fully guided single, or multi-day walk-and-wade, or floating fly fishing trips on the Oldman, Crowsnest, Castle, St. Marys and Waterton rivers. Fly fishing for beautiful Cutthroat, Rainbow and Brown trout. These rivers are among the best trout streams in Alberta! The guides specialize in outdoor adventures in the Castle Provincial Park and Wildland.

## Incept Adventure Co.

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[inceptadventureco.com](http://inceptadventureco.com)

No one knows the nuances of St. Mary River better than the folks at Incept Adventure Company. The staff members at Incept are skilled river guides that can show you exactly where to catch the biggest fish and find the most thrilling rapids. The scenery is breathtaking, the company is vibrant, and the experience is second to none. For a personal introduction to the wonder of St. Mary River and any other lakes and rivers in Southern Alberta, get in touch with the people at Incept Adventure Company.

- Custom tours if you have a spot in mind to check out
- 2–3 hour whitewater rafting tours, guided kayak excursions
- Full and half-day fishing trips

## Sweet Riders

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[sweetriders.com](http://sweetriders.com)

Master your skills while having a blast in the idyllic Rocky Mountains. Whether it be railing a berm with perfection, landing your first jump, or simply learning how to roll off a curb safely, let them help you build confidence to become the best rider you can be. Sweet Riders' mission is to spread the love of mountain biking while teaching skills in a fun, and safe environment. Ride away with a mountain biking experience to last a lifetime!

## Alberta Flyfishing

albertaflyfishing@shaw.ca

[crowsnestcafeandflyshop.ca](http://crowsnestcafeandflyshop.ca)

Discover the art of angling on a private fly-fishing adventure in the Canadian Rockies. Southern Alberta's Crowsnest, Oldman, Waterton, Castle, and Livingstone rivers are teeming with trout — cast your line for a diverse selection of trout; Cutties, Browns, Rainbows, Pike, and Bulls in one of many of the area's pristine rivers. Plan to head out early, break for gourmet lunch and return home when the fish stop biting. Choose a customized full-day guided float trip, floating either the Oldman, Castle, Waterton rivers. Or choose a walk-and-wade adventure. Find yourself amid breathtaking scenery and rising rainbows.





## TRANSPORTATION

### WestJet

[westjet.com](http://westjet.com)

WestJet connects Lethbridge to Calgary by air. Serving Lethbridge from Calgary, multiple daily flights make it for visitors to get to Lethbridge. Calgary YYC serves major domestic and international destinations.

- Three daily connections between Lethbridge and Calgary

### Red Arrow

[redarrow.ca](http://redarrow.ca)

Red Arrow serves Lethbridge from Downtown Calgary and the Calgary Airport.

- Operating since 1979
- Safe, friendly and trustworthy
- Stopping in Fort Macleod, Claresholm, Aldersyde, Deerfoot Inn & Casino, Downtown Calgary, North Stop and YYC
- Two stations in Lethbridge: Downtown Bus Depot and the University of Lethbridge
- 2:55 hrs from Lethbridge to Downtown Calgary and 3:30 hrs to YYC

### Backside Tours

*Noreen Utri*

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[backsidetours.com](http://backsidetours.com)

Private bus for a group, drive yourself, or join an open bus trip — Backside Tours makes it easy to get out to the mountains. Included accommodations and lift tickets guarantee a stress-free time.

- Specialize in private group resort tours (transportation, accommodations, lift tickets, entertainment) with two professional uniformed guides
- Smaller groups can join a pre-existing public trip
- Offer U-drive trips — lift tickets and accommodations included; traveller drives themselves
- Suggested destinations — Castle Mountain Resort, and Fernie Alpine Resort



## PLACES TO WATCH

### Lethbridge Viaduct and River Valley

The iconic Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco or the Sydney Harbour Bridge define their cities. The Lethbridge Viaduct is no different. The High Level Bridge in Lethbridge has framed views of the city for over a century. Its black steel trestles contrast the rolling hills of the coulees and the Oldman River. It looks great from all angles, but Helen Schuler Nature Centre has a rooftop garden with superb views, and the trails behind Galt Museum and Archives Walk give a vantage with Fort Whoop-Up below.

#### Lethbridge Viaduct Facts

- It's the longest, highest bridge of its kind in the world
- 5,327 feet in length
- 314 feet high
- The Government of Canada designates / designated the bridge construction as a National Historic Event

### Fort Macleod

Just west of Lethbridge, Fort Macleod was established in 1874 by the North West Mounted Police to bring law and order to the Wild West. Visit the Fort Museum and catch the famous Musical Ride. Take a walking tour along Historic Main Street, Alberta's only Provincial Historic Area and check out exceptional baking at Homestead Bakeshop or local craft beer at Stronghold Brewing Co. The classic and impressive Empress Theatre draws the eye on Main Street — look for Eddy, the resident ghost.

### Pincher Creek

On the doorstep of the Canadian Rockies lies a town steeped in history. Walk the boardwalks of Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village and explore the many heritage buildings circa 1890. Visit Lebel Mansion. Near the Old Man Dam is Heritage Acres, an impressive agricultural museum. See top cowboys compete at the Pincher Creek Pro Rodeo. Ski perfect powder with the locals at nearby Castle Mountain Resort. Head west of Pincher Creek to the junction of Hwy 22 and Hwy 3 for a craft brewery in the town of Lundbreck, and the impressive Lundbreck Falls.

### Crowsnest Pass

This small slice through southwestern Alberta bursts with big stories to tell. And you'll love it for its distinct character of resilient people and haunting landscapes.

Founded on coal mining, the five historic communities that make up the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass are situated within a few minutes of each other and are great places to explore, not only for the history, but for the beautiful countryside, where the prairies reach for the mountains. Come to appreciate the storied past of Bellevue, Hillcrest, Frank, Blairmore and Coleman on a trip that can easily be done in a day.

Each of the communities has unique and stunning attractions such as Leitch Collieries, Bellevue Coal Mine Tours, Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Turtle Mountain, the Historic Miners' Path or the Continental Divide.