



RVC Newsletter 2024

Welcome to Lethbridge—a thriving hub for adventure, agriculture, heritage, history, and food. In the Southern Alberta region you'll find rugged badlands, the majestic Rocky Mountains, timeless Indigenous culture, and the freshest local products—Lethbridge is a day trip away from 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and is home to so many amazing local attractions.

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

403-320-3777
info@galtmuseum.com
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

403-320-3954
info@galtmuseum.com
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
pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/waterton
or
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

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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
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 back-country 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

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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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 and First Nations Interpretive Centre

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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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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

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, 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

"REEL" LIFE MOVIE & TV BACKDROPS

Southern Alberta's frontier history is a captivating blend of storied past and unspoiled natural beauty, distinguishing it as a favorite locale for filmmakers and storytellers alike. The region, characterized by its expansive prairies and dramatic landscapes, has served as an evocative backdrop for a range of cinematic endeavors—from meticulously detailed period pieces to the vast, stunning vistas required for "big country" dramas. This area not only preserves its unique heritage but also continually inspires the arts, making it an essential destination for both history enthusiasts and lovers of the visual arts.

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.



ACTIVITIES

Biking

tourismlethbridge.com/stories/sports/biking-in-lethbridge

uroc.ca

Lethbridge is Full of hidden gems. One of those gems being the amazing bike culture that lives in our city! From the coulees to bike Boulevard; a quiet family ride to adrenaline-pumping jumps, Lethbridge has something for everyone! Want to get some ideas of where to ride? Check out our biking webpage for inspiration.

Explore the thrill of biking in Crowsnest Pass, nestled in the South Canadian Rockies. This biking haven offers trails for all levels, from leisurely valley rides to challenging mountain ascents. Discover historic paths, local wildlife, and breathtaking panoramic views. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or a casual rider, Crowsnest Pass is your gateway to an unforgettable biking adventure amidst Alberta's picturesque landscapes.

Golfing

tourismlethbridge.com/outdoors/golf

The warmest weather and longest golf season east of the Rocky Mountains, Lethbridge becomes the gateway to golf throughout Southern Alberta.

There are 5 golf courses less than 20 minutes from Lethbridge's city centre, and another 9 within 90 minutes; diverse in design, spectacular within their settings with challenges to suit every level of golfer. Historical destinations intermixed with modern-day course design crafted by some of Canada's finest course architects.

SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Canada's Food Tours

tourismlethbridge.com/food

Lethbridge is at the heart of a rich agricultural community, Canada's best growing conditions and world-class food producers and growers along Canada's Premiere Food Corridor. Start building your perfect food tour with all the fantastic local Lethbridge food producers in and around our city with our plan your tour page. Those looking for a walking food tour are advised to head to Downtown Lethbridge. With pre-prepared itineraries of easy self-drive food tours, and all the tools you need to create your own unique food tour experience; you'll be ready in no time. Be warned though, there may be a few gravel roads along the way!

Highway 3 Ale Trail

albertaaletail.ca/aletails/highway-3-ale-trail

Better than a six-pack, you'll find eight epic craft breweries on the Highway 3 Ale Trail in Southern Alberta! Whether you love IPAs, pilsners, or the latest sour, the Crowsnest Highway Ale Trail has a brew for you. This beer corridor runs from the epic Rocky Mountains in the Crowsnest Pass to the endless prairie skies in Fort Macleod, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

So load up your car, thank your designated driver (again and often!), and start exploring. Drivers, along with the scenery, the Southern Alberta Ale Trail serves up food and drink for all.

Big Sky Wind & Solar Tour

driftscape.com

Welcome to the Big Sky Wind and Solar Tour! This self-guided driving tour will take you through some of the most impressive renewable energy sites in the region, and a scenic drive through rural Alberta under enormous prairie skies, while introducing you to hidden prairie gems in some of the small towns along the way.

ART GALLERIES

Southern Alberta Art Gallery

saag.ca

Specializing in conceptual and installation art, the Southern Alberta Art Gallery offers a fresh perspective on the southern Albertan experience. Named Maansiksikaitapiitsinikssin in Blackfoot, SAAG exhibits some of the most compelling contemporary art from around the region and across the country. There's also an art library and gift shop open year-round near the front entrance.

Casa

casaletbridge.ca

Casa is a maker space, a performance venue, and an art gallery where locals and visitors can see the best of local art exhibitions. This unique new facility far surpasses the original vision for expansion and sets a new standard for interdisciplinary arts centres. It is about experimentation, incubation, learning and growing. Casa was built to serve a multi-generational community with varying art skill sets and interests in all disciplines of the arts.



TRANSPORTATION

Getting to Lethbridge, Alberta is convenient through various modes of transportation, including air travel, bus services, and by car. Here's a detailed overview to help travelers plan their trip:

By Air

Lethbridge is served by the Lethbridge Airport (YQL), located approximately 10 minutes from downtown Lethbridge. It offers daily flights to and from Calgary International Airport (YYC), which is a major hub and connects travelers to numerous national and international destinations.

By Bus

Bus services are another viable option for reaching Lethbridge. Luxury motorcoach services currently connect Lethbridge to Calgary, Edmonton, and several other locations. Buses are often equipped with amenities like Wi-Fi, power outlets, and comfortable seating, ensuring a pleasant journey. The main bus terminal in Lethbridge is centrally located, providing easy access to public transportation and taxis for onward travel within the city.

By Car

Driving to Lethbridge offers flexibility and scenic views of the Canadian landscape. From Calgary, Lethbridge is about a two-hour drive south via Highway 2, and from Edmonton, it's approximately a five-hour drive south, also primarily on Highway 2. These routes are well-maintained and provide beautiful vistas of the Alberta prairies. Car rentals are available at major airports and within major city centers, offering a range of vehicles to suit different travel needs.

Car Rental Options

Several reputable car rental agencies operate in Lethbridge and at major airports including Calgary and Edmonton. Renting a car can be arranged in advance online or upon arrival. It provides the liberty to explore Lethbridge at one's own pace and visit nearby attractions.

For travelers planning a trip to Lethbridge, these transportation options provide flexibility and convenience, making it easy to enjoy all that the city and its surroundings have to offer, irrespective of the season.

Charging Electric Vehicles

peakstopprairies.ca

The Peaks To Prairies EV Charging Network facilitates travel to and within the beautiful region of Southern Alberta with fast charging and Level 2 stations from Canmore to Medicine Hat, south to Waterton and to the Crowsnest Pass...with many stops along the way! View stations at plugshare.com

Learn more about how this innovative project was developed and the many benefits for Southern Alberta communities.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In Lethbridge

tourismlethbridge.com/accommodations

Lethbridge stands as the largest urban center south of Calgary in Alberta, offering the most comprehensive range of accommodation options in the region. From well-appointed hotels and cozy bed and breakfasts to modern motels and guesthouses, Lethbridge caters to all preferences and budgets. As a pivotal hub for activities and sightseeing in Southwest Alberta, Lethbridge provides convenient access to the region's rich cultural experiences and natural beauty. Whether you're exploring the nearby Canadian Rockies, visiting the UNESCO World Heritage sites, or attending local festivals, Lethbridge serves as the perfect base to explore all that Southwest Alberta has to offer.

In The Crowsnest Pass

southcanadianrockies.ca/things-to-dos/accommodation

Crowsnest Pass and the South Canadian Rockies region in Southern Alberta present a captivating gateway to adventure and natural splendor. As a notable area surrounded by the breathtaking landscapes of the Rockies, this region offers a variety of lodging options to suit every taste and budget. From charming mountain cabins and historic inns to contemporary hotels and comfortable vacation rentals, visitors can find the perfect stay to complement their wilderness adventures. Serving as an ideal starting point for exploring the vast outdoor activities and scenic attractions, the Crowsnest Pass connects you directly with the region's rugged beauty. Whether it's hiking through pristine trails, exploring rich historical sites, or enjoying the tranquil settings, the area provides an unforgettable experience for all who venture here.