

Lakeland Provincial Park & Provincial Recreation Area



Lakeland Provincial Park (PP) and Provincial Recreation Area (PRA) were designated in 1992. Their total area is 590 square kilometres. Elevations vary between 580 and 780 metres above sea level.

The Lakeland PRA covers 443 square kilometres, including Touchwood, Pinehurst, Ironwood and Seibert lakes, and supports a broad range of recreational pursuits.

Lakeland Provincial Park covers 147 square kilometres and includes Jackson, Kinnaird, McGuffin, Shaw, Dabbs, Helena and Blackett lakes. The park focuses on primitive wilderness recreation and features Alberta's only backcountry canoe circuit.

Lakeland is an outstanding example of boreal mixedwood and old growth forest which supports a variety of wildlife. The unspoiled lakes provide excellent water recreation including fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing and boating.

Facilities

Located east of Lac La Biche, several campgrounds, day use and staging areas can be accessed from Highways 663, 55 and 36.

The provincial recreation area has four campgrounds at Touchwood, Pinehurst, Ironwood and Seibert lakes, with over 250 basic campsites. Travel to all but Seibert Lake is on paved or high grade gravel roads. Access to Seibert Lake is via dry weather trail and four-wheel drive is recommended.

Year-Round Activities

In summer: camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, hiking, bird watching, photography, swimming, water sports, cycling, wildlife viewing.

In winter: camping, ice-fishing, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing.

More than 30 backcountry campsites support activities such as canoeing, hiking and cross-country skiing.



Blackett Trail

- and keep track of where you are at all times by map and compass, GPS, or both.
- Muskeg and fen/bog areas can be extremely wet and have little or no surface tension when walked on. If you step down and see the ground move ahead of you, it is wise to travel around the area.
- If you get lost, stay put. Keep warm and dry.
- In an emergency, think first ... then act. This will increase your chances of survival.
- Familiarize yourself with wildlife safety techniques.

When heading into bear country:

- Warn bears of your presence by making noise.
- Be aware of bear signs such as tracks, droppings, diggings and food sources such as carcasses and berry patches.
- If you see a bear, or fresh bear signs, leave the area and notify Alberta Parks staff.
- For detailed information about safety in bear country, read our Bear Smart brochure, downloadable from albertaparks.ca.

Don't forget, other wildlife like moose, wolves and cougars can also be dangerous. Stay alert and aware to avoid dangerous close encounters.



Blackett Lake

Minimize Your Impact

Be aware of your effect on the environment and act responsibly.

- Familiarize yourself with regulations for the areas you are using.
- Park your vehicle in a designated parking area.
- Check trail and campsite conditions before you go.
- Be aware of the potential negative effects of recreational use (wildlife disruption, soil and water contamination, loss of vegetation cover, soil erosion).
- Use outhouses wherever they are available.
- It is illegal to cut down trees in the provincial park and provincial recreation area.
- Fireworks are prohibited in the provincial park and provincial recreation area.

When in the backcountry, garbage must be packed out, never buried. Wildlife that dig up garbage become accustomed to human food and become problem wildlife. Feeding wildlife creates similar problems and is unlawful in the park.

Trapping

Trapping is a traditional activity that still occurs in the Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area. There are trappers' cabins and numerous trails for setting traps in Lakeland. These cabins and trails are marked as being part of a trapline. Please respect the cabins and use only designated trails.

Star Gazing

In 2016, the Royal Astronomical Society in Canada designated both Lakeland Provincial Park and Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area as Lakeland Dark Sky Preserve. Due to its location, multiple access points and limited light pollution, it creates ideal conditions for dark sky viewing.

CFB Cold Lake

Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area borders Cold Lake Air Weapons Range. For safety reasons, do not travel in the Air Weapons Range. Signs are posted along the boundary to prevent accidental wandering into this restricted area.



Boating

- Fill gas containers and motors on land.
- Don't operate boats near/through groups of birds.
- Try to operate your boat in ways that minimize wake; avoid flooding floating nests by reducing speed when manoeuvring near them.

All boats must carry one approved life jacket for each person, manual propelling device (one oar) or one anchor, one hand-held bailer or manual pump, floating line, waterproof flashlight or flare and some type of sound device for signalling.

For more regulations and tips on safe boating download the Safe Boating Guide from Transport Canada (www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety).

Cycling

When overtaking other trail users or when approaching blind corners, use your bell to signal your presence. Stay alert! You could startle bears or other wildlife if you move too quietly along trails.

Fishing

Sport fishing is popular and demand often exceeds the capabilities of area lakes to produce sufficient numbers of fish, especially walleye. Catch and release fishing allows fish stocks a chance to return to productive levels. Get tips and details on proper catch and release practices from your Alberta Guide to Sport Fishing Regulations or from albertaregulations.ca.

Refer to the Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations for seasons, size restrictions and catch limits.

To prevent lead poisoning in fish and birds, avoid use of lead sinkers.

Dispose of used fishing line in an appropriate manner. Birds and animals that get tangled in improperly discarded line eventually die as a result.

Occasionally you may spot military planes flying overhead, or you may hear loud sonic booms from the military jets during training exercises.

Airmen's Cairns

Three lakes in Lakeland Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area, as well as several other lakes in the area are named in honour of twelve airmen and three soldiers from Alberta who were killed in combat during World War II. In 2003 the Lac La Biche branch of the Royal Canadian Legion began a program to commemorate these airmen and soldiers.

The Legion built and placed memorial cairns at each lake. Each cairn has a plaque that gives a brief history of each serviceman and his final actions, and another plaque with the Legion's prayer. The project was undertaken by the Royal Canadian Legion, the Canadian military, Alberta Parks, Sustainable Resource Development, and countless local individuals.



Hiking

- Use well-defined trails.
- Avoid low wet areas; when this is not possible, take care to minimize your disturbance of vegetation.
- Keep litter in your pockets or bring along a bag to put it in. As you hike pick up any litter you find along the trail.
- Dogs must be on a leash and picked up after.

Canoe Circuit

The main circuit of Jackson, Kinnaird, Blackett and McGuffin Lakes is 38 km in length and takes approximately 3 days to complete. "Made in Lakeland" canoe carts are available at portages on the main circuit. The most commonly used access is from Jackson Lake staging area on Hwy 663, locally called Touchwood Lake Road.

The route is flat water and an easy paddle in fair weather. Be aware of rapidly changing weather conditions. The lakes can get choppy very quickly.

Backcountry campsites are located throughout the provincial park. They are typically equipped with a backcountry composting toilet, firepit, picnic tables and bear poles or bear lockers. They are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and cannot be reserved.

As with all backcountry activities, please pack out your garbage and try to leave your sites in the same or better condition than you found them.

Hunting

First Nations hunters and recognized Metis harvesters are allowed to hunt year-round in Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area. A discharge permit from the park office is required.

For the general public, recreational hunting is allowed in Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area, Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 841, during specified hunting seasons. Consult the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations for details and information on how to apply for hunting licenses.

Resources

Alberta Guide to Sport Fishing Regulations and Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations are available on My Wild Alberta.

Alberta Parks Brochures (online at albertaparks.ca):

- Shaw Lake Trails
- Bear Smart
- Living with Cougars
- Regulations brochure
- Research & Collection Permits
- Filming & Photography in Alberta Parks

Topographic maps can be purchased from retail map dealers.

Transport Canada's Safe Boating Guide (downloadable from www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety)

Outdoor Ethics: leavenotrace.ca

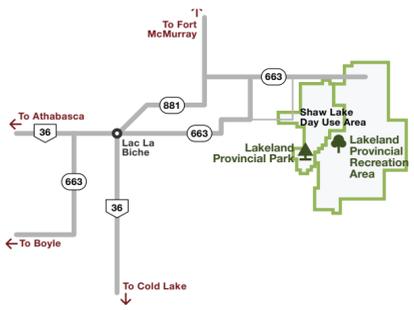
Contact

Lakeland Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area
 Site 648 Comp 3 RR1
 Lac La Biche, AB
 TOA 2C1
 Phone: (780) 623-7189
 Fax: (780) 623-7169

Alberta Parks
 Web: albertaparks.ca
 Phone: 1-877-537-2757

Lac La Biche Area Information
 Web: laclabichecounty.com
 Phone: 780-623-1747

Emergency Numbers
 Fire, Police, Ambulance: 911
Alberta Parks District Office (Lac La Biche)
 (780) 623-7189
Parks Enforcement Line
 (Public Safety, Enforcement, and other issues)
 780-644-3880
Forest Fires: 310-FIRE
Report-A-Poacher: 1-800-642-3800



Cover Photo: Emily Prather
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Deer



Hunters should use extreme caution and be aware that others may be hiking, cycling, canoeing or camping in the area. Hunting is not allowed within 400 metres of campsites.

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

ATVs and snowmobiles are only allowed on designated motorized trails in the Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area. Many designated trails have been upgraded so that ATV use does not degrade trail and landscapes. When operating ATVs and snowmobiles on these trails, please:

- Stay within the edges of trails. Do not creep around the edges of water holes or downed trees as this causes trail widening or braiding.
- Carry a saw to clear downed trees on the trail.
- Use boardwalks on the trail when provided. They have been placed to allow access over impassable or sensitive areas. Riding beside them destroys what they are there to protect.
- Drive cautiously and try not to spin tires excessively in muskeg and muddy areas as this will turn a small rut into an impassable hole.
- Be on the lookout for other users (hikers, bicyclists and others) - speed differences can be dangerous.
- Be respectful of wildlife you encounter. Allow animals to leave the trail on their own without prompting.

By staying on designated trails and practicing responsible operation of ATVs, you will help to ensure that Lakeland remains a great place to visit.

Back Country Safety

- Inform family, friends or authorities of your route and your expected return time. Once you're missed, a search party will be sent out.
- Bring sufficient clothing and gear.
- Be prepared for weather changes. Dress in layers. Bring clothing and equipment that will keep you warm, dry and comfortable.
- Know the basics of navigation, first aid and minimum impact camping.
- Know your route and the area; obtain proper maps

