

# Dinosaur Provincial Park - World Heritage Site.....

## a place like nowhere else on earth!

Dinosaur Provincial Park was established by the Government of Alberta on June 27, 1955. On October 26, 1979 the park was declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at a conference in Cairo, Egypt.

A formal WHS dedication ceremony occurred at the park on June 15, 1980. Three significant natural features were recognized with respect to this distinction:

- The exceptional abundance and diversity of dinosaur and other vertebrate fossils.
- The largest and most spectacular area of badlands in Canada.
- Unique riparian (riverside) habitat including extensive groves of plains cottonwood trees that provide critical habitat for many bird species.



# Park Dimensions and Location

**Park Area:** 8,086 hectares (19,980 acres); 80.86 sq. km (31.22 sq. miles)

**World Heritage Site Area:** 8,321 hectares (20,561 acres); 83.21 sq. km (32.13 sq. miles)

**Length:** 27 km (17 miles) along the Red Deer River Valley in Southeastern Alberta.

**Valley Width:** 6.4 km (4 miles) at the widest point.

**Valley Depth:** up to 100 meters (325 feet).



# Contact

For more information, please talk with park staff, or contact the park office.

**Dinosaur Provincial Park**  
 Box 60  
 Patricia, Alberta T0J 2K0  
 403-378-4342  
 Web: albertaparks.ca  
 Email: dinosaurpp@gov.ab.ca

**Fire Bans in Alberta**  
 Web: albertafirebans.ca

**Illegal Activity/Public Safety 24/7)**  
 Phone: 310-LAND (5263)

**Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)**  
 Phone: 911

**Camping Reservations**  
 Web: <https://shop.albertaparks.ca>  
 Phone: 1 (877) 537-2757

**Tour Reservations**  
 Web: <https://albertaparks.ca/parks/south/dinosaur-pp>  
 Phone: 1 (877) 537-2757



# Park Information Dinosaur Provincial Park



## Fact Sheet



# Dinosaurs and other ancient creatures

Over 55 different species of dinosaurs and over 150 complete dinosaur skeletons from the Late Cretaceous Period (75 million years ago) have been found in the park. This is about 4-5% of the world's known dinosaur species.

Many other kinds of animal fossils are also found here, including turtles, crocodiles, fish, lizards, flying reptiles, salamanders, birds and small mammals.

The presence of fossilized pollen and spores from plants such as magnolia, sycamore and bald cypress trees, redwoods, and ferns indicates this was once a warm temperate landscape, making it a perfect habitat for dinosaurs.



## Landscapes: Past and Present

Park geology provides evidence that this area was a lush coastal plain adjacent to the Bearpaw Sea, at the time of the dinosaurs. The valley you see today is the result of glacial melt-water from the end of the Wisconsin Ice Age, only 15,000 years ago.



Today, the park contains three important habitats: prairie grassland, badlands and riparian (riverside), which together support a rich bio-diversity. Towering plains cottonwood trees, prickly pear cactus, and blue gramma grass all contribute to the variety of plant life.



**Pincushion Cactus**

Over 160 species of birds can be seen in the park, including threatened species such as the ferruginous hawk and golden eagle. Mammals living here include cottontail rabbits, bats, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, weasels, porcupines, red fox, coyotes and cougars.

## Opportunities and Activities

The Park Visitor Center in Dinosaur Provincial Park houses an information desk, fossil preparation lab, theatre, gift shop, exhibit gallery, washrooms and park administrative offices.

Nature activities and interpretive events include:

- Nature observation: bird-watching (May-June); flowering cactus (mid-June); fall colours (Sept.)
- Two outdoor fossil displays depicting the park's paleontological heritage.
- Trails in three different habitats and a scenic public loop road (3 km)
- Bus tours and hikes conducted by park interpreters into the restricted access Paleontological Reserve (mid-May through mid-October). Reservations recommended.
- Indoor and outdoor amphitheater programs, talks and performances.



**Left photo: Ferruginous Hawk, Right photo: Mule Deer**

Visit our website at [dinosaurpark.ca](http://dinosaurpark.ca) to plan your visit and for the tours, hikes and program schedules.

**Advanced reservations for all interpretive programs are advised.**

Reservations can be made online or by calling 1 (877) 537-2757. Mastercard, VISA and American Express payments are accepted. Please be aware that some programs are weather dependent as entry into the preserve is restricted during wet conditions.

We recommend that you allow 2 days for an in-depth quality experience at Dinosaur Provincial Park.

The Visitor Center has exhibits, washrooms, theater and gift shop (check our website for seasonal hours).

The park is open year round for camping and self-guiding opportunities.

The Service Center has campground check-in, food services, washrooms, showers, a coin operated laundromat and convenience store in season (check our website for seasonal hours).

**Camping:** 120 RV and tent-friendly sites, including unserviced (29 sites), powered (92 sites) and pull-through options. 7 comfort camping units are available as well. Camping reservations can be made on-line at <https://shop.albertaparks.ca> or by calling 1 (877) 537-2757.

