Willmore is located southwest of the town of Grande Cache in west-central Alberta, approximately 300 km northwest of the City of Edmonton. It is bordered on the west by the Province of British Columbia and on the south by Jasper National Park. The north and end of the park joins with Waiilatpu Provincial Park, which forms the Willmore-Wilwattu Interprovincial Park. There are three main access points into the park: Sulphur Lake Provincial Park, and Sulphur Gates and Big (Baildon Provincial Recreation Areas. Rock Lake and Sulphur Gates are equipped with equestrian facilities.

**Backcountry Safety**

The wild and rugged nature of Willmore Wilderness is an irresistible draw for many visitors. The ace dangers of Willmore can provide a challenge for even the most seasoned outdoor enthusiasts.

- Only minimal trail maintenance occurs and there are no developed camping facilities within the park. To the unforeseen, the 750 km network of trails and vast mountain ranges can be disorienting.
- Good maps, a GPS, and survival gear are a must.
- There is no cell phone service in the park.
- There are no bridges and river crossings can be especially dangerous at high water.
- Check local weather forecasts before you go. Be aware of sudden changes in mountain weather.
- Keep your dog on a leash and do not approach traps with your pet.

**Hunting & Fishing**

Hunting and fishing are permitted in Willmore, subject to Alberta big game and fishing regulations. To ensure safe and enjoyable park visits, experienced park visitors are encouraged to wear bright colours during hunting seasons. For detailed information on hunting and fishing in Willmore, obtain the Alberta Guide to Hunting and Fishing and the Alberta Guide to Sportfishing. Mountain whitefish and bull trout can be found in deeper pools. Bull trout are listed as a threatened species in Alberta and are “catch & release” only.

**Trapping**

Trapping is a traditional activity in Willmore Wilderness. If you spot traps, do not touch them or interfere with trap lines. Keep your dog on a leash and do not approach traps with your pet.

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**Wildlife**

Willmore is one of the few places where large predators such as bears, cougars, and wolves are seen regularly. Many of the park's well-established trails follow subalpine areas grow very slowly and should be treated with care. Supplemental feed should be located at least 100 metres from lakes, rivers, and streams.

**Camping**

There are no official campfires in the Willmore. However, as much as possible, use existing campsties. It is always better to camp on sites that have already impacted, where additional use won’t be detrimental to the environment.

- Camp on durable surfaces (such as rock, gravel, and areas with sparse vegetation).
- Place tents on non-vegetated areas.
- Camp at least 60 meters from water.
- In areas without toilets, use a portable latrine and pack out your waste if possible. Otherwise, make a cat-hole latrine (20 cm deep) that naturally decomposes human wastes. All toilets and waste water pits should be filled with soil and leveled when you vacate your campground.
- Avoid washing in streams and lakes.
- Detergents, soap and toothpaste are harmful to fish and other aquatic life.
- Scatter all wash water so that it filters through the soil.
- Garbage should be absolutely packed out of the backcountry, never buried. Wildlife can easily find and dig up old garbage pits, even in winter. Once accustomated to human food, these animals may become a problem for future visitors.

**Bear Safety**

There are grizzly and black bears in Willmore Wilderness. By using these few simple safety techniques, you can minimize the risk of a dangerous bear encounter.

- If possible, never travel alone in the backcountry. A larger group is usually safer than a single hiker.
- Carry bear spray on a belt holster for quick access, and know how to use it.
- Make plenty of noise when approaching bears, by loudly shouting, clapping, or singing.
- Keep your dog on a leash and do not approach traps with your pet.

**Cougar Safety**

Willmore Wilderness Park is home to cougars. These large and powerful cats will generally avoid encounters with humans. However, if you encounter a cougar, do not run, but back away slowly. If the cougar approaches or shows aggression, prepare to use your bear spray. Show the cougar you are not a prey animal and that you will fight back. Shout at the cougar and make yourself look larger by waving your arms and a walking stick. Never play dead with a cougar.

**Equestrian Use**

Note: Motorized vehicles (including motorized bikes) are prohibited. Written authorization is required to land aircraft in the park.

**Hiking**

Many of the park’s well-established trails follow in the historic footsteps of Aboriginal hunters, fur traders, coal miners and trappers. The Rock Lake staging area provides a popular access into the Willmore via the Mountain Trail. For those with only a few days to explore, Seep Creek Trail soon heads north off the Mountain Trail to provide quick entry into alpine country with splendid wildlife and extensive views. Further alon, Mountain Trail bends southwest and climbs to Eagles Nest Pass, offering a fine base camp for day-trip explorations of the surrounding alpine lakes and ridges. Mountain Trail then heads northeast along Rock Creek and provides access via West Sulphur Trail, to higher alpine terrain.

While most trips into Willmore are multi-day expeditions, there are also day-trip options. The 2.5 km trail from Sulphur Gates staging area to the scenic Eaton Falls makes a nice half-day outing, and the 18.5 km climb to the panoramic views of Adams Creek Lookout from Big Bearland River staging area is a satisfying overnight trip.

**While you hike:**

- Use well-defined trails and avoid short-cuts across switchbacks. Short-cuts result in erosion and create unwanted parallel trails.
- Never drop litter along trails; keep your dog on a leash, pick up plastic bag handy and pick up any litter you find.
- Do not pick wildflowers. Collecting rocks, fossils and artifacts is not permitted – take a photograph instead.
- Your dog must be kept on a leash at all times. Remember, wildlife regard your dog as either prey or predator.

**Avoid soft and marshy edges when water-fishing.**

- Salt should be kept in a waterproof container and be informed of your planned route, camping spots and estimated return time.

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**Equestrian Use**

Horseback riding and outfitting in the Willmore are traditional activities with a rich history dating back to the fur trade. Local outfitters can be hired to take visitors safely on guided trips into the backcountry. Outfitters have first-hand knowledge of the landscapes and cultural stories. If you plan a horseback trip into the Willmore, please abide by these guidelines:

- Use established trails and routes.
- Be especially cautious when passing hikers.
- Supplement wild foods such as hay, grain and alfalfa cubes can be used to prevent overgrazing and reduce competition with wildlife for food. Supplemental feed should be stored at least 100 metres from lakes, rivers, and streams.
- In areas without toilets, use a portable latrine and pack out your waste if possible. Otherwise, make a cat-hole latrine (20 cm deep) that naturally decomposes human wastes. All toilets and waste water pits should be filled with soil and leveled when you vacate your campground.
- Avoid washing in streams and lakes.
- Detergents, soap and toothpaste are harmful to fish and other aquatic life.
- Scatter all wash water so that it filters through the soil.
- Garbage should be absolutely packed out of the backcountry, never buried. Wildlife can easily find and dig up old garbage pits, even in winter. Once accustomated to human food, these animals may become a problem for future visitors.

**Backcountry Safety**

The majority of cabins in the Willmore are rustic cabins that are used by Conservation Officers on backcountry patrols. These cabins are locked and are off-limits to the general public. There are three backcountry patrol cabins available for public use: these include Summit Cabin, Sulphur Cabin, and Shovel Creek Cabin. Please use cabins with care and respect, packing out all garbage and leaving them clean and well maintained.

**Campfires**

- It is recommended that backcountry travelers use camp stoves. Backpacking stoves are lightweight, compact, efficient, and more easily used than wood-burning stoves. As well, they leave no scars in the backcountry.
- In emergency situations, a wood fire may be a necessity. As much as possible, use an existing fire pit. Use sites that are clear of dry grass, bushes, leaves, tree limbs, tree roots, peat moss and overhanging branches.
- Dig a small hole down to mineral soil. Clear away any flammable materials within 1 metre of the fire pit.
- Use only dried wood. Live trees in the subalpine areas grow very slowly and should never be used for campfires.
- Never leave a campfire unattended. Make sure the fire is out and cold to the touch before retreating for the night and before leaving camp. Soak it thoroughly and stir it – and then soak it again.
- Do not bury your fire as the embers can continue to smoulder and can re-emerge as a wildfire.
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**Crossing Streams and Rivers**

Crossing streams and rivers can be the most dangerous challenge that hikers confront. River crossings can be a very shallow, swiftly flowing body of water that can pack enough force to knock you off your feet. Use caution and common sense. After storm events, it may be best to wait until water levels subside, or backpack to a different trail to get around a flooded area. When crossing, release your backpack so you can shield it from the water using it as a hiking staff to provide balance, and cross facing upstream. If the depth of the water is above your knees, turn back and look for a better location to cross.
Map Points of Interest

Willmore Wilderness Park is rich in culture and history. During your explorations of the park, you may encounter these points of interest:


2. Grave of Thappie – a member of the Beaver tribe who died in a winter hunting trip.


4. Rosthoven Mountain – highest point in Willmore Wilderness Park (3,125 metres).


7. Clark’s Crossing – a very dangerous river crossing named after Stan Clark, superintendent of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve in 1912.


10. Washy Joe Anges – Washy Creek was named in honour of Washy Joe, a trapper and rancher and member of the Alexia Band.

11. Adam’s Creek Lookout – named in honour of Adam Agnes. The tower opened in 1941.

12. Grave of Madeleine Fraser – the mother of Adam Joachim; died in 1904.

13. Grave of Pierre Delorme – died in 1906 after falling off his horse and hitting his head. Pierre Delorme was 6 foot tall and blind.


15. Curly Philips Historical Cabin

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1A. Steam Engine – from the Blue Diamond Coal Company, 1928.

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