Welcome to the Castle Parks
Encompassing more than 105,000 hectares, Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park in southwest Alberta protect valuable wildlife habitats and park for more than 200 rare species such as Jones’ columnar, dwarf alpine poppy, wooly fir and heracleum asp as well as grizzly bear, westslope cutthroat trout, but trout, whitetail and timber jine.

The parks are part of the Waterton Blooie Reserve, and share borders with Waterton, Glacier International Peace Park to the south, the Canadian Pask to the north and the Flathead Valley of British Columbia to the west. Extensive wildlife corridors link all these unique areas and together they form part of the Ecological Missionary.

Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park were established in February 16, 2017 and are managed according to Alberta’s Provincial Parks Act.

Please familiarize yourself with any new regulations before you enter the park. Responsible and sustainable use will ensure that everybody can have an incredible experience in this unique landscape while supporting its protection.

Visitor Information

Visitor Information is available at oktos located throughout the parks. Click links to above for details. Parking staff or by speaking with Alberta Parks staff.

Local communities offer a wide range of services to complement your visit including accommodations, restaurants, shopping and more. Two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Waterton Lakes National Park and Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump are nearby. Other attractions include Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Harrington Museum and Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village. Visitor Information is available in the Municipality of Cardston, Town of Pincher Creek, Harrington Museum, Lumbred and Twin Butte, and the Village of Coleman.

Winter Recreation and Education Programs

Winter Interpretepric Programs are available, check albertaparks.ca for details! Call 403-427-1152 or email oswapatinfo@albertaparks.ca to book an Alberta Parks Winter Ecology program or Introduction to Snowshoeing program.

Enjoy an outdoor weekend snowshoeing with your family. If you don’t have snowshoes, sign out an Alberta Parks Winter Family Explorers Kit at the Pincher Creek Municipal Library or the Crossfield Crosses Park, to explore on your own. Or sign up to on a winter snowshoe adventure exploring the new Castle Park, its wildlife and landscape, while enjoying a day outdoors!

Alberta Parks is working to provide adaptive equipment in order to promote accessibility to trails for people of all abilities. For more information search for “Pulse to Open Winter” at albertaparks.ca.

Camp Responsibly

The Castle Parks offer diverse camping experiences in both front country and backcountry. Visitors should be aware that upgrades to existing facilities in the park are ongoing, to improve camping experiences for visitors in the future.

Backcountry Winter Camping in Castle Wildland Provincial Park

Backcountry winter camping is allowed in the Castle Wildland Provincial Park, providing that the campsite is at least 1 kilometre from any designated facility and motorized access road. Please practise traceless camping methods by packing out all your supplies and garbage, and disposing of waste properly. For more information on safe and responsible backcountry camping, visit albertaparks.ca.

Contact

Alberta Parks Pincher Creek Office
Phone: (403) 627-1165 Toll-Free: 1-800-543-7775
Website: albertaparks.ca/castle
Visitor Services:
Phone: 1-800-643-7775 ext. 71152
email: oswapark@gov.ab.ca

Conservation Officer and Public Safety
Phone: 1-844-HELP-PRR (435-7775)

Fire Bans in Alberta
Phone: 1-866-617-FIRE (394-7347)
Website: albertafires.ca

Avalanche Canada
Website: avalanche.ca/mip

Report a Forest Fire: 310-FIRE (3947)
Report a Poacher/Public Lands Complaint: 1-800-432-3730

Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)
Phone: 911

General Provincial Park Information
Website: albertaparks.ca
Off-Highway Vehicles

Snowmobiles are permitted on designated winter trails. Signs and this map identify all designated snowmobile trails in the Castle Parks. Please be respectful when snowmobiling; watch for and slow down for non-motorized trail users. Stay clear of wildlife and follow Alberta Park Regulations while enjoying the area. Random Ride Areas (shown the map). Use at your own risk. Know how to safely recreate in a winter backcountry environment and carry appropriate gear. Ensure you have avalanche awareness and experience and the necessary safety equipment. Be aware that snow machines can trigger avalanches in any conditions. Check Avalanche Canada reports and updates at avalanche.ca.

Know the Rules

In accordance with provincial regulation:

- Every person within the Castle Parks shall comply with the lawful orders and instructions of a Conservation Officer.
- Every person within the Castle Parks shall comply with the instructions, prohibitions and directions contained in signs and/or notices.
- Snowmobile and fat bike users must stay on designated trails (trails marked with a winter trail sign).
- No cutting, removing, or damaging live trees or any other vegetation.
- Do not deposit any foreign materials into any watercourses (foul, soap, body waste, grey water).
- A Conservation Officer may order a person to refrain from doing anything that, in the opinion of the officer, is dangerous to life or property, or detrimental to the management of or use of any road, trail or route.
- Pets must be kept on a leash (maximum 2 metres), supervised, and under physical control at all times.
- Please clean up after your pet if within any facility area or on a trail.

Every snowmobile operating in the Castle Parks must have:

- Valid registration and insurance
- Operators and passengers wearing approved helmets as required
- Licence plate properly affixed in a visible location
- Tail lamp on the vehicle rear capable of emitting a red light visible from at least 60 metres (185 feet)
- At least one white headlamp on the front must be of sufficient intensity to reveal a person, another vehicle or a thing that is at least 60 metres ahead (185 feet)
- Proper exhaust muffler
- Adult supervision for operators under 16 years of age

To operate a snowmobile in the Castle Parks, people from outside Alberta:

- Carry proof of residency
- Follow the rules, regarding registration of the vehicle and the display of licence plates, that are required by their home jurisdiction
- Produce valid proof of insurance
- If you have been in Alberta for more than 30 days, all Alberta requirements apply.

Know Before You Go

It’s your responsibility to become familiar with the activities allowed in this area before you visit. Refer to the information in this publication for further details. Pick up or download the Alberta Parks regulations brochure. Look for park information kiosks and contact park staff if you have any questions.