Welcome to the Castle Parks

At more than 105,000 hectares, the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park protect vital habitat for more than 200-came species. The parks share borders with Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park World Heritage Site to the south, the Crowsnest Pass to the north, the Waterton Biosphere Reserve to the east, and British Columbia’s Flathead Valley to the west. The Castle parks are a part of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem, an international region of dramatic landscapes and important wildlife corridors.

Know Before You Go

Stay safe in the Castle Parks. It is up to you to be familiar with appropriate activities wherever you are exploring. Regulations under the Provincial Parks Act are enforced by Conservation Officers who work with local police authorities to support the safety of park visitors.

- Stay on the designated trails and respect other users in the area

Leave no trace of your visit and dispose of your trash in marked bins.

- Keep pets on a leash (2 metres), supervised and under physical control at all times
- Clean up after your pet
- Do not put any foreign materials into any watercourses (e.g., fuel, soap, body waste, grey water)
- Do not cut, remove or damage live trees or any other vegetation unless you have a permit
- Ensure camp fires are attended at all times and extinguished before leaving your site
- Read and follow signs and notices

Activities

The Castle parks offer a variety of wild nature and backcountry experiences. Fishing, hiking, hunting, photography, picnicking, wildlife viewing, scrambling, climbing and mountain biking are some of the activities you can enjoy in the area. Please see trail map for detailed information on the places to go and permitted uses.

Hiking Trails

Discover sweeping vistas and scenic landscapes by hiking the trails in the Castle Provincial Park and Wildland Provincial Park. Be aware that some trails may be closed for improvements or recreation and natural hazards may impact trail experiences.

Biking

Non-motorized bicycles are allowed on designated trails; please see map for specific trails. Use caution as most trails are not yet improved, not regularly maintained, and many are designated as multi-use. Electronic bikes (E-bikes) are permitted on OHV trails only. 

Equestrian

Both the Castle Provincial Park and Wildland Provincial Park are designated equestrian areas. Some trails do not permit horse use (see table on reverse). Parking areas suitable for horse trailers include the Sundance North and Carbon dioxide Lake. Use staging areas. Horses are not permitted in campgrounds, except in Designated Camping Areas 1–7. Backcountry riders must follow low-impact practices for overnight horse camping in the Wildland Provincial Park, including using weed-free feed.

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

OHVs are only permitted on designated summer OHV trails in Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park, as indicated on the trail map and on park signage. Please be respectful when using trails, be cautious of non-motorized trail users, and stay clear of wildlife.

Every off-highway vehicle (OHV) operating in the Castle parks must have:
- Valid registration and insurance
- Reflector module with spark arrestor
- Approved helmets for all off-highway vehicle users
- Direct adult supervision for operators under the age of 14 years
- A license plate that is securely attached on front or rear of OHV and visible to other operators
- Tail lamp on the vehicle rear capable of emitting a red light visible from at least 60 metres (195 feet)

Castle Provincial Park

Castle Provincial Park has a wide range of campgrounds and campgrounds to suit many camping styles. Many of the campgrounds have been widened in recent years to accommodate newer RV units. All campgrounds are serviced withouthouses, waste and recycling bins, picnic tables, and fire pits.

To reserve campsite, group camp, comfort cabins, and to access advisories and other information, please go to albertaparks.ca/castle and click on “Camping.” For a brief summary of the available campsite and their services, please refer to the chart on the map.

Highway Vehicles

All vehicles (cars, trucks, jeeps, SUVs) registered for highway use are only allowed on highways and maintained roadways within the Castle Provincial Park and Wildland Provincial Park. No highway vehicles are allowed on any part of the designated trail system without written authorization.

Camping

Camping in a designated campground in the Castle Provincial Parks requires a permit, and the daily checkout time is at 2 p.m. The maximum stay in any campground is 10 consecutive nights. The Castle Parks offer more than 200 camp sites in four campgrounds and 2 group camps, and additional opportunities in designated camping areas and in the backcountry.

Camping areas 1-7

Former random camping areas, these sites are temporarily designated as campgrounds while rustic campgrounds are built. Facilities are minimal; campers must provide their own portable toilet; roads and sites are not engineered. Garbage receptacles may be found at formal campgrounds. Fires are only allowed inside firepits provided for that purpose.

Backcountry Camping in Castle Wildland Provincial Park

Backcountry tent camping is allowed within the Wildland Provincial Park. Backcountry tent camping is allowed only in designated areas within the park. The use of tents is restricted to registered occurrence sites. Registration is mandatory. Active fires should be extinguished or kept under physical control at all times. Active fires should be extinguished or kept under physical control at all times.

To enhance your experience in the region, we encourage you to visit other tourism attractions, such as the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Remington Carriage Museum, Waterton Lakes National Park and Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Tourism information is available at the Beaver Mines Store, Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village in Pincher Creek, and at the Sentinel Travel Alberta Visitor Information Centre located near the Alberta / BC border.

Recreate Responsibly

Be Wildlife Smart

Rich with biodiversity, the Castle area contains important habitat and wildlife corridors in a variety of ecosystems. Several iconic species include grizzly and black bears, wolves, wolves, big horn sheep, cougars, morsie and elk. All wildlife can be unpredictable and precautions should be taken when in their habitat.

- Avoid surprise encounters on trails by making noise
- Stay well back from bears and other large species
- Store food, garbage and pet food in a secure vehicle or bear/wildlife proof container
- Keep children close to adults, and keep dogs on a leash
- Carry bear spray and learn how to use and store it safely. Bear spray is available for purchase at some retailers in the area.

Safety & Emergency Communication

Plan ahead. There is limited cellular phone service throughout Castle Parks.

- When traveling in the backcountry, bring appropriate equipment, emergency provisions and review safety information
- Provide family or friends with your detailed trip plans and what to do if you do not report back on time
- Pay phones are located at the Beaver Mines Store, Castle Mountain Resort (T-bar Pub) and the Day Lodge during regular business hours, and in the nearby communities
- Emergency contact information is listed on the back of this publication.

Visitor Information and Services

With rugged peaks, lush valleys, clear lakes and secluded meadows, the Castle area is an ideal location for visitors to engage in outdoor recreation, education and nature appreciation.

Our suite of Visitor Services opportunities will help you to explore, learn new skills, and discover our natural and cultural heritage. Program schedules, visitor information and adaptive equipment rentals are available at albertaparks.ca/castle. Look for kiosks located throughout the parks, and speak with Alberta Parks staff by calling 403-627-1165.

As an alternative to reserving a site in advance, you can find a vacant first-come-first-served campsite, fill out the permit and pay at the self-registration kiosk. For the duration of your stay, the site must be occupied by an accommodation unit. Sites marked with an “M” on the campsite post are available by reservation only.

- Additional camping opportunities are available nearby at Beaver Lakes Provincial Park, Lundbreck Falls, Island Lake, Chinook, Waterton Lakes National Park and Oldman Dam Provincial Recreation Areas.

Backcountry Camping in Castle Wildland Provincial Park

Backcountry tent camping is allowed within the Castle Wildland Provincial Park, providing that the campsite is at least 1 kilometre from any structure, air or waterway. Additional opportunities in designated camping areas are temporarily designated as campgrounds.

To reserve campsites, group camps, comfort cabins, and to access advisories and other information, please go to albertaparks.ca/castle and click on “Camping.” For a brief summary of the available campsite and their services, please refer to the chart on the map.

Liquor & Cannabis

According to the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act, consuming cannabis is restricted to registered consumption areas, and to some specifically designated provincial day use area picnic sites where a permit is required with consumption of food between 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Adult visitors may consume cannabis in their registered consumption areas and in public areas where tobacco is permitted. Cannabis use is not allowed in motorized vehicles (i.e. cars, trucks, buses). Cannabis smoking and vaping is permitted within 5 metres of playgrounds, outdoor theatres or sports fields.

Castle Parks Regulations

Firearms & Hunting

Castle Provincial Park - Possession or discharge of firearms is not allowed in the Provincial Park without a discharge permit. Target practice is not allowed in the Provincial Park. Permission to discharge firearms in the Provincial Park is available for hunting purposes only. Permission is required if in possession of their firearm while crossing through or within the Provincial Park. Firearms must remain dismantled or completely enclosed if in possession of their firearm while crossing through or within the Provincial Park. Firearms are temporarily designated as campgrounds.

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Firewood & Fires

Before your visit, check www.albertaparks.ca/advisories and www.albertaibeavers.ca for current notices.

- Provincial Park Campgrounds
  - Fires are only allowed inside a receptacle or facility designated for that purpose
  - Firewood is available for purchase from rving camping supplies, and at retailers in nearby communities
  - Please do not bring firewood from another province into Alberta
  - Collection of wood or any dead vegetation for burning must be authorized by a Conservation Officer or a permit.
  - Backcountry Long and traceless camping practices are required (clean up all evidence after using the area). Collection of wood for fires is allowed.

Contact

Alberta Parks Office
Phone: 403-627-1165 (Toll-free: 310-0000)

Visitor Services (Interpretation & Education)
Phone: 403-627-1152 (Toll-free: 310-0000)
Email: spwark@sdv.ab.ca

General Provincial Park Information
Website: albertaparks.ca
Toll Free: 1-866-427-3582

Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)
Phon: 911

Conservation Officer (Public Safety, Environmentalprograms)
Phone: 1-844-Help-PRK (435-7775)

Fire Bans in Alberta
Phone: 1-866-FYI-FIRE (394-3473)
Website: albertafirebans.ca

Report a Forest Fire
Phone: 315-FIRE (347-3473)

Report-A-POacher
Phone: 1-800-642-3860