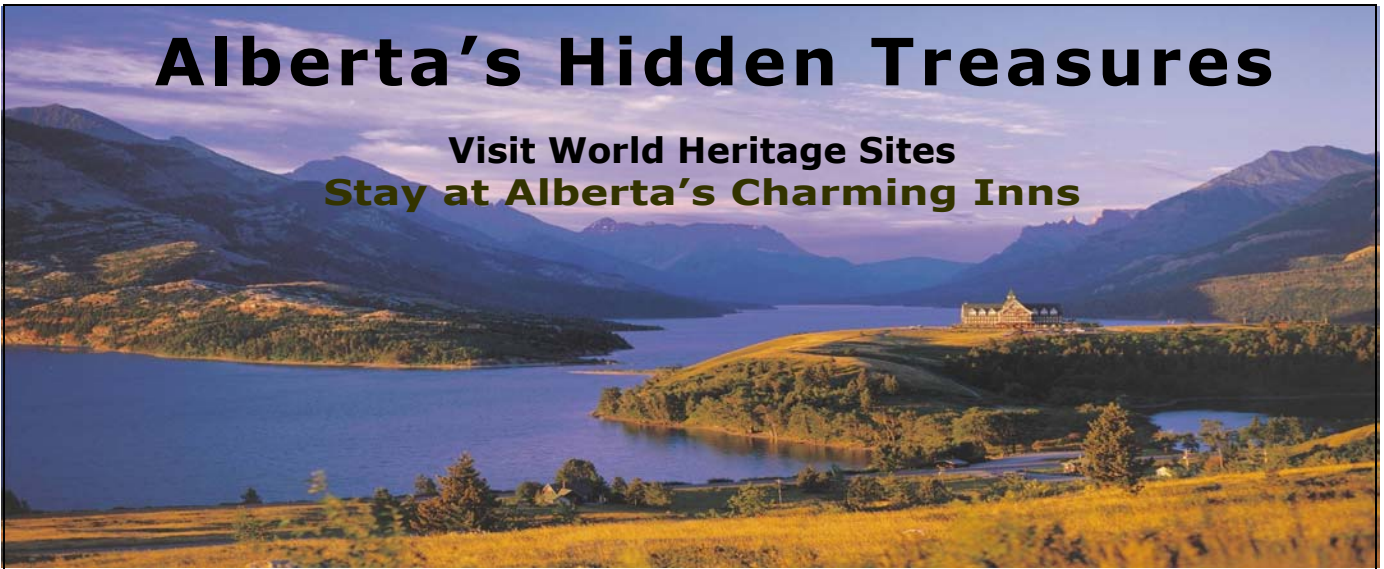


# Alberta's Hidden Treasures

Visit World Heritage Sites  
Stay at Alberta's Charming Inns



This highly varied self-drive takes you to fascinating World Heritage Sites: Dinosaur Provincial Park with the largest dinosaur fossil beds in northern America among intriguing hoodoo and coulee landscapes; Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump where Aboriginal tribes hunted buffalos for 6000 years; and the wonderful Waterton Lakes National Park where the prairie meets the mountains. Plunge into the mystic atmosphere of Writing on Stone Provincial Park with its strange geological formations and its ancient petroglyphs. Good old-fashioned cowboy hospitality awaits you on the picturesque Cowboy Trail dotted with ranches and pioneer towns. Nights are a voyage of discovery too, with the possibility of accommodation in Charming Inns of Alberta.

**9 days / 8 nights self-drive  
(June-October from / to Calgary)**

**Day 1 & 2: CALGARY** - Arrival at Calgary International Airport. You pick up your rental car and transfer to your hotel. Discover the old districts of Kensington and Inglewood, lively historical Stephen Avenue, Eau Claire Market, China Town and take a stroll along the Bow River. The many attractions in Calgary include the panoramic Calgary Tower with its revolving restaurant, Heritage Park where you learn about local life in the old days, Canada Olympic Park and Fort Calgary, the birth place of the city.

**Day 3: PRAIRIES, DINOSAURS AND BADLANDS (150 km)** -

This morning, after a hearty breakfast, you will journey into a surreal world to experience and explore the natural and human history of Alberta's Bad-



lands. The amazing Tyrrell Museum\* and a half day guided tour\* of the Drumheller valley will introduce you to the fascinating geology and paleontology of the Badlands. You will see evidence of the dramatic sedimentation and erosion that has taken place over the past 70 million years. You will learn how to read the Badlands and prospect for, and identify real dinosaur fossils.

You can also enjoy a float down the Red Deer River or a self guided hike. Overnight in Drumheller.

**Day 4: DINOSAUR PROVINCIAL PARK (150 km)** - You take the Hoodoo Trail and then drive south to Brooks and from there it is another 50 km to get to Dinosaur Provincial Park. One minute you're driving through flat prairie land dominated by agriculture, but the minute you turn into the park you start going down, down, down into the Red Deer River valley, into a land of hoodoos, coulees and buttes...a land that also provides evidence of the giant lizards that lived here long before humans arrived.

Visit the park; take one of the interpretive trips such as the Centrosaurus Bone Bed Hike, or the Camel's End Coulee Hike. If you're not too much into hiking you can do the Badlands Bus Tour.

There are also several hikes you can do on your own, for instance the Cottonwood Flats Trail, where you explore the lush riverside habitat so completely different from the Badlands. Overnight in Brooks.



**Day 5: CYPRESS HILLS AND WRITING-ON-STONE PROVINCIAL PARKS (400 km)** - Visit the

Brooks Aqueduct and the Interpretive Centre before driving on the Trans-Canada Highway through lone-some prairies.



The Buffalo Trail takes you to Cypress Hills Provincial Park where you find a plateau that was never reached by ice during the

Ice Age. Leaving this stunning "Island above the Ice", you drive past Manyberries on the Red Coat Trail to Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park. Within the blink of an eye, the prairie collapses to reveal a new world of spectacular and bizarre sandstone formations. You spend the night in Lethbridge.

**Day 6: LETHBRIDGE – WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK (130 km)** - Lethbridge has many interesting attractions to visit, including the Nikko Yuko Centennial Garden. Fort Whoop-Up gives interesting insights in the history of settlement in the area.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo Jump\* is your next stop. This jump is the oldest, largest and best-preserved buffalo jump site known. Here you learn about the daily life and special ceremonies of the bison-hunting culture of the People of the Plains.



You continue your journey into beautiful Waterton Lakes National Park "where the mountains meet the prairies", a rare gem tucked into the southwestern corner of the province of Alberta. You spend 2 nights in Waterton village, nestled in the heart of the National Park.

**Day 7: WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK –** This Park is the perfect place to view spectacular scenery, wildlife and enjoy outstanding recreational opportunities. Discover nature at its best. Hike on to the "Bear Hump" which offers the most beautiful view of the lakes, enjoy a cruise\* on Waterton Lakes, drive to Cameron Lakes and Redrock Canyon.

Enjoy western hospitality this evening at "The Great Canadian Barn Dance", offering the best in live entertainment and country cooking, and more. Here you can step back in time to when the whole western community used to come out for a great dinner and dance at the local barn. (Thursday dinner only; Friday and Saturday dinner and dance).

**Day 8: COWBOY TRAIL (270 km)** - You travel along the "Cowboy Trail" (Hwy 22). At the "Frank Slide Interpretive Centre"\* you can see evidence of the fatal night in 1903 when a rockslide devastated the Frank town. You can also learn about the coal mine history of the area.



You carry on your way north and your next stop is at the National Historic Site of "Bar U Ranch"\*. This site teaches a lot about the early days of ranching in Alberta. Eventually, you leave the Prairies and travel over Highwood Pass and Smith-Dorrien Highway to Canmore where you overnight.

**Day 9: CALGARY** - After breakfast you leave the mountains and foothills for Calgary. Depending on departure time, you can visit several attractions in Calgary and do your final shopping before you depart for the airport and drop off your rental car.

**Price per person in double occupancy:**

**Standard hotels:**

**FROM CAD 1,710 + 5% GST tax**

**Superior hotels and Charming Inns of Alberta:**

**FROM CAD 1,995 + 5% GST tax**

**Included:**

- Rental car, all-inclusive
- Accommodation and breakfasts
- Activities indicated with an asterisk
- National Park Fees

**Not included:**

- 5% GST tax
- Great Barn Dance
- Gratuities



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