

TRAVEL ALBERTA INCENTIVE TRAVEL GUIDE



Travel
Alberta
Canada 

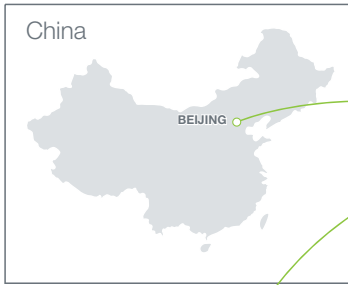
LIFE'S BEST REWARDS

Alberta delivers once-in-a-lifetime experiences every single day. Appreciate your top achievers with a helicopter flight over one of the world's largest icefields. Send them through an old-growth forest with a team of sled dogs. Give them a perfect summer day with a round of golf on a signature course followed by a gourmet mountaintop feast. Put the whole team in real, hand-made cowboy hats for the incomparable hospitality of the Calgary Stampede. Or let them loose downtown for award-winning food, entertainment and incredible shopping in some of North America's largest shopping complexes.

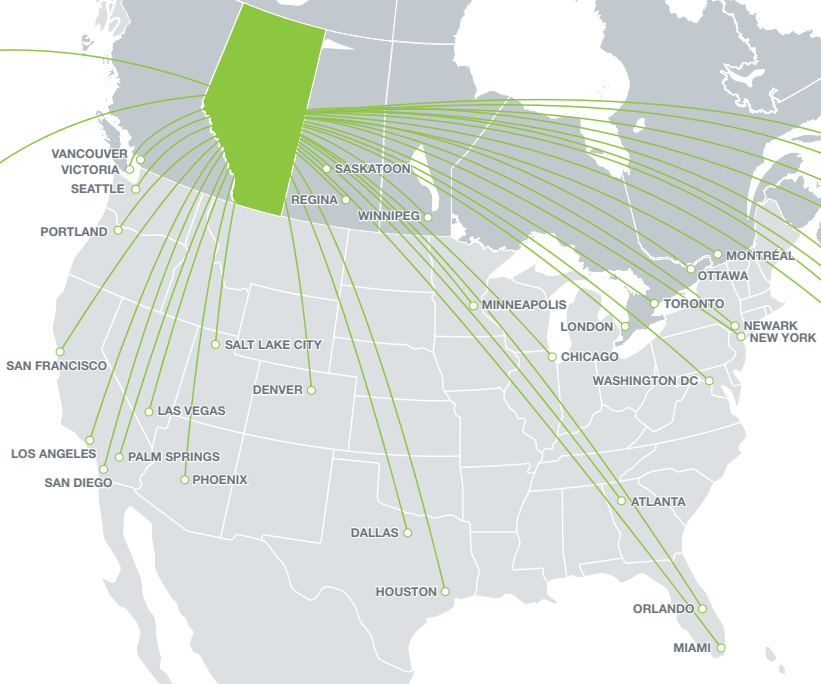
It's one of the most beautiful and diverse places on earth, and a truly inspiring destination. Framed by the Canadian Rocky Mountains to the west and the expansive prairies to the east, Alberta has adventure, relaxation and life's most rewarding experiences around every corner.

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EASY AIR
ACCESS TO
ALBERTA FROM
MORE THAN
100 CITIES
WORLDWIDE



GEOGRAPHY

MOUNTAINS
BOREAL FORESTS
PRAIRIES
GRASSLANDS
BADLANDS



TIME ZONE

**MOUNTAIN
TIME ZONE**
(GMT -7 HOURS)



SIZE

661,000 SQ KM
(255,214 SQ MI)



POPULATION

+4 MILLION



ACTIVE





With an abundance of snow, mountains and forests to explore, Alberta offers untamed winter unlike anywhere else. In the summer, a whole new world of hiking, touring, animal watching and shoreline adventures open up. Together, Alberta is ready for action any day of the year.

Summer is when Alberta comes alive with moose, bears, eagles and bighorn sheep. Spread across thousands of spectacular kilometres, Alberta's hiking trails offer something for every level, and a chance to see our wildest residents. From quick loops to multi-day treks, Alberta's stunning natural features and panoramic landscapes are just steps away — especially with the possibilities of heli-hiking.

Alberta also gives delegates the full range of paddling adventures from white-knuckle whitewater rafting to peaceful paddles across unbelievable turquoise-coloured glacial lakes. Set in some of the world's most picturesque natural locations, seeing the landscape by boat shows clients Canada at its most authentic.

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Canoeing | Heli-Hiking | Rock Climbing |
| Cross-Country Skiing | Hiking | Ski/Snowboarding |
| Cycling | Ice Climbing | Snowshoeing |
| Fishing | Kayaking | |
| Golf | Rafting | |



In winter, Alberta's geography produces the deepest, softest snow on the planet — often over 9.1 m (30 ft) per year. Start your team at a natural pace with snowshoeing. From self-guided explorations, to helicopter-assisted mountaintop treks, snowshoeing makes it easy to step into winter. Pick up the pace with cross-country skiing on hundreds of scenic trails throughout the province, including Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park — home of Canada's national cross-country and biathlon teams.

For real thrill-seekers, head to the mountains for the northern hemisphere's longest ski season — as many as 200 skiable days a year. Alberta's six major ski resorts, some only minutes apart, give delegates manicured terrain parks and over 580 named runs to explore. Or head into Alberta's backcountry for pristine snowcat and heli-skiing.



Shared by @hike365
in Banff National Park
#explorealberta





NATURAL



Natural experiences are endless in Alberta. From warm, dry summers to snow-covered winters — and the surprising amount of overlap in-between — it's amazing how many contrasting experiences can fit into one visit.

Bring delegates to ride along on a real cattle drive. Hike a frozen canyon, covered with jaw-dropping iridescent waterfalls. Or send them straight up with a professional ice-climbing guide. Let them travel by dogsled to experience Canada's most iconic transportation. Help them relax with a private sleigh ride, tucked under a cozy buffalo rug, and a dip in a natural hot spring under the stars. Or send them onto 366 m (1,200 ft) thick glaciers with specialized off-road bus tours and guided hikes covering 100,000 years of frozen history — even in the middle of summer.



- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Aboriginal Heritage | Horsepacking | Sleigh Rides |
| Dinosaurs | Hot Springs | Stargazing |
| Dogsledding | Ice Walks | Trail Rides |
| Glacier Tours | Northern Lights | Wildlife Viewing |
| Heli Tours | Ranch Experiences | |



Alberta is an animal watcher's dream. Five national parks, 250+ provincial parks and boundless natural areas protect almost 600 species, including: moose, buffalo, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, grizzly, black bear, wolf, cougar, lynx and bobcat. For more Mesozoic tastes, book an outing to Alberta's badlands for some of history's best fossil hunting.

One of nature's most unbelievable experiences is the aurora borealis, and Alberta can put on a show. Numerous dark sky preserves offer unbelievable stargazing conditions and reveal the heavens with stunning clarity.

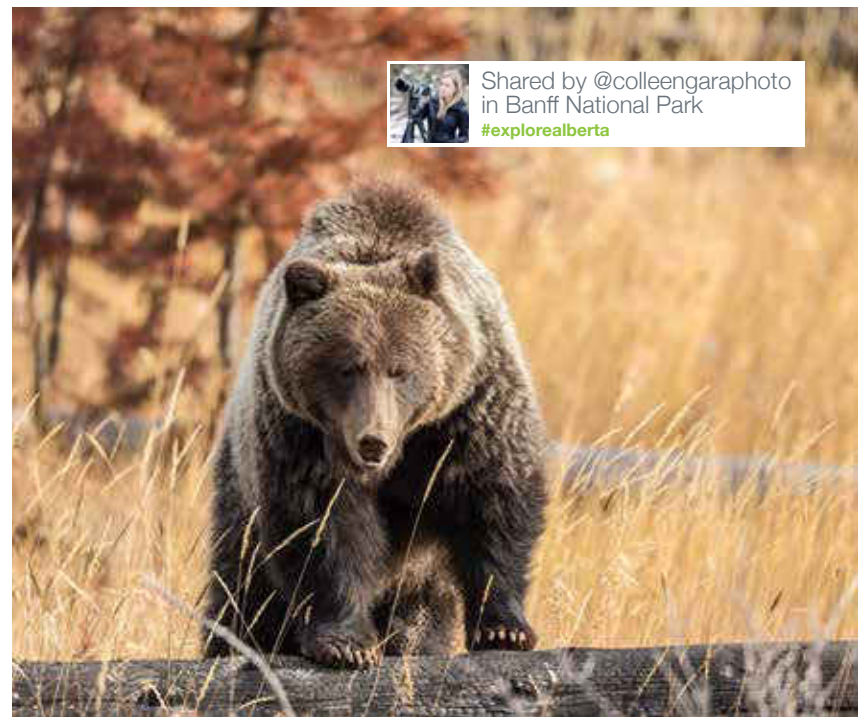




Shared by @brandonborn
at Cold Lake
#explorealberta



Shared by @colleengaraphoto
in Banff National Park
#explorealberta





URBAN



Now showcasing incredible shopping, world-class chefs, and the full spectrum of entertainment opportunities, Alberta gives delegates the perfect contrast to its wide-open natural spaces. Clean, cultivated, and cleverly designed, Alberta's cities are ready to take your nightlife right through 'til morning.



Combining cutting-edge Canadian designers, top international labels and stunning retail spaces, Alberta makes stylish shopping easy, especially with no provincial sales tax.

While still famous for its exceptional beef, Alberta's chefs and restaurants also enjoy a reputation that satisfies the world's most discerning palettes.

As a top destination for major competitions, Alberta hosts numerous professional games and championships year-round — including the world's number one rodeo event, the Calgary Stampede.



Whether it's theatrical, experimental, operatic, philharmonic, choreographic, or today's hottest musical acts, Alberta's arts scene explodes from galleries and concert halls into clubs, arenas, festivals and outdoor performances all through the year.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Art Galleries | Festivals | Spas |
| Brewery Tours | Performing Arts | Sporting Events |
| Concerts | Rodeo | |
| Culinary Tours | Shopping | |

REWARDING PATHS

With so much to see and do, and so many places to do it, Alberta can make it hard to figure out the best way to reward your top achievers. So we've made a few sample days to get you started. There's no right or wrong way to do it, so change a little or start over from scratch.



WINTER WONDERLAND

With a luxury hotel for a basecamp, clients head out into epic winter activities. Alpine skiing at its finest at three iconic resorts, mushing a dogsled team through silent forests, exploring the mysteries of a mountain cave system, snowshoeing through pristine valleys, and a rejuvenating soak in the soothing mineral waters of a natural hot spring.

Day 1: Calgary arrival. Scenic drive to Banff.

Day 2: Skiing at Sunshine and/or Norquay.

Day 3: Skiing at Lake Louise.

Day 4: Drive to Canmore, snowshoe along the way.

Day 5: Dogsledding and caving in Canmore.

Day 6: Return to Calgary, depart.



WINTER TRAIN TO JASPER

Known for having more than 30 festivals per year, a great arts and culinary scene, and the largest shopping mall in North America, Edmonton offers the perfect contrast to the raw, natural beauty of the Canadian Rockies. After a classic train ride into the mountains, Jasper National Park shines with luxury lodges, rustic cabins, stunning views and deep snow for incredible skiing.

Day 1: Edmonton arrival, city activities.

Day 2: Scenic train ride to Jasper.

Day 3: Skiing at Marmot Basin.

Day 4: Maligne Canyon hike and stargazing.

Day 5: Snowshoeing/Cross-country skiing.

Day 6: Train back to Edmonton, depart.

For complete details, see our online planner at meetings.travelalberta.com.



ALBERTA CULINARY TOUR

Give your clients a taste of Alberta's incredible rustic refined and award-winning cuisine on this six-day tour of Calgary, Canmore, Banff and Lake Louise. Feast your eyes on mountaintop views, enjoy high tea beside a perfect turquoise lake and dine like a cowboy with world-famous Alberta beef and local beer.

Day 1: Calgary arrival. Scenic drive to Banff.

Day 2: Cowboy BBQ, alpine tea, and local cuisine in Banff.

Day 3: Canyon picnic and scenic dinner at Lake Louise.

Day 4: Microbrewery tours in Canmore and Calgary.

Day 5: Distillery tour and award-winning restaurants in Calgary.

Day 6: Depart Calgary.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT ADVENTURE

| | 1-25 Guests | 25-100 Guests | 100+ Guests |
|---------|---|---|--|
| Active | Canoeing Cross-Country Skiing Cycling Fishing Golf Heli-Hiking Hiking Ice Climbing Kayaking Rafting Rock Climbing Ski/Snowboarding Snowshoeing | Canoeing Cross Country Skiing Cycling Golf Hiking Kayaking Rafting Rock Climbing Ski/Snowboarding Snowshoeing | Cross Country Skiing Golf Hiking Rafting Ski/Snowboarding Snowshoeing |
| Natural | Aboriginal Heritage Dinosaurs Dogsledding Glacier Tours Heli Tours Horsepacking Hot Springs Ice Walks Northern Lights Ranch Experiences Sleigh Rides Stargazing Trail Rides Wildlife Viewing | Aboriginal Heritage Dinosaurs Dogsledding Glacier Tours Horsepacking Hot Springs Ice Walks Northern Lights Ranch Experiences Stargazing Trail Rides Wildlife Viewing | Aboriginal Heritage Glacier Tours Hot Springs Ice Walks Stargazing Wildlife Viewing |
| Urban | Art Galleries Brewery Tours Concerts Culinary Tours Festivals Performing Arts Rodeo Shopping Spas Sporting Events | Art Galleries Brewery Tours Concerts Culinary Tours Festivals Performing Arts Rodeo Shopping Sporting Events | Art Galleries Concerts Festivals Performing Arts Rodeo Shopping Sporting Events |

TRIP ESSENTIALS

To help get you started, we've gathered some of the basics you'll need to know for planning the trip, like how to get here, weather, climate and transportation. Please visit meetings.travelalberta.com/why-choose-alberta/incentive-trips for more in-depth information.



DRIVERS' LICENCES

You must have a valid driver's licence to drive legally in Canada. Your own is valid for up to 12 months. International Driving Permits from your home country are also valid for one year.

ROAD SAFETY AND LAWS

Seatbelts must be worn at all times and it is against the law to use cellphones or mobile devices while driving.

ROAD REPORTS

Weather, construction and other activities result in different highway conditions across Alberta. For road reports dial **511** or visit 511alberta.ca.



SPEED LIMITS

On major highways, speed limits average 110 km/h (68 mph). On secondary routes the average is 80 km/h (50 mph) or by posted signage. Motorists passing stopped emergency vehicles or tow trucks must drive at 60 km/h (37 mph), or at the posted speed limit, whichever is slower. Obey posted speed limits within our cities and towns.

AUTO INSURANCE

If you are driving your own vehicle into Alberta, bring vehicle registration forms and a free Canadian Non-Resident Insurance Card from your insurance agent, or the policy itself. If you're driving a rented car, bring a copy of your rental contract.



AIR

Arrive from more than 100 cities worldwide via most major airlines and charter companies. International airports: Calgary (YYC), Edmonton (YEG), Fort McMurray (YYM).



CAR

Alberta is accessible from the east and west by two officially designated Trans-Canada routes. Rental vehicles are widely available throughout Alberta.



BUS

Bus tours, scheduled coach services and shuttle services are available through a number of operators. Let them do the driving and relax and enjoy the trip.



TRAIN

VIA Rail service is available to Edmonton and Jasper. The Rocky Mountaineer runs between Vancouver and Jasper, as well as Banff, Lake Louise and Calgary.



TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

International visitors to Canada must carry a valid passport and, if required, a valid visa. An Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) is a mandatory entry requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air. For more information, visit cic.gc.ca.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

If your organization is based outside of Canada and your event will be attended by international participants, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) offers a single-service window for planners. As the focal point for border coordination services on behalf of the Canadian government, CBSA can provide you with support and guidance as you plan your entry into Canada. Information including details of the International Events & Convention Services Program (IECSP) can be found online at cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/services/ie-ei/menu-eng.html.



CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY

The Canada Border Services Agency manages Alberta's border with the United States using domestic laws that govern trade and travel. For an overview of what's involved when you enter Alberta, including ports of entry, duty-free allowances, holiday travel tips and even wait times at border crossings, visit cbsa-asfc.gc.ca.



FOOD, PLANT & ANIMAL INSPECTIONS



Travellers are required to properly declare any meats, fruits, vegetables, plants, animals and plant or animal products they bring into Alberta.

TAX REBATES FOR PLANNERS

For more information and to find out if you are eligible for a tax rebate, visit cra-arc.gc.ca/visitors.



250+ PROVINCIAL PARKS & RECREATION AREAS

5 NATIONAL PARKS
3 ARE WORLD HERITAGE SITES

PARK ENTRY

Park passes are required for entry into any of Canada's national parks. Buy them at park entrances, or save time and buy online: pc.gc.ca or parkpass.banfflakelouise.com. Entrance to provincial parks is free.

WILDLIFE

There are 587 species of wildlife. All-stars include elk, moose, bighorn sheep, grizzly bear, bison, cougar and wolf.

WILDLIFE SAFETY

Never attempt to approach, feed or harass any wild animal. When on foot, Keep a safe distance — at least 100 m (more than 300 ft). Most animals will avoid you if they can hear you coming. Stay in your vehicle when viewing animals along roadways. Pick up brochures at visitor centres for safety tips.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Average Temperature

Summer: Daytime highs are normally 20 to 25 C (68 to 77 F) but can reach the mid to upper 30s (90s).



HIGHEST NUMBER OF SUNNY DAYS IN CANADA ANNUALLY
RATIO OF SUNNY DAYS 6:1

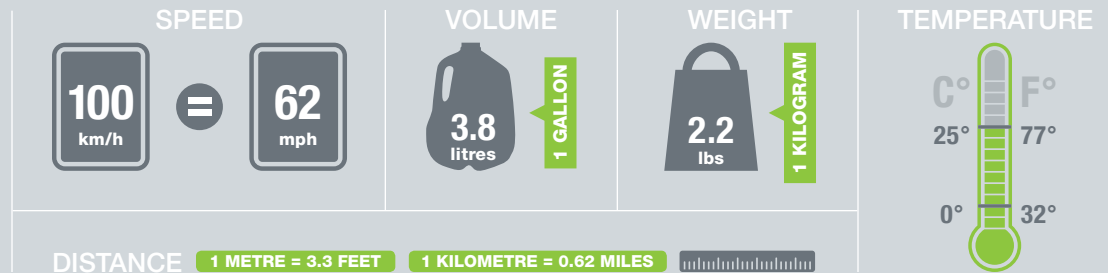
Winter: In the coldest months of the year, January and February, daytime temperatures range from -5 to -15 C (23 to 5 F). They can drop as low as -30 to -40 C (-22 to -40 F) for short periods of time.

Precipitation

Annual precipitation in Alberta averages 30-60 cm (12-24 in). In the winter, the ski resorts of the Canadian Rockies can see up to 9 m (30 ft) of snowfall between November and April.

METRIC SYSTEM

Canada uses the metric system, which means highway signage, speed limits and traffic indicators are posted in kilometres (km) and kilometres per hour (km/h), gas is sold by the litre and temperature is measured in degrees Celsius (C).





MONEY

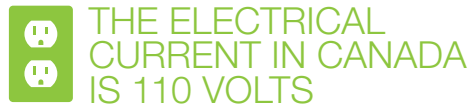
Canada's monetary system is based on dollars and cents. We have one and two dollar coins and no pennies. Purchases are rounded up or down to the nearest 5 cents.

Taxes

Alberta is the only province in Canada without a provincial sales tax (PST). The Government of Canada charges a five per cent goods and services tax (GST) on most purchases.

Banking

Typical bank hours are 9:30-4:00, Monday to Friday, with many open Saturdays as well.



STAY CONNECTED

Cellphone Coverage

3G and 4G networks, Wi-Fi hot spots
Visit comparecellular.com/coverage-maps.

Carriers in Alberta

Telus, Rogers, Bell, Fido, Wind,
Koodo and Virgin.

The country code for Canada is 1.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Each of our community destinations have opportunities for your group to interact in an educational and sustainable way that achieves your organization's CSR goals.

CONTACT

We make planning easy. It starts here with your Travel Alberta representative.

HEAD OFFICE

Travel Alberta
400, 1601 9th Ave SE
Calgary, Alberta T2G 0H4

- 📞 1.403.648.1000
- @ meetings@travelalberta.com
- 🌐 meetings.travelalberta.com
- 📧 @TAm meetings

REGIONAL OFFICES

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- United Kingdom
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    #explorealberta





(remember to breathe)