

Camping on Crown Land

Camping is a popular recreation activity for Albertans and visitors alike to experience what Alberta's diverse landscapes have to offer. There are many different options to camp on provincial Crown land. In Alberta Parks, provincial campgrounds provide unserviced, partially serviced and fully serviced campsites, and backcountry camping with limited or no services. On public land and in Public Land Recreation Areas (PLRAs) there is random and rustic camping with limited or no services.

Camping on Alberta Public Land

Random and Rustic Camping

Random camping, sometimes called rustic camping, can occur in Public Land Use Zones (PLUZs), Public Land Recreation Areas (PLRAs), and on vacant public land. Areas are often remote, with access from rural, gravel back roads or OHV trails. With limited or no services provided, campers need to be self-sufficient and able to manage their own garbage and human waste, bring or collect their own firewood from down and dead trees. With no garbage bins, you must clean-up after yourself — pack it in and pack it out. Campers should also

plan for limited cellphone coverage and know that safety issues are managed and enforced through conservation officers and law enforcement.

Camping spots cannot be reserved. These experiences are first come, first served, and have a maximum stay of 14 days. When selecting your spot to camp, be aware of location-specific regulations and consider how to reduce impacts to the environment and other users.

Did You Know?



A Public Lands Camping Pass is required to random camp along the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains, from Grande Prairie to Waterton Lakes National Park.

Funds from the pass will be reinvested in the region to improve recreation experiences and help conserve Alberta's beautiful landscapes.

Be prepared to provide proof of payment to enforcement officers, if requested.

For specific rules related to a PLUZ in your area, visit www.alberta.ca/public-land-use-zones.aspx

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Photo: Robyn Rûsh



KnowB4UGo

- Do not camp where gas lines are present (look for signs).
- Camp at least 100 metres (330 feet) away from oil and gas well sites or facilities.
- Do not camp where you will block or restrict trail access or in an area where there is industrial land use.
- Camp in open areas away from game trails, berry bushes, clover patches, streams, rivers and lakeshores.
- For planning information visit alberta.ca/PublicLandsCamping.
- You must contact leaseholders before entering agricultural leased land. The leaseholder can deny access if you intend to camp. For full details visit: alberta.ca/AgriculturalCrownLand.



Be Lawful

- Before you camp on public land along the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains make sure you have your Public Lands Camping Pass. Funds will support recreation and help conserve and protect Alberta's public lands. Visit alberta.ca/CampingPass.
- Camp 30 metres (100 feet) away from waterbodies to avoid nutrients and sediments impacting water quality.

- Staying/camping longer than 14 days is prohibited. Ensure your camping facilities are temporary and portable, as camping too long on one site limits vegetation regeneration and impacts others' future enjoyment of that site.
- In a PLUZ, no camping or open fires are allowed within one kilometre of a PLRA or Provincial Recreation Area (PRA).
- No exploding targets or fireworks are permitted without a permit. For more information visit: wildfire.alberta.ca/prevention.
- Keep your campsite clean, take all garbage with you – leave nothing behind.



Be Respectful

- Camp or park on surfaces that are resistant to impact, to minimize damage to vegetation.
- Cook food and dispose of dishwater at least 100 metres (330 feet) from your sleeping area (not in the water).
- Ensure food and cooking equipment are safely stored in a vehicle or hanging out of reach, as food smells attract wildlife. Avoid disposing of dishwater in any waterbody as soap may harm fish and other aquatic species.

Questions about camping on public land?
Call AEP Outreach Services at 1-877-944-0313,
email aep.outreach-services@gov.ab.ca or
visit alberta.ca/AEPContactUs.

For specific rules related to a PLUZ in your area, visit
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Camping in Alberta Parks

Front Country Camping (including group camping)

Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas (PRAs) offer a variety of front country camping amenities such as washrooms, showers, firewood, lake access and maintained trails. Provincial campground services can range from walk-in tenting campsites, to full-service RV sites with electricity and water services or comfort camping units. Parks staff, conservation officers, facility operators and volunteers ensure camping rules and etiquette are followed, and are responsible for maintenance and waste management.

Reservations can be made at over 90 campgrounds, while more than 150 campgrounds offer first-come, first-serve front country camping.

Backcountry Camping (designated & random)

Random backcountry camping is permitted in wildland provincial parks with some restrictions and recommendations. Campers access backcountry sites by hiking, cycling or riding horseback with all of their gear, often over a considerable distance. In some locations, limited services such as waste management is provided onsite, while more remote sites require campers to clean-up after themselves – pack in and pack out.

Most backcountry camping is on a first-come, first-served basis, but designated backcountry campsites in Kananaskis Country can be reserved. For more information visit: albertaparks.ca/backcountry.



KnowB4UGo

- Make reservations at Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca up to 90 days in advance for individual front country and backcountry campsites, or 180 days in advance to book group and comfort camping.
- Plan ahead. Check for advisories such as fire bans, campground closures, road closures or blue-green algae alerts at www.albertaparks.ca/visit.



Be Lawful

- Regulations that apply to provincial parks are different than public land regulations. Visit albertaparks.ca/regulations for details.
- Vehicles parked in Kananaskis Country and the Bow Valley need a Kananaskis Conservation Pass. Find details at: alberta.ca/ConservationPass
- Pick up after pets. Pets must be kept on a leash no more than two meters in length at all times.
- Do not approach, feed or harass wildlife. It is illegal to feed wildlife in provincial parks and PRAs.

- Campfires are permitted only in facilities provided. Never leave your campfire unattended.
- Alcohol is only permitted in campsites and designated day use areas.
- In Alberta Parks, the maximum stay is 16 consecutive nights.
- Follow maximum number of vehicles, equipment and people per site. Check albertaparks.ca/regulations for details.
- Use of fireworks is prohibited.



Be Respectful

- Quiet hours are from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Loud partying, stereos at high volume, excessive generator use and other rowdy behavior are not tolerated at any time.
- Camping permit owners are responsible for the actions of all camping party members as well as visitors to their campsite.

Got Questions? Check the Frequently Asked Questions at albertaparks.ca/FAQs or call Alberta Parks at 1-877-537-2757.

For specific rules related to a PLUZ in your area, visit www.alberta.ca/public-land-use-zones.aspx

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