

Prince Albert National Park

Autumn adventures await – Parks Canada

September 13, 2024

Bring out the warm drinks and bunnyhugs - autumn is here!

Autumn is the perfect time to visit Prince Albert National Park and decompress after the hustle and bustle of summer.

Hours of Operation:

The Prince Albert National Park Visitor Centre is open year-round

- September 3, 2024 to October 14, 2024: Sunday to Thursday, from 8 am to 6 pm. Friday to Saturday, from 8 am to 8 pm.

Nature Centre is open weekends until September 29, 2024

- September 7 to September 29, 2024: Open Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 am to 3 pm.
- The Nature Centre will reopen to welcome visitors in May 2025.

For a list of amenities available in the Waskesiu townsite at this time of year, please visit:

<https://www.waskesiu.org/>

Planning a visit to the park?

Bundle up and fall in love with Waskesiu all over again with these top fall experiences:

1. **Learn something new from a Parks Canada interpreter this September.** Join a guided stargazing experience off of the Main Beach, or admire the fall colours during a guided hike along Boundary Bog Trail. Interpretive programs are available on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until October 6. The interpretive program schedule is [available online](#).
2. **Discover nature's colour palette while exploring the hiking trails throughout the park.** Be sure to consult the Prince Albert National Park website for [trail maps and information](#). Daylight is shorter and the weather is cooler, so make sure to start hikes earlier and dress in layers!
3. **Go camping amongst falling leaves.**
 - Beaver Glen and Red Deer reservations are available until October 13. There are also plenty of walk-up front-country and backcountry campgrounds to choose from that are first-come, first-served.
 - For up-to-date information on campgrounds open in the fall, please contact the Visitor Centre at 1-306-663-4522 or email princealbertinfo@pc.gc.ca.
4. **Dip your paddle in serene waters and watch closely for birds flying above or hiding in the trees.** [Canoeing, kayaking or stand up paddle boarding](#) provides a unique perspective of the park.
 - As the temperatures cool down, make sure to pack and prepare ahead of time and be [AdventureSmart](#). The water is cold at this time of year.

Looking for more trip inspiration? Visit our [website](#) for more information.

Spot an elk during your visit? Give them space - It is rutting season!

Elk breed in the early fall until mid-October, also known as rutting season. It is important to be extra wary of elk during the rut in Prince Albert National Park. Male elk sometimes charge and damage vehicles on the roadside, so drive with caution and obey all posted speed limits. Avoid stopping to view elk along the roadside and do not linger, move along safely and quickly.

The opportunity to [watch wildlife](#) is a privilege that comes with responsibilities, so make sure to give them space! **To avoid an encounter:**

1. Give elk at least 30 meters of space. If the elk stops and stares, you are too close. Back away slowly and let it return to what it was doing.
2. Be aware of your surroundings. Remember to be alert on trails and roadways and watch for signs of elk. Be ready to change your route to avoid elk.
3. Drive with caution and obey all posted speed limits. Avoid stopping to view elk along the roadside and do not linger, move along safely and quickly.
4. Make noise to signal your presence. This gives wildlife an opportunity to leave the area.
5. Travel in groups and keep children within arm's reach.
6. Carry a walking stick or something swishy like a coat or a plastic grocery bag that can be waved to scare an aggressive animal off. Items like an umbrella could also be used.
7. Keep pets on a leash and under control at all times.
8. Never stand or park your car between a male and females.
9. Do not entice the bull by imitating their call.

If an elk charges, get behind a solid object, like a tree or car, and report it to Parks Canada as soon as it is safe at 1-877-852-3100.

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