

# Activity Guide & Trail Map 2023

## When You Arrive

### SLOW DOWN AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OTHERS

When travelling on roads, sidewalks and trails, slow down, pay attention, and be respectful and patient with others – safety is your responsibility.

### COME TO THE VISITOR CENTRE!

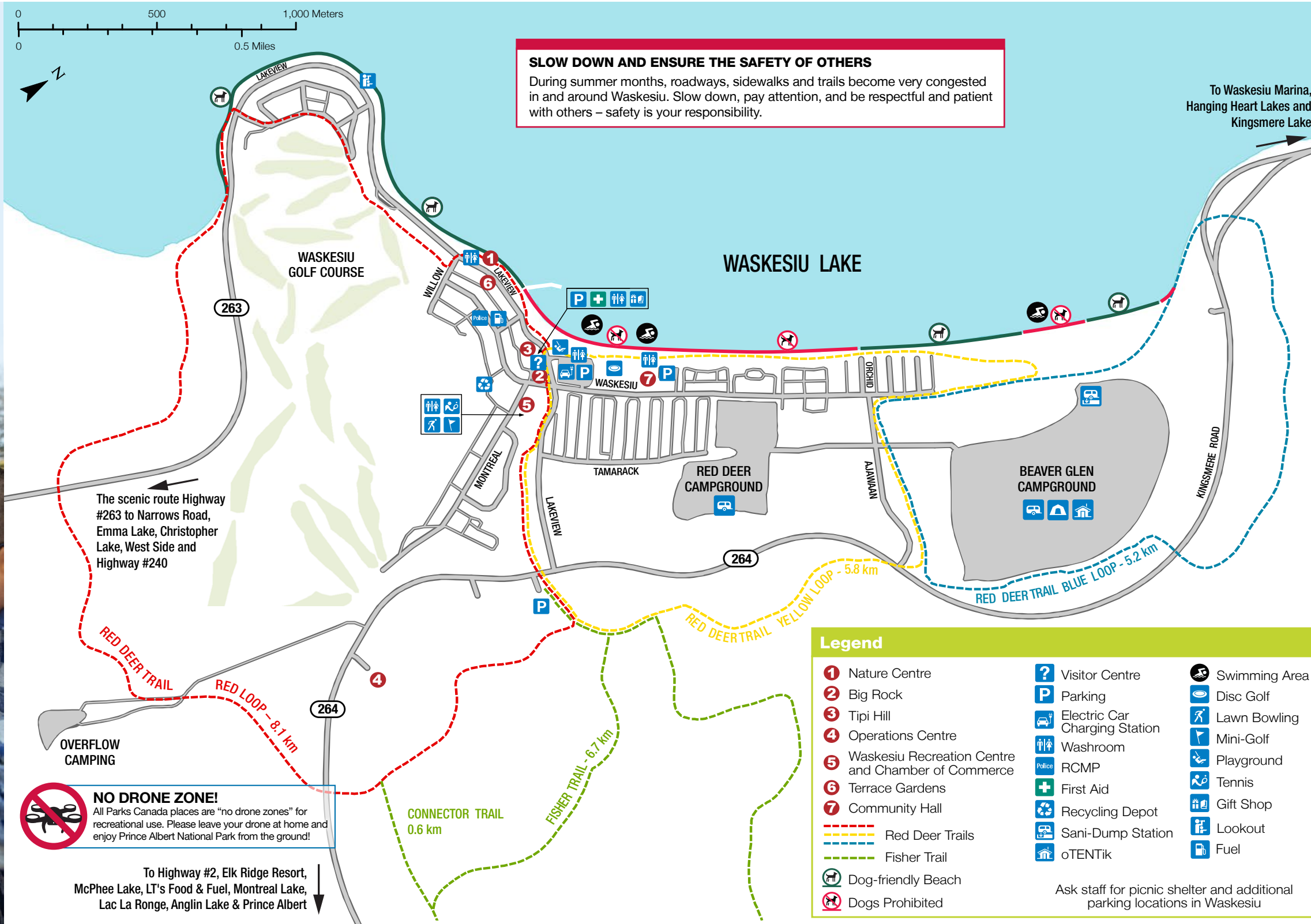
Open 7 days per week, the Visitor Centre is your first stop to get up-to-date information on interpretive programs, trail conditions and backcountry registration.

### DRESS YOUR BEST

Parks Canada official merchandise connects you with Canada's incredible natural spaces and historic treasures. Check out the gift shop at the Visitor Centre. Your purchase supports Parks Canada programs and conservation efforts.



## Waskesiu



## Contact Information

### Visitor Centre - Open Daily

1-306-663-4522  
[princealbertinfo@pc.gc.ca](mailto:princealbertinfo@pc.gc.ca)  
[parks.canada.ca/princealbert](https://parks.canada.ca/princealbert)  
 @ParksCanada\_SK  
[facebook.com/PrinceAlbertNationalPark](https://facebook.com/PrinceAlbertNationalPark)

### Toll-free National General Information Line:

1-888-773-8888

### Parks Canada Campground Reservation Service:

1-877-737-3783  
[reservation.parksCanada.gc.ca](https://reservation.parksCanada.gc.ca)

### Emergency

Dial 9-1-1  
 1-877-852-3100  
 RCMP, Fire, and Ambulance  
 For all other emergencies (Parks Canada Dispatch)



**MAKE MEMORIES HERE THIS WINTER!**  
 Prince Albert National Park is open for winter adventures. Explore the beauty of snow-covered forests and frozen lakes while you cross-country ski, snowshoe, picnic at enclosed shelters, and ice fish. Park entry fees apply year-round. Contact the Visitor Centre to plan your visit today!

## Clean, Drain and Dry

Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species starts with you! Clean, drain and dry your vessel whenever you leave a body of water to minimize the risk of spreading aquatic invasives.



## Interpretive Programs

There are free public programs daily in July and August and weekends in June and September!

Parks Canada interpreters are enthusiastic and knowledgeable, and also offer paid programs for groups. Contact the interpretation team at [interpretationprincealbert@pc.gc.ca](mailto:interpretationprincealbert@pc.gc.ca) or 306-663-4510.



Get the detailed public program schedule from the Visitor Centre.

## Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Dawn and dusk are the best times to view wildlife. During summer, many animals escape the midday heat by staying in the trees.
- Get wet! Moose and waterfowl are active in rainy weather.
- Be patient! Stop, look around, sit back and wait to see what will wander by.

## Stay Safe and Protect Wildlife

- **Keep a safe distance from all wildlife.** If an animal notices you and changes its behaviour by lifting its head, looking at you or listening to you, you are too close and should back away.
- **Travelling in groups and making noise** will let wildlife know you are nearby.
- Late summer and early fall is elk and bison mating season; be especially aware of wildlife along trails at this time.
- If you encounter elk, moose or bison on a trail, make yourself known by singing a song or whistling a tune. Walk slowly around them at a safe distance or return the way you came.
- **Do not feed wildlife;** they have a greater rate of survival and are healthier when they eat natural food.
- **Keep your pet on a leash and under physical control at all times.** Dogs can provoke defensive behaviour in bears and other wildlife.
- Familiarize yourself with the Bear Country brochure, available at any park facility.

## Frontcountry Camping

	FRONTCOUNTRY CAMPGROUNDS – VEHICLE ACCESSIBLE				
	RED DEER	BEAVER GLEN	NARROWS	NAMEKUS LAKE	SANDY LAKE
LOCATION	Waskesiu townsite	Northern edge of Waskesiu townsite	25 km NW of Waskesiu	10 km S of Waskesiu	35 km S of Waskesiu
NUMBER OF CAMPSITES	161 pull-through sites	200 electrified back-in sites, 10 oTENTiKs	75 back-in, 10 pull-through	14 back-in, 6 walk-in sites	25 back-in, 6 walk-in sites
RESERVATIONS	1-877-737-3783*	1-877-737-3783*	Self-registration	Self-registration	Self-registration
WATER	✓	Central tap	Central tap		
POWER	✓	✓			
SEWER	✓				
FLUSH TOILETS	✓	✓	✓		
SHOWER	✓	✓	✓		
SEWAGE DISPOSAL	✓	✓	✓	12 km N	3 km S
FIRE PITS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PIT TOILETS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SPECIAL FEATURES	Short walk to main beach	Short walk to Beaver Glen beach	Marina close by	Non-motorized watercraft only	Boat launch and beach

There are alcohol and cannabis restrictions in effect in frontcountry campgrounds on all long weekends.  
 \* Reservation website: [reservation.parksCanada.gc.ca](https://reservation.parksCanada.gc.ca)

Visit [waskesiu.org/accommodations](https://waskesiu.org/accommodations) for information about local commercial accommodations.

## Backcountry Camping

Pack your tent and stay at one of 15 designated backcountry campgrounds. Enjoy all the wonders of the backcountry with the benefits of a few simple comforts. Campgrounds are equipped with picnic tables, pit toilets, firewood, fire pits and caches for securing wildlife-attractants. For the experienced adventurer, try random backcountry camping. With over 3,800 km<sup>2</sup> of protected wilderness, outdoor enthusiasts have an endless opportunity to experience the beauty of Prince Albert National Park.

### Backcountry Basics

**Registration:** All overnight visitors must register at the Visitor Centre on the day of arrival. Sites are not reservable.

**Fees:** Backcountry fees apply to all overnight backcountry stays.

- Safety:**
- Check the weather, trail and fire conditions before heading into the backcountry.
  - Pack appropriate equipment, extra drinking water and food in case you're out longer than anticipated.
  - Before your trip, please read the *Bear Country* brochure.
  - Take navigation tools and a first aid kit.
  - REMEMBER – cell phone coverage is variable throughout the park. Do not rely on it.
  - Prepare a trip plan and leave it with a responsible adult before heading out.
  - For additional resources: [AdventureSmart.ca](https://AdventureSmart.ca)

**Random Backcountry:** You must camp farther than 2 km from any public highway, maintained trail or designated campground. On Kingsmere, Crean, Bagwa and Lily lakes, you must camp in a designated backcountry campground. Random camping is not allowed on Waskesiu, Clare, Ajawaan, Hanging Heart and Lost lakes.

### Grey Owl Trail

Challenge yourself with the park's most popular backcountry route.

**Where to Start:** Kingsmere parking lot, a 45 minute drive from Waskesiu townsite.

**Trail Distance:** 19.9 km one way (4-6 hours)

**Access By Water:** 3-5 hours and a 0.5 km portage or 3 km hike one way  
 2 hours and 3 km hike one way

There is a 40 hp motor restriction on Kingsmere Lake. All watercraft must use a 1 km rail portage to access Kingsmere Lake. Pick up a copy of *Routes To Grey Owl's Cabin* at the Visitor Centre for details. A *Bagwa Canoe Route* brochure is also available.

## Picnic and Beach Areas

### HEAD FOR THE BEACH!

Sandy beaches, picnic shelters and fire pits are ready for your enjoyment. Pack your picnic and swimsuits before spending the day with friends and family at:

- Waskesiu Beach
- Birch Bay
- South Bay
- Paignton Beach
- Point View
- Trippes Beach

### More picnic areas and beaches in the park:

- Namekus Lake
- Sandy Lake
- Crean Lake
- Kingsmere Lake

### Pets are welcome!

All pets must be on leash and under physical control at all times. Dogs are allowed on most beaches, except for those with buoyed swimming areas.

## Fishing

Experience northern Saskatchewan fishing at its finest and cast into the cool waters of the park. Each lake offers a different experience, so grab the whole family and make a day of it.

### Fish species found in the park:

- northern pike
- lake trout
- white fish
- walleye
- perch

**Prince Albert National Park fishing licenses are available for purchase at the Visitor Centre, entry gates, campground kiosks or any of the marinas.**

Contact the Visitor Centre to learn more about lake trout fishing regulations and to pick up your lake trout endorsement.



# Trails



## Hiking

With over 150 km of trails, Prince Albert National Park is Saskatchewan's premiere hiking destination.

Want to learn more about the natural world around you? Check out the self-guided trail brochures available at Boundary Bog, Mud Creek and Treebeard trailheads or attend an Interpretive program.

## Legend

- Hiking
- Designated Cycling Trail
- Horses permitted on trail
- Lookout
- Viewing Tower
- Toilets
- Wheelchair Access
- Self-guided Trail
- Easy
- Moderate
- Difficult



## Biking

Jump on your bike and cycle along the many trails in the park. The Red Deer Trail is a perfect option located just outside Waskesiu. For the more adventurous, head to the West Side and travel the trails in search of plains bison.

On trails, eBikes need to be in the pedal assist mode and must not have a switch to select motor only mode.

Highway #263 lends itself naturally to bike touring. This quiet, paved roadway is jam-packed with scenic diversity. Wear bright clothing and make yourself visible to motorists.

On roadways, eBikes can be in motor only mode. Provincial laws must be followed. For more information, please consult [sgi.sk.ca/recreational-vehicles](http://sgi.sk.ca/recreational-vehicles).



## Horseback Riding

Escape the hustle and bustle of the daily grind along one of our horse-friendly trails.

Bring your own horse or contact the Visitor Centre for information on horseback riding outfitters in the surrounding area.

## TRAIL SAFETY

- Register at the Visitor Centre prior to all overnight backcountry trips.
- Trails and beaches are not patrolled; use them at your own risk.
- Watch for slippery or broken boardwalk on trails.
- Respect area and trail closures.
- Wildlife encounters are possible; please use caution.
- Always take emergency gear! Be Adventure Smart: AdventureSmart.ca

For up-to-date trail conditions visit [parksCanada.gc.ca/PANP-trail-conditions](http://parksCanada.gc.ca/PANP-trail-conditions)

## Paddling



The best seat in the house! Your canoe or kayak provides a unique vantage point to watch wildlife and explore the water. It is a great low-impact way to discover the natural wonders of the park. Higher water levels in spring make it the perfect time to enjoy the rivers. Paddled routes are not maintained; use them at your own risk.

### Day Paddles

NAME	ROUTE	LENGTH (one way)
AMISKOWAN LAKE	Amiskowan Lake to Shady Lake	1-2 hours
KING ISLAND	Trippes Beach to King Island	5 hour
WASKESIU RIVER	Waskesiu River to Waskesiu Lake	5 hour
SPRUCE RIVER	Spruce River on Hwy #263 to Anglin Lake	1.5 hour
HANGING HEART LAKES	Hanging Heart Lakes to Crean Lake	3 hours



### Overnight Paddles

Remember to register at the Visitor Centre for all overnight stays

NAME	ROUTE	DAYS
BAGWA	Kingsmere Lake/Bagwa route	2
GREY OWL'S CABIN	Kingsmere Lake/Ajawaan Lake	2-3
CREAN LAKE	Hanging Heart Lakes/Crean Lake	2-3
TIBISKA LAKE	MacLenan River/Tibiska Lake	3-4

## The Scenic Route Highway #263

(paved, no shoulders)

### 1 Shady Lake Trail

1.7 km loop  
Hike down towards the lake in a counter-clockwise direction. East of the lake, a 1 km spur brings you to the 15 m high Height-of-Land Tower.

### 2 Height-of-Land Tower

Staircase, 60 m one way  
Climb the 15 m tower for a view of Shady Lake and the mixed-forest canopy. This tower sits on the divide between the Churchill and Saskatchewan river systems.

### 3 Spruce River Highlands Trail

8.5 km loop  
Ascend the path for 0.7 km and climb to the top of a 10 m tower. Below, the Spruce River meanders through a characteristically glacial landscape. The hills of the aspen parkland are radiant in their fall foliage. The trail then passes through rolling terrain, providing viewing opportunities of Anglin Lake.

### 4 Freight Tait Springs Trail

2 km one way  
Early freighters stopped at this natural spring to rest and replenish water supplies. The spring water spills over its banks and flows onward to the Spruce River. The iron-rich springs are interesting to explore but take care not to harm this sensitive area.

### 5 Elk Trail

Trailhead to Fish Lake 13 km one way  
Trailhead to Camp Lake 15 km one way  
Walk through tall aspen stands, see views of Sandy Lake, and discover small wilderness lakes.

## Cookson Road

(gravel, narrow, no shoulders, hills & curves)

### 6 Hunters Trail

7.3 km loop  
On this sandy looped trail you will experience the rejuvenating effects of forest fire on the landscape.

## Valleyview Trail Network

The following are exploration options. The trails provide access to fescue grasslands where free-roaming plains bison are sometimes seen. **Start:** Valleyview Day Use Area

### A Valleyview Lookout Trail

200 m one way  
This short wheelchair accessible hike takes you to the Valleyview picnic site. Enjoy beautiful views of the Sturgeon River Valley.

### B Valleyview Easy Loop

4.1 km loop  
Great for families, this short trail leads users through aspen forest.

### C Stoney Plain Meadow Spur

1 km one way  
Follow a marked route through Stoney Plain Meadow, a native fescue grassland. Look for wildflowers throughout the summer months.

### D Valleyview Moderate Loop

8 km loop  
Follows the Valleyview Trail along the crest of the Sturgeon River Valley and through aspen forest. There are many great views and opportunities for random backcountry camping along the way.

### E Valleyview Difficult Loop

24.5 km loop  
Follows the entire length of the Valleyview Trail with many great lookouts over the Sturgeon River Valley. This trail goes through Jonassons Flats, a native fescue grassland. This trail also provides access to Sturgeon Lookout.

### F Amyot Lake Trail Spur

2 km one way  
Explore sedge meadows where free-roaming plains bison sometimes graze. Enjoy great waterfowl viewing opportunities and the scenic Amyot Lake.

## The Narrows Road

(gravel, narrow)

### 8 Mud Creek Trail

2 km loop  
The trail skirts the lake and then follows Mud Creek. An active beaver lodge and dam can be seen on the creek. In the spring, spawning fish attract black bears to the area.

### 9 Treebeard Trail

1.2 km loop  
Ascend the steep, winding trail through a white spruce and balsam fir forest. The trees along this path are among the oldest and largest in the park. As you descend, watch for a spur to the right. It leads to a small, fern-edged creek, dark and cool.

## Kingsmere Road

(first 15 km paved with narrow shoulders, last 17.5 km gravel, no shoulders)

### 10 Waskesiu River Trail

First 0.5 km Remaining 2 km  
From the parking lot, walk towards the river and across the pedestrian bridge. Special displays are on exhibit along this boardwalk. The trail parallels the rock-filled river for 0.5 km before leaving the river's north shore to loop through aspen and spruce forests and a sedge meadow.

### 11 Narrows Peninsula Trail

3 km loop  
This trail passes through a variety of habitats following the shore of Waskesiu Lake. Of particular interest is a spectacular fern bed, luxuriant and green in the early summer. In the 1880s a fur trade post was set up on the point by an independent trader.

### 12 Kingsmere River Trail

1.5 km one way, staircase  
The trail crosses the river and follows a rail portage, then passes through a spruce forest and ends on the east side of the Southend Campground on Kingsmere Lake.

### Southend

1.5 km one way

### 13 Grey Owl Trail

19.9 km one way  
The trail follows the eastern shoreline of Kingsmere River until you reach a junction at 0.3 km. The trail to Grey Owl's cabin branches to the right. Kingsmere Lake becomes visible 1.5 km from this junction. From there, continue east along the shoreline.

### Westwind

3.3 km one way

### Chipewyan Portage

6.7 km one way

### Sandy Beach

12.8 km one way

### Northend

16.8 km one way

### Grey Owl's Cabin

19.9 km one way

## Highway #264

(paved with shoulders)

### 14 Boundary Bog Trail

2 km loop  
Boundary Bog is an excellent representation of the many black spruce bogs that exist in the Park.

### 15 Red Deer Trail

Three loops totalling 19 km

#### Red Loop

8.1 km  
The Red Loop takes you through a variety of habitats from townsites to lakeshore and through the rolling hills south of Waskesiu.

#### Yellow Loop

5.8 km  
The Yellow Loop takes you through a variety of habitats from the townsites, through the Waskesiu community fuel break, and back along the lakeshore.

#### Blue Loop

5.2 km  
The Blue Loop takes you around Beaver Glen Campground, through the rolling hills north of Waskesiu, then back along the shore of Waskesiu Lake. If you are walking, you may choose to leave the trail and walk on the beach from Kapisawin Bungalows to Orchard Street.

### 16 Fisher Trail

6.7 km  
Scenic and close to Waskesiu, this trail is great for hiking or biking through mixed woods, aspen stands and alongside black spruce muskeg.

**Note:** Trail maintenance schedules vary per trail. Before heading out, check up-to-date trail conditions online ([parksCanada.gc.ca/PANP-trail-conditions](http://parksCanada.gc.ca/PANP-trail-conditions)) or at the Visitor Centre.

## GET YOUR DISCOVERY PASS AT THE VISITOR CENTRE

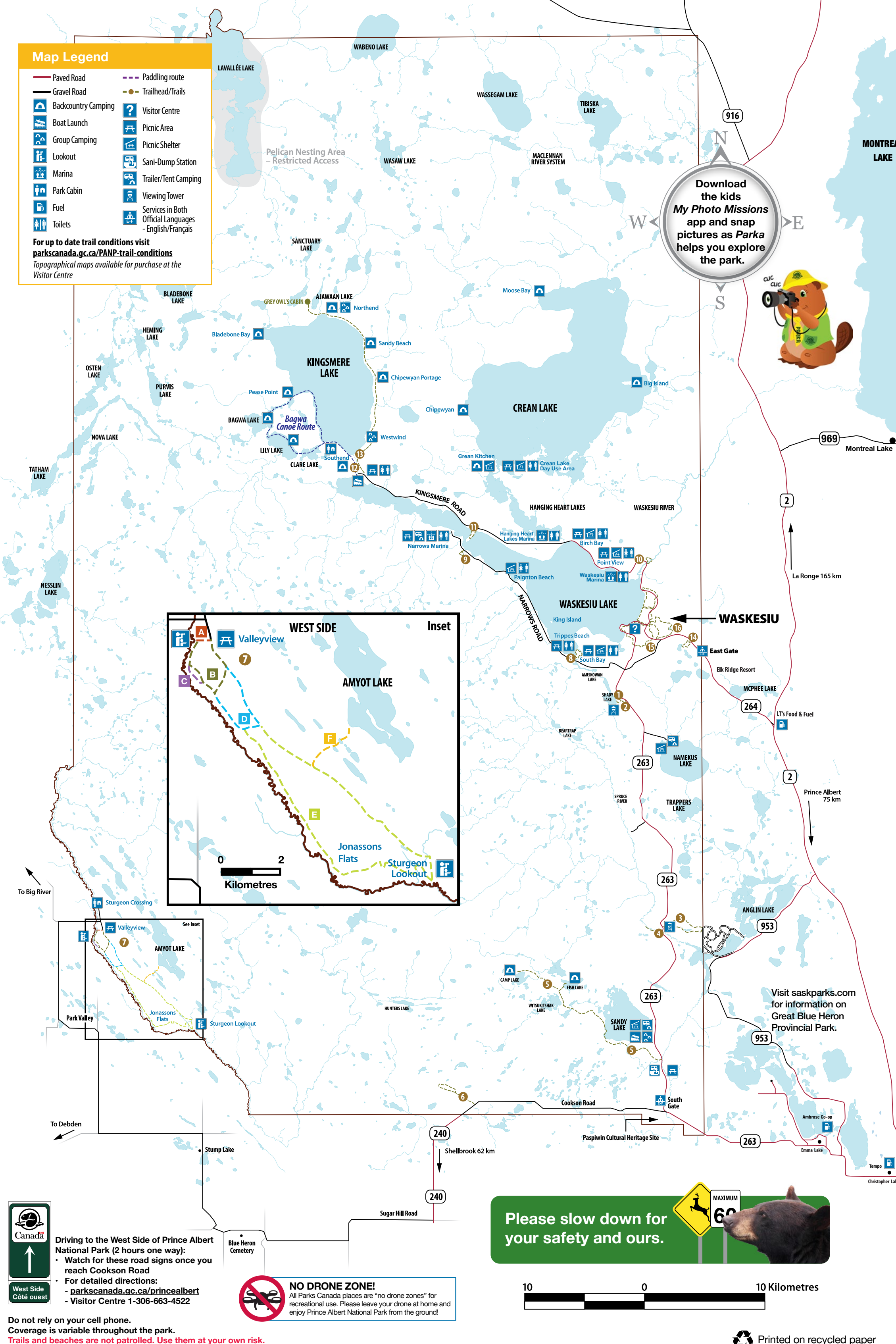
The Discovery Pass is your gateway to history, nature, and adventure. It provides unlimited admission for 12 full months at over 80 Parks Canada places.



## Map Legend

- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Backcountry Camping
- Boat Launch
- Group Camping
- Lookout
- Marina
- Park Cabin
- Fuel
- Toilets
- Paddling route
- Trailhead/Trails
- Visitor Centre
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Sani-Dump Station
- Trailer/Tent Camping
- Viewing Tower
- Services in Both Official Languages - English/Français

For up to date trail conditions visit [parksCanada.gc.ca/PANP-trail-conditions](http://parksCanada.gc.ca/PANP-trail-conditions)  
Topographical maps available for purchase at the Visitor Centre



Please slow down for your safety and ours.

