



Alberta

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Best Places to Eat

- Packrat Louie Kitchen & Bar (p568)
- Market (p582)
- 49° North Pizza (p629)
- Trough (p590)
- Other Paw Bakery (p612)
- Al Forno Cafe & Bakery (p581)

Best Places to Sleep

- Deer Lodge (p605)
- Tekarra Lodge (p611)
- Mt Engadine Lodge (p588)
- Varscona (p566)
- Heartwood Inn & Spa (p623)
- Prince of Wales Hotel (p629)

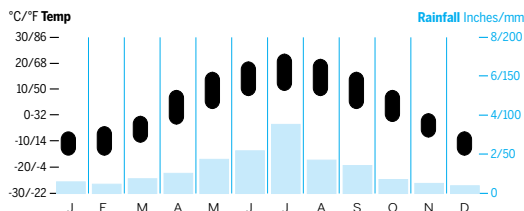
Why Go?

Alberta does lakes and mountains like Rome does cathedrals and chapels, but without the penance. For proof head west to Jasper and Banff, two of the world's oldest national parks; despite their wild and rugged terrain, they remain untrammelled and easily accessible. No one should leave this mortal coil without first laying eyes on Lake Louise and the Columbia Icefield – and think twice about dying before you've traveled east to the dinosaur-encrusted badlands around Drumheller, south to the Crypt Lake trail in Waterton Lakes National Park, and north to spot bison in the vast northern parklands.

In the center of the province, the wheat blows and the cattle roam; here you'll find historic ranches, sacred native sights and the eerie landscape of the hoodoos. What Alberta's cities lack in history they make up for with their spirit: Calgary has become unexpectedly cool, with top museums and cocktail bars, while Edmonton's fringe theater festival is the world's second largest.

When to Go

Edmonton



Jul Prime time for festivals, with Edmonton's Street Performers and the Calgary Stampede.

Jul-Sep Banff and Jasper's trails are snow-free, making a full range of hikes available.

Dec-Feb Winter sports season in the Rocky Mountains.



Albta Highlights

- 1 Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology** (p614)
Exploring the Jurassic remnants of Drumheller.
- 2 Miette Hot Springs** (p606)
Soaking beneath the mountain peaks of Jasper National Park.
- 3 Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village** (p571)
Stepping back in time to experience new immigrant life at the turn of the century.
- 4 Icefields Parkway** (p591)
Driving between towering mountains, a bevy of birds and scenic viewpoints.
- 5 Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump** (p624)
Delving into the fascinating history of First Nations culture.
- 6 National Music Centre** (p575)
Living out your rock-and-roll fantasies at Calgary's newest and coolest museum.
- 7 Waterton Lakes National Park** (p627)
Kayaking surrounded by fairy-tale scenery.
- 8 Lake Agnes Tea House** (p605)
Enjoying glacial-water tea high above Lake Louise.