

BISON COUNTRY

Prince Albert National Park and neighbouring lands are home to the only free-ranging plains bison that graze within their historic range. Horseback is an excellent way to view the plains bison on the West Side. Directions to the West Side are available at all Park facilities. Remember that bison are wild animals and can be very unpredictable, especially during the calving season (late April through the end of June) and during the rut or breeding season (mid-July through late August). Always stay at least 100-metres from bison and give them the right-of-way.



BEAR COUNTRY

Black bears are common throughout the Park. Refer to the pamphlet *Bear Country A Guide to Safety*, available at all Park facilities. Horse and human foods can be strong attractants for bears. Use nosebags to reduce spilling horse feed that may entice bears. In the backcountry, food and other odorous items should be kept away from your tent and secured on caching platforms or hung at least four metres above the ground, between two trees.



TRIP SAFETY

Your trip will be more enjoyable if you are prepared and self-reliant. Cell phone coverage is non-existent in many areas of the Park. When planning your trip, be sure you take the following precautions:

- Research your trip before heading out and ask Parks Canada staff for advice.
- Check ahead on expected weather, road, and trail conditions for the area.
- Travel with a partner and always leave a trip plan with someone at home.
- Ensure you have a map and a compass and know how to use them.
- Always bring a first-aid kit for you and your horse and enough warm clothing, food, and water to spend an extra 48 hours in the wilderness (this includes day trips).



CONTACT INFORMATION

Prince Albert National Park

Visitor Centre

Ph: (306) 663-4522

www.pc.gc.ca/princealbert

Email: panp.info@pc.gc.ca

In the event of an emergency, call 911.



parks canada.gc.ca parcs canada.gc.ca

Prince Albert National Park Horse-Use Guide



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Riding your horse through one of the largest protected wilderness areas in Saskatchewan is a rewarding experience. Whether you're looking for a relaxing day trip or a rustic backcountry trip, Prince Albert National Park has a trail for you.

HORSE-FRIENDLY TRAILS

While horseback riding on the trails throughout the southern region of the Park, you may meander into aspen groves, wander through blooming fescue grasslands, dip into pockets of conifer forest, follow pristine lakeshores, or even catch a glimpse of the plains bison. Enjoy one of these horse-friendly trails:

Trail Name	Length
Elk Trail	39 km one way
Hunters Lake Trail	12 km one way
West Side Boundary Trail	25 km one way
Amyot Lake Trail	15.5 km loop
<i>Please see our Visitor Guide for a map and more details.</i>	

Wagons are allowed on horse-friendly trails. Not all bridges are suitable for wagon-use. For information on bridge and trail conditions contact the Visitor Centre. A park use permit is required and can be purchased at the Visitor Centre or the park entry gates.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Extend your horseback adventure with an overnight, backcountry stay. Designated backcountry campgrounds with tent sites, hitching rails, corrals, outhouses, hibachis, and food caches are found at Fish Lake and Camp Lake. Backcountry campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Random backcountry camping is also allowed anywhere in the Park that is further than two kilometres from public roadways or designated campgrounds. Contact the Visitor Centre for recommended random camping areas, such as Rabbit Creek.

All overnight campers are required to register at the Visitor Centre or the South Gate. Park use fees, and camping fees where facilities are offered, apply.



TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Prince Albert National Park has multiple-use trails. You may meet other equestrians, hikers, or cyclists while riding.

- Non-horse parties have the right-of-way; please move off to the side and let them pass.
- Communicate any necessary information to other trail-users to ensure everyone's safety.
- Please keep your pack-horses under physical control rather than letting them follow off-lead.

MINIMIZE YOUR IMPACT

Do your part to protect the Park's wilderness areas by practicing low-impact travel:

- Travel with the fewest horses possible to prevent the overuse of trails.
- Maximum group size is 15 horses.
- Stay on the trail.
- Ride your horses without horseshoes to reduce damage to soft trails.
- Carry water to your horses to reduce shoreline damage. Remember to always water your horse downstream or downwind of where you take your drinking water and purify all water used for human consumption.
- Prevent tree mortality by tying your horses to your trailer while preparing for your ride.
- During rest stops along the trail, tie to healthy, sturdy trees only and wrap the lead shank around the tree twice before tying.
- When camping overnight, use corrals where provided; otherwise, secure your horse with another method such as a high-line with tree protectors.
- Always spread horses out to minimize soil compaction.
- Keep horses walking while defecating to disperse manure.
- Help Prince Albert National Park eliminate non-native plants. Pack in cubed or pelleted, weed-free feeds to reduce the deposition of foreign seeds via manure and wash all wagons prior to entering the Park.
- Pack out all of your garbage and food waste.