Welcome to the Castle Parks
Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park in southwest Alberta protect over 105,000 hectares of valuable watersheds, and habitat for more than 200 rare species. The parks share borders with the Waterton Biosphere Reserve to the east, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park to the south, the Crown-Plus West and the Redcliff River valley of British Columbia to the west. The lands in the Castle region form part of the extraordinary Crown of the Continent ecosystem.
Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park were established on February 16, 2017 and are managed according to Alberta’s Provincial Parks Act.

Day Use
There are many day use opportunities in Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park. These vary from a place to picnic and take pictures, to a place to begin/return from a recreation adventure. All day use areas have an information kiosk, picnic tables, outhouses, and waste receptacles.

Castle Provincial Park
Syncine Day Use and Trails are ideal for hiking, biking and equestrian use. A temporary West Castle Centre will be situated at Syncine south in 2018. Both parking areas are large enough to turn over horse trailer.

Beaver Mines Lake offers day use areas located around the lake, plus the Table Mountain Trailhead. If the trailhead parking is full, please park in another day use parking area.

Carbonatal Staging Area is a great place to access multi-use trails in the Castle Wildland. Castle Falls Day Use Area is a lovely picnic area and great location to enjoy the falls. Look for bull trout in the deep waters.

Backcountry Tent Camping is allowed within the Provincial Park for reservation May 17–September 30 in 2018. Are available you are camped within the boundaries of the Castle Parks on the map reverse of this guide; please ensure on horseback or in small groups. Contact us at 403-627-1152 or email reservation@albertaparks.ca for information or to book. Adaptive equipment is available for use in the Castle Parks. To book this equipment, call 403–627–1152, or search for “Push to Open Nature” at albertaparks.ca.

Camping
The Castle Parks offer more than 200 campsites in four campgrounds and 2 group camps, and additional opportunities in designated camping areas and in the backcountry.

Castle Wildland Provincial Park
Bathing Lake Day Use Area is fully accessible and ideal for fishing, picnicking, photography, and nature viewing. There is also a great spot to stage a backcountry hike into the wildland.

Butcher Lake Day Use Area welcomes fishing, picnicking, photography, and sightseeing. This is also a great spot to stage a backcountry hike into the wildland.

West Castle Trail Head, at Castle Mountain Resort, offers access into the West Castle Valley of Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Please ensure you “Know Before You Go” and are prepared for backcountry travel in a Wildland Provincial Park.

South Castle Trail Head Rides the South Castle on horse or mountain bike from this new staging area. Please ensure you are prepared for a backcountry experience in a Wildland Provincial Park.

Camping

Campgrounds in Castle Provincial Park
Castle Provincial Park has a wide range of campgrounds and campers to suit any camping style. Many of the campgrounds have been widened in recent years to accommodate newer RV units. To reserve your campsite at Castle River Bridge, Beaver Mines Lake and Castle Falls campgrounds visit albertaparks.ca/castle and click on “look it.” Or, simply arrive, find a vacant first come first serve campsite, fill out the permit and pay at the registration vault for first come first served campgrounds.

Lynn Creek Campground Offers first come first serve camping in a more remote location near picturesque Lynn Creek.

Designated Camp Area A-1 In Castle Provincial Parks are unprimed, first come first serve campgrounds, accessible on rough trails. Free camping permits are available online, at kiosks located at each camping area, and from park staff. Designated camping areas are marked on the map reverse of this guide; please ensure you are camped within the boundaries of the camping areas.

Syncine Group Use Areas A-1 are available for reservation May 17-September 30 in 2018. These upgraded camps feature shelters, picnic tables, fire pits and new outhouses along the Castle River.

To reserve campsites, camp groups, comfort cabins, or to check for opening dates, addresses and other information, please go to albertaparks.ca/castle.

Outdoor Recreation
The Castle Parks offer a wide variety of front country and backcountry experiences. When enjoying the outdoors, please remember:

• Please respect other users in the area
• Leave no trace of your visit and dispose of your trash in appropriate receptacles
• Puts must be kept on a leash (2 metres), supervised and under physical control at all times
• Please clean up after your pet if within any facility area or on a trail
• Do not dispose any foreign materials into any watercourses (dirt, soap, waste products, etc)
• No cutting, removing, or damaging live trees or other vegetation unless you have a permit

Trails
The best way to explore the Castle Parks is by traveling the park trails or by choosing your own hiking route using a topographic map. See the trail map for detailed information on the places to be found along every permitted use. Note that roadside parking is required at some trailheads.

Butcher Lake Campground Offers first come first serve camping in near Butcher Lake. Be aware that some trails may be closed for safety in a backcountry environment and carry safety gear, including safety and navigation equipment.

Cycling
Non-motorized bicycles are allowed on trails, please check your local trail map for trails and unless otherwise posted. Be advised that some designated trails are shared by off-highway vehicles.

N.O.H.V. or OHV use at Castle Provincial Park
Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) OHVs are permitted on designated summer OHV trails in Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park, as indicated on the trail map and on park signage. Please be respectful when using trails, be cautious of non-motorized trail users, and stay clear of wildlife.

Highway Vehicle registered for off-highway use are only allowed on highways and secondary highways that access the Provincial Park and Wildland Provincial Park.

Castle Provincial Park
Hiking and Snowshoeing Hiking and Snowshoeing is permitted anywhere in the Castle Parks. You route your courses, carry weather appropriate gear, and safety and navigation equipment. Caution is advised as most trails are unmaintained and not regularly maintained, and motorized and non-motorized recreationists share designated trails.

Equestrian
Horseback riding is permitted on trails in the Castle Parks, please see map for specific trails. Park areas suitable for horse trailers include the Syncine North and Carbonatal Day Use staging areas. Horses are not permitted in developed campgrounds, but are allowed in Designated Camping Areas 1-6. Backcountry riders must follow trail practices for overnight horse camping in the Wildland Provincial Park, including using weed too free.

Safety and Emergency Communication The Castle area offers wilderness settings that range from accessible front country to remote backcountry destinations. Cellular phone service is not available so please ensure that you have properly planned your trip and arranged emergency plans before you leave.

• When traveling in the backcountry ensure you have experience and appropriate equipment.
• Provide family or friends with your detailed trip plans, including emergency protocols if you do not report back.

Liquor in the Castle Parks is fully accessible and sold in the store. Permits are available only allowed inside a receptacle or facility designated and supplied for that purpose. Firewood is available for purchase at retailers in nearby communities. Please do not bring firewood from another province into the Castle area.

Parking near the Castle Parks Campgrounds is limited. Please be respectful of space, particularly at the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Some trails may be closed for safety in a backcountry environment and carry safety gear, including safety and navigation equipment.

Camping in the Castle Parks
Camping in the Castle Parks is fully accessible and sold in the store. Permits are available only allowed inside a receptacle or facility designated and supplied for that purpose. Firewood is available for purchase at retailers in nearby communities. Please do not bring firewood from another province into the Castle area.

Parking near the Castle Parks Campgrounds is limited. Please be respectful of space, particularly at the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Some trails may be closed for safety in a backcountry environment and carry safety gear, including safety and navigation equipment.

Backcountry Tent Camping is allowed within the Castle Provincial Park province, providing that the campsite is at least 1 kilometer from any facility, road, or boundary, and at least 50 metres from any trail. Please practice backcountry camping methods by packing out all your supplies and garbage, and disposing of fire pits. For more information on safe and responsible backcountry camping, visit albertaparks.ca and “Know Before You Go”.

Be aware that some trails may be closed for

Contact
Alberta Parks Office
Phone: (403) 627–1152 (Toll-free: 310–0000)
Visitor Services Interpretation & Education
Phone: (403) 627–1152 (Toll-free: 310–0000) Email: swpark@iw.ca
Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance) Phone: 911
Conservation Officer (Public Safety, Enforcement, Emergency) Phone: 1–844–HELP–PR (435–7775)
Fire Bans in Alberta Phone: 1–866–715-FIRE (394–3473)
Report a Fire Phone: 310–FIRE (3473)
Report A-Poacher Phone: 1–800–462–3800
