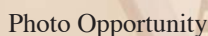


## Calgary to Banff, Kananaskis Country and Cowboy Country



rolling foothills and produce an Oscar. Perhaps. But it's the Western genre that put the landscape to its best use.



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Courtesy of Columbia Pictures





Fortunately, they've left behind a trail we can follow, so be ready to saddle up tomorrow morning.

## Calgary

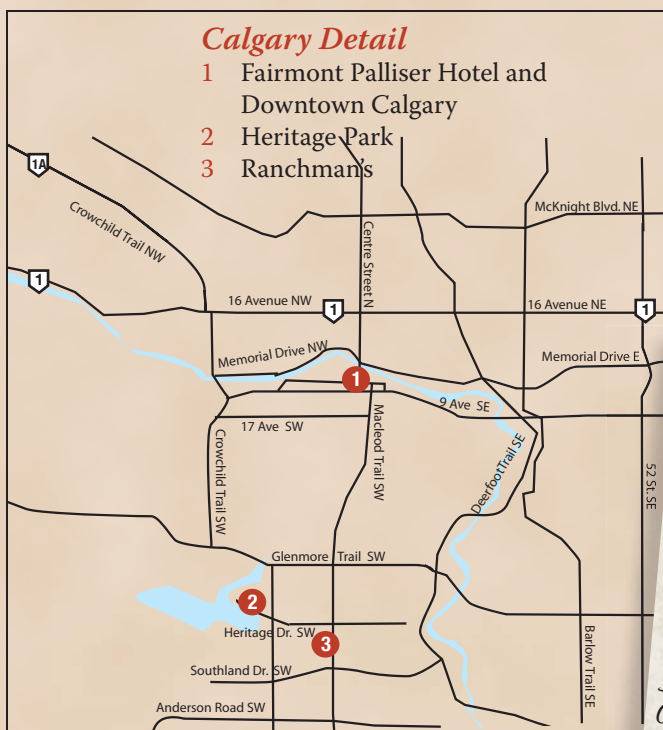
**Calgary** is best known for its majestic, awe-inspiring scenery central to the imagery and imagination evoked by the frontier of the untamed west. Yet **Calgary's** remarkably diverse geography makes it a very popular setting for a vast range of productions. From the deserts of Afghanistan, to the battlefields of feudal Japan, to a trendy restaurant in Beverly Hills, to New York City, **Calgary** is a chameleon able to play a wide spectrum of roles; summer, winter, spring or fall.

Tonight we're bunking down in one of **Calgary's** premiere hotels, the **Fairmont Palliser** adjacent to the Calgary Tower, where 250 Calgary residents were used as extras in the ballroom scene in *Jesse James*. Ang Lee, *Brokeback Mountain* director, also stayed here during his visits to Calgary.

The Palliser is connected by skywalks to the Telus Convention Centre, the Calgary Tower and the world-class Glenbow Museum. If you're here in July, the famous Calgary Stampede is only blocks away.

We can take in **Heritage Park** before we hit the road, although it would be easy to spend a full day lost in its quiet history, uniquely studied from a horse-drawn carriage. Or, if you prefer a little less tranquility, jump aboard the park's authentic steam locomotive when it stops at the station and ride around the park on an "iron horse." To reach the park from the **Palliser**, take Macleod Trail southbound to Heritage Drive westbound.

Situated on a sprawl of land on the shore of the Glenmore Reservoir at 1900 Heritage Drive S.W., **Heritage Park** includes an authentic period town crafted from buildings found across southern Alberta. Part of *Jesse James*, the life of the American gunslinger and his eventual murder by a



trusted friend, was filmed here, not surprisingly considering the authenticity that went into each building, street and artifact.

After you enjoy **Heritage Park**, and if you're thirsty for a cold one, **Ranchman's** at 9615 Macleod Trail S.W. will take you into *Brokeback Mountain* (2005) territory; it's the country-and-western bar where Jack Twist meets Lureen.

## Calgary to Banff

As you head west on Highway 1, consider that more than 20 standing movie sets in the province are located west of Calgary. The film sets have been built and maintained on private property for more than 40 western productions, including:

*Legends of the Fall*, *Lonesome Dove*, *Shanghai Noon*, *Open Range* and *Jesse James*.

## Morley

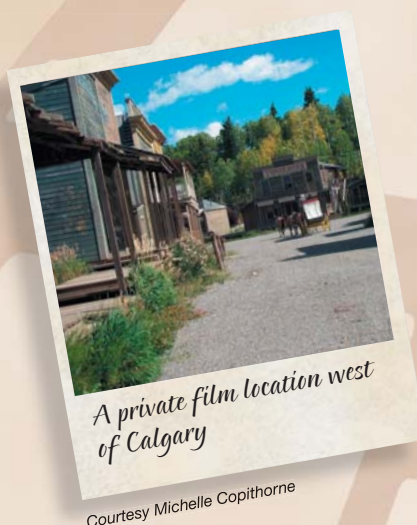
At the juncture of Highway 1 and Highway 22, as we head to **Morley**, which is 29 km away, you have your choice of 2 routes: Highway 1 (the Trans Canada), or north on Highway 22 for 13 km to **Cochrane**, then west on Highway 1A.

## Trans-Canada to Morley

Staying on the Trans-Canada on our way to **Banff**, we'll cut through **Morley** on the Stoney Indian Reserve, the Rockies already rising in the distance. If the scenery already looks familiar, remember *Open Range* was filmed near here, as was *Legends*. And there's a touch of *Brokeback Mountain* here, too, if you recall some of the scenes involving sheep pens.

## Alternate Morley Route Via Cochrane

If you take Highway 1A, you'll go through **Cochrane**, a gem of a town of 15,000. As you drive in from Calgary, you'll come down a hill overlooking the entire town, the Bow River and the Rocky Mountains to the west.



**Cochrane**, decorated in an Old West theme, is home to **Mackay's Ice Cream**, for more than 50 years a visitor favourite with its popular homemade product. **Cochrane** is situated at the base of the Big Hill in the Bow River Valley, 20 minutes from Calgary and less than an hour from Banff. With spectacular vistas of the rolling foothills and majestic Rocky Mountains, the town combines a proud western heritage with all modern conveniences required for a great vacation. The **Cochrane Rancho Historic Site** is worth a visit. Accessible year-round, this ranch was the largest in Canada in the late 19th century and has a fascinating history to discover. Guided tours, educational interpretive programs and special events are available.

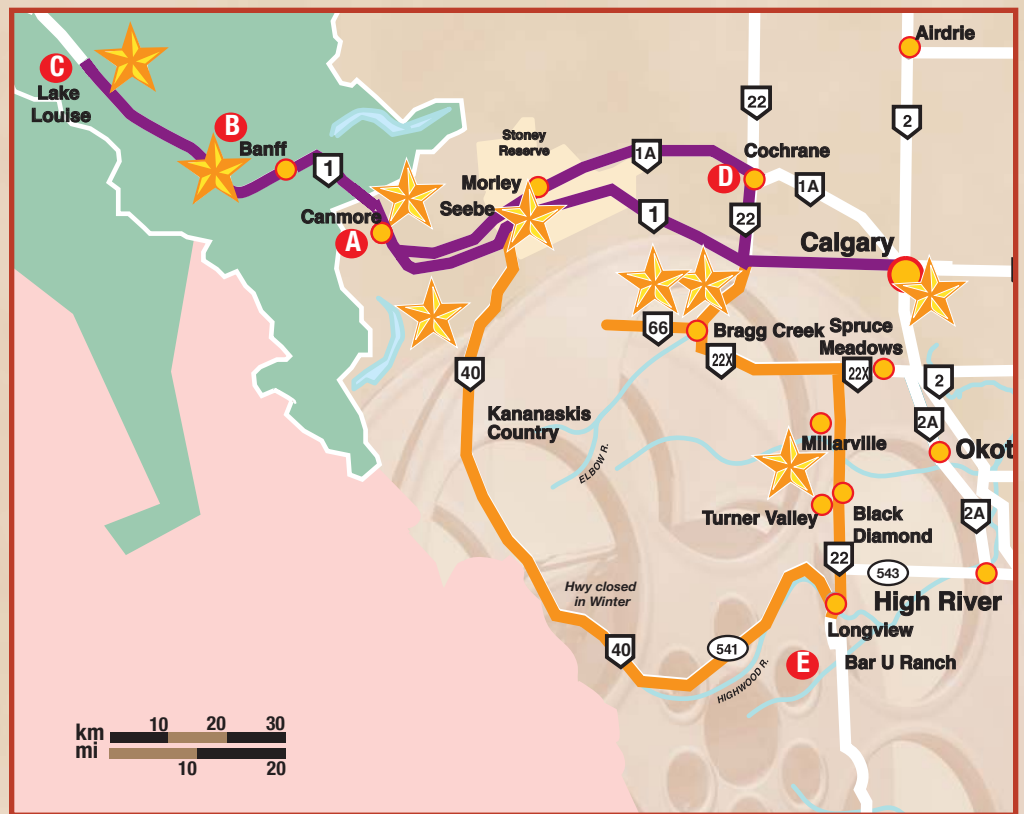


Continuing along Highway 1A to **Morley**, we're right into **Legends** territory. The First World War scenes were filmed here using hundreds of locals and a few Canadian Forces soldiers to assist. The scenes were filmed in two weeks with historically accurate trenches and an encampment.

**Nakoda Lodge**, located on Highway 1A 35 km east of Canmore or 62 km west of Cochrane, on Chief Hector Lake, is well worth a look. Several highly rated German westerns, *In the Valley of the Wild Roses*, have been shot on the lakeshore.

The **Stoney Reserve** is also where much of *Open Range* was filmed. The movie tells the story of open-range ranchers and their battle with an unscrupulous cattle baron, played by British actor Michael Gambon. A fully functioning frontier town of 1882 was built for nearly \$2 million, featuring saloons, banks, stores, houses, stables and a jail. Kevin Costner was a guest of Stoney Chief Ernest Wesley at the Golden Leaf Powwow in **Morley** in September 2002.

The Stoney, or Nakoda, nation has been culturally tied to the Rocky Mountains for close to 400 years. Known in their own language as the Rocky Mountain Sioux, the Nakoda are believed to have migrated west from the plains to escape smallpox epidemics.



"Legends of the Fall"  
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Courtesy of Columbia Pictures



## LEGENDS OF THE FALL





## NON-MOVIE SITES TO SEE:



A

### Canmore Caverns Cave Tours



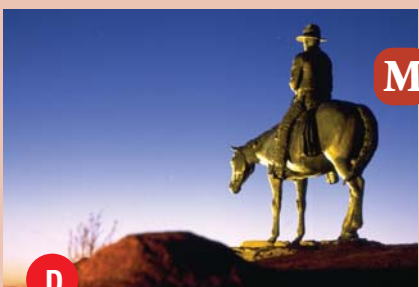
B

### Sulphur Mountain Gondola, Banff



C

### Lake Louise



D

### Cochrane Ranche Historic Site



Goat Creek, location for *Jesse James*

Courtesy Travel Alberta

Near **Exshaw**, 20 minutes east of **Canmore** on Highway 1A, you'll find **Rafter Six Ranch**, site of many film projects including *River of No Return*. The TV movie *How the West Was Fun* was also shot here starring the Olsen Twins, as was the TV hit *Grizzly Adams*. To find the ranch, follow the Trans-Canada Highway to Exit 114 after Kananaskis Flats and turn left at the stop sign onto South Ranch Road. Walt Disney had a lengthy association with the ranch, and the cabin built for him still bears the filmmaker's name.

### Morley to Canmore

On the **Stoney Reserve**, 16 km west of **Morley** on Highway 1A, you'll find the location for the Ludlow family's home, built especially for *Legends*, the saga of competing interests between brothers for the love of a beautiful woman, set over several years, in the American West. The house where Anthony Hopkins, Aidan Quinn, Julia Ormond and the aforementioned Pitt played out their relationships is gone. Continuing on Highway 1A takes you out of the four-lane rat race and on a slower, scenic pace to **Canmore**. Alternatively you may drive to **Canmore** via Highway 1.

Just south and west of **Canmore** is **Goat Creek**. Production crews on *Jesse James* spent \$1 million creating Creede, Colo. Speaking of **Canmore**, the area around the town was featured in 1997's *The Edge*, starring Hopkins, Alec Baldwin and a grizzly. It's also hosted *Death Hunt* (1991), *Grizzly Falls* (1999), *Mystery, Alaska* (1999), and *X2 X-Men United* (2003). The pilot for *Everwood* (2002) starring Stacey Keach was filmed here, with Canmore's main street serving as *Everwood*'s main drag, and a *North of 60 Mystery* was filmed nearby.

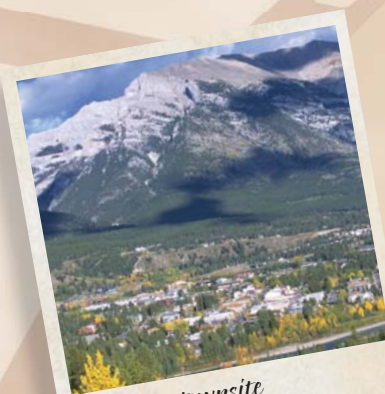
*Open Range* co-star Robert Duvall frequented the **Crazy Weed Kitchen**, located at 626 Main Street. It's open daily at noon.

**Canmore** is on the edge of **Kananaskis Country**, about which we'll talk more later. It's truly a year-round concern, with a thriving arts community, golf, hiking, mountain-biking in summer and



Mountain Goat; watchable wildlife is abundant here.

Courtesy Travel Alberta



Canmore townsite

Courtesy Travel Alberta



cross-country skiing in the winter (its Nordic centre was the site of several 1988 Olympic Winter Games events). In October, bring the binoculars and watch the annual eagle migration.

For something a little daring, try the **Canmore Caverns Cave Tour**, on which you'll descend into a cave on Grotto Mountain. Experienced guides will interpret the fascinating natural history of the cave.

**Banff National Park** is a stone's throw west on the Trans-Canada, centered around the world-famous mountain community of Banff, a vacation destination in its own category.

Hollywood discovered this area more than 60 years ago, filming the backdrop to *Spring Time in the Rockies* in 1942.

Those same Rockies were turned into an Austrian landscape six years later for *The Emperor Waltz* with Bing Crosby. In 1950, the film *Saskatchewan* was shot here as

Hollywood added mountains to the Wheat Province's flat landscape.

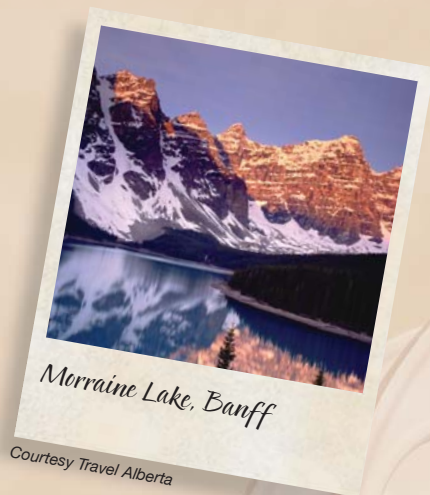


Reality returned in 1952 with *River of No Return*. It was at the **Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel** that star Marilyn Monroe convalesced after injuring her leg while filming the adventure flick. The hotel is a tourist destination in its own right, a return to the great days of railroad palaces set amid scenery that is both mystical and rugged.

There is much for the **Banff** visitor to do, whether it's wandering the passageways of the **Banff Springs**, gleaning treasures from downtown boutiques, or exploring the outdoors, easily done year-round.

Ride to the top of **Sulphur Mountain** to experience a bird's eye view of six mountain ranges. The **Banff Gondola** is located five minutes from the townsite, on the mountain's shoulder. You'll be whisked up the mountain in eight minutes to sights impossible to experience anywhere else, 2,281m (7,486 ft) above sea level.

When it's time to warm up, the **Hot Springs** await with the amenities of a



Moraine Lake, Banff  
Courtesy Travel Alberta



Banff Springs Hotel  
Courtesy Travel Alberta



Upper Hot Springs, Banff  
Courtesy Travel Alberta

### OTHER MOVIES FILMED AROUND BANFF / LAKE LOUISE / SEEBE:

- Papa's Angels (2000) – Banff
- Mystery Alaska (1999) – Banff
- Gunsmoke: Return to Dodge (1987) – Seebe
- Vanishing Act (1986) – Banff
- Ghost Keeper (1980) – Lake Louise
- Mustang Country (1975) – Banff
- River of No Return (1953) – Banff
- Canadian Pacific (1949) – Banff
- Northwest Stampede (1948) – Banff

### OTHER MOVIES FILMED IN THE REGION

#### CANMORE

- John Q (2001)
- Snow Dogs (2001)
- Mystery Alaska (1999)
- I'll be Home for Christmas (1998)
- Wild America (1996)

#### MORLEY

- Open Range (2002)
- Grizzly Falls (1999)
- Legends of the Fall (1993)
- Heaven & Earth (1989)
- King of the Grizzlies (1970)
- Little Big Man (1969)

modern facility, where you can soak in the heat amidst spectacular alpine scenery. The **Upper Hot Springs** is on Mountain Avenue, four kilometres south of the townsite. Follow Banff Avenue over the Bow River and turn left (east) at the last set of traffic lights. Follow the signs for 3.6 km to the Hot Springs parking lot at the end of Mountain Avenue.

If natural history calls, the **Banff Park Museum** is a turn-of-the-century taxidermy collection (at 91 Banff Ave.) that displays the mammals, birds, insects and fish found in the Canadian Rockies.



## OTHER MOVIES FILMED IN THE REGION

### KANANASKIS COUNTRY

RV (2006)  
X-Men 2 (2003)  
Grizzly Falls (1999)  
The Claim (1999)  
Dead Bang (1988)  
Superman (1977)  
Hacksaw (1971)  
Nikki, Wild Dog of the North (1960)

### BRAGG CREEK

Distant Drumming (North of 60) (2003)  
Another Country (North of 60) (2002)  
Trial by Fire (North of 60) (1999)  
Wild America (1996)  
Storm (1987)

### MILLARVILLE

Children of Fortune (2002)  
Savage Land (1993)  
Primo Baby (1988)

### LONGVIEW

Open Range (2002)  
Monte Walsh (2002)  
The Virginian (1999)  
Rosehill (1996)  
The Wars (1981)

## Kananaskis Circle Tour

### Note:

1. This circle route works just as effectively after you've seen Canmore and Banff, on your way east back to Calgary.
2. This circle tour includes highways that are not open in winter.

A second trip out of Calgary is to beautiful Kananaskis Country, which came into sharp relief in *Brokeback Mountain*. You can easily make the Kananaskis a separate holiday destination, but here's an easy circle tour that can be done in a day or two, depending on your pace.

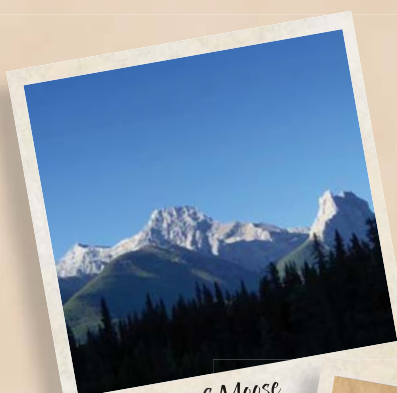
West of Calgary about 20 km, you'll turn south at Highway 22, known as the Cowboy Trail, and head for **Bragg Creek**. There's plenty of natural beauty here, highlighted by Elbow Falls at **Bragg Creek Provincial Park**, about eight km west of the townsite on Highway 66. It's here you add *Brokeback Mountain* to your movie holiday.

*Brokeback Mountain* is actually a composite of three mountain sites: the majestic Mount Loughheed near **Canmore** and Fortress and Moose mountains in the **Kananaskis**. Moose Mountain, flanking the town of **Canmore**, is the one climbed by the movie's two key characters and their herd of sheep; it's very scaleable. As you come out of **Bragg Creek** on



JESSE JAMES

"Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford"  
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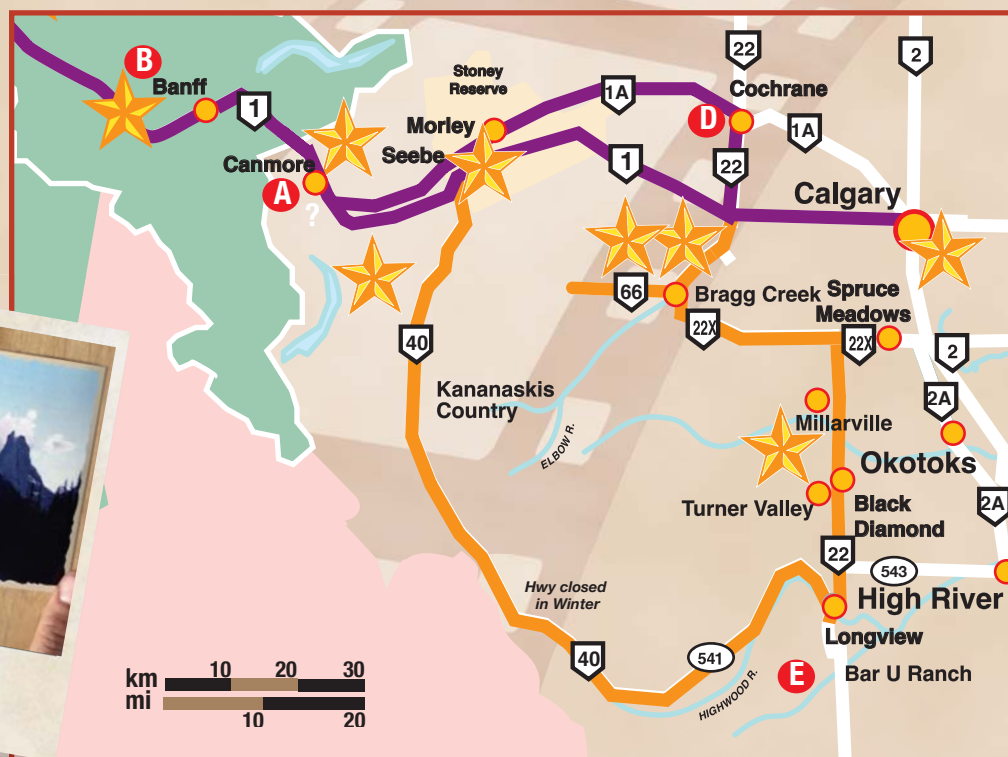


Real view of Moose Mountain, west of Bragg Creek

Courtesy  
www.FindingBrokeback.com



Brokeback Mountain from the movie





Highway 66, look for **Paddy's Flat Campground**. Just past the sign you'll find a dirt road that will take you seven kms, halfway up the mountain, the most easterly of the Rockies near **Calgary**. The average hiker can do the round trip to the peak in about six hours.



Enjoy the **Bragg Creek Walk**, a pleasant, hour-long stroll from the Provincial Park into the town. The pathway connects the commercial and community centre of **Bragg Creek** with the surrounding natural world. With its connection to Kananaskis Country, **Bragg Creek** is ideal for all outdoor activities.



Back on Highway 22 you can hit three small towns and some of the locales for **Jesse James**:

**Millarville**, 50 km south and east of **Bragg Creek**, has a famous Farmers' Market each Saturday morning from mid-June to the end of September; the Millarville Races (horses) at the end of June; the Flower Festival at the end of July and the Millarville Art Market in mid-October.

**Turner Valley** (a skip south of Millarville) is home to the **Turner Valley Gas Plant**, a National Historic Site, the only surviving one of its kind in Canada showing pioneering technology in the oil and gas industry. Tours are available during the summer.



Finally, **Longview**. The **Memories Inn** in **Longview** served Clint Eastwood his breakfast every day during the filming of **Unforgiven**; it's now closed, but you'll find great coffee at the **Navajo Mug**, owned by Ian Tyson, Canadian recording star and real-life cowboy.

In these parts, the main industry is ranching, and several ranches play roles in Alberta movies, especially **Open Range**, which located its cattle drives on the Nicoll Ranch at Jumping Pound Creek and the Turner and Hughes ranches, both southwest of Longview.

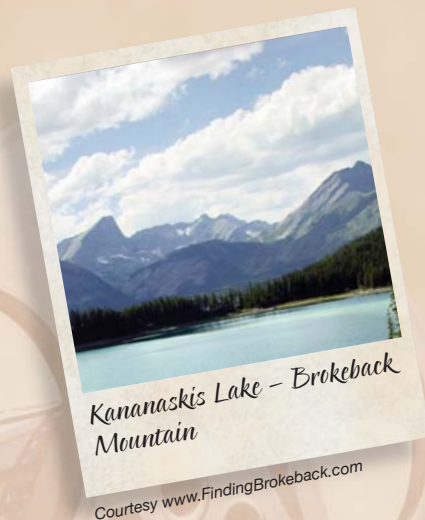
It's time to head west again from **Longview**, this time on Highway 541, a route that becomes Highway 40 and takes you through the heart of the **Kananaskis**.

A few kilometres out of **Longview**, on your right-hand side, you'll spot **Fireguard Coulee** on the Kinnear Ranch, used for the opening scenes in **Open Range**; it's camera-ready art. A few kilometres farther brings you to an area the **Open Range** crews used for several weeks of filming, including cattle-driving scenes and most of the open range shots. *This is private property, so permission must be obtained before entering the ranch.*

For another hour or so, you're going to pass spectacular beauty that doesn't require Hollywood to make it world famous. You'll be hitting three contiguous provincial parks (**Peter Lougheed**, **Spray Valley** and **Bow Valley Wildland**) on the left and **Elbow-Sheep Wildland Provincial Park** on the right. Watch for wildlife along this route: grizzlies can sometimes be spotted roaming the hillsides, and herds of bighorn sheep seem to be on their own mountain holidays.

At the **Peter Lougheed Provincial Park Visitors Centre**, you'll find the trail to Lower and Upper Kananaskis lakes. It is on the shore of Upper Kananaskis Lake where Jack tells Ennis in **Brokeback Mountain**: "I wish I knew how to quit you."

Eventually, you'll come to **Kananaskis Village**, a tourist mecca where, in the winter at Nakiska, you can ski Mount Allan, one of the sites of the 1988 Winter Olympics. Fewer than 20 kms farther, you'll rejoin the Trans-Canada Highway at **Seebe**, about 15 minutes east of **Canmore**. We have one more stop to make here to see the cliffs from which Ennis and Jack



Kananaskis Lake - Brokeback Mountain

Courtesy www.FindingBrokeback.com

jumped into the river in **Brokeback**.

From the Trans-Canada, take **Seebe** Exit 114A, pass by the "Leaving Park" sign, cross the bridge and take a hard right to the first gate. From here, walk slightly more than a kilometre through **Seebe** to a second gate, and walk 200 metres to the top of the hill, cross the Texas gate and turn left. Pass two orange posts and follow the road to the left down to the Bow River.



Seebe Cliffs - Brokeback Mountain

Courtesy www.FindingBrokeback.com

#### NON-MOVIE SITES TO SEE:



E

Bar U Ranch National Historic Site, southwest of Longview

Courtesy Travel Alberta



## Cowboy Country

If you're looking for a pleasant day trip close to Calgary, here's an interesting circuit to give you a taste of cowboy country. We'll head from Calgary to the international equestrian site of **Spruce Meadows**, then to **Okotoks**, **Black Diamond**, **High River**, **Blackie**, **Dinton**, **Carseland** and **Cheadle**.

**Spruce Meadows** may seem designed for horse lovers a bit more upscale than your average wranglers, but it's a friendly place nonetheless. **Spruce Meadows** is home to several show-jumping events each summer, drawing riders and their mounts from around the world. Tom Selleck took wife Jillie and daughter Hannah to **Spruce Meadows** during breaks in filming *Monte Walsh*. The movie, starring Isabella Rossellini, Keith Carradine and William Devane, was about an aging cowboy who realizes the West he loves is coming to an end in the late 19th century. To find **Spruce Meadows**, about 30 minutes from downtown Calgary, head south on Macleod Trail, then west on Spruce Meadows Trail (Highway 22X/Marquis of Lorne Trail) for two kms and watch for signs.

Once you're finished with the ponies, retrace your steps slightly to Highway 2A and follow it south to **Okotoks** and nearby **Black Diamond**, west on Highway 7. *Viva Las Nowhere* was filmed here starring *The Wonder Years'* narrator Daniel Stern, Patricia Richardson, James Caan, Lacey Kohl and Andy Maton as Alberta stood in for Kansas. Caan plays a country music star and Stern is a country music wannabe in this musical-turned-mystery movie.

Some 20 km south of **Okotoks** and just off Highway 2 is **High River**, birthplace of former prime minister Joe Clark. But another "Clark" made the town famous: Clark Kent. *Superman III*, with the late Christopher Reeve, was filmed here in 1983, when scouts found Clark's perfect boyhood home at 410-414 Fifth St. SE. Ironically, when the owners heard the house had been chosen for the film, they spruced it up, all for nothing: the renova-



tions had to be undone because the art director wanted it as it was.

*Heartland*, CBC's family drama series, used several High River locales. **Vespucci's** at 111 Third Ave. SW and the **Pekisko Trading Company** at 114 supplied costumes, while filming took place in buildings along the downtown avenue. The saddle store "**Maggies**" (formerly called Bradley's) was used in the series, as was the front of the Ice Cream place. The series chronicles the comings and goings of the Fleming family on a ranch that specializes in healing abused or neglected horses.

*The Ron Clark Story* (2006) starring Matthew Perry as a small-town teacher who takes on a tough inner-city school, used **High River's** historic **Wales Theatre** and **CIBC building**.

Two **High River** schools - **Spitzee** and **Senator Riley** - were used for *Caitlin's*



"Heartland"  
Photo Andrew Backo  
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### NON-MOVIE SITES TO SEE:



**Museum of the Highwood,**  
Railway Avenue, High River

### HEARTLAND





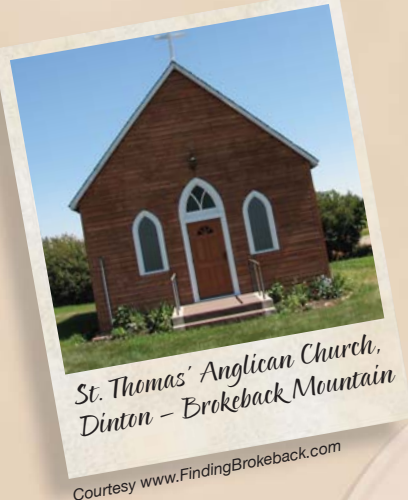
**Way**, (31 episodes, 2000-2002) a modern drama series on YTV in Canada and Nickelodeon in the United States. The series follows 13-year-old orphan Caitlin Seeger as she shuffles through the foster-home system before being sent to the country home of her second cousins in Montana. Also used in **Caitlin's Way** is **Evelyn's Memory Lane** at 118 Fourth Ave. SW.

**High River** was also used in **Carolina Moon** (2007), a made-for-TV thriller based on Nora Roberts' novel. Scenes were filmed at **Vespucci's** at 111 Third Ave. SW; the **town cemetery** on Third Avenue, and historic **Wallace House** at 145 MacLeod Trail SW.

**Moondance Alexander** (2007) with Kay Panabaker and Don Johnson, was filmed in the **Okotoks** area, and also used the **High River Cemetery**. The film, based on a true story, is about a teenaged girl who finds herself with the help of a horse.

East of **High River**, just off Highway 23, is our next stop, **Blackie**, home to a **Brokeback Mountain** (2005) moment at the corner of Railway Avenue and Aberdeen Street, site of the Thanksgiving fight in front of the Riverton bar. The building used for the bar is a former hardware store.

Following Highway 23 east brings us to Highway 24 and the northbound return to Calgary; there's some stops to make first, however. At **Mossleigh**, turn west on



Highway 547 to the hamlet of **Dinton** for two **Brokeback Mountain** scenes: **St. Thomas' Anglican Church** was used for the wedding of Ennis and Alma, while a nearby field was turned into the drive-in movie lot at which they enjoyed a picture.

Backtrack to Highway 24 and continue north to **Carseland**, where, at 110 Railway Avenue, you'll find the Blue Bar, an unnamed drinking spot in **Brokeback Mountain**, where Ennis and Jack share stories. **Carseland** is also part of the movie's opening sequence: Ennis gets out of the truck (**Carseland**) and walks down the street (**Cowley**). Jack then drives up and parks (**Cowley**). They notice each other (**Cowley**). Joe drives up (**Cowley**). After Ennis and Jack leave the trailer (**Cowley**), they introduce themselves (**Cowley**) before walking into the bar (**Carseland**). Considering **Cowley** is roughly 200 kilometres from **Carseland**, you get a sense of the lengths directors will go to create the "perfect" sequence of shots, even for a minute or two of the film.

Also filmed here in 1998 was **The Hi-Lo Country** with Sam Elliott.

Complete your drive north through **Cheadle** to Highway 1 and head east to Calgary.

## MOVIES FILMED IN THE REGION

### OKOTOKS

Moondance Alexander (2007)  
Word of Honour (2002)  
Viva Las Nowhere (2001)

### TURNER VALLEY

Viva Las Nowhere (2001)

### HIGH RIVER

Carolina Moon (2007)  
Caitlin's Way (TV Series)  
Heartland (TV Series)  
Moondance Alexander (2007)  
Carolina Moon (2007)  
The Ron Clark Story (2006)  
Medicine River (1992)  
Unforgiven (1991)  
Superman III (1982)  
Superman (1977)  
Golden Rod (1975)

### BLACKIE

Brokeback Mountain (2005)

### MOSSLEIGH

Brokeback Mountain (2005)

### CARSELAND

Brokeback Mountain (2005)  
Hi-Lo Country (1998)

