



PARK VISITOR – INFORMATION

UPDATED MAY 26, 2020

To help Canadians gain access to the health and wellness benefits that come from being outdoors and in nature, a number of Parks Canada places are gradually restoring visitor access and visitor services beginning June 1, 2020. Access will be focused on autonomous day use of trails, grounds, and other outdoor settings.

The health and safety of visitors, employees and all Canadians is of the utmost importance and Parks Canada will follow the advice and guidance of public health authorities in resuming visitor access and services. Only places and activities where health and safety risks can be mitigated will be available for visitation.

Opening Parks Canada places to visitors offers Canadians opportunities to physically distance in natural settings. The government is asking Canadians to be cautious and conservative in their use of these places, to observe travel restrictions, to respect the guidance of public health authorities, and to make every effort to flatten the curve and keep one another safe.

Visitors should not expect the kind of experience that they have had in the past. Parks Canada is adapting to the COVID-19 situation and visitor access and services will be limited.

Please follow Parks Canada's social media channels and visit our [website](#) for information and updates on the status of all Parks Canada places.

Following is information specific to Prince Albert National Park.

Which facilities are reopening in Prince Albert National Park?

Parks Canada is gradually restoring visitor access and visitor services, focussing on autonomous day use of trails, grounds, and other outdoor settings. In Prince Albert National Park, this includes:

- Motorized vehicle access to all park roads (excluding Kingsmere Road past the Heart Lakes turnoff)
- Park Entrance Gate Kiosks for information only (no fee collection at this time)
- Small beach house washroom by the community hall
- Most day-use trails (see next question for closed trails)
- Most day-use areas and beaches, including outhouses but excluding kitchen shelters

- Non-motorized recreational use on Waskesiu Lake and River, Heart Lakes, Amiskowan, Shady Lake, and Spruce River
- Recreational boating on Waskesiu Lake, Heart Lakes
- Fishing on Waskesiu Lake, Heart Lakes (2nd and 3rd lakes only) and Shady Lake

Which facilities remain closed in Prince Albert National Park?

The following facilities remain closed:

- Visitor Centre
- Most washrooms and all shower facilities except for the small beach house and outhouses located at most day use areas
- Playground at Waskesiu main beach
- Kingsmere Road, Kingsmere River, Kingsmere Lake
- Crean Lake
- All camping facilities, including Sandy Lake, Namekus Lake, and backcountry camping
- Some trails: Elk, Hunters Lake, Crean, Narrows Peninsula, Kingsmere River, and Grey Owl
- Some day-use areas: Meridian, Paspiwin, South Gate (across from Paspiwin) Sandy Lake and Namekus
- Viewing towers at Height of Land and Spruce River Trail
- All kitchen shelters
- All fish shacks
- For a complete list of area closures see [Important Bulletins](#)

What critical services are available in Prince Albert National Park?

The following critical services continue:

- Highway management
- Fire response
- Law Enforcement
- Water and waste treatment
- Search and rescue

What emergency services are available?

The RCMP, Parks Canada Law Enforcement, the Waskesiu Fire Department and Medical First Responder Services are all active. Please dial 911 in a life threatening emergency. For safety, wildlife, or wildfire incidents call Parks Canada dispatch at 1-877-852-3100.

When will camping and events resume?

All camping facilities including backcountry camping and oTENTiks, remain closed until at least June 21, 2020, a date that may be extended. Parks Canada is assessing whether and how these services might resume.

More information regarding camping will be made available over time. Please visit pc.gc.ca frequently for information and updates.

What about my camping reservation for this season?

All existing reservations for dates between now and June 21, 2020, will be cancelled and refunded in full. You do not need to cancel your reservation. Your refund will happen automatically.

If you have a reservation after June 21, 2020, you do not need to cancel this reservation. You are encouraged to check back closer to your arrival regarding any potential future cancellations.

Parks Canada is not taking new reservations for camping, until June 21, 2020, a date that may be extended, while Parks Canada assesses whether and how these services may be provided.

More information regarding camping will be made available over time. Please visit pc.gc.ca frequently for information and updates.

Will Parks Canada be refunding people with passes?

For current pass holders, Parks Canada will automatically extend the end date of Discovery Passes for the full duration of the suspension period. That means that for each month or part of a month that visitor services are not offered due to Parks Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, a full month will be added to the end date of the annual pass.

Can I buy an annual pass?

The sales of all passes is temporarily suspended until further notice.

Where can I purchase a fishing permit?

Prince Albert National Park fishing permits are available for purchase from:

- Waskesiu Lake Main Marina and Heart Lakes
- LT's Food and Fuel, junction of Hwy 2 & 264
- Ferns Grocery, Murray Point, Emma Lake

Are there businesses open in Prince Albert National Park?

Local services are limited at this time. Business operators are valued partners and provide important services to visitors. Individual businesses are making their own decisions regarding opening. It is recommended that people contact individual businesses to find out more about their services.

Will there be any additional cleaning in washrooms?

Parks Canada is following the advice of public health authorities and implementing measures for cleaning, hygiene, and physical distancing at all places open for visitation. Only those places where measures can be implemented to minimize health and safety risks will be open to the public.

Will any measures such as mandatory face masks for employees be put in place to ensure the health and safety of Parks Canada employees?

Parks Canada is following the advice of public health experts and ensuring that Parks Canada team members have the appropriate personal protective equipment to do their work and that they follow the applicable safe work practices. The service level offered to visitors will limit interaction between employees and the public. This will reduce the need for personal protective equipment, particularly the kind of specialized equipment required by healthcare workers.

Why is the backcountry closed?

The backcountry in Prince Albert National Park is closed as it was not possible to carry out spring maintenance in these areas, nor is it possible to clean outhouses to the current standards set by public health authorities. To help ensure visitor safety, an area closure is in effect in all backcountry areas of the park. See the [Important Bulletins](#) section on the website.

Why are Sandy Lake and Namekus Lake not open to boating, fishing and recreational use?

Some final upgrades to facilities at Sandy Lake campground, day use area and boat launch are still required. As well, with janitorial staff focusing on other high-use areas, it is not possible to open both Sandy Lake and Namekus Lake at this time.

If I see people who are not respecting social distancing guidelines, who should I contact to report it?

All visitors are responsible for abiding by the direction set by the provincial and national public health authorities.

All people have a role to play and a responsibility when it comes to taking steps to ensure physical distancing. Parks Canada employees, like any member of the public, can act as ambassadors and remind visitors of current provincial regulations regarding physical distancing and of everyone's responsibilities in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Park staff are not called to enforce or police physical distancing.

Park Wardens as peace officers have the authority to enforce physical distancing through the Province of Saskatchewan's and Province of Alberta's provincial emergency act, however, this is not their primary activity.

If serious incidents regarding a lack of physical distancing exist, these can be reported to the RCMP or provincial authorities who will determine how to address the situation.

Parks Canada is posting signage to communicate the importance of physical distancing.