



## ALBERTA “HOME OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES” INFORMATION AND FAST FACTS

### TEN TOP ALBERTA FACTS:

1. Alberta is the fourth largest province in Canada with an area of 255,303 square miles and a population of three million. It is **three times the size of Great Britain** and is **home to five of Canada's 13 UNESCO** World Heritage sites.
2. Canada's National Parks system began in Alberta with the creation of **Banff National Park** in 1885. Alberta also has the world's largest National Park, **Jasper**.
3. Alberta is home to **Canada's First Spa**, the natural hot pools in Banff National Park.
4. **Five of Alberta's top tourist attractions** are: Banff National Park, West Edmonton Mall, Jasper National Park, the Calgary Stampede and Dinosaur Provincial Park.
5. "**The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth**" is another way of saying The Calgary Stampede - a 10-day rodeo extravaganza, held every July. 20,000 First Nation Peoples rode in for the first stampede parade, surrounding the city with their tipis, and they still make their colourful presence felt today.
6. Dubbed Canada's "**ultimate outdoor playground**," Alberta offers ample activities and adventures throughout the Province. From caving to kayaking and snowboarding, the list is endless for all four seasons.
7. Alberta averages about **2,000 hours of sunshine a year** – it's Canada's sunniest Province.
8. There are **280 golf courses** in Alberta, six of which are among Canada's Top 10.
9. In the North of Alberta there are 18 plus hours of sunlight in the summer and the aurora borealis are visible throughout the winter months.
10. In the winter, warm winds can roll off the eastern slopes of the Rockies, shooting temperatures up 40°C in 24 hours. Called **Chinooks**, these blasts of hot air are a phenomenon unique to Alberta.





## **A TASTE OF ALBERTA'S UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES**

- **Befriend an alien** - see the world's one-and-only 36ft high **UFO landing pad**
- **Go large** - visit the world's **largest Easter egg** or the world's **largest honey bee**
- **Try putting your head first** - blast headfirst on a skeleton **bobsleigh** at Canada Olympic Park
- **Ice fish** – in makeshift cabins throughout the Province
- **Bison herding** – take to the plains to help round-up these big beasts
- **Wolf watching** – research walks introduce you to the ancestor of man's best friend
- **Blaze a trail** – take a **quad bike** through Alberta's wilderness
- **Scuba dive** - to the **entire village submerged** in Lake Minnewanka
- **Walk on a glacier** – at the Columbia Icefield and peer into the **deep blue crevasses**
- **Learn to survive in the wild** - under the northern lights of the aurora borealis.

## **CONSUMER & TRAVEL TRADE INFORMATION**

- o Travel Alberta provides information to consumers in its annual Vacation Planner. This is available by calling the Canadian Tourism Commission's brochure request line on **0906 871 5000** (premium line rate of 60p per minute, pack distributed free of charge), or by sending an e-mail request to [Visitcanada@dial.pipex.com](mailto:Visitcanada@dial.pipex.com)
- o General travel trade enquiries should be directed to Amanda Newby de Saulles on 01403 754424 unless they are media questions which should be referred to the Travel Alberta press office.
- o For more information on Alberta, its attractions, tour providers, accommodation, activities and events, see the Travel Alberta website at [www.TravelAlberta.com](http://www.TravelAlberta.com)
- o Alberta images are available on the internet at [www.alberta-canada.net/access.cfm](http://www.alberta-canada.net/access.cfm)

For more detailed information or any other tourism-related enquiries,  
please contact the Travel Alberta UK Press Office on

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