

# Contact

**Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park**  
Box 297  
Milk River, AB T0K 1M0  
Email: [writingonstone@gov.ab.ca](mailto:writingonstone@gov.ab.ca)

**Programs and Resource Management**  
Phone: 403-647-2364  
Toll-Free: 310-0000 in Alberta

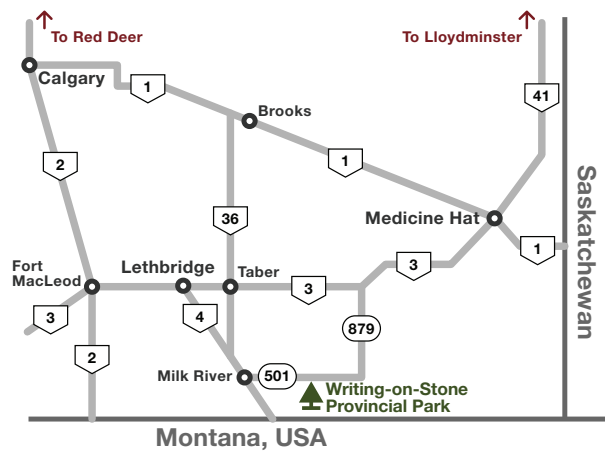
**Individual Campsite and Group Camping Reservations**  
Web: [reserve.albertaparks.ca](http://reserve.albertaparks.ca)  
Phone: 1-877-537-2757

**General Provincial Park Information**  
Web: [albertaparks.ca](http://albertaparks.ca)  
Toll Free: 1-877-537-2757

**Illegal Activity/Public Safety (24/7)**  
Phone: 310-LAND (5263)

**Fire Bans in Alberta**  
Web: [albertafirebans.ca](http://albertafirebans.ca)

**Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)**  
Phone: 911



Updated December 2022



## Programs and Tours

Want to see more rock art? Join a guided tour (May-Sept) into the Archaeological Preserve, a restricted access area that protects a large concentration of the park's rock art. A guide takes you into the preserve and shares history, stories and lessons learned from Elders and archaeologists. Tickets for guided tours can be purchased at the Visitor Centre or Hoodoo Hut. Other summer-time programs are offered in the park; see posting boards for more information.

## Recreation

### Paddling and Floating

The Milk River flows through Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. Canoeing, kayaking and floating the river from upstream launching points west of the park are great ways to explore the area. If this is your first time floating the Milk River we strongly



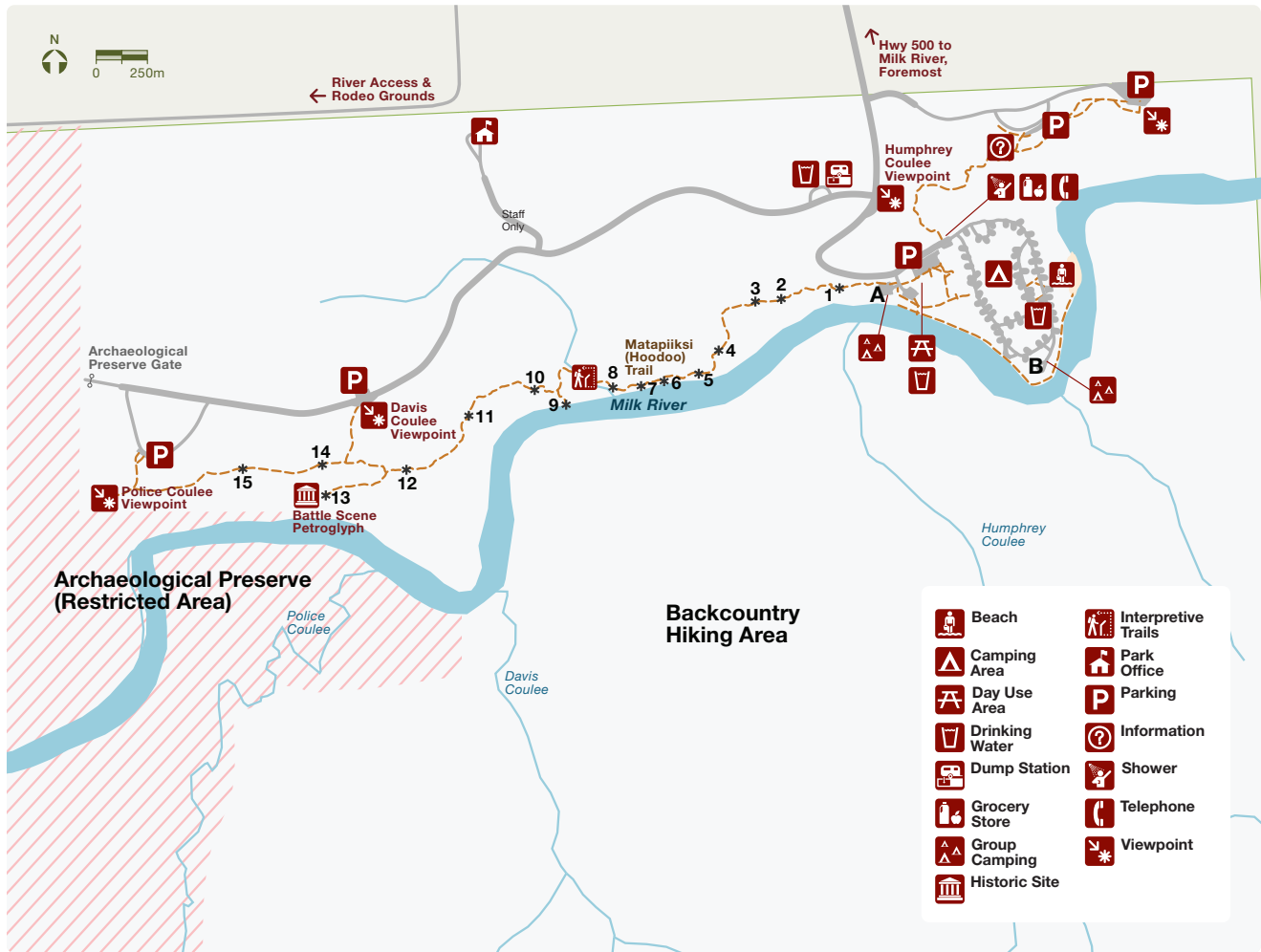
recommend that you exit the river at the park beach. Downstream of this location the river leaves the park, slows down, and passes through private lands with no exit locations for many kilometers. Please ensure you have a safety plan for river use – a Milk River map is available online at [mrwcc.ca](http://mrwcc.ca).

### Backcountry Hiking

The Davis and Humphrey Coulee areas, south of the river, comprise the 930-hectare backcountry hiking area. Here you can explore rolling grasslands, badlands and narrow sandstone canyons. There are no developed trails, but a network of game trails provide easy to intermediate hiking through most areas. Fires and overnight camping are prohibited in this area. A self-led river crossing is required to access this hiking area. Stop by the Visitor Centre for more information or to register your trip with staff.

### Pets in the Park

Pets must be on a leash not more than two metres long, always under control, and kept a safe distance from wildlife. Pets are not allowed in any public buildings, on guided programs, or on the public beach.



Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi Park Map



# Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi Provincial Park



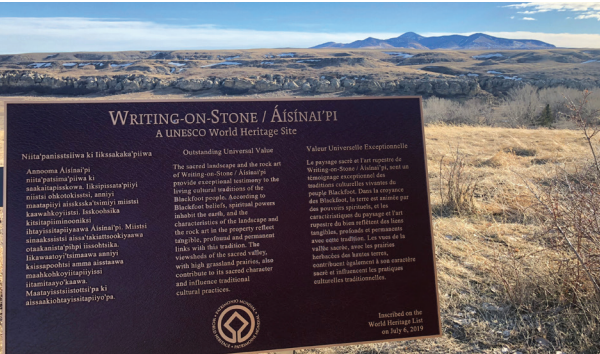
Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi  
A UNESCO World Heritage Site





# A UNESCO World Heritage Site

Long before Canada was a nation, the Blackfoot People were a well established and powerful culture on the Great Plains of North America. The rugged and remarkable landscape of the Milk River valley, in the shadow of the Sweet Pine (Sweetgrass) Hills, is one of the most sacred places in Blackfoot territory. A place of prayer and ceremony, Áísínai’pi (commonly referred to as Writing-on-Stone) is a place where the Blackfoot connect to the land, history, and traditions. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2019, Writing-on-Stone/ Áísínai’pi provides exceptional testimony to the living cultural traditions of the Blackfoot people. The unique landscape, the rock art and their sacred connection to the site provides deep and permanent links to the continuing traditions of the Blackfoot people.



# A Living Cultural Site

Indigenous peoples continue to practice their traditions here, including bringing ikkístakssin (offerings) to honour the sacred beings of Áísínai’pi. These offerings are often small fabric bundles or coloured cloth set on the ground, amongst the rocks, or tied to trees – please show respect as you visit this place and leave these undisturbed. If you are not certain something is an offering, please contact park staff.

# Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre, located near the park entrance, is the ideal place to start your park visit. The Visitor Centre features interpretive displays about the cultural landscape of Áísínai’pi. It also has a small Gift Shop carrying a curated selection of giftware, books and indigenous and locally-made handicrafts. The Visitor Centre is open with scheduled hours from May to September, and by appointment from October to April.

The ‘Hoodoo Hut’ camp store is located in the day use and campground area. It provides camping registration services as well as snacks and beverages from May long to September long weekend.

# Camping

The park has a 61-site campground, two group use sites and three small cabins. Camping is available year-round and is 100% reservable between mid-May through Labour Day, and first-come, first-serve after Labour Day through mid-May. Reserve early to secure your spot. See the back of this brochure for reservation information.

# Hiking and Rock Art

## 1. Matapiiksi (Hoodoo) Interpretive Trail

**Length:** 2.5km one-way  
**Walking time:** 2 hours return

Starting by Group Use A, hike the Hoodoo Trail through the three distinct habitats of the park (grassland, badlands, riparian) and discover rock art and other natural and cultural features along the way. Download a copy of the interpretive guide from our website or get a paper copy from trailheads or the Visitor Centre. Due to the sensitive nature of vegetation and habitats in this area, please stay on the trail at all times.



## 2. Accessible Trail

**Length:** 0.5km one-way  
**Walking time:** 10 minutes

This accessible trail links the Visitor Centre to a viewpoint on the south end of the overflow parking lot, where one can enjoy an incredible viewscape of Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai’pi, the Milk River valley, and the Sweet Pine (Sweetgrass) Hills.

## 3. Visitor Centre Trail & Hoodoo Exploration Area

**Length:** 0.5km one-way  
**Walking time:** 15 minutes

This trail connects the Visitor Centre to the campground. Branching off from this trail are multiple paths leading into the ‘Hoodoo Exploration Area’. Explore and discover this unique landscape but tread lightly – the sandstone landforms are fragile and irreplaceable.



**What are hoodoos?**  
Hoodoos are sandstone features that are known as matápiiksi to the Blackfoot. Like other living and non-living features that cast a shadow, these culturally significant landforms are ‘earth beings’ and are believed to possess a spirit. Please be respectful as you explore this area.

# Do



Use designated trails



Leave artifacts in place



Take photos or sketch rock art



Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance



View historic structures from a distance

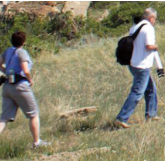


Speak with staff if you see anything notable or concerning



Enjoy views as you paddle or float down the river

# Don't



Don't create new paths



Don't gather artifacts or take any home (including rocks)



Don't touch, carve, or make marks on the rocks (hoodoos)



Don't touch or harass the wildlife in any way



Don't enter the Restricted Access Area unless on a tour



Don't pile or stack rocks in the park



Don't exit the river in restricted areas or on private lands