

# Pigeon Lake Provincial Park Comfort Camping

## Yurt User Manual



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# Comfort Camping Yurts

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Yurts provide the ultimate camping experience, combining the comfort of a cabin and the intimacy of sleeping in the great outdoors.

## What is a yurt?

A yurt is the traditional dwelling of Central Asia nomads. Made to resist extreme climates, this circular shape abode has five basic elements: lattice walls, roof beams, a roof ring, a door, and a felt and hide covering. Since the 13th century, yurts have been used by nomadic horse herders as portable homes. It takes less than a day to set up or deconstruct a yurt.



Yurt in Mongolia (Alex Mueller)

## Pigeon Lake Yurts

Our yurts are a modernized version of the traditional yurt. They are warmer than a tent and have insulated walls and roofs, with electric heaters to keep cozy on those cool fall evenings. In the summer, the yurts are kept cool with windows, a dome, and door openings that provide cross ventilation.

# Choosing the Right Yurt

There are eight yurts to choose from at Pigeon Lake Provincial Park: One Small, Six Medium, and One Large. The yurts are all close to potable water, flush toilets, and shower facilities.

The table below shows the basic furniture in each yurt to help you choose the one most suitable for your stay.

	Small Yurt	Medium Yurt	Large Yurt
<b>Sleeps</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Beds</b>	<b>1</b> Queen <b>1</b> Double Futon	<b>1</b> Queen Over Queen Bunk <b>1</b> Double Futon	<b>2</b> Double Over Queen Bunks <b>1</b> Double Futon
<b>Accessible</b>			
<b>Parking Stalls</b>			
<b>BBQ &amp; Propane</b>			
<b>Fire Pit &amp; Benches</b>			
<b>Outdoor Lounge Chairs</b>			
<b>Kitchen Table &amp; Chairs</b>			
<b>Refrigerator with Freezer</b>			

 One  
  Two  
  Wheelchair Accessible

# What is Included in Your Yurt

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Each yurt comes equipped with a number of extra amenities to make your stay as comfortable as possible.

- Coffee press & kettle
- Pots and pans
- Roasting sticks for the fire
- Dish cloths, dish towels, and washing basin
- Electric heater, clock radio, and lamps
- Mattress covers and fitted sheets for all beds
- Water jug for transporting hot water from nearest washroom facility
- One complimentary bag of firewood



# What You Need to Bring

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There are some items you will need to bring when staying in a yurt, and a number of optional items you may choose to pack in order to feel a little more at home.

- Plates, cups, cutlery, and cooking utensils
- Sharp kitchen knives
- Food and beverages
- Pillows and sleeping bags or duvets/blankets/sheets
- Towels and toiletries
- A camp stove for cooking outside
- A water jug to hold drinking water
- Flashlights or camping lanterns
- Matches or a lighter to start a campfire
- Additional firewood (can be purchased at the park)
- Hatchet or axe to split wood (purchased wood is already split)
- Additional camping chairs



# Checking In

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***Check in time is after 4pm.***

Please take time to review the check-in information prior to your arrival.

## Where to Check In

The doors to the yurts have a key lock. In order to get the key, you need to check in at the permit booth near the entrance to the park.

## When You Can Check In

You can check in after 4pm the day of your reservation.

### Early Check-In

Many guests would like to check in early, but it is rare that the campground can accommodate early check-ins due to the cleaning schedule.

If you would like to come to the park early, you are welcome to spend time in the day use area. It is best to check in at the booth to inquire about the availability of the yurt, as staff may be able to call you when the yurt is ready.

### Late Check-In

Due to varying booth hours, you are required to make arrangements for the key if you plan to check in later in the evening.

You can make arrangements for late check-in by calling the Pigeon Lake Permit Booth at 780-586-2644.

**If you arrive after the booth is closed and you have not called to make arrangements, you will not be able to get into your yurt.**

## Who Can Check In

Only the reservation holder or someone designated by them can check into the yurt. If you have made a reservation and have not specified a designate on your Reserve Alberta Parks (RAP) account, only you will be able to get the key to the yurt.

## Why?

The person who made the reservation is responsible for the site. When you check into a yurt, an Information Officer at the booth will go over the regulations for the yurt. They will have you sign an agreement that states you understand and will follow all rules. A member of your party cannot sign on behalf of you unless arrangements are made with the campground beforehand.



# Checking Out

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**Check out time is 12pm.**

It is important that you check out on time, as it allows our staff time to clean and reset the accommodations for the next users. It is rare that the campground can accommodate late check-outs.

## Prior to Check-Out

There are a few things we ask guests to complete prior to checking out.

### Return Used Items

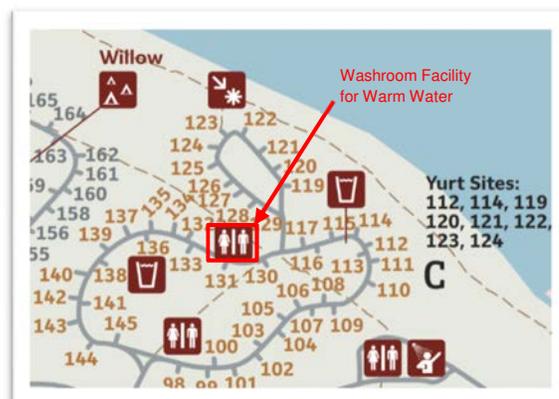
Please ensure all provided items have been returned to the yurt. You can use the **Yurt Contents Checklist** provided to double check that all of the items are accounted for. Should any items be missing or damaged, please inform the permit booth staff on your way out of the park.

### Wash All Dishes

If you used any of the provided items, please ensure they are cleaned with warm water. Warm water is available at the washroom facility in Loop C, outside the comfort camping loop. Alternatively, you can bring the dishes to the facility and wash them in the sink on the outside of the building.

There are plastic bins provided for washing dishes. Fill one tub with warm soapy water and one with clean water for rinsing.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are washing dishes at the yurt, please dump any used (grey) water into the vault toilets. Dumping dirty water and food waste onto the ground or into fire pits will attract unwanted wildlife to the site.



## Check-Out Process

When you are ready to leave the yurt or at the check-out time, ensure you have all your belongings and follow these steps.

1. Turn off the light.
2. Drop the key into the **Key Drop Box** next to the front door inside the yurt.
3. Lock the door using the push lock on the doorknob.
4. Close the door behind you and double check to ensure it has latched and locked.
5. Remove your permit slip from the sign post.

You may wish to stop at the registration booth on your way out to let staff know that you have checked out. While this is not necessary, staff appreciate the notice. This also provides an opportunity to report any lost or broken items so that they may be replaced in a timely fashion.



# Yurt Rules & Tips

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The yurts at Pigeon Lake were built to provide a unique camping experience for anyone wishing to stay in the park. The yurt sites are located in the campground and are therefore subject to campground regulations. Please respect the yurts, the landscape, and the other park visitors by following a few simple rules during your stay.

## **Pets & Yurts**

Pets are not allowed on the yurt sites or inside the yurts. This includes pets kept in vehicles on the yurt site.

We advise anyone renting a yurt to make alternate arrangements for pet care during their stay. If you or anyone in your party plan to bring a pet, you will need a separate campsite and accommodation unit (tent, trailer) for the site where the pet can stay with its owner.

## **Smoking, Cannabis, and Alcohol**

Alcohol consumption is allowed on the yurt site and inside the yurt, as long as there is no liquor ban in effect.

Smoking and cannabis use are not allowed inside the yurt or on the deck. Smoking and cannabis use are permitted off the deck around the fire pit.

Alcohol and cannabis use are not allowed outside your designated site.

## **Additional Units**

No additional tents or trailers are allowed on the yurt sites. If someone in your party would like to set up a tent, they will be required to rent a separate campsite. There are some campsites in the comfort camping loop, so if you anticipate this will be a need, it is advised that you book one ahead of time.

## Cooking at the Yurt

Cooking is not allowed inside the yurt as it can damage the weatherproofing and poses a fire hazard. Plan your stay by preparing meals that can be cooked on a BBQ or over the fire. If cooking over the fire, please do not use the cookware provided. These are designed for use on stove tops only.



## Drinking Water

The tap water at Pigeon Lake is drinkable (potable), and we recommend bringing a separate jug for drinking water that you can refill.

The grey-coloured water jug that is provided can be used to haul warm or hot water for washing from one of the washroom buildings (in Loop C). We do not recommend using this jug for potable water storage.

## **Wildlife & Insects**

Although your yurt is built to keep wildlife out, improper storage of food items may encourage insects such as ants or flies to move in. Keep food off the floor and properly packaged to avoid having to entertain unwanted dinner guests.

Additionally, please do not prop open the yurt door as this may allow for small rodents such as squirrels and mice to explore your beautiful and inviting indoor space.

## **Yurts & Rain**

The yurts are weatherproofed and water resistant, but rain will get in through the open dome or windows.

Always make sure to close window covers and the roof vent during any rainfall. If you plan on leaving the yurt for any amount of time and there is a possibility of rain, please close the windows and roof vent.

## **Temperature Control**

Ventilation is key to temperature control inside a yurt. On hot days, keep your window covers rolled up so air can flow through the yurt. Open the roof vent as well. Be careful not to over-crank the dome cover as it only opens about 6 inches. To stay warm on cool autumn evenings, keep your windows and roof vent sealed tight and turn the electric heater on.

# Instructions for Opening Windows

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The yurt windows have three components: (1) an outer solid fabric, weatherproof privacy cover with side zippers, (2) a removable clear vinyl window that is secured on all four sides with velcro and, (3) a permanently fixed bug screen. To open the windows, use the following procedure:

- 1) The fabric window coverings can be opened from the outside of the yurt with the vertical zippers on each side. Unzip each side from the bottom up. Once unzipped, roll the fabric from the bottom up and secure it at the top with the ties/clips provided.



- 2) The clear plastic window is secured with Velcro on all four sides and can be either completely removed or lowered part way by detaching the top half and then reattaching to the Velcro on the sides.



If you remove the windows entirely, store them loosely rolled and under the bed inside the yurt. Please do not leave the windows outside or lying on the ground.

- 3) When opening the dome roof window, turn crank until window has opened approximately 6 inches. This window DOES NOT open all the way. Once you are able to feel friction when cranking, the window has fully opened. Please do not force the crank as this will break the window hinge.



# Important & Emergency Contacts

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Most cell phone carriers have service in the Park.

**If you are experiencing a medical emergency, please call 911.**

The address for Pigeon Lake Provincial Park is:

Township Rd 470  
Wetaskiwin County No. 10, AB  
T0C 2C0

Please notify the permit booth any time you call 911.

## **Permit Booth – 780-586-2644**

Please call or visit the permit booth if you have any issues during your stay. The permit booth hours may vary, so make sure to note them upon arrival at the park.

## **After Hours – Parks Enforcement – 403-350-5066**

If you have any complaints or issues after the permit booth closes, please call the Parks Enforcement line. Common complaints may be suspicious activity, excessive noise, or dangerous wildlife spotting.

## **Reservation Information – 1-877-534-2757**

If you need to make changes to your reservation or would like to inquire about extending your stay, please call Reserve Alberta Parks or visit [reserve.albertaparks.ca](http://reserve.albertaparks.ca)