



# Backcountry Hiking Guide

The Davis and Humphrey Coulee areas south of the Milk River are open to the public for backcountry exploration. The zone encompasses approximately 2300 acres of rolling prairie, grasslands, hoodoo fields, and narrow sandstone canyons. Although no formal trails have been established, a network of game trails provides easy access to most areas. Before venturing into the Backcountry Hiking Area, carefully read the following information and plan accordingly.

## Access

The Backcountry Hiking Area is best accessed from the gate at the southern end of the campground loop by either wading across the river or by using a boat or canoe. Be aware of changing river conditions and advisories that may change throughout the season. Understand the risks of crossing ice in the winter.

## Boundaries

Provincial Park Boundaries and the Archaeological Preserve Restricted Area are marked by fences with attached signs. **Do not** cross these fences or you will be trespassing and subject to charges under the Petty Trespass Act. There are cattle fences in the backcountry area that you are permitted to cross and are shown on the map (on reverse). Access into the Archaeological Preserve is by guided tour only. Please contact park staff for more information concerning Interpretive Hikes into the Archaeological Preserve.

## Restrictions

- No overnight camping is permitted in the Backcountry Hiking Area
- Absolutely no fires are permitted in the Backcountry Hiking Area
- Stay on game trails whenever possible and avoid stepping on fragile plants and soils
- Leave gates as found
- Do not remove any fossils, bones, cultural materials, or historic objects you may encounter
- Do not damage, mark, or deface natural features
- Dogs are permitted in the backcountry but must remain on a leash to avoid wildlife encounters
- Do not move or stack rocks or alter the landscape in any way

## Hiking Safety

There are no developed facilities, including washrooms, in the back country and cell phone coverage is limited. Be aware that snakes, including rattlesnakes may be encountered. Please review our Snake wildlife pamphlet before your hike. Do not hike beyond your skill level or experience. Recommendations include:

- Wear proper footwear and pack appropriate clothing for changing weather conditions
- A hat and sunscreen are strongly recommended on warm days
- Carry sufficient food and water (2–3 L/person) and do not leave anything in the backcountry
- Let others know of your plans and have a timeline to check in when your hike is complete

### Help us protect our park

The prairie and coulee environments are extremely fragile. Please treat them with respect so others in the future may also enjoy the rugged natural beauty. This place has been special to the First Nations of the area since time immemorial and should be treated with great care and respect.

### Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park

Phone: 403-647-2364 ext. 0

Email: [writingonstone@gov.ab.ca](mailto:writingonstone@gov.ab.ca)

### Alberta Parks Visitor Information

Web: [albertaparks.ca](http://albertaparks.ca)

Phone: 1-877-537-2757

### Public Safety and Enforcement (24/7)

Phone: 310-LAND (5263)

### Fire Bans in Alberta

Web: [albertaparks.ca/firebans](http://albertaparks.ca/firebans)

### Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)

Phone: 911