



SLAVE LAKE
REGION

slavelakeregion.ca



TOURISM & RECREATION GUIDE



Rachel Dunlop Photography

DISCOVER Adventure • Opportunity • Community

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Fast Facts

POPULATION

The population of Slave Lake & Surrounding Area 10,000 (est.)

LOCATION

The Town of Slave Lake is located at the south east corner of Lesser Slave Lake at the junction of Highway 2 and Highway 88.

- 257 km northwest of Edmonton (2.75 hour drive)
- 317 km east of Grande Prairie (3.5 hour drive)
- 552 km northwest of Calgary (5.5 hour drive)

ELEVATION 590 meters

ECONOMY

Oil and Gas, Forestry, Government Services, Service Industry and Tourism

CLIMATE

July average: high 23 C/ low 10 C
January average: high -7 C/ low -18 C

Annual average rainfall or snowfall:
412 mm or 16.2 inches

The History of Slave Lake

David Thompson, a great mapmaker, surveyor and fur trader arrived at the mouth of the Lesser Slave River on April 28, 1799. He became the first documented European to visit this lovely lake. Using a sextant, compass and two watches he surveyed much of Alberta and drew our lake on the Great Map he made after his retirement.

Thompson established a trading post for the North West Company at the junction of the Lesser Slave River and the Athabasca River. In 1802 it was moved to the original Slave Lake Town site (now referred to as Old Town). The Hudson Bay Company also established a post nearby and a rivalry to control the fur trade began. Later, the two companies combined.

Treaty 8 was signed by the original 7 signatories on the banks of the lake in 1899. One signatory was the Sawridge First Nation, who were part of the Slave Lake community. By 1900 the Northern Transportation Company ran a steamboat called "Northern Light". It moved people and goods from Fort Edmonton, through Athabasca and on to the Peace country. The Sawridge community was a stopping point for the boat. 1914 marked the arrival of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway, ending the steam boating business. It did however, allow the logging industry to flourish and logs were hauled to Chisholm's sawmill.

Sawridge became Slave Lake in 1923, named for people in the area who were regarded as strangers by the more recently arrived Cree traders. The word 'Lesser' was added to the name when it became clear there was some confusion between Lesser Slave Lake and Great Slave Lake. A devastating flood in 1935 forced the relocation of the town to the present location. By 1945 the community had a population of 300 people.

The building of the bridge over the Athabasca River at Smith brought more people to the area. In 1964 when oil was found in the region the population began to grow again. The oil and gas industry, the wood products industry, the tourism industry and the government services now support a regional population of about 10,000 people. The citizens are ethnically diverse with English, Cree, French, Arabic, Tagalog, South Asian and other languages represented.

The Lesser Slave Lake region is a great place to visit. Our small town community offers many amenities and supports outdoor adventures. Whether to challenge minds and bodies, refresh spirits or to renew and rejuvenate through nature's beauty, we invite you to visit and enjoy our unique natural area.





Outdoor Activities



If you're looking for year round adventure, you're in the right place! The region spans over 10,000 square kilometers—roughly the size of Prince Edward Island—and only a couple hours from Edmonton, Alberta.

The Region has an abundance of lakes, rivers, and trails to explore. The Lesser Slave Lake is the largest automobile accessible lake in the Province. Visitors can even drive to some of the region's other best rural lakes such as Fawcett Lake, Lawrence Lake and Cross Lake.

From fishing to golfing, to canoeing, hiking or biking, your options are almost unlimited!





Make use of our miles of paved trails, our friendly dog park, and even our bison ranch. Visit our gun range, or even take a helicopter over our great outdoors!

The Slave Lake Region has something for everyone! The region offers all visitors—individuals, families and groups—a multitude of summer and winter activities to experience and enjoy. Additionally, various special events are held throughout the year allow visitors to engage in local excitement.

Fill your winter outdoor adventure with snowshoeing, cross country skiing, curling, ice fishing, snowmobiling or visit one of our outdoor rinks or toboggan hills!





Indoor Activities



Outdoor activities in the Region are extensive but when Mother Nature doesn't co-operate, Slave Lake has some diverse indoor activities.

A visit to the Northern Lakes Aquatics centre, located in the Northern Lakes College, features a zero depth pool and a 25 metre pool along with a waterslide and hot tub. This will keep the entire family happy for hours.

The recently upgraded Multi-Rec Centre offers fun for every member of the family with two ice surfaces, field house and running track as well as a children's indoor playground.

The town of Slave Lake offers fully equipped health & fitness facilities. Here you can find a variety of training options and classes, including yoga, rowing & spin biking.

New to the Sawridge Mall, located on main street, is a fantastic children's indoor playground where your little ones can run, climb and play till their hearts content. At your request special event parties can be arranged.



Indoor and Outdoor Facilities

Hilda Eben Park

Outdoor Rink • Tennis Court • Skateboard Park
Sliding Hill • Tamarack Valley Splash Park
6th Street SE
780-849-8028

Multi-Rec Centre

Indoor Arena • Basketball Courts • Indoor
Playground • Indoor Running and Walking Track
305 - 6th Avenue SW
780-849-8028

Northern Lights Aquatic Centre

Indoor Pool
1201 Main Street SE
780-849-8639

Roland Michener School

Outdoor Track
106 - 7 Street SE

Schurter Park

Outdoor Splash Park • Sliding Hill • Skating Rink
3rd Avenue NE
780-849-8028

The Legacy Centre

Performance Theatre
400 - 6th Street NE
780-849-6700



The Legacy Centre, built after the fires of 2011 is home to the Slave Lake Daycare, Elks Hall and Legacy Atrium. The Elks Hall, kitchen, theatre and meeting rooms can be booked for a variety of events. The Legacy Centre is also home to Stage North Concert Series supporting live music and the performing arts in the region.





Water Sports



Lesser Slave Lake is the largest lake within Alberta's borders at 1,160 square kilometers in size as well as Alberta's the largest automobile accessible lake - enjoying it is easy!

Fishing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, swimming, and water skiing, are all very popular. Boaters can launch from the free municipal boat launch on the Lesser Slave River or from spots around the Southshore such as the Canyon Creek Harbour. Fawcett Lake, Lawrence Lake and Cross Lake also have water sport opportunities for the whole family to enjoy.





Golf



The Gilwood Golf Club is built on the shores of Lesser Slave Lake and provides an 18 hole oasis in the thick of the forest.

Our two unique nines can be considered both challenging for the most experienced golfers and easy enough for beginners.

It's only 10 kilometers from Slave Lake and another favourite pastime for residents and visitors to the Region. Turn your visit into a true Fins & Skins vacation!

The course hosts numerous tournaments throughout the season, including our Men's and Ladies Open in July, and our Fall Open in September.

The Golf Course also offers:

- Restaurant and on-course beverage service
- A fully stocked Pro Shop
- Driving Range
- Stay & Play options with local hotels - visit our website gilwood.ca for details

Flatbush's River Valley Golf Club and the Hidden Valley Golf Club in Fawcett, 9 hole courses, provide enthusiasts with additional options in the region. Eagle Point Golf Course located in the hamlet of Wabasca, AB offers an 18 hole championship golf course, clubhouse, restaurant & pro shop.

Gilwood Golf and Country Club

Highway 88
P.O. Box 247
Slave Lake, Alberta
TOG 2A0

780-849-4389
gm@gilwood.ca
Gilwood.ca

Visit gilwood.ca for listings of partner hotels within Slave Lake offering Stay & Play packages.



Hunting

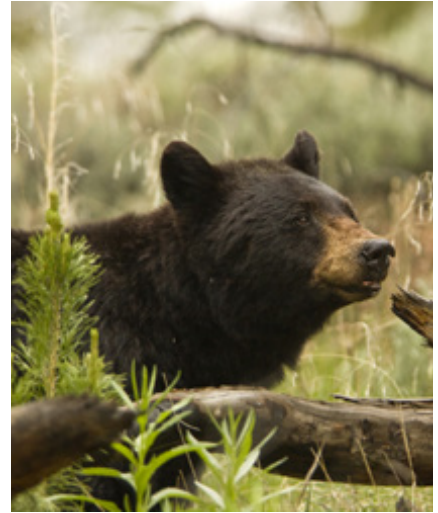


Outdoorsmen travel from all over the world to explore the hunting the Slave Lake Region has to offer.

With some of the largest trophies on record, the local hunting area offers moose, whitetail deer, mule deer, elk, black bear, cougar, grouse, goose and ducks. Local hunting guides in the area can host those looking for a full experience.

Visitors and locals alike need to possess a hunting license and adhere to tag conditions.

To get a directory of Alberta's outfitters, visit Alberta Professional Outfitters Society at apos.ab.ca.





Fishing



SCAN ME



Summer or Winter, our lakes offer up some of the best sports fishing in Alberta.

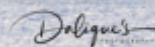
The Slave Lake Region is well-known for its world-class freshwater fishing. Known as the Fishing Capitol of Alberta, Lesser Slave Lake is home to large walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, and whitefish.

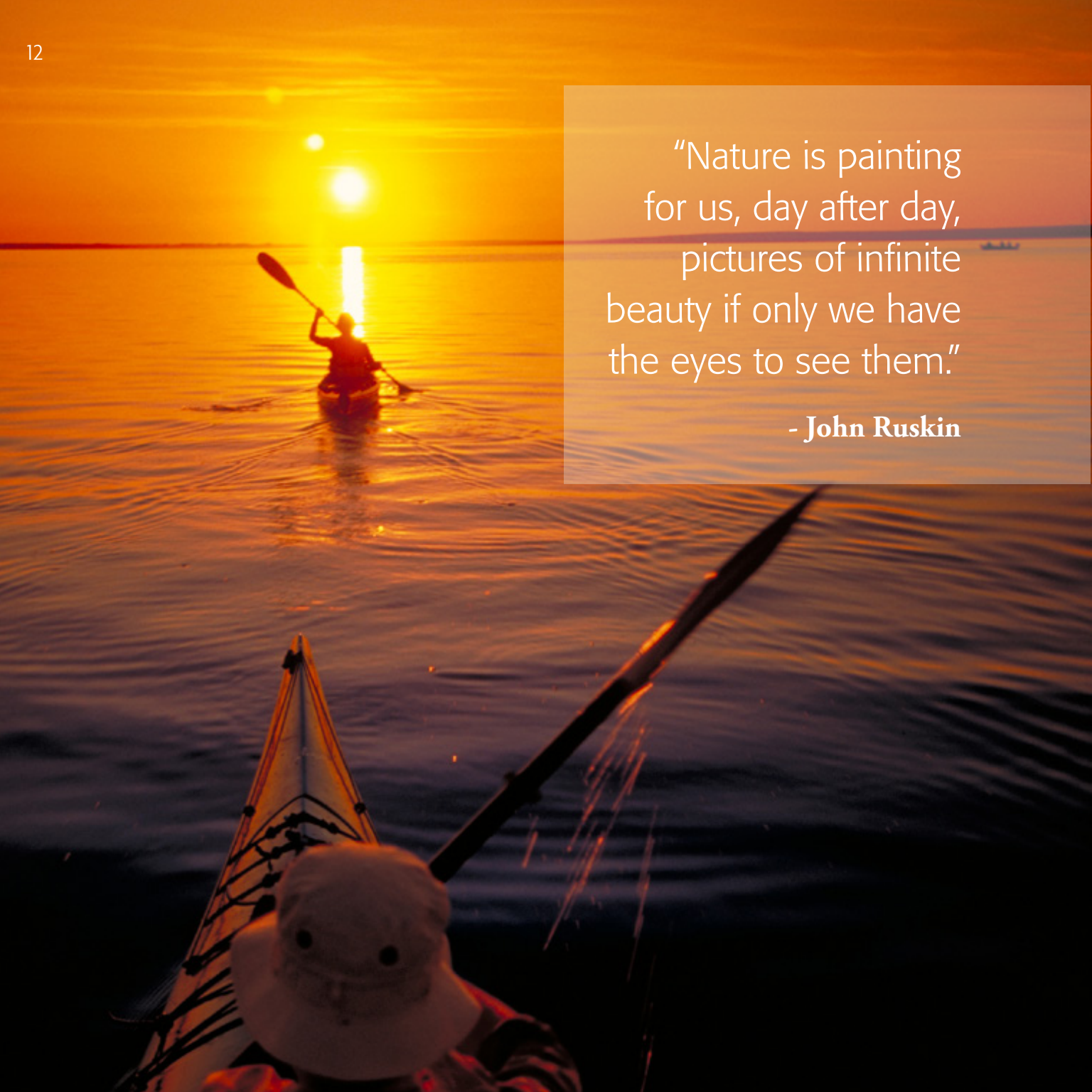
Every year, Lesser Slave Lake is the home to well-known fishing tournaments (in both the summer and winter seasons), that bring hundreds of anglers to the lake in hope of catching the big one. The lucky winner's cash in over \$145,000 in cash prizes. Check out the calendar of events page at www.slavelakeregion.ca for current events within the region.

For information on sportfishing regulations please visit or scan the QR code above mywildalberta.ca/fishing/regulations/default.aspx.

The following are the fish species found in the Slave Lake and rivers:

- Walleye
- Northern Pike
- Lake Whitefish
- Yellow Perch
- Cisco
- White Sucker
- Artic Grayling
- Burbot
- Goldeye
- Mountain Whitefish
- Longnose Sucker





“Nature is painting
for us, day after day,
pictures of infinite
beauty if only we have
the eyes to see them.”

- **John Ruskin**



Where to Stay

Visitors to the Slave Lake Region have the option of staying in one of the variety of hotels in Slave Lake.

Families and individuals looking for a nice, comfortable and friendly place to stay that includes access to a pool, hot tub, waterslide, conference rooms, internet and breakfast will have their choice of hotels.

Some of our local hotels also offer "Stay & Play" packages with the local golf course.

Check our website for other available options.

Slave Lake Accommodations

B & B On 12th

505 - 12 Street SE
780-926-0557

Big Fish Bay Cabins

Caribou Trail
780 849-2020
bigfishbay.com/cabins

Big Lake Inn

112 - 12 Avenue SW
780-849-6668
biglakeinn.com

Lakeview Inn & Suites

1601 Holmes Trail SE
780-849-9500
lakeviewhotels.com/slave-lake

Holiday Inn Express

1500 Main Street SE
780-849-4819
ihg.com/holidayinnexpress

Hotel Northern Star

801 Main Street SE
780-849-3300

Old Town Cabins

South side of Lesser Slave River
780-805-1367
oldtowncabins.ca

Northshore Homestead

Bicentennial Highway
780-849-2174
northshorehomestead.com

Slave Lake Inn & Conference Centre

1200 Main Street SW
780-849-4101
slavelakeinn.ca

Super 8

101 14 Ave SW
780 805-3100
wyndhamhotels.com



Camping



There are a variety of campgrounds to serve a diverse range of campers! Choose lake-front lots with prime viewing for dramatic summer sunsets or, if you are an early bird, sunrises.

One of the most popular summer recreation activities in the Slave Lake Region is camping and it's home to some of the top campgrounds in Alberta.

Campground sites range from full service, powered, and unpowered, providing options for tenting and RVs. In addition, there are also cabin rentals and options for tenting, cabins and RVs for those looking for a retreat without the tent or camper.

"Comfort Camping" is becoming popular, and options are also available throughout the area.

For families looking to have the convenience and lifestyle of an annual site, there are long-term rentals available—a great way for families to make the most of summer without having to pack up every weekend.

For the more adventurous, choose a site close to the plethora of trail systems that run through the area.

RV and Camping Options

	Powered Sites	Water Hookups	Sewer	Unserviced Sites	Dump Station	Firewood	Showers	Laundry	Tent Sites	Beach	Boat Launch
Big Fish Bay RV Resort	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	
Canyon Creek Harbour Campground & Marina	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●
Canyon Creek Community Campground				●							
Fawcett Lake Provincial Recreation Area				●		●			●		●
Lakeview Campground & Marina	●	●	●	●		●			●	●	●
Lawrence Lake Provincial Recreation Area				●					●		●
Chain Lakes Provincial Recreation Area*				●					●	●	●
Cross Lake Provincial Park	●				●	●	●		●	●	●
LSLPP Marten River Campground	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	
LSLPP Devonshire RV Campground				●		●				●	
Norm's Walley Camp & RV Park	●	●	●			●	●				●
Roland on the River	●	●	●			●					●

* No gas motors allowed on this lake.



Dining



If you brought an appetite, the hardest decision you will make when you get here is where to eat. Whether it's a night of fine dining, a great pub atmosphere or something quick for the whole family, the Slave Lake Region can serve up something that satisfies that craving!

With a number of chain franchises finding something familiar is easy to do. If you would like to try some of our local independents, you may want to experience just how much passion some of our local entrepreneurs put into food and beverage.

Want to know where the hot spots are? Talk to some of our local residents who will be happy to provide a recommendation or visit www.slavelakeregion.ca.



Shopping



For those needing a little retail therapy, the Slave Lake Region has pretty much everything to meet your needs.

Our downtown core houses some great businesses with local shop owners who pride themselves on great customer service. South of Highway 2, you will find Cornerstone developments, which is home to a number of familiar franchises.

If you are coming to enjoy the outdoors there are also a number of businesses that can help you with your outdoor recreation needs. From kayaks, to bicycles, life jackets and snow shoes we will do our best to make sure you are looked after.

Slave Lake also offers a number of boutique stores that have some great household items. Clothing, drug stores, furniture, electronics are just some of the items you may want to pick up during your visit and we have a number of places to help you get them all. For a complete business directory please visit myslavelake.com.



Pets



Pets are welcome.

We have excellent services for your pets, including a great off-leash dog park!



Pets and Parks can co-exist

Ensure that your dog is under control at all times.

- Do NOT allow your dog to chase wildlife! Dogs think it is great fun ... it is dangerous for both parties. Think Safety First.
- When approaching people from behind call out "Hello". Let them know you are coming.



Arts & Culture



The Slave Lake Region offers a rich diversity of performing arts and visual arts.

The Legacy Centre features a 450-seat theatre with a fully equipped stage and banked seating. This is a perfect venue for concerts and events throughout the entire year. Volunteer organizations such as the Rotary Club and the Elks Club, three dance studios, and local performing arts societies host productions for all ages.

The Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library offers a wide variety of services and programs, including: reserving and renewing books, e-resources, free Wifi and computer access, children's programming, afternoon movie-time, video game station, toy library, youth night, book clubs, story time, summertime rainy day programming, and special guests.

Lesser Slave Lake Regional Arts Council is a non-profit community organization founded on the belief that the arts are essential and should be available and accessible to everyone. Activities range from family paint nights to lessons in paint pouring, Ukrainian Easter eggs, and even specialty cooking!

The Stage North Association mission is to improve quality of life by promoting and facilitating access to and awareness of a variety of performing arts. The society hosts a series of performances each year. Although it offers the opportunity for local amateur musicians to participate, most of the performers are professional touring artists. The concert series consists of seven concerts at the Legacy Centre. All performances are accessible by all age groups.



Lake & River Access



One highlight of the Region is our beautiful Lake.

Here on the East side of Lesser Slave Lake, the MD offers free public boat launch North East of Town on the Lesser Slave River. Additionally private launches can be accessed for a nominal fee at the Lakeview Campground and Marina on the Lesser Slave River or in Canyon Creek. Both Private launches also have mooring options available.

You may also be interested in a trip down the Lesser Slave River. Whether a kayak, canoe, an inner tube or a something motorized, a trip down the Lesser Slave River can be an extremely relaxing and scenic way to see some great wildlife. A great launch site can be found just down stream of the weir within 5 minutes from downtown Slave Lake. Refer to tourist map on page 32.





Local Wildlife

Whether you are a nature lover, photographer, outdoor enthusiast, hunter or fisherman, you can experience the boreal forest at its best in the Slave Lake Region.

You are sure to encounter remarkable wildlife sightings during your travels as you explore the dense spruce forests, abundant wetlands, and hidden meadows.

And of course, the fishing in the area is the best in Alberta thanks to the abundant fish populations in Lesser Slave Lake.



Boreal Wildlife Checklist

- Black Bear
- Grizzly Bear
- Coyote
- Grey Wolf
- Red Fox
- Cougar
- Canada Lynx
- White-Tailed Deer
- Mule Deer
- Moose
- Elk
- Caribou
- American Marten
- Fisher
- Northern River Otter
- American Beaver
- Common Muskrat
- Red Squirrel

Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park

Home to forests full of birds and a beautiful, natural white sand beach, Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park has many unique attractions. The Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation is open year round with interactive exhibits about the boreal forest and in the winter rents ski and snowshoe equipment. The Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory offers public bird banding tours from mid-July until the Labour Day weekend. Favourite summer activities include hiking, cycling, swimming, sunbathing, birdwatching, paddling, fishing and kitesurfing, and in the winter enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice fishing.

Park trails range from the accessible Songbird Trail loop to the challenging, but beautiful, Lily Lake Trail. A bicycle-friendly section of the Great

Canadian Trail follows the lakeshore all the way from the Town of Slave Lake to Marten River Campground.

Marten River Campground offers 72 powered and 39 unpowered sites, pit toilets, paid showers and firewood while the RV campground at Devonshire Beach offers 14 unpowered sites for self-contained RVs.

Campsite reservations for the Marten River, Lily Creek and Marten River group use areas can be made online at reserve.albertaparks.ca or by calling 1-877-537-2757 beginning in February each year.

For more details or up-to-date information about Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park, contact the Slave Lake District Office at 780-849-7100 or the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation at 780-849-8240 or visit AlbertaParks.ca





Birding



Located along a major migratory flyway, the Slave Lake Region is a birders' paradise.

Tourists aren't the only visitors to Slave Lake. Millions of songbirds also head up to the boreal forest each summer to raise their families. Watch for bald eagles, osprey or white pelicans along the lake shore, or just sit back and enjoy the beautiful sounds of the songbirds that will surround you. With over 250 bird species recorded in this area, you are sure to discover a new bird to add to your checklist during your visit.

Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation

Box 1076
Slave Lake, AB
TOG 2A0

780-849-8240
866-718-BIRD
info@lslbo.org

borealbirdcentre.ca
lslbo.org



Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation

Nestled along the shores of Lesser Slave Lake, the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation is a unique research and education facility operated as a partnership between the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory and Alberta Parks. Interactive displays provide an in-depth look at the world of birds and the boreal forest, while the expert staff are happy to answer any of your nature questions. While you are there, you can also explore Interpretive Trails, check out the gift shop for local souvenirs and enjoy the family friendly programs. Whether you are an avid birder looking for tips on where to find that special bird, or a nature lover wanting to learn more about what the Lesser Slave Region has to offer, make sure to stop in at the centre during your visit.

Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory

A summer visit to the Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park isn't complete without taking the opportunity to drop in to the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory to visit the researchers and learn more about our boreal birds. In addition to monitoring the breeding and migratory birds of the region, the LSLBO also provides great education programs for the public. If you are lucky, you may even have the chance to see these beautiful songbirds up close! Contact the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation for more information on tours and education programs.

Images from lslbo.org and borealbirdcentre.ca





The Beach



Many people who visit Lesser Slave Lake for the first time are amazed by how huge it is! The size of the lake combined with the local landscape have created beautiful, natural white-sand beaches on the east end of the lake.

Devonshire Beach is found at the south end of Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park and is recognized as one of the 10 top beaches in Canada. This 1.5 kilometre stretch of natural and groomed sandy beach is a great place to spend an afternoon swimming, building sand castles, relaxing and watching the waves come in. Devonshire Beach is also the host to a summer sand castle competition. Visit www.slavelakeregion.ca for current event details.

Part of a 1500-year-old sand dune complex, Devonshire Beach is a unique environment in Alberta. The beach is an important habitat for rare plants such as the sitka willow, which is adapted specifically for this sandy lakeshore environment.





Marten River Campground Beach is at the north end of the park. Frequented by campers, it is also open to other visitors. Parking is available at the amphitheatre. Though smaller than Devonshire Beach, the Marten River Campground Beach also features natural and groomed sections.

Both beaches have sections set aside for dogs. The Devonshire dog-friendly beach is the southernmost portion, accessible from a small

gravel parking lot above the Devonshire Beach RV Campground. The Marten River dog-friendly beach is the northernmost portion, accessible from the amphitheatre parking.

Because the beaches are within a provincial park, dogs must remain on leashes for the protection of wildlife. Doggie bag dispensers are provided so that you can pick up after your pooch.

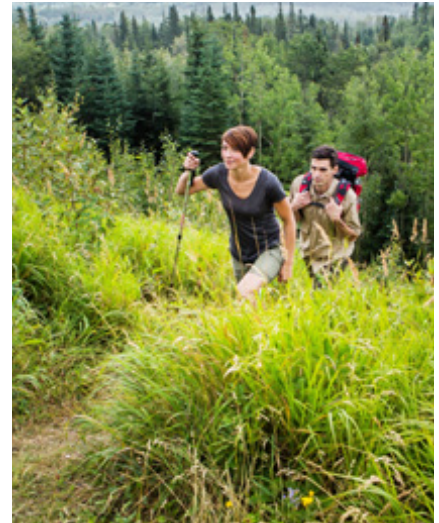




Trails












Explore the beauty of the boreal forest in north central Alberta along virtually unspoiled trails, parks and beaches, and many other natural wonders unparalleled in the province.








If you are looking for outdoor adventure, you will find it right on your doorstep whatever mode of transportation you enjoy including hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, OHV user, and more!

Seek out the scenic hiking and bike trails that can be found in the many recreational trail systems and provincial parks across the Slave Lake Region. You can also discover part of Canada's Great Trail that follows the steps of historic explorers and fur traders as they traveled over land and northern river routes.

Trail	Difficulty	Length	Season	Permitted Activities
Devonshire Beach to Northshore	Moderate	4.8 km	Year-Round	  
Songbird Trail	Easy	0.6 km	Year Round	  
Lily Lake	Difficult	2.8 km	Summer	
Nine Mile Recreation Area	Moderate	10 km	Year Round	  
Peace River Wilderness Trail	Difficult	60 km	Year Round	  

The Trans Canada Trail

Trail Legend

-  Greenway Trail
-  Blueway Trail
-  Roadway Trail

The Trans Canada Trail (coined **The Great Trail** in 2016) lays claim to the world's longest network of recreational trails. It offers a wide range of activities through diverse landscapes: wilderness, greenways, blueways, urban, rural and roadways.

Once complete, The Great Trail will stretch nearly 24,000 km from the Atlantic to the Pacific and Arctic oceans, linking Canadians in more than a thousand communities.

True to its name, The Great Trail embodies both the vastness of our terrain and the diversity of our people. This map shows the segments of The Great Trail across the Lesser Slave Region.

Map shared courtesy of the MD of Lesser Slave River.



Key Segments Along The Great Trail

1 The Northshore Trail

Starting at Marten Beach and winding westward, this key Trans Canada Trail connector supports a wide variety of pursuits like hiking, biking, quadding, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling and more.

2 The Freighter Lakeshore Trail

Leading from Marten Beach into the Town of Slave Lake, this trail runs through Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. The trail boasts spectacular views and allows unpowered leisure activities like hiking, cycling and snowshoeing.

3 The Lesser Slave River Blueway Trail

This portion of The Great Trail is actually the connected waterways of the Lesser Slave, Otauwau and Fawcett Rivers. The Blueway Trail ends at the Athabasca River, where the Moose Portage to Smith Trail begins.

4 The Moose Portage to Smith Trail

This scenic trail connects the Peace River Trail to Smith and the Athabasca River via municipal roads that wind through varied landscape such as farmland and boreal forest. Both ends of this trail are accessible by vehicle.

5 The Peace River Trail

Beginning at Sawdy, north of the Town of Athabasca, this trail runs through a stunning wilderness full of native flora and fauna and views of the Athabasca River. Moose, elk, deer, black bear and boreal mammals are abundant.

Tourism Map



"Let's go somewhere
where the sun kisses
the beach."

- Author Unknown

Jane Zimmer
SOUL OF HOPE PHOTOGRAPHY



SLAVE LAKE
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Slave Lake Region. A real and rugged jewel of the north.

The Slave Lake Region includes the Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, and the Sawridge First Nation, who are dedicated to building a collaborative and cohesive future together.



SLAVE LAKE
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slavelakeregion.ca | Visitor Information Centre 12 Poplar Lane, Slave Lake Alberta 780-849-4611