



## PARK VISITOR – INFORMATION

**UPDATED MAY 11, 2020**

The health and safety of Canadians, visitors and Parks Canada team members is of the utmost importance to the Agency. We are following the advice of public health experts and taking steps to support Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce risks to Canadians, visitors, employees, residents and other users of Parks Canada spaces.

**Parks Canada is asking Canadians to support the national effort to limit the spread of COVID-19 by staying home. Anyone considering a visit to Prince Albert National Park should cancel their plans.**

Parks Canada has suspended camping, group activities and events at all national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas across the country until at least May 31, 2020. Visitor services and vehicle access by visitors are suspended, and facilities remain closed until further notice.

Parks Canada is working diligently to plan for resuming visitation at some locations. Visitor access and services will align with the recommendations of public health authorities; will be designed to promote the health and safety of visitors, employees, and Canadians; and will also include measures to manage garbage collection, washroom facilities and mitigate any negative impact on natural and cultural resources as well as built assets.

These plans are well advanced; however any resumption of operations and services will take time and may be incremental in nature.

Please follow Parks Canada's social media channels and visit our [website](#) for information and updates on the status of all Parks Canada places.

Following is some information specific to Prince Albert National Park.

### **With the province of Saskatchewan starting to resume services, when will Prince Albert National Park start to open up to visitors?**

The health and safety of Canadians, visitors and Parks Canada team members is of the utmost importance to the Agency. We are following the advice of public health experts and taking steps to support Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce risks to Canadians, visitors, employees, residents and other users of Parks Canada spaces.

Parks Canada has suspended camping, group activities and events at all Parks Canada places across the country until at least May 31, 2020. Visitor services and vehicle access by visitors are suspended, and facilities remain closed until further notice.

Parks Canada is aware of the announcement by the Government of Saskatchewan regarding the opening of provincial parks and campgrounds. The Agency's current closures at national parks remain in place until further notice.

Parks Canada is working diligently to plan for resuming visitation at some locations. Visitor access and services will align with the recommendations of public health authorities; will be designed to promote the health and safety of visitors, employees, and Canadians; and will also include measures to manage garbage collection, washroom facilities and mitigate any negative impacts on natural and cultural resources as well as built assets.

These plans are well advanced; however any resumption of operations and services will take time and may be incremental in nature.

### **When will Prince Albert National Park reopen?**

Parks Canada has suspended camping, group activities and events at all Parks Canada places across the country until at least May 31, 2020. Visitor services and vehicle access by visitors are suspended, and facilities remain closed until further notice. Anyone planning a visit should be aware that these measures may extend beyond May 31, 2020 and any resumption of services will take time or be incremental in nature. More information about resuming services and facilities in the park will be made available soon.

To support the Government of Canada's effort to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce risks to Canadians, visitors, employees, residents and other users of Parks Canada spaces, Parks Canada has suspended all visitor services, including reception and information, all visitor facilities, including parking lots, washrooms, day use areas, visitor centres and all camping facilities, including backcountry camping and oTENTiks until further notice. Trails are not maintained. All events, group and interpretive activities are cancelled until at least May 31, 2020.

The Agency looks forward to reopening and will continue to assess its suspension of services, while ensuring the health and safety of Canadians, visitors and Parks Canada team members.

### **What facilities are closed in Prince Albert National Park?**

- Visitor Centre
- Park Entrance Gate Kiosks

- All washroom and shower facilities including outhouses at day-use areas
- Playground at Waskesiu main beach
- Trailhead parking lots and day use areas; trails are not maintained
- All kitchen shelters are closed
- Camping facilities, including backcountry camping remain closed
- Highway #263 from the South Gate to the Narrows Road, including all visitor facilities along the highway
- Vehicle access to the Northshore/Kingsmere Road and the Narrows Road is suspended and limited to local traffic only. All visitor facilities in those areas are closed.

### **What is still available in Prince Albert National Park?**

Parks Canada continues to deliver critical functions, but capacity for these services is limited.

Highway management

Fire response

Law Enforcement

Water and waste treatment

### **Once Parks Canada decides to resume services, how long will it take until regular services are available?**

Parks Canada is following the advice of public health experts and has been implementing measures to support Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce risks to Canadians, visitors and Parks Canada team members. Only limited critical services have been provided to Prince Albert National Park. For the most part, Parks Canada team members have been working from home.

Planning to resume services is well advanced; however any resumption of operations and services will take time and may be incremental in nature.

### **What emergency services are active?**

The RCMP, Parks Canada Law Enforcement, the Waskesiu Fire Department and Medical First Responder Services are all active. Please dial 911 in a life threatening emergency. For safety, wildlife, or wildfire incidents call Parks Canada dispatch at 1-877-852-3100.

### **What about my camping reservation for this season?**

All existing reservations set to take place prior to May 31, 2020, will be automatically cancelled and refunded in full.

Parks Canada is not taking any new reservations until at least June 1, 2020. If you have a reservation after May 31, you do not need to cancel this reservation. You are encouraged to check back closer to your arrival regarding cancellations.

**Can I get a refund for my park pass since visitor services are closed?**

The sales of all annual passes is temporarily suspended until further notice. Please check regularly for updates [www.parkscanada.gc.ca/covid-19](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/covid-19).

For current pass holders, Parks Canada will automatically extend the end date of Discovery Passes for the full duration of the suspension period. That means that for each month or part of a month that visitor services are not offered due to Parks Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, a full month will be added to the end date of the annual pass.

**Can I buy an annual pass?**

The sales of all passes is temporarily suspended until further notice.

**Can I take a scenic drive through the park?**

No. Vehicle use is only permitted on Hwy #264 to access the townsite of Waskesiu. Residents, cabin/cottage owners, commercial business owners and contractors can access the park via Highway #264 through the East Gate (main park access).

All visitor services and visitor motor vehicle access in national parks is temporarily suspended. Access to highway #263 is closed from the South Gate to the Narrows road, including all the facilities along the highway is suspended. Access to the Northshore/Kingsmere Road and the Narrows Road is suspended and limited to local traffic only. All visitor facilities including washrooms in those areas are closed.

**Are there businesses open in Prince Albert National Park?**

Local services are limited at this time. Business operators are valued partners and provide important services to visitors. Individual businesses are making their own decisions regarding opening. It is recommended that people contact individual businesses to find out more about their services.

Residents are strongly encouraged to follow the guidance and direction provided by public health experts and to stay home where possible. We must all do our part to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce risks to visitors, employees, and all users of Parks Canada spaces.

**Where can I get updates on closures?**

Please follow Parks Canada's social media channels and visit our [website](#) for information and updates on the status of all Parks Canada places.

**Why has Parks Canada suspended visitor services and all motor vehicle access by visitors in Prince Albert National Park?**

Canadians are asked to stay home and support the national effort to limit the spread of COVID-19 by staying home. Anyone considering a visit to a Parks Canada location, including those in urban areas, should cancel their plans.

Parks Canada is working diligently to plan for resuming visitation at some locations. Visitor access and services will align with the recommendations of public health authorities; will be designed to promote the health and safety of visitors, employees, and Canadians; and will also include measures to manage garbage collection, washroom facilities and mitigate any negative impacts on natural and cultural resources as well as built assets.

These plans are well advanced; however any resumption of operations and services will take time and may be incremental in nature

Parks Canada's measures reflect the government wide approach of limiting non-essential travel, practising physical distancing and having employees in non-critical positions work from home.

**Why don't you just increase cleaning for prevention instead of closing the park?**

The health and safety of Canadians, visitors, and Parks Canada team members is of the utmost importance. Parks Canada is following the advice of public health experts and taking steps to support the Government of Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce risks to Canadians, visitors, employees, residents and other users of Parks Canada spaces.

Canadians are asked to stay home and support the national effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. Anyone considering a visit to a Parks Canada location, including those in urban areas, should cancel their plans.

**Does Parks Canada advise against visiting?**

Parks Canada is asking Canadians to stay home. Anyone considering a visit to a Parks Canada location, including those in urban areas, should cancel their plans.

Parks Canada's top priority is the health and safety of visitors and employees. The park is doing its part to contain COVID-19 and reduce risks to visitors and employees. We

look forward to resuming normal operations, but for now we must all work together to limit the spread of COVID-19.

### **Can I come visit the park to bike or hike?**

Canadians are asked to stay home and support the national effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. Anyone considering a visit to a Parks Canada location, including those in urban areas, should cancel their plans.

### **Is recreational fishing allowed?**

Parks Canada is following the advice of public health experts and implementing measures to support Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce risks to Canadians, visitors and employees. Parks Canada is asking Canadians to support this national effort by staying home and not visiting national parks.

The sale of all Parks Canada passes and permits has been suspended until at least May 31, 2020. In addition, entry kiosks and visitor centres are closed, as a result fishing permits cannot currently be sold or validated.

Please note that visitor services are suspended and all visitor facilities are temporarily closed. Many trails and day-use areas are no longer accessible due to road closures. Park users must obey all signage and closures.

More information will be made available regarding the timing of potential opening of facilities as it becomes available.

### **Is recreational boating allowed? Can I go paddling or swimming?**

The Agency has suspended visitor services at all Parks Canada places until at least May 31, 2020. This includes all parking lots, washrooms and day use facilities. Parks Canada strongly recommends that Canadians limit their use of national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas at this time.

Motorized vehicle use to pursue recreational activities in the park is suspended. The use of powered watercraft and non-motorized use of all water bodies within Prince Albert National Park is suspended until further notice.

### **Is the Waskesiu golf course open?**

All visitor services and visitor motor vehicle for the purpose of recreational use is suspended in Prince Albert National Park, until at least May 31, a date that may be extended.

Accessing the Waskesiu Golf Course in the townsite is possible. The golf course is able to open according to the date set by the Government of Saskatchewan, May 15. People are encouraged to contact the golf course regarding their services.

**Is Waskesiu townsite open? Can people go to their cottages and cabins?**

Parks Canada is asking that visitors support the Government of Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19. Residents are strongly encouraged to follow the guidance and direction provided by public health experts and to stay home and cancel any non-essential travel.

There is limited access to the Waskesiu townsite. Cottage and cabin owners are able to access and stay at their properties beginning April 1, 2020, as per their leases.

**When does Parks Canada plan to reassess the closure?**

Parks Canada is working diligently to plan for resuming visitation at some locations. Visitor access and services will align with the recommendations of public health authorities; will be designed to promote the health and safety of visitors, employees, and Canadians; and will also include measures to manage garbage collection, washroom facilities and mitigate any negative impacts on natural and cultural resources as well as built assets.

These plans are well advanced; however any resumption of operations and services will take time and may be incremental in nature.

A complete list of Parks Canada closures and the parameters of the closures is available on the Parks Canada website. Please visit [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca) and Parks Canada's social media channels for information and updates on the status of all Parks Canada places.

**Will the Community Fuel Break and Amyot Trail prescribed fires happen this spring at Prince Albert National Park?**

Fire is a natural process and a key part of a healthy ecosystem. Parks Canada conducts prescribed fire programs in carefully selected conditions to return fire to the landscape in a way that prioritizes the safety of the people, infrastructure, cultural heritage and neighbouring lands. The prescribed fires that were scheduled for this spring have been postponed until a later date. For more information, please visit [www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/sk/princealbert/nature/feux-fire/brulages-prescribed-fires](http://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/sk/princealbert/nature/feux-fire/brulages-prescribed-fires).