

History

In the past, the Blackfoot people would visit Áísínai'pi to communicate with the spirit world. The rock art is one way this was done. It is believed that the Ohkotokitaapiiksi (the rock beings) will choose to show certain images at a certain time. The image contains a personal message that the viewer is meant to interpret.



If a Blackfoot person accomplished a great deed they gained the right to record their story in the stone. These are known as Biographical Rock Art. When an important ceremony took place it was also recorded here. These are referred to as Ceremonial Rock Art.

Today, Blackfoot descendants continue to practice ceremonial activities at Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi. The park is proud to share and celebrate their traditional culture with our visitors.



Get Involved

How to help preserve southern Alberta history

If you find an artifact in the park **do not pick it up**. Take photos of what you found and remember where you spotted it. You can bring the information to the staff at the Visitor Centre.

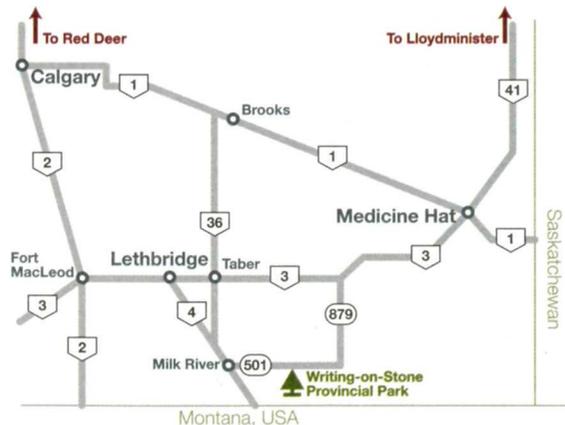
Have you found an artifact?



If you find an artifact or site outside the park **leave it in the ground**, and write down exactly where it is. Report the site to the Archaeology Survey, Historic Resources Management Branch,

Government of Alberta. They can be reached at: **780-431-2346**

Remember, an archaeological site is a non-renewable cultural resource. It is every one's responsibility to help protect and care for these sites.



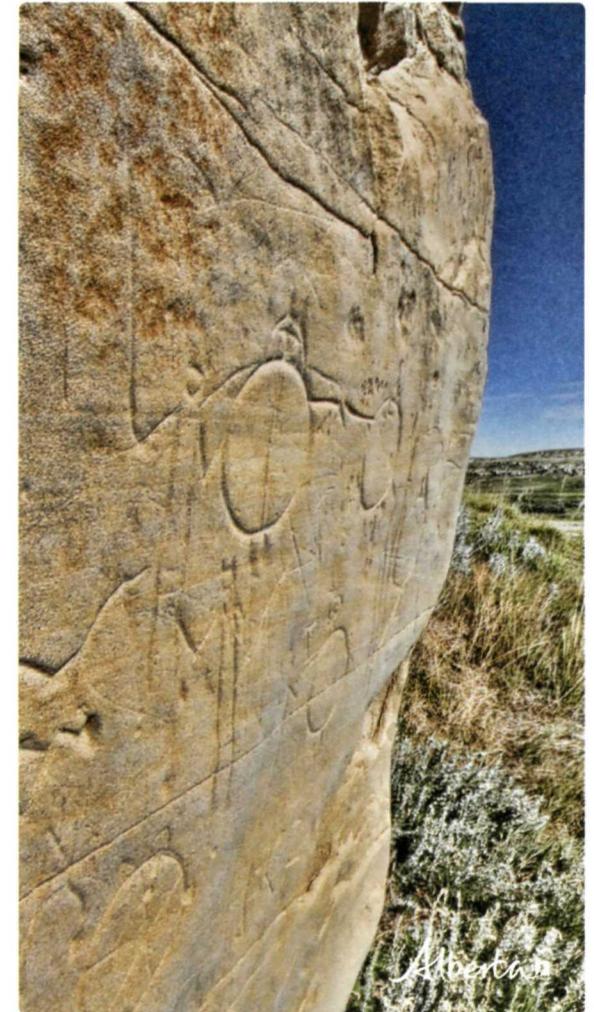
Updated May 2017

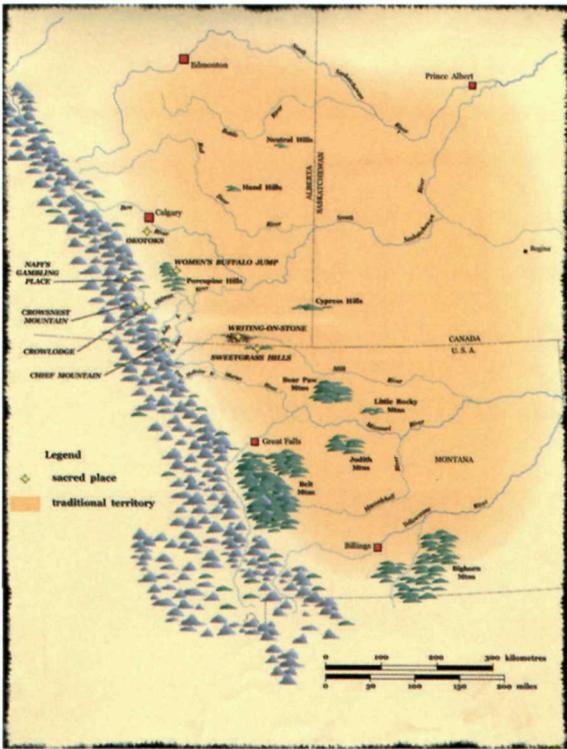


Site Etiquette

Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park

Áísínai'pi National Historic Site





Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi is part of traditional Blackfoot territory. It is a very sacred and significant place for the Blackfoot who continue to have a strong spiritual connection to the place today. It is believed that everything in the valley contains a spirit and is very much alive. When enjoying the park please be as respectful as you would be when visiting anyone's home.

Please

Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photos.

Dos



Use designated trails.



Leave artifacts in place.



Take photos or sketch rock art.



Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance.



View structures from a distance.



Speak with staff if you see anything suspicious.

Don'ts



Create new paths.



Gather artifacts or take any home (including rocks)



Touch or make marks on the cliff face.



Touch or harass the wildlife in any way.



Enter the Restricted Access Area unless on a tour.



Pile or stack rocks in the park.