

Activity Guide and Map Stay awhile



Range Rd. 80

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Campground

Highway 11 A

Campground

Visitor centre

Highway 11 A

Railway tracks

Railway tracks

Fur trade forts - archaeological sites

F1 North West Company 1799 to 18??

Established in 1799 by the Northwest Company, this was the first trading fort in the region. Named Rocky Mountain House, the fort served as the company's main base of operations, hosting notable map maker David Thompson. This fort was in use until the Northwest Company merged with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821. The archaeological excavation of features, related to the site's last occupation, including postholes, cellars, and fireplaces, have been contoured and left open for viewing.

F2 Hudson's Bay Company 1799 to 18??

This fort, named Acton House, was built by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1799 and located only 35 metres away from the Northwest Company's fort. It gives you an idea of the extreme rivalry between the two fur trade companies. This fort was used until 1821. The volumetric iron bars show the historical size of Acton House.

F3 Hudson's Bay Company 1835 to 1861

In 1835, the Hudson's Bay Company replaced Acton House with this unique fort named Rocky Mountain House. This post saw hard times as the fur trade lost popularity. Abandoned in 1861, it burnt down later that year.

F4 Hudson's Bay Company 1868 to 1875

Facing dwindling fur trade markets, the Hudson's Bay Company made one last-ditch effort to keep the area's fur trade alive. With construction beginning in 1866, the company completed its grandest-ever fort in 1868, double the size of its predecessor. Unfortunately, this was not enough to keep business running, and in 1875, Rocky Mountain House closed for the last time, marking the end of the fur trade in this region. The twin chimneys are the only remaining above-ground preserved structures of the fort.

Sites of interest

- 1 Bison lookout
- 2 1926 cairn
- 3 Canoe launch and Brierley Rapids
- 4 Centennial canoe
- 5 Charlotte Small and Alexander Henry plaques
- 6 Paul Kane plaque
- 7 War memorial
- 8 Yorkboat
- Listening stations

Camping

- A Campground office
- B Métis trapper tents
- C Tipis
- D Trailer campground
- E Trapline cabins
- F Walk-in tenting
- Dishwashing station
- Drinking water
- Firewood
- Food locker
- Shower

Entrances

- E1 Visitor centre entrance
- E2 Campground entrance

Legend

- P Parking
- Washroom
- Outhouse
- Highwater house
- Picnic area
- Horseshoes
- Volleyball
- Firepit
- Red chairs

Interpretive experiences

- 1 Blacksmith station
- 2 Follow the Bison Herd
- 3 Métis camp
- 4 Play fort
- 5 Visitor centre



Walking and biking trails

Chimney Trail F3 F4

This trail circles through the archaeological remains of two Hudson's Bay Company forts dating to 1835 and 1868 (where the fort's original chimneys still stand). Enjoy stories and interpretive panels at the listening stations.

- 0.8 km loop
- 30 minutes
- Easy trail
- 15 minutes

David Thompson Trail F1 F2

Follow along the banks of the North Saskatchewan river to the oldest fort sites, including the first fort built by the North West Company in 1799. Discover historical anecdotes and sounds at each listening station.

- 3.2 km loop
- 90 minutes
- Easy trail
- 30 minutes

Shared Access Trail

This paved trail between the Visitor Centre and our Campground is used by pedestrians, bikers, dog walkers, and Parks Canada vehicles. Share the road!

- 1 km one way
- 20 minutes
- Easy trail
- 10 minutes

Petro Canada Bicentennial Trail

Trail between the National Historic Site and the town of Rocky Mountain House, winding through aspens and old growth forests with scenic views of Clearwater County

- 5 km loop
- 2 hours
- Easy trail
- 40 minutes

2024 Admission fees

Adult..... \$9.00
Senior \$7.50
Youth (17 and under)..... Free

Visitor centre

392077 Range Rd 74A, Rocky Mountain House
Alberta, CANADA T4T 2A4

(403) 845-2412 | rockyinfo@pc.gc.ca

Hours of operation 2024

Visitor centre and interpretive experiences

May 10 to Sep 7..... Open daily: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sep 8 to Sep 30 Thu to Sun: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Oct 1, 2024 to May 9, 2025 Closed

Campground

74084 Range Rd 74A, Rocky Mountain House
Alberta, CANADA T4T 2A4

(403) 429-0116 | rockyinfo@pc.gc.ca

Hours of operation 2024

Campground office

May 17 to Jun 19 Mon to Wed: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thu to Sun: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Jun 20 to Sep 2 Open daily: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sep 3 to Sep 30 Mon to Wed: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thu to Sun: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Oct 1, 2024 to May 9, 2025 Closed

For up-to-date information,
please visit:
[parks.canada.ca/
rockymountainhouse](https://parks.canada.ca/rockymountainhouse)



We acknowledge that Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site is within the present-day territory of the Treaty 6 as well as the Métis Homeland. The lands and waters of Rocky Mountain House have been used for millennia by Indigenous Peoples for sustenance, ceremony, trade and travel. We thank them for their continuous stewardship and for sharing the land with us.

Welcome | Bienvenue | miyoonakishkatoohk | oki, kiitsiksimatsimmoko | miyotôtâkewin

The forts are gone, but the stories live on; stories of trade, exploration, and competition, but above all, stories of people.

In 1799, the North West and Hudson's Bay companies set up rival posts here on the North Saskatchewan River. During the 76-year history of trade at the site, nine different Indigenous groups visited the area. David Thompson – explorer, fur trader, and renowned map maker – and his wife Charlotte Small, used this post as a base for establishing a North West Company route through the Rocky Mountains.

Today, Parks Canada shares the stories of the many different people who have spent time on the banks of this historic river highway. We are honoured to engage with Indigenous Peoples and community partners who share their stories of today and breathe new life into the history of this land.

Stay awhile. Let your story become part of this place, too.



2024 Bookable experiences

Dive deeper into stories of this place and book a hands-on experience. Supplies included with program fee. Advanced reservations required.

A Métis welcome – Métis miyotôtâkewin

A Métis Elder will share their language, traditions, culture, and connections to the fur trade. (2 hours, max 15 people, \$500.00/group)

Dream Catcher Workshop

Learn the traditions around this Indigenous custom and create your own beautiful dream catcher. (2 hours, max 25 people, \$23.25/person)

Drum and Song

Gather around the campfire with a local Indigenous drummer, dancer or storyteller. (1.5 hours, max 25 people, \$22.00/person)

Satchel Making Workshop

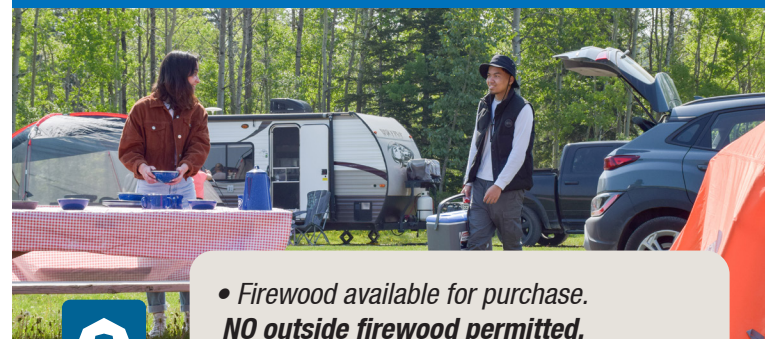
In this workshop, you will take a wool blanket and transform it into your own beautiful satchel. (1.5 hours, max 10 people, \$23.75/person)

Traditional Games

Indigenous games teach essential skills like observation, intuition, and hand-eye coordination. (1.5 hours, max 25 people, \$22.00/person)

2024 Campground

Discover a historic fur trade post along the North Saskatchewan River. Stay awhile.



- Firewood available for purchase. **NO outside firewood permitted.**
- Check-in: 2:00 p.m. Check-out: 11:00 a.m.



Heritage camping

Immerse yourself in the lifestyle of the fur trade.

Métis Trapper Tents

- Sleeps up to 5: double or twin beds.
- Wood floor, table, and chairs.
- \$78.00/night, per trapper tent.



Tipis

- Sleeps up to 8: sleeping mats.
- Wood floor, table, and chairs.
- \$78.00/night, per tipi.



Trapline Cabins

- Sleeps up to 6: 1 double pull out bed, and 4 sleeping mats in the loft.
- BBQ, table, chairs, cookware, utensils, mini fridge, induction burner, microwave, and lighting.
- \$133.25/night, per cabin.

Front-country camping

Trailer campground

- Trailers and RVs up to 8 metres (27'). Unserviced.
- Tents allowed.
- Firepit and picnic table.
- \$28.50/night, per site.



Walk-in tenting

- Foot access only (50 m). Park in designated area.
- Firepit and picnic table.
- Community picnic shelter.
- \$28.50/night, per site.
- Food Lockers

