

DISCOVER YOUR CENTRAL ALBERTA

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EXPERIENCE GUIDE

eats + drinks

SUMMER 2025 | ISSUE NO. 1



ALL THINGS CRAFT

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ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS
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#DiscoverRoute12

It's time to explore Alberta's Hidden Gems. Unleash your spirit of adventure and curiosity as you travel East or West through Alberta from the prairies to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

Alberta Provincial Highway No.12, commonly referred to as Highway 12, is an East-West highway through Central Alberta. It runs from Highway 22 near Rocky Mountain House, through Lacombe and Stettler, to the Alberta-Saskatchewan border near Compeer.

Highway 12 affords travelers the opportunity to explore all that Central Alberta has to offer. From farm-fresh foods, local breweries and eateries to scenic camping and hiking trails... this 'route' is not to be missed.



Lacombe Regional Tourism is situated in the traditional territories of the "A° Nēhiyaw (Cree) people of Treaty 6.

We honour the people of this territory for their continuous contribution to the region and respectfully acknowledge the region we work, play, live in, and welcome visitors to.

📍 TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

With a blend of history, art, and outdoor adventure, Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County are must-visit destinations for any road trip.

Situated along the North Saskatchewan River, Rocky Mountain House is rich in history, offering immersive experiences at the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site. Here, you can step back in time to the fur trading era of the Hudson's Bay Company and The North West Company, hike scenic trails, and take part in engaging programs and special events. For a truly unique experience, spend the night in an authentic tipi and wake up to the sights and sounds of nature.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find endless adventure, from ATV and bike trails to hiking, canoeing, and fishing. Take in the region's natural beauty with Hela Ventures, offering guided canoeing and rafting experiences along the river. Horseback riding enthusiasts can explore scenic trails with guided rides at Wildhorse Mountain Ranch, while families can enjoy hands-on experiences with friendly farm animals.

LANDMARKS | POINTS OF INTEREST

Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site - Take a self guided tour of the reconstructed fur trading post and gain insights into the lives of early fur traders. Discover the stories of Indigenous peoples and their interactions with European explorers. Enjoy interactive exhibits and demonstrations that bring the past to life. Don't forget to explore the beautiful walking trails that meander through the surrounding natural landscapes.

Crimson Lake Provincial Park - Just a short drive from Rocky Mountain House, Crimson Lake Provincial Park is perfect for camping, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. If you're looking for a more relaxed outing, explore local shops, breweries, and cafés for a taste of small-town charm.

ACTIVITIES | EVENTS

- **Rocky Mountain House Museum**
- **Explore the downtown core** - Stroll along Main Street and browse through locally owned stores and gift shops.
- **Explore the outdoors**
- **Rocky Pro Rodeo**
- **Marketplace on Main**



Admire starry skies and Northern lights!



A road building crew - 1929



Fire Department



Time for an outdoor adventure!



Historic main street




Mural on exterior of Merry's Mercantile



Enjoy local community festivities!

📍 TOWN OF BENTLEY

For families looking to be part of something smaller, yet so much larger, the Town of Bentley promises a kaleidoscopic life of colourful moments worth basking in – be it on the sunbaked sandy shores of Gull Lake or the slopes and trails of the sacred Medicine Hills, in the unique shops along main street, or among the tasty treats and farm fresh finds of the regionally renowned Bentley Farmers' Market. A twist of the kaleidoscope reveals no angles – just the most affordable housing and cost of living options within the Highway 2 Corridor... giving rise to all ages ownership, growing families, and cultural diversity. Be free to just be; supported by safe streets, warm and welcoming smiles and a school system that truly cares to get to know its students.

 Focus on the things that matter most.
Visit TownofBentley.ca

LANDMARKS | POINTS OF INTEREST

Main Street Bentley - "Jewel of the Blindman Valley." Take a walk down Bentley's thriving Mainstreet to shop, eat, and explore the town's abundant hidden gems.

Bentley Museum - The Museum resides in a 1924 farmhouse with 2 additional buildings bursting with exceptional displays. The exhibits depict the way of life experienced by the first settlers of Bentley from 1898 and on through the years. The collection is geographically-based and displayed with a "touch and use" philosophy. 10 historical plaques are installed throughout the community for a nice walking tour!

Bentley Mural on the wall of Merry's Mercantile, created by artist Lauren Cowles. This mural represents the natural beauty around Bentley. Be sure to take a picture with the butterfly wings!

ACTIVITIES | EVENTS

- **Sandy Point Fishing** - Campground and Beach
- **Aspen Beach Provincial Park** offers year-round recreation on the South shores of Gull Lake.
- **Bentley Days** - parade, bench show, car show, and pancake breakfast
- **Bentley Farmers' Market**
- **Bentley Christmas with Santa**
- **Bentley Fall Fest**



CITY OF LACOMBE

Centrally located on the QEII corridor, the City of Lacombe is just over an hour's drive away from Calgary and Edmonton.

Whether through a historic guided tour, delighting in local food and beverages, attending a spirited festival, or discovering a new shopping experience at one of our unique boutique shops, visitors are sure to make an unforgettable memory in Lacombe.

Lacombe is rich in culture, heritage, with a strong connection to community roots going back over 100 years. Landmarks including the Michener House Museum, the iconic Flatiron Building, and the Lacombe Blacksmith Shop are just a few of the highlights of Lacombe's historic past, bustling present, and incredible future.

ATTRACTIONS | POINTS OF INTEREST

• Visit the museums:

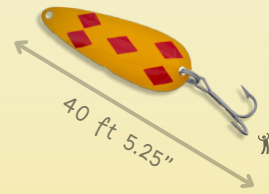
- Flatiron Building Museum
- Lacombe Blacksmith Shop Museum
- Michener House Museum

• Take a snap with:

- World's Largest Lure
- The Heart of Lacombe
- Murals

• City Facilities

- Lacombe Memorial Centre
- Kinsmen Aquatic Centre
- Gary Moe Auto Group Sportsplex
- Lacombe Athletic Park

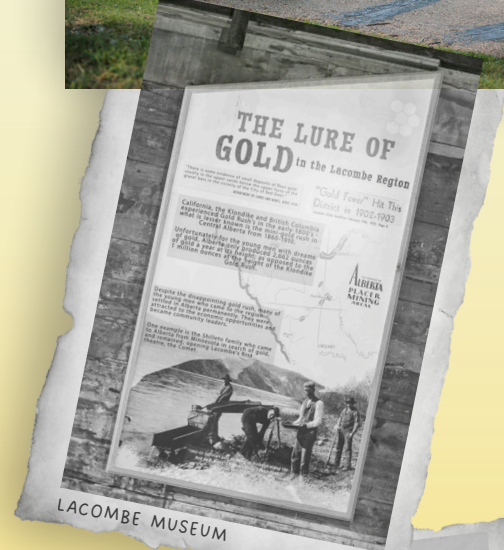
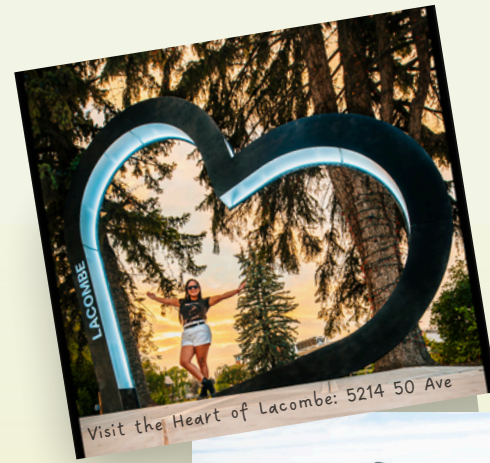


ACTIVITIES | EVENTS

- **Explore Outdoors** - Lacombe's trail system includes natural, gravel, and paved trails.

• Annual Events:

- L.A. Vintage Father's Day Show
- Canada Day
- Lacombe Days
- Music In The Park
- Lacombe Culture & Harvest Festival
- Lacombe Museum Harvest Dinner
- Light Up Lacombe
- Encore Art Sale



THE HISTORY TRAIL

TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Rocky Mountain Historical Museum - Explore the exhibits showcasing artifacts, photographs, and stories that tell the tale of the region's past. Learn about the Indigenous cultures, fur trade era, and the development of the town. The museum provides an immersive experience that appeals to history buffs and curious visitors alike.

TOWN OF BENTLEY

Bentley Museum - See photographs and histories of all the area schools. Stroll through "Pico House", a 1924 farmhouse, and visit the displays in the Agricultural Building. Relive more of Bentley's history on a historical, downtown walking tour. OnThisSpot: <https://onthisspot.ca/places/bentley>

CITY OF LACOMBE

Flatiron Building Museum - an integral part of the landscape of Lacombe and Central Alberta. As one of the most recognizable architectural structures, built in 1904, it is the oldest of three flatiron buildings that exist in Alberta.

Take a Heritage Walking Tour - The Lacombe Museum offers five walking tours covering different aspects of Lacombe's history. Heritage Walking Tours are great for school groups, professional development activities, family reunions, and more.

Michener House Museum & Gardens - The Michener House is a Municipal and Provincial Historic Resource. It was built in 1894 as the Village of Lacombe Methodist Church Parsonage and is the oldest residency left in Lacombe today. Today it is historically significant as the birthplace of Right Honourable Roland Michener, former Governor General of Canada.

Blacksmith Shop Museum - The Blacksmith Shop Museum is a Municipal and Provincial Historic Resource, built in 1902. As the oldest operating blacksmith shop in Alberta, it is located on its original site and much of the original machinery, including the forge, trip hammers and engine, are still in operating condition.

VILLAGE OF ALIX

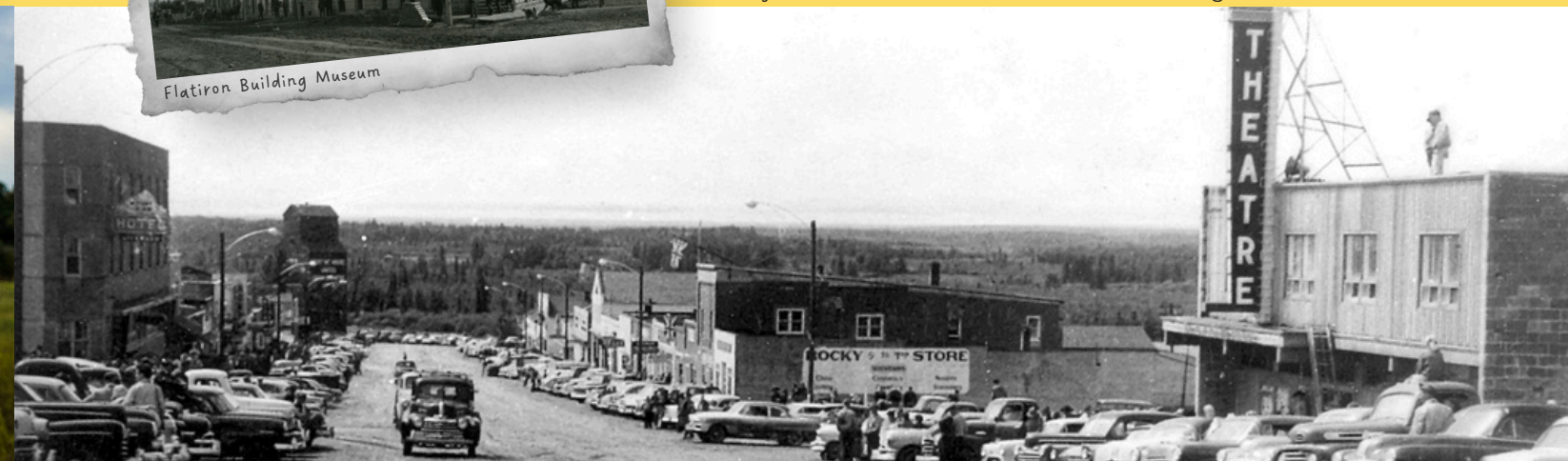
Alix Wagon Wheel Museum - Open seasonally from May 1st to September 1st. To reach in the off season please call: (403) 352 - 6227 | (403) 358 - 9848 Learn more: alixwagonwheelmuseum.ca

TOWN OF STETTLER

Town & County Museum - Alberta's 5th largest Pioneer Village! Stettler Town and County Museum is an historic village with a great selection of historical artifacts. Downtown Historical Walking Tour are also available. New on site: Dick Richards Memorial Mini Golf.

TOWN OF CASTOR

Castor & District Museum - The museum traces the history and development of Castor and district from the earliest years of the 1900's. The main building was originally the town's CPR Station and across the road you can find an old school house and the original elevator.



ROUTE 12 EXPERIENCES YOU CAN'T MISS!

Route 12 offers a diverse range of attractions, outdoor adventures, historical sites, and cultural discoveries that will make your journey through central Alberta truly memorable!

THINGS TO DO ON A SUNNY DAY

Cruise the open highway by motorcycle, RV, or perhaps with an old school station wagon and enjoy prairie living! Filled with great spots to eat, camp, shop, and spend time soaking in the summer days.

📍 TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE & CLEARWATER COUNTY

Head outdoors! Explore the trails, paths, and parks in the town, and be sure to check out the Main Street Market where you can find all kinds of vendors to browse! Take advantage of the beautiful surroundings and enjoy activities like kayaking, canoeing, or paddle boarding on the nearby lakes.

📍 TOWN OF BENTLEY

Attend Bentley Days, discover the trail from the Town of Bentley to Gull Lake that you can walk or bike along, or catch the Bentley Farmers' Market.

📍 LACOMBE COUNTY

Experience Gull Lake, a popular destination for outdoor activities. Spend a day at the lake, go fishing, enjoy watersports, or relax on the sandy beaches.

📍 CITY OF LACOMBE

Discover Historic Downtown Lacombe: Take a stroll and admire the well preserved historic Edwardian architecture, browse local boutique shops, and visit the Lacombe Blacksmith Shop Museum, which offers a glimpse into the City of Lacombe's past. Don't miss experiencing Lacombe Days held in July.

📍 VILLAGE OF ALIX

Visit Alix Lake: Located in the Village of Alix, this tranquil spot is perfect for boating and picnicking. Enjoy the serene surroundings and immerse yourself in nature.

📍 VILLAGE OF CLIVE

Attend the Village of Clive FunFest, and enjoy the annual festivities of the day. Be sure to catch the parade!

📍 TOWN OF STETTLER

Attend the Stettler Steel Wheel Stampede, or take a ride on the Central Alberta Prairies Steam Train. You can also explore the town's museum!

📍 TOWN OF CASTOR

Mark your calendar for August and plan to stop by the four-day town wide Castor Fair! Head to the outdoor pool or take a picnic down to the Castor Creek for a day of boating, kayaking, canoeing or paddle boarding.



THINGS TO DO ON A CHILLY DAY

Bundle up and spend some time outdoors exploring the prairies in the Winter! When your adventures get chilly, head indoors for a taste of culinary delights mixed with great shopping spots.

📍 TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE & CLEARWATER COUNTY

Begin your journey in Rocky Mountain House by visiting the National Historic Site. Discover the fur trade era, explore the reconstructed trading post, and learn about the Indigenous history of the region.

📍 TOWN OF BENTLEY

Visit with the family during Bentley's Christmas with Santa event and enjoy the community as they celebrate together. Shop the local downtown and enjoy the small town vibes!

📍 LACOMBE COUNTY

Experience outdoor fun like Ice Fishing in a cozy hut on Gull Lake. Hunker down and enjoy some quality time together drinking cocoa and waiting for the next trout to bite.

📍 CITY OF LACOMBE

Venture to one of the City's pristine parks, travel on the miles of manicured trails and paths, and enjoy skating on Cranna Lake. Be a part of the Light up Lacombe festival, shop the Christmas market, and watch the Santa Claus parade and annual Tree Lighting. You can also do a local road trip to see all the community's holiday light displays.

📍 VILLAGE OF ALIX

Enjoy Christmas in the Village and be a part of the community festivities and celebrations. You can watch the parade, shop a market, and admire the lights!

📍 VILLAGE OF CLIVE

Mark your calendars for the annual FrostFest! It is a great family friendly event with a market, horse drawn wagon rides, and is complete with a FrostFest Light Parade.

📍 TOWN OF STETTLER

During the Winter months you can be a part of the Annual Main Street tree-light up or go out to participate in a ice fishing derby! The Big Jack Classic is held at Buffalo Lake.

📍 TOWN OF CASTOR

Come visit in February and catch Castor Winterfest where you can partake in the farmers market, ice sculptures, fireworks, a chili cookoff and more!

--- Antiquing & Thifting Trail ---

Take a trip along Route 12 and make sure to pack light! With numerous shops all the way along waiting to be visited, there's sure to be a thing or two that calls your name along the way!

Tips before you begin:

- Check the hours online or give a call to the location.
- Bringing cash along for a visit is always a great idea when in the rural locations!

Locations to add to your list:

- Castor Opportunity Shop | Town of Castor
- Halkirk Snack Shack | Hamlet of Halkirk
- Artsy Fartsy Emporium | Hamlet of Botha
- Superfluity Thrift Shop | Town of Stettler
- Erskine Antiques And Collectibles | Hamlet of Erskine
- Village of Alix
 - Alix Village Shoppe
 - Ye Olde Nook
- Mirror Market | Hamlet of Mirror
- Elite Treasure Chest | Village of Clive
- City of Lacombe:
 - And Everything Nice Antiques
 - Timeworn Charm
 - Building Blocks Thrift Store
 - Castaways
 - Juff-E-Nuff
- Merry's Mercantile | Town of Bentley
- Eckville Thrift Store | Town of Eckville



FARM STORE OPEN
YEAR ROUND
MON-SAT
9AM-5PM



LACOMBE
DAYS

July 11 - 13

Whether you want to help plan this amazing festival, volunteer to enhance one of the outstanding events, or simply join in the fun, there's a place for you! Scan the QR code or visit lacombedays.ca to find out how you can be a part of the show!

SCAN
ME



VILLAGE OF CLIVE

The Village of Clive is a picturesque community of approximately 775 residents and is maintaining steady growth. Located in Central Alberta just 15 minutes East of the City of Lacombe and only 30 minutes from the City of Red Deer. Clive has an active volunteer community and it sports an indoor and outdoor skating rink, library and community hall. Clive is an affordable and ideal spot for enjoying country living with quick access to all amenities.

LANDMARKS | POINTS OF INTEREST

Clive Centennial Park - 6 unserviced camping stalls and home of the Clive ball diamond.

Prairie Fire Bar & Cafe - stop in for a homestyle meal, a slice of pie, and a visit with friends.

Rooster's Roadhouse - A small town bar with hometown hospitality! Stop by to enjoy Wing Wednesdays and cook your own steak Fridays!!

Fahey's Fruit Stand & Garden Market - Fruit & produce stand, run seasonally from June - October. A variety of local produce & fruit as well as a selection of goods & products from local makers.

ACTIVITIES | EVENTS

- **Legacy Trail** - The 1.6 km self guided Legacy Walking Trails enhance the village offering a safe alternative for family recreation while learning about the history of Clive in an interactive manner. The Legacy Walking Trails feature historical bronze plaques placed at points of interest and at heritage sites. The trail system provides an open gallery of community murals and reflect on heritage family display beds and Veterans commemorative garden.

- Visit during the **village wide garage sale**.

- **Clive FunFest** - enjoy a market, parade, fireworks, and more with the community!

- **Clive FrostFest** - enjoy sleigh rides, community lights tour, bonfire, hotdogs, skating, bake sale, and more.



Village of Clive



Clive Hotel



Clive Fun Fest Parade



Clive Frost Fest



Village of Alix aerial



Alix Wagon Wheel Museum



Alix Wagon Wheel Museum exhibit

VILLAGE OF ALIX

The Village of Alix is located in the heart of Central Alberta's Parkland 45 km East of Hwy 2 on Hwy 12.

Small in size but big in lakeside living, we invite you to experience the natural surrounding the village has to offer. The village is nestled beside a beautiful lake that is surrounded by a 6.3 km nature trail full of wildlife. The Alix Lake Campground is also located on it's shores with 11 powered campsites, sand beach with playground, day use area, and nearby boat launch.

The Village of Alix also supports a thriving downtown, that is easy to walk through with boutique shops and antique shops waiting for you to explore.

LANDMARKS | POINTS OF INTEREST

Alix Lake & Campground - A hidden gem located on the South end of Alix. Spend all day boating, canoeing, swimming or soaking up the sun on our sandy beach area. The lake also has a day use area which provides a fire pit and a playground.

Alix Gator - find this iconic stature hidden near main street in the Village of Alix if you can!

Alix Wagon Wheel Museum - Alix is home to Irene Parlby, one of the Famous Five! The museum is open seasonally from May to August, but from September to April you can call and set up a visit to explore.

ACTIVITIES | EVENTS

- **Explore the outdoors:** Boating, canoeing or swimming in beautiful Alix Lake.

- **Walk, Hike, Cycle** the Alix Nature Trail - the beautiful lake is surrounded by a 6.3 kilometre trail. Whether it's a short stroll, or walking the full length you will be greeted with a variety of wildlife and breathtaking scenery.

- **Go antique hunting** in the the downtown businesses

- **Alix Day Parade & Rodeo**

- **Family Day Festivities**

- **Christmas in the Village:** market, toy run, Santa pictures, parade of lights, local shopping and more!



📍 TOWN OF STETTLER

From historic train rides to lively rodeos, scenic walking trails to vibrant music festivals, Stettler offers something for everyone. Whether you're seeking adventure or nostalgia, our welcoming town invites you to explore its rich history, diverse landscapes, and exciting events.

Step aboard an antique steam train and journey back in time with a thrilling old-fashioned train robbery. Explore the historic downtown, where boutique shops, cozy cafes, and farm-to-table restaurants invite you to savor local flavors.

No matter what brings you here, we look forward to making your visit unforgettable.

LANDMARKS | POINTS OF INTEREST

Town & County Museum - Step into the past at Alberta's fifth-largest pioneer village. This living history museum showcases a fascinating collection of artifacts and historic buildings that tell the story of Stettler's heritage.

West Stettler Park - A hub for outdoor fun, this scenic park features fishing spots, walking paths, the Rotary Spray Park, sports fields, and summer entertainment. It's also home to the legendary "Mount Stettler" and a favorite destination for families and nature lovers alike.

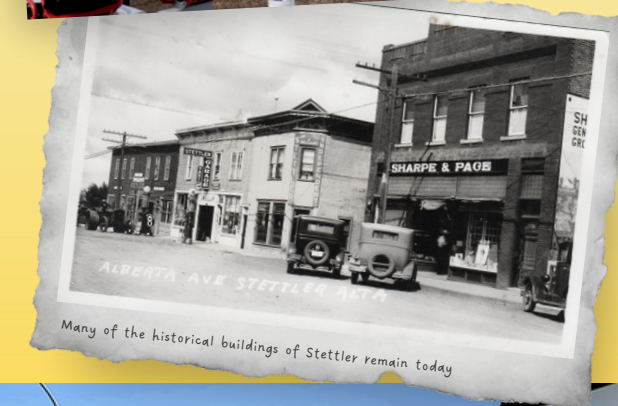
Stettler Recreation Centre - Whether you're skating on one of two ice rinks, swimming in the pool, or exploring the library, this multi-purpose facility is packed with activities for all ages. With a senior centre, fitness centre, and concessions, it's the perfect place for a fun-filled day.

ACTIVITIES | EVENTS

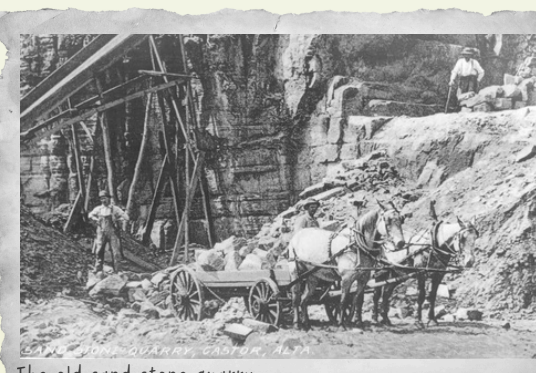
- **Downtown Historical Walking Tour** – Discover Stettler's storied past as you stroll through its charming downtown.
- **Alberta Prairie Steam Tours** – Experience a bygone era with a thrilling ride on a vintage steam train.
- **Music in the Park** – Enjoy live performances in a beautiful outdoor setting.
- **Canada Day Celebrations** – Join the festivities with fireworks, entertainment, and family-friendly fun.
- **StettlerFest** – A lively celebration of local culture, music, and community spirit!
- **Annual Main Street Tree-Light Up** – Kick off the holiday season with a magical evening of lights and cheer.
- **Big Jack Classic** – Test your luck and skills at this exciting ice fishing derby at Buffalo Lake.



Plan your visit and experience the best of Stettler—where history, adventure, and community spirit come together.



Many of the historical buildings of Stettler remain today



Walk along the paths and trails of the town, and visit Pal's Park with the kids! Beautiful in all season.



Castor & District Museum

📍 TOWN OF CASTOR

Castor's natural beauty, which includes sandstone cliffs, rolling terrain and natural prairie grasslands, makes it a scenic and diverse area. The town's tree lined streets and natural ponds surrounded by paved paths make it a picturesque site. We welcome you to visit our town whenever you are in the area and appreciate what we have.

The beautiful Town of Castor will leave you feeling welcomed whether you are only stopping in for a visit or a more extended stay. With a strong family value presence, Castor is sure to fulfill your daily needs while supplying you with a sense of home. Our community is an oasis on the prairies.

LANDMARKS | POINTS OF INTEREST

Castor Creek - The beautiful Castor Creek stretches the length of the North side of town. Access to the creek for boating, kayaking, paddle boarding and much more can be found at the bottom of 54th Avenue on the Beach Road.

Castor & District Museum - The museum traces the history and development of Castor and district from the earliest years of the 1900's. The main building was originally the town's CPR Station and across the road you can find an old school house and the original elevator.

Fish Pond: Located on the South side of Hwy 12 just before you enter the Town of Castor. The pond is stocked each year with trout.

ACTIVITIES | EVENTS

- **Castor Golf Club**
- **Castor Recreation Area & Campground** (403) 882-3225
- **Castor Lions Campground** (403) 882-3225
- Mark your calendar for August and plan to stop by the four day town wide **Castor Fair!**
- **Castor Winterfest** - Castor Winterfest – This event features fireworks, ice sculptures, a chili cookoff, winter squash competitions, a farmers market at the community hall and even sleigh rides.

