TRACKING

ALBERTA'S DINOSAURS

Alberta Badlands

Model of *Struthiomimus,* a type of bird-mimic dinosaur, found outside of the Royal Tyrrell Museum.

Dinosaur Provincial Park Interpreter describes the badlands

The age of discovery continues at Dinosaur Provincial Park

Aerial view of the Royal Tyrrell Museum

Tracking dinosaurs at Dinosaur Provincial Park.

LOGO and contact info here?

Are you a dinosaur tracker? Find out where the fossils are!

TRACKING ALBERTA'S DINOSAURS

Hadean | Archean | Proterozoic | Cambrian | Ordovician | Silurian | Devonian | Carboniferous | Permian | Triassic | Jurassic | Cretaceous | Tertiary | Quaternary

Pre-Cambrian | Palaeozoic | Mesozoic | Cenozoic

The age of dinosaurs began 225 million years ago at the beginning of the Triassic Period, lasting until 65 million years ago at the end of the Cretaceous Period. Alberta is particularly rich in fossil history, with specimens exposed in its deeply incised river valleys and badlands. Significant fossil finds have occurred in many regions around Alberta—and the search goes on today. Are you a dinosaur tracker? Find out where the fossils are!

DRUMHELLER & ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM OF PALAEONTOLOGY

www.tyrrellmuseum.com or 403.823.7707

Surrounded by the fossil-rich badlands of the Drumheller Valley, the Royal Tyrrell Museum is one of the premier palaeontology museums in the world, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. The museum was named after Joseph Tyrrell, who found the first dinosaur fossils in the Red Deer River valley near Drumheller in 1884. It is Canada's only museum devoted entirely to palaeontology.

- *Watch as museum staff prepares actual fossil specimens for research and display.*
- *Dinosaur Hall is one of the most popular attractions, featuring almost 40 mounted dinosaur skeletons.*
- *Stroll through the Cretaceous Garden, a living exhibit of plants that dinosaurs used to live amongst and eat, millions of years ago.*

WATERTON/CROWSNEST PASS REGION

Older than Dinosaurs! The Waterton Park area contains the Siyeh rock formation from the Pre-Cambrian era, over 1 billion years before dinosaurs came into being.

Dinosaur trackers may be interested to learn that "Black Beauty," the most nearly complete skeleton of *Tyrannosaurus Rex* known from Canada, was found near Lundbreck Falls in the Crowsnest Pass. Black Beauty can be viewed at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta.

GRANDE CACHE

www.grandecache.ca or 780.827.3300

Sometimes even when a fossil is not available, "trackways" can reveal what the lives of dinosaurs were really like. These footprints, preserved in the rock, can show whether a dinosaur walked upright or on all fours, the length of its stride, whether it was walking or running, whether it travelled alone or in herds, and more. Coal Mining in the Grande Cache area has exposed numerous bird and dinosaur trackways . Stop in the Grande Cache Visitor Information Centre to learn more about the "trackways."

GRANDE PRAIRIE

www.grandeprairiemuseum.org or 780.532.5482

The Pipestone Creek fossil site, just 40 km southwest of Grande Prairie, is approximately 73 million years old and contains thousands of bones of *Pachyrhinosaurus* ("Thick-nosed dinosaur"). In the same region, at Kleskun Hill Park many fossils have been found at the aptly named "Dinosaur Hill." Well-preserved dinosaur tracks have also been discovered in the scenic Peace River Valley, north of Grande Prairie. A display at the Grande Prairie Museum Heritage Discovery Centre highlights the *Pachyrhinosaurus* find.

DEVIL'S COULEE

403.642.2118

In 1987, a local teenager made the find of a lifetime near the Milk River: the eggs, nests and embryonic remains of duck-billed dinosaurs (which may be *Hypacrosaurus stebingeri*). Visit the Devil's Coulee Dinosaur Heritage Museum to view dinosaur remains, First Nations artifacts, and more recent history.

MEDICINE HAT AND REGION

www.cypresshills.com or 403.892.3777

The Medicine Hat region is well known for providing a remarkable perspective on Ice Age flora and fauna. Millions of years of sedimentary buildup and erosion created the Cypress uplands, unique "islands" in the Prairies that are the highest elevation between the Rocky Mountains and Labrador. Explore the South Saskatchewan River Valley in Medicine Hat to experience a badlands landscape or journey to Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park just 65 km south of Medicine Hat to witness firsthand these unique "islands" in the middle of the Prairies.

DINOSAUR PROVINCIAL PARK

www.cd.gov.ab.ca.ca/parks/dinosaur or 403.378.3700

Visiting the Park for the first time is like entering a mysterious world. One minute you're on the prairies, and the next you drop down into a spectacular badlands setting, surrounded by hoodoos, pinnacles and other bizarre landforms carved from rock layers deposited in an ancient lush, subtropical ecosystem. Over 40 species and almost 500 intact dinosaur skeletons have been uncovered in the 78-75 million year old rock layers. The Park has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Also located here is a visitor centre, the Field Station of the Royal Tyrrell Museum, where park interpreters offer tours of the bonebeds. For dinosaur fans, it is a must-see.

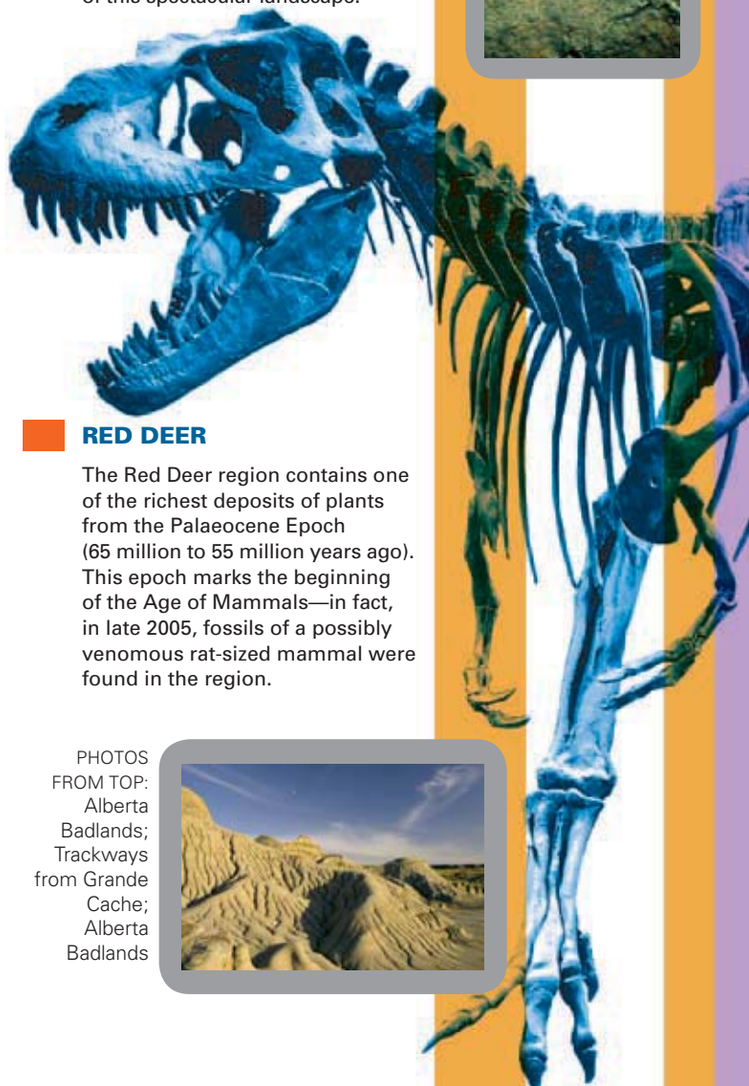
EDMONTON

www.royalalbertamuseum.ca or 780.453.9100

The Edmonton River Valley, though largely unexplored, has yielded some fossilized remains, including the duck-billed *Edmontosaurus*. Visit the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton to view a remarkable collection of fossils and other intriguing exhibits.

DRY ISLAND BUFFALO JUMP PROVINCIAL PARK

Significant finds in these badlands include a Triceratops and an *Albertosaurus* bonebed. It is also home to some of the youngest dinosaur fossils found on earth, from the end of the Cretaceous Period, or just before dinosaurs became extinct. First Nations peoples chased buffalo over the cliffs of Dry Island, harvesting the meat, hides and bones at the bottom. Interpretive signage at this day-use park reveals the history of this spectacular landscape.



RED DEER

The Red Deer region contains one of the richest deposits of plants from the Palaeocene Epoch (65 million to 55 million years ago). This epoch marks the beginning of the Age of Mammals—in fact, in late 2005, fossils of a possibly venomous rat-sized mammal were found in the region.

PHOTOS FROM TOP: Alberta Badlands; Trackways from Grande Cache; Alberta Badlands