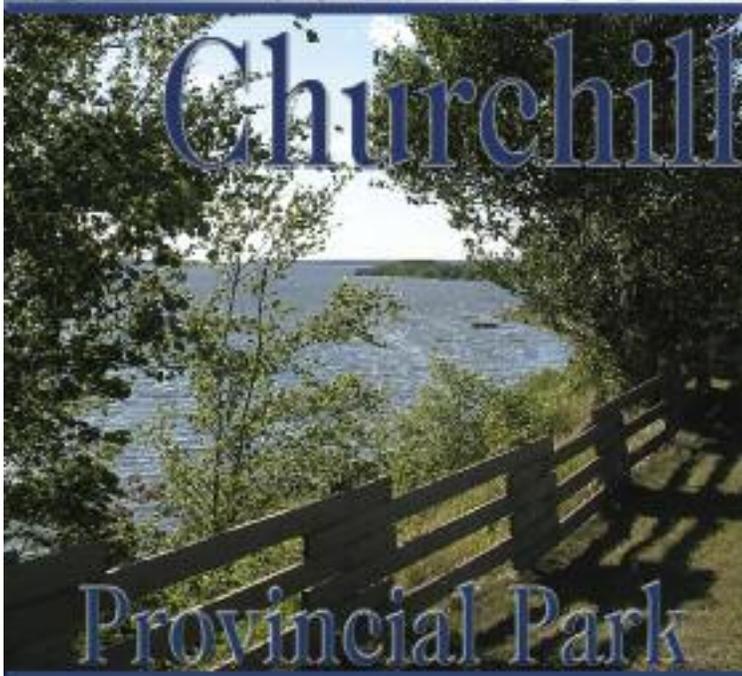


Welcome to

Sir Winston Churchill



Beautiful Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park, Alberta's only island park, is located on Big Island in the east basin of Lac La Biche. It is accessible via a 2.5 kilometre-long causeway and is just 11 kilometres northeast of the Town of Lac La Biche.

The park's campground is nestled among old-growth mixedwood forests; its campsites are very private and are surrounded by lush green foliage. Lac La Biche provides park visitors with a wide range of water-based outdoor recreation opportunities. The park is a great family getaway destination and is renowned for bird watching.



... Alberta's unique island park

Points of Interest

Lac La Biche Mission National Historic Site is located on the south shore of Lac La Biche. The mission was established in the 1850s by the Oblate



1887 Lac La Biche Mission Buildings

Missionaries and was home to Alberta's first printing press, commercial wheat crop, and sawmill. For information on opening dates and interpretive programs, call 780-623-3274.

Lakeland Provincial Park offers Alberta's only true canoe circuit, traversing four lakes in the heart of the park. Lakeland Provincial Park is located approximately 20 kilometres east of the Town of Lac La Biche. For information, call 780-623-5235; to view a downloadable map, visit the "online publications" page on our web site at www.albertaparks.ca.

David Thompson explored and mapped northern Canada during the bustling fur trade of the 18th century. In recognition of his passage through the area and establishment on the first fur trading post on the shores of Lac La Biche, the town erected a statue of Thompson and his travel companions during its bicentennial celebration. The statue is located on Churchill Drive in the Town of Lac La Biche.

The Lac La Biche Golf & Country Club is an 18-hole public golf course located just 1 kilometre from the park entrance (at the start of the causeway). The course features grass greens, challenging fairways and breathtaking lake views. For more information and to book tee times, call 780-623-4288.

For additional information about local points of interest and events, visit the Lac La Biche Regional Community Development Corporation web site at www.LacLaBicheRegion.com, or call 780-623-2662.

Park Activities

Birding

With Lac La Biche being designated an Important Bird Area because of its large populations of red-necked grebes and California gulls, it's easy to see why Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park offers some amazing birding opportunities. At least 224 of the approximately 330 bird species in Alberta have been observed in the park.

Some of the most sought-after species include Blackburnian, Cape May, black-throated green and bay-breasted warblers; white-winged crossbills; Swainson's and hermit thrushes; sharp-tailed, Le Conte's and swamp sparrows; osprey; bald eagles; northern saw-whet, barred, great grey, boreal and great horned owls; and olive-sided flycatchers.

A bird viewing scope was installed in 2002 to enable park visitors to observe American white pelicans, double crested cormorants and Franklin's gulls on Pelican Island, a rocky outcropping just north of the park.

Wildlife Viewing

On your travels through the park, you'll most likely see snowshoe hares, red squirrels, Richardson's ground squirrels (a cousin of the Franklin's ground squirrel) and white-tailed deer. Along the causeway you'll find the ever-industrious beaver and muskrats. You may be lucky enough to spot a red fox, coyote, moose, or even the occasional bear and, if you look closely (downward), you'll spot the voles, mice and moles that frequent the forest floor. If you look up, you may spot hoary, big brown and other bat species feeding on insects.



Fishing

The Lac La Biche fishery has been a significant feature of the lake and community for well over a century. Since the 1890s the lake has been fished commercially. Whitefish and other species have been exported from Lac La Biche across Canada and the United States and have also been used to supply food to mink farms.

In 2005 Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Fish & Wildlife Division began a comprehensive fisheries management rehabilitation program that has affected angling limits on Lac La Biche. Please consult your “*Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations*” prior to fishing on the lake.

Water-based Recreation

With three large white sand beaches in the park and an abundance of islands within the east basin of Lac La Biche, you’ll find lots to explore. The waters around the park are ideal for swimming, sailing, power boating, water skiing, canoeing and kayaking. With larger boats, it’s a good idea to leave lots of room when rounding the numerous points around the islands - there are a number of sand bars - not so good for boats but great for swimmers who want to wade out into the lake a hundred paces or so. For those who want to explore the waters of Lac la Biche, it’s a good idea to have either a hydrograph of the lake or a depth finder on your boat.

Bear Awareness

Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park is located in bear country, so visitors are advised to take necessary precautions such as securing food and properly disposing of garbage. For information about bear safety, consult a park conservation officer or pick up a copy of our bear safety brochure. There’s also bear safety information on the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development web site at srd.alberta.ca.





Sir Winston Churchill Campground

Camping

Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park has a 72-unit campground; more than one third of the campsites are equipped with power hook-ups. There is one wheelchair-accessible campsite located near the shower building. In addition to showers, the park's campground is equipped with an amphitheatre, boat launch, fire pits, flush toilets, a pay phone, playgrounds, a sewage disposal station, a picnic shelter and a store. The park also contains a group use area (available by reservation only - call 780-623-4144).



Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park

Trails

There are numerous hiking trails in the park. The main trails are the 2.5-kilometre Long Point Trail, which takes you to the westernmost tip of the island. Long Point Trail traverses all of the various vegetation types found on the island and provides unparalleled views of Lac La Biche and access to a small remote beach that's perfect if you're looking for some "alone time".

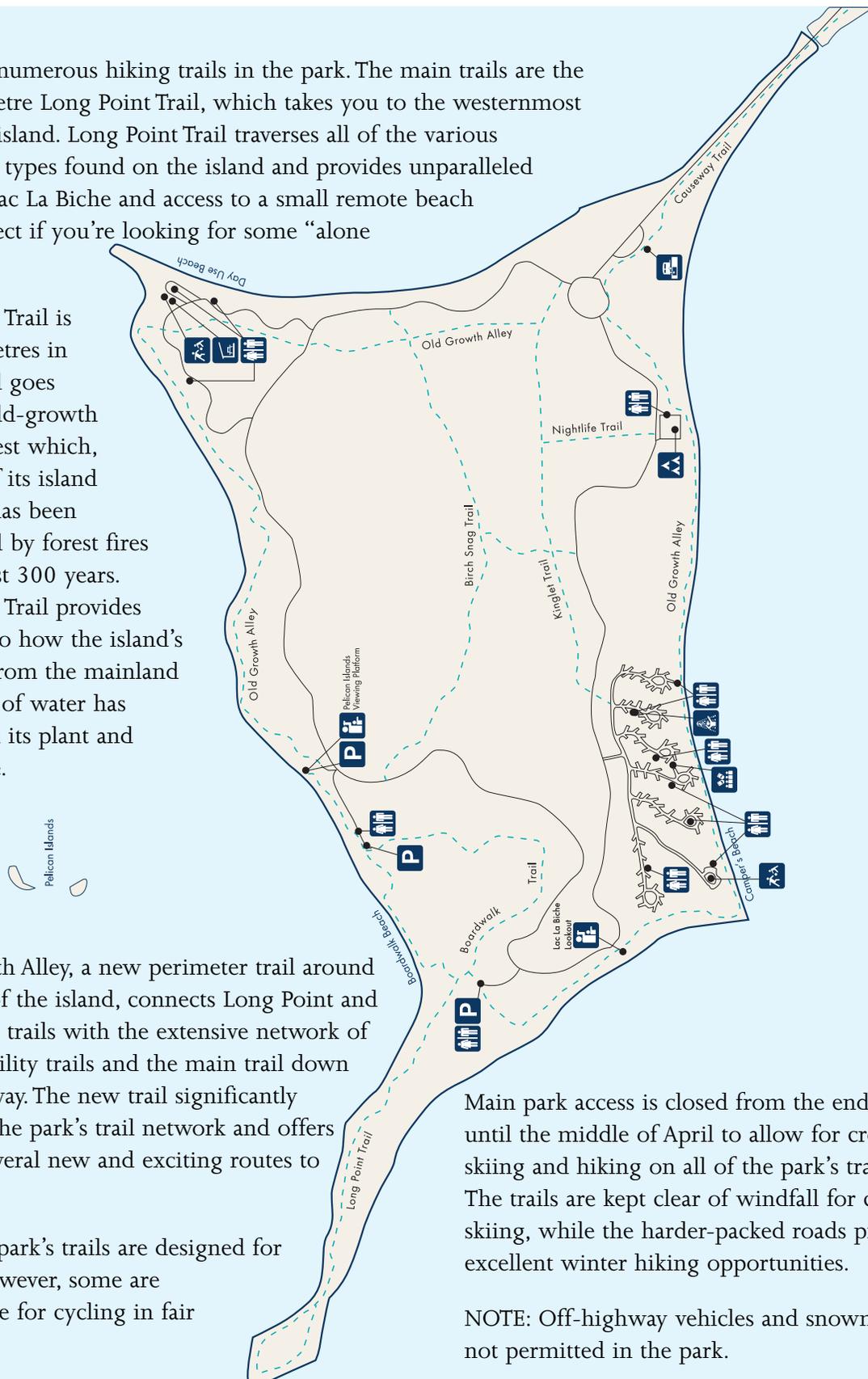
Boardwalk Trail is 1.2 kilometres in length and goes through old-growth boreal forest which, because of its island location, has been untouched by forest fires for the past 300 years. Boardwalk Trail provides insight into how the island's isolation from the mainland by a body of water has influenced its plant and animal life.

Old Growth Alley, a new perimeter trail around the edge of the island, connects Long Point and Boardwalk trails with the extensive network of interior utility trails and the main trail down the causeway. The new trail significantly increases the park's trail network and offers visitors several new and exciting routes to explore.

All of the park's trails are designed for hiking; however, some are appropriate for cycling in fair weather.

Main park access is closed from the end of October until the middle of April to allow for cross-country skiing and hiking on all of the park's trails and roads. The trails are kept clear of windfall for cross-country skiing, while the harder-packed roads provide excellent winter hiking opportunities.

NOTE: Off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles are not permitted in the park.



Campground Symbols

	Amphitheatre		Playground
	Boat Launch		Registration
	Camping		Sewage Dump
	Change House		Shower
	Garbage		Swimming
	Gift Shop		Telephone
	Group Camping		Viewpoint
	Hiking Trailhead		Washrooms
	Park Office		Water
	Parking		Walking Trail
	Picnic Shelter		

For More Information

For camping information and to make campsite or group use reservations, call 780-623-4144. For general information about the park or other provincial protected areas in the Lac La Biche region, call 780-623-5235. Our mailing address is:

Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture
Parks & Protected Areas, Lakeland District Office
2nd floor Provincial Building
9503 Beaverhill Road, P.O. Box 1019
Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0

For police, ambulance and fire department emergency assistance, please call 911. For park complaints, safety issues, problem wildlife and other concerns, please call 780-623-5235.

For information about other provincial parks and protected areas in Alberta, call 780-427-3582 (toll-free 1-866-427-3582), or visit our web site at www.albertaparks.ca.

Where Are We

