

Just 2½ hours north of Edmonton, Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park is located in a beautiful boreal forest along the eastern shore of Lesser Slave Lake. The lake is more than 100 kilometres in length and is the largest auto-accessible lake in Alberta.

The Park Story

Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park protects three provincially significant landscape features:

- natural white sand beaches, among the finest recreational beaches in the province
- a sand dune complex and major beach ridge that are more than 1500 years old; and
- the easternmost example of the Foothills Natural Region in Alberta.

The park straddles the margin between eastern and western forest species. Old growth forests of balsam fir mingle with stands of lodgepole pine. Heart-leaved arnica, a wildflower typical of the Rocky Mountains, is found on Marten Mountain, which rises 450 metres above the lake.

The park is very popular for birdwatching and is a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA). Large numbers of migrating tundra swans stop to feed on the lake and the reeds around the lake provide nesting habitat for a globally important western grebe population.

There is an incredible concentration and diversity of migrant songbirds; the park's bird checklist is at 254 species and counting! Birders can spot eastern species like Cape May and Canada warblers, and forest birds such as the

Lincoln's sparrow, rose-breasted grosbeak, American redstart and least flycatcher.

All the large predators of the boreal forest inhabit the area. Bald eagles and black bears are common sights in the park, while grey wolves, grizzly bears, cougars and lynx are occasionally seen.

Summer Fun

Park visitors can take long, barefoot walks on the natural sands of Devonshire Beach or explore the many park trails that are well-suited to walking, biking, hiking, wildlife viewing and a quiet retreat. At Lesser Slave Lake Provincial



Park you will enjoy an incredible landscape of forests, beaches, dunes, marshes and wetlands.

Winter Fun

In winter, cross-country ski trails and snowshoe trails lead to a magical world of snow and brilliant blue skies. Snowshoes are available at the visitor centre and an insulated shelter provides a place for winter enthusiasts to warm up.

Winter is the best season to observe animal tracks in the park - an exciting detective adventure for the whole family.

Book a weekend in The Nest, where ski trails come right to your door.

Interpretive Activities

Interpretive programs are presented year round, with weekly programming during summer months. Guided hikes, entertaining amphitheatre performances and informative presentations led by park staff bring to life the fascinating natural and cultural history of the boreal forest and Alberta's North.

Services & Accommodations

The nearby town of Slave Lake offers all services including laundromats, hardware and sporting goods stores, grocery stores, gas and propane sales, auto repair shops, pharmacies, the Northern Lakes Aquatic Centre and a tourist information centre.

The northern boreal forest provides a gorgeous backdrop for accommodations at The Nest—a

boreal hostel—located in the park at the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation. The town of Slave Lake and surrounding area provide for every taste and budget, including bed and breakfast establishments, lakeside cabins, hotels and motels.

Birding

Every spring, billions of gem-like songbirds and waterfowl migrate to Canada's boreal forest. The dawn chorus of singing birds in the spring is a symphony of melodies and a feast to the ears. Birders will not want to miss the annual Songbird Festival, held the first weekend in June, to hear and see up to 23 of Canada's 28



warbler species. The park protects diverse bird habitats including lakeshore, old growth forest, wetlands and mixedwood forest. There are a number of owl species to be found including the great grey owl, the northern hawk owl, the barred owl and a fall migration of northern saw-whet owl. As well, there have been rare sightings of the pygmy owl, the black guillemot and lazuli bunting.

Important long-term research is conducted in the park by the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory Society at Alberta's northern-most migration monitoring station. The observatory is a vital link in the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. Visit the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory online at www.lslbo.org.

Visitors can learn more about the work of the observatory and boreal birds at the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation, located near the middle of the park.

Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation

The Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation is a world-class research and education facility that is open to the public. The centre offers many exciting programs and features an interpretive exhibit gallery as well as park and regional tourism information services.

As a research centre, the facility boasts a laboratory, a resource library, and accommodations for visiting researchers, educators, long-term volunteers and post-secondary students doing field work.

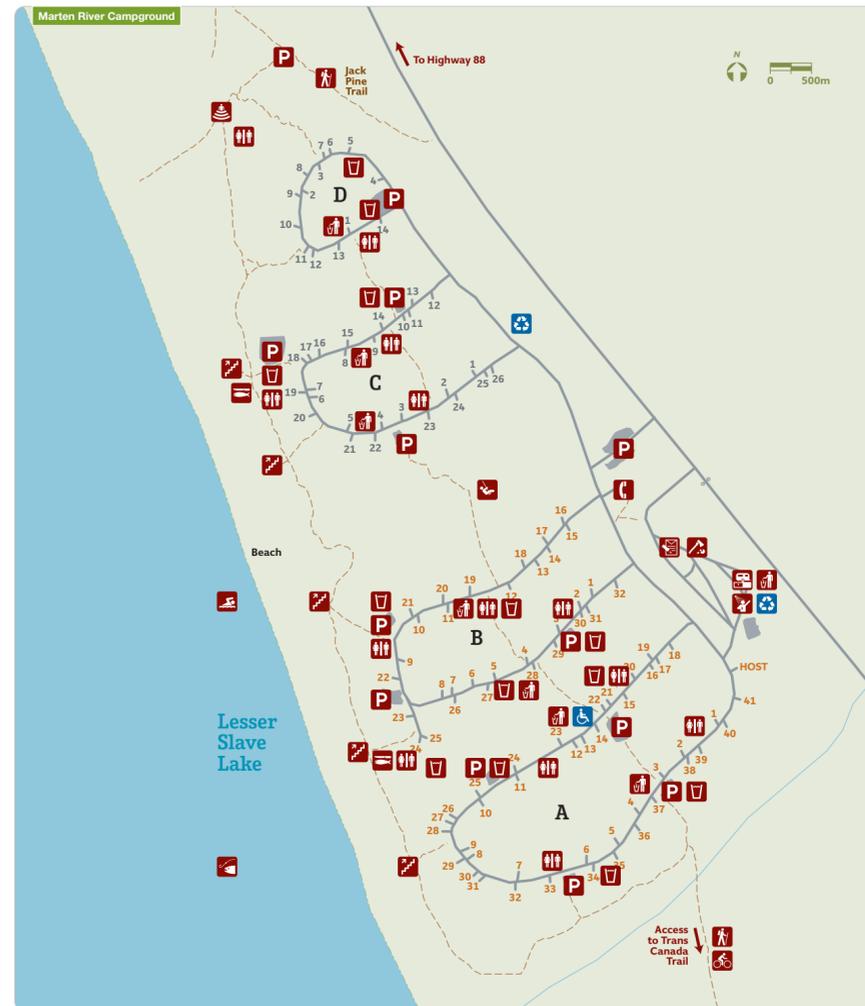
Visit the boreal centre's web site at www.borealbirdcentre.ca.

Boating & Fishing

Lesser Slave Lake offers world-class fishing for walleye and northern pike. In total, sixteen species of fish inhabit the lake, from the fathead minnow to the eagerly-sought-after walleye. Boat launches and boat rentals are available on the Lesser Slave River just north of the town of Slave Lake, off Highway 88.

Exploring the Region

There are two other provincial parks nearby. Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park, located on the western shore of Lesser Slave Lake, is known for its world-class walleye and pike fishing and provides a free boat launch and fish cleaning facilities. Winagami Lake Provincial Park, located northwest of Lesser Slave Lake near High Prairie, offers a peaceful camping experience in a tall aspen forest and is a birders paradise with more than 260 species of waterfowl and songbirds.



Marten River Campground

Marten River Campground, located at the north end of the park, has power and non-power campsites, hot showers, flush toilets and a sewage disposal station. The campground's native trees and shrubs provide lots of privacy. Campsite reservations are online at Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca or by phone at 1-877-537-2757.

Lily Creek & Marten River Group Use Areas

These beautiful group use areas are ideal for family reunions and other special events; available by reservation only. Call (780) 849-7100.

Be Bear Smart

Remember, when you're exploring Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park, you are in bear country. Both black and grizzly bears can be found in the park. For information about bear safety during camping and hiking trips, consult a park conservation officer or pick up a copy of our bear safety brochure "Alberta Parks BearSmart" at the permit booth or Boreal Centre.

Contact

Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park
Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation
P.O. Box 730, Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A0
Phone: (780) 849-7100
Fax: (780) 849-8239

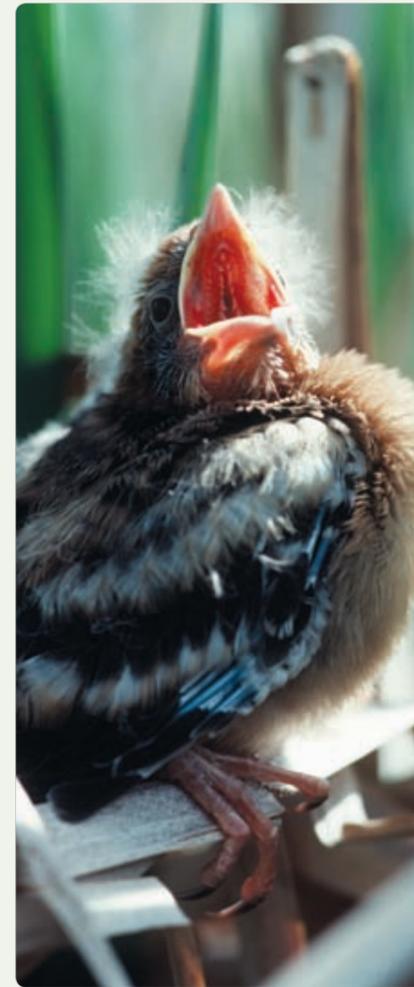
The Nest Boreal Hostel
Phone: 1-866-718-BIRD (2473)
Email: info@borealbirdcentre.ca

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Parks & Protected Areas Division
2nd Floor, 9820-106 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 2J6
Web: albertaparks.ca
Phone: (780) 427-3582
Toll Free: 1-866-427-3582

Reservations
Web: reserve.albertaparks.ca
Toll Free: 1-877-537-2757

Lesser Slave Lake Regional Tourism
P.O. Box 1606, 100 Poplar Lane
Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A0
Web: lesserslavelake.ca
Toll Free: 1-800-267-4654





Points of Interest

Marten Mountain Viewpoint

Marten Mountain Viewpoint overlooks a striking panorama of Lesser Slave Lake. The summit is 938 metres above sea level and is the highest point of land for hundreds of square kilometres. The extreme elevation quite different from that of the rest of the park. Plant species typically observed only in the Foothills Natural Region are found on the mountain, including lodgepole pine, devil's club and running raspberry.

Devonshire Beach

Devonshire Beach is found at the south end of Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. This 1.5 kilometre stretch of natural and groomed sandy beach is a great place to spend an afternoon swimming, loafing and watching the waves come in. Part of a 1500-year-old sand dune complex, Devonshire Beach is a unique

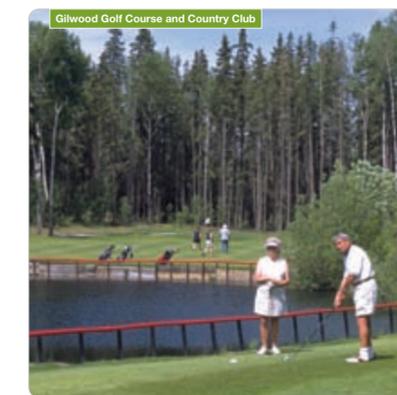


environment in the province of Alberta. The beach is important habitat for rare plants such as the sitka willow, which is adapted specifically for this sandy lakeshore environment.



Gilwood Golf Course and Country Club

This 18-hole golf course and driving range is located in the park. Onsite, you will find a challenging and well maintained course with a



club house and a pro shop. The Gilwood Golf Course and Country Club can be reached at (780) 849-4389.

Park Trails

Trans Canada Trail

This 23 kilometre trail follows the shoreline of Lesser Slave Lake and can be accessed from Devonshire Beach, North Shore Day Use Area, the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation and Marten River Campground. The trail gives visitors fantastic views of the lake and surrounding boreal forest. Excellent wildlife

viewing opportunities abound on this portion of Canada's longest continuous recreational trail.

Lily Lake Trail

This trail offers visitors breathtaking views of the park's backcountry. Accessible from Marten Mountain Viewpoint, the trail descends 2.8 km to beautiful Lily Lake, which is stocked with eastern brook trout.

Walk Through Time Trail

The trail leads you through a magnificent old growth forest. The trail is 500 metres in length and can be accessed 300 metres down the Lily Lake Trail.

Jack Pine Trail

This 1.75 kilometre trail is ideal for family bike rides. It is an easy gravel trail that runs from Marten River Campground to Marten River Group Use Area.

Whispering Sands Trail

This 1.5 kilometre trail is actually a small section of the Trans Canada Trail. Accessible from Devonshire Beach parking lot, it takes you through the park's provincially significant 1500-year-old dune complex.

Songbird Trail

This 600 metre loop trail is located next to the Boreal Centre and meanders through a towering aspen poplar forest. Self-guiding interpretive signs introduce the secret lives of birds of the boreal forest. Benches on this trail are a great place to stop, watch, and listen for birds.