

## Waterton Tour

Waterton Lakes National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, an International Peace Park, and a Biosphere Reserve! The only park in the world that has these three designations!

8:30 - Leave from designated pick-up point.

9:30 – Stop for pit stop at Fort McLeod - In 1982, Fort Macleod’s Main Street was designated as one of only two Designated Historical Areas in the province of Alberta. Most of the structures were originally built of wood, but after a fire razed most of the buildings, a bylaw was put in to restrict all buildings to be constructed of stone or brick. As a result, these buildings still remain today showing our proud heritage. Some buildings date back to 1878 and architecture from 1910-1920 is prevalent. Fort Macleod was founded in 1874 with the arrival of the North West Mounted Police, led by Colonel James F. Macleod. The NWMP force had been formed to protect Canadian sovereignty in the West. This interest was being threatened by the disruptive and unlawful practices of American whiskey traders who were trading deadly “firewater” for buffalo robes, wolf skins, and other items of value. The arrival of the NWMP put an end to the illicit trade in the Blackfoot, Blood, and Peigan Indian territory. Moreover, they established an official federal presence in the North West Territories of Canada, which were being eyed by the United States for possible annexation, and effectively opened the Canadian West to settlers. Fort Macleod was the first permanent police post in the British North-West.

10:30 11:00 – Arrive in the park area of Waterton – The first stop and stretch will be the Buffalo Paddock. Here Bison (buffalo) roam free.

Located just inside the park boundary, off Highway 6 is the Bison Paddock Loop Road. Roam with the herd from the safety of your car. During spring, summer and fall, direct descendants from the original herd of Great Plains bison live and graze in their natural habitat.

Waterton is a quiet National Park. This is the perfect place to view spectacular scenery, wildlife and enjoy outstanding recreational opportunities. Discover nature at its best all year round. A gem tucked into the southwestern corner of the province of Alberta, Canada. In this breathtaking part of the world, the majestic Rocky Mountains rise suddenly out of the rolling prairies. Amid the peaks are the lakes of Waterton Lakes National Park, carved out of the rock by ancient glaciers.

11:30 – 12:00 – Arrive in Waterton Townsite for lunch and have a break at the Prince of Wales.

1:00 – Head out on the Akamina Trail – The tour includes Discovery Well, Oil City, Crandell Lake Trail, Lineham Creek Trail, Rowe Lakes Trail, Akamina Pass Trail, Cameron Lake. The Akamina Parkway in Waterton

Lakes National Park (a.k.a. Cameron Lake Road), is a gorgeous 9.4 mile drive through an amazing canyon that ends at the incredibly scenic Cameron Lake.

**Discovery Well** National Historical Site (mile 5.5)

Drilled in 1902, the Discovery Well National Historic Site is where the first producing oil well in Western Canada was discovered. John Lineham is given credit for drilling this historic well, and he struck oil 1,020

feet below the surface of the ground. The well was producing 300 barrels per day, but due to equipment

failure and a dramatic drop in oil production just prior to the failure, this well was abandoned and further

explorations yielded nothing useful, and when oil was discovered in the Turner Valley Field in 1914, the search for oil in the Waterton Lakes National Park area ended.

Oil City (mile 5.6)

The only remains of a small town that was anticipating an oil boom in the Cameron Valley is the foundation of a hotel that was never built. There is a plaque that commemorates this small boom town that went bust.

3:30 – 4:00 – Spend time walking and stretching in downtown Waterton sightseeing the shops.

4:30- 4:45– Meet at designated pick-up

Head count to begin trip back to Calgary

5:30 – Arrive in Calgary at designated spot