

Canadian Badlands Trail

Calgary to Drumheller

You're on your way to Drumheller, which is known as the world's dinosaur city. You'll have plenty of time to explore Alberta's badlands, which are just an hour and a half away from Calgary. See if you can catch a musical at the acclaimed Rosebud Theatre in the small town of Rosebud, near Drumheller, depending on the time of year. Alternatively, take advantage of the area's many walking and hiking trails.

Driving Distance – 216 KM

Drumheller to Medicine Hat

Drive west from Drumheller along the Red Deer River Valley to reach the Dinosaur Trail. After that, the road climbs steeply out of the valley and onto the prairie benchland. Then proceed to Horseshoe Canyon Lookout for stunning views of the Badlands and the canyons' multicoloured walls. The path continues along the valley's crest to Orkney Hill Lookout, where you can get a better view of the Badlands and the lush valley floor below.

Return to Highway 1 and proceed eastward. Visit Medicine Hat, where tourists flock to see the world's tallest teepee, bask in the endless skies of Medicine Hat, or tour the Medicine Hat Clay Industries National Historic Site and the Medicine Hat Clay Industries Museum and the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site. The Gas City Campground, run by the City of Medicine Hat, is the most convenient campground for an overnight stay in this city.

Driving Distance – 247 KM

Medicine Hat to Lethbridge

Continue southwest on Highway 887 to Seven Persons, where you can take a side trip to Red Rock Coulee, a stunning piece of prairie landscape with spheroid rock formations. These are Alberta's best examples of these structures, with some reaching up to 2.5 metres in diameter. The buildings from the early 1900s boom in Lethbridge, including the town's first public library, bear witness to Canadian and Albertan history. In 2019, the population of Lethbridge surpassed 100,000, displacing Red Deer as Alberta's third largest city. The Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden, which symbolises friendship between Canada and Japan, is one of the top attractions here. Visitors may participate in tea ceremonies or simply walk the paths to get a taste of authentic Japanese-Alberta culture.

Driving Distance – 166 KM

Lethbridge to Calgary

Today, take your time returning to Calgary, maybe via Highway 2 and a stop in Nanton. Nanton is a charming little town known for its antiques and memorabilia. Alternatively, drive west on Highway 3 until it intersects with Highway 22 and then take the Cowboy Trail back to Calgary.



If you want to go on to the Rockies after finishing this trip, take the Trans Canada Highway west. If you're heading back to Calgary, we suggest the Calgary West Campground, which is near to Canada Olympic Park.

Driving Distance - 216 KM