

## Trails Northeast of Edmonton

The **Lac La Biche** area ([www.lakelakeland.com](http://www.lakelakeland.com)) has 150 lakes and more than 250 km of trails. Within the town of Lac La Biche, a walking and cycling trail follows the lakeshore to a statue commemorating mapmaker David Thompson, who established a nearby fur trade post in 1798.

This trail also leads north of town to **Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park**, Alberta's only island provincial park, with two well-marked walking trails winding through old-growth forest, skirting white sand beaches and leading to spectacular bird-watching viewpoints. Not far away, the **Lac La Biche Mission** celebrates the area's rich history.

East of town, **Lakeland Provincial Park** offers both motorized and non-motorized trails, plus the province's only backcountry canoe circuit, linking several lakes via short portages. Within the park's mixed wood boreal forest, walking trails lead to glacial lakes with sandy beaches and fine bird and animal watching. A highlight is the historic Mosquito Lake Trail (now called Shaw Lake Trail), long used by Aboriginals, explorers and fur traders. It is now popular among hikers and cross-country skiers, the latter enjoying novice to expert groomed trails and a warm-up cabin with a cookhouse.



## Trails Along Highway 16 (west to east)

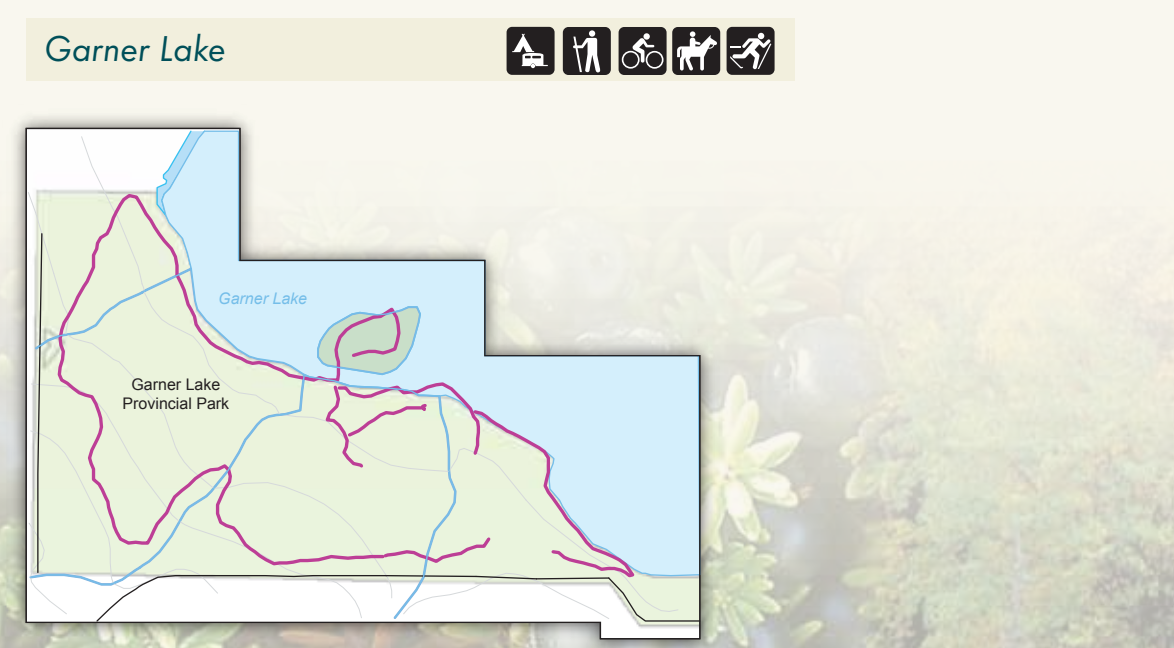
Further east of Innisfree, **Vermilion** ([www.vermilion.ca](http://www.vermilion.ca)) has community trails along the Vermilion River as well as walking tours through its historic downtown. On the western outskirts of town, **Vermilion Provincial Park** features 23 km of trails through aspen parkland and along the river, offering excellent bird watching. The challenging cross-country ski trails that crisscross this scenic valley were the early training grounds of Olympic gold medalist Beanie Scott.

Straddling the Alberta-Saskatchewan border, the city of **Lloydminster** ([www.lloydminster.ca](http://www.lloydminster.ca)) has an extensive walking and cycling trail system. The Barr Colony Heritage Cultural Centre tells the community's early history and features a wildlife display.

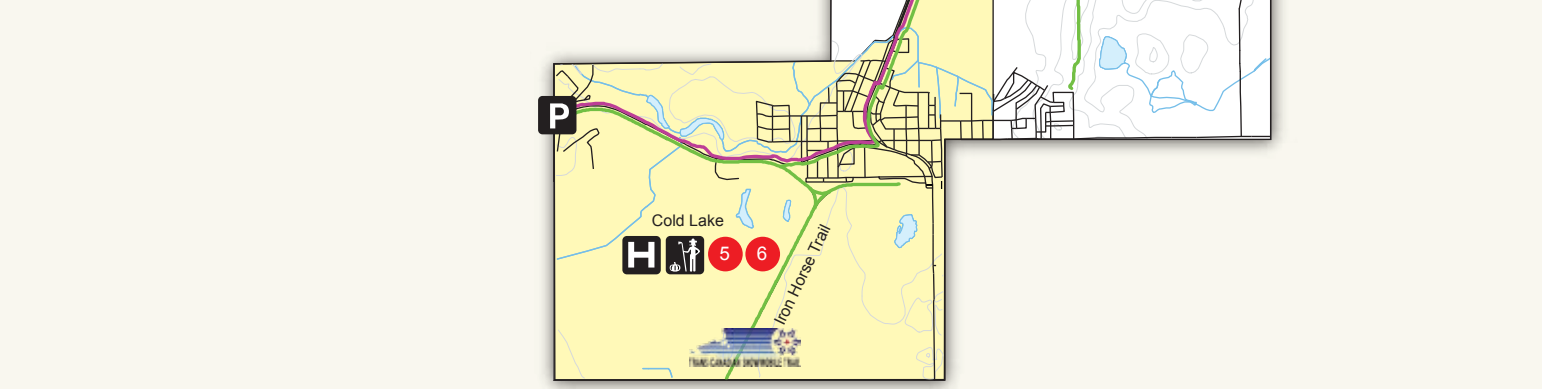
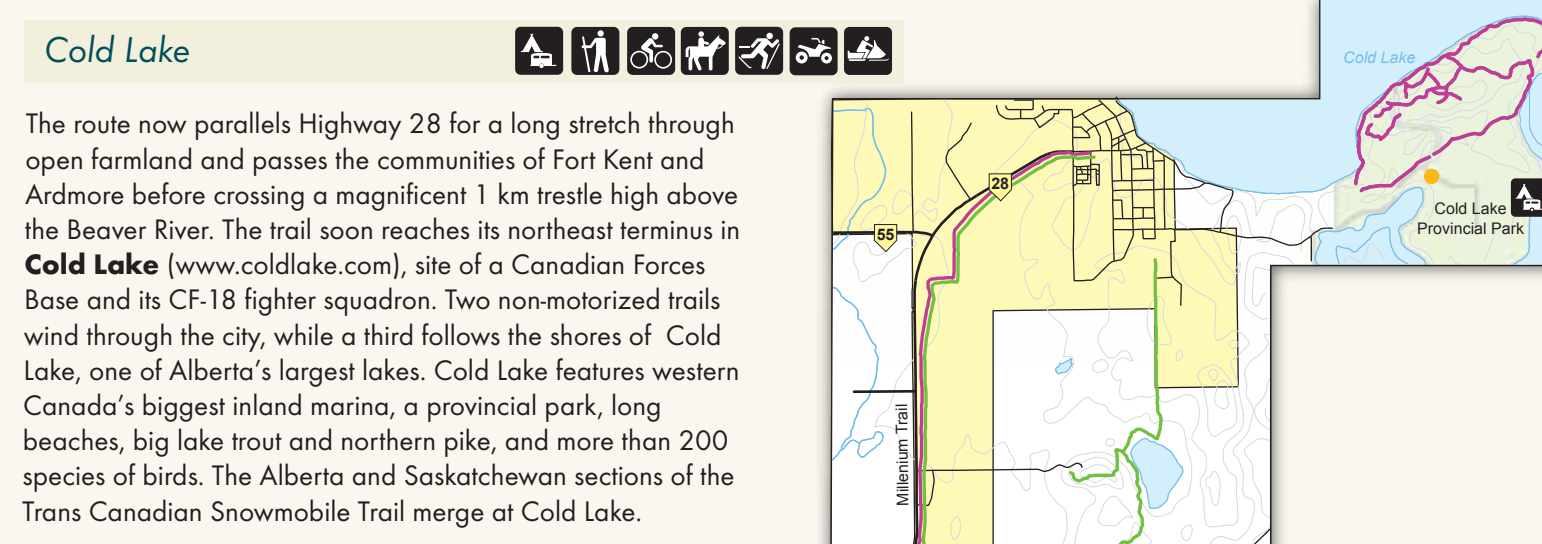
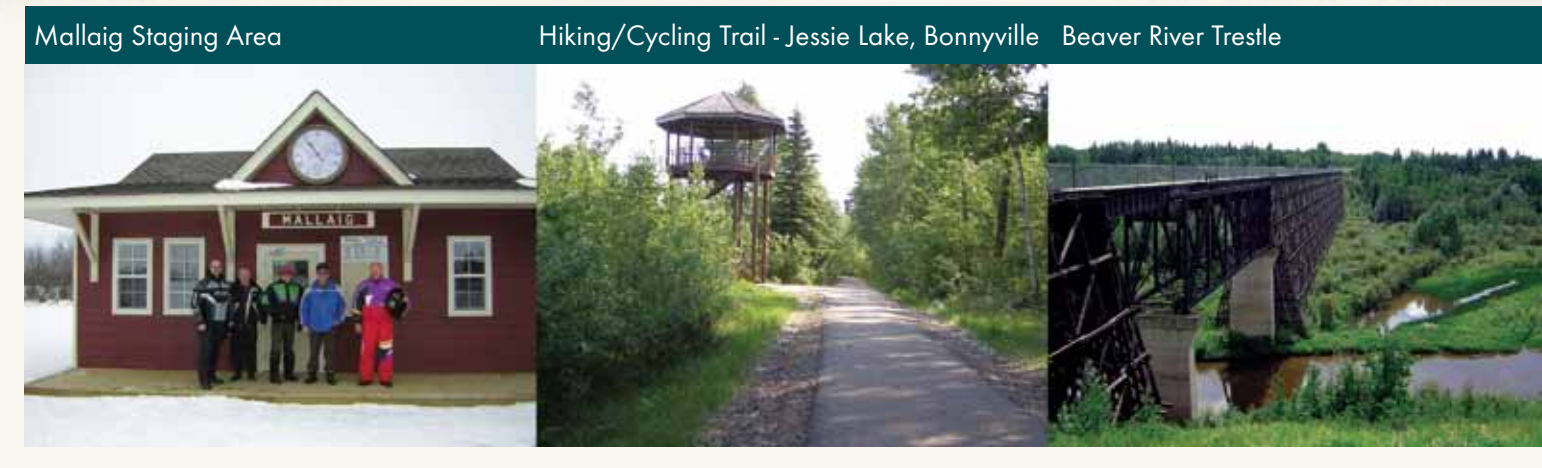


## Alberta's Iron Horse Trail

Just east of Vilna, a short detour north of Spedden takes you to **Garner Lake Provincial Park**, which offers good camping along with hiking and cycling trails. Continuing east, the route traverses rolling aspen parkland to Ashmont, a jumping-off point for fishing and exploring nearby lakes. Not far beyond, the Iron Horse Trail's western leg ends at Abilene Junction, also known as Mile Zero.



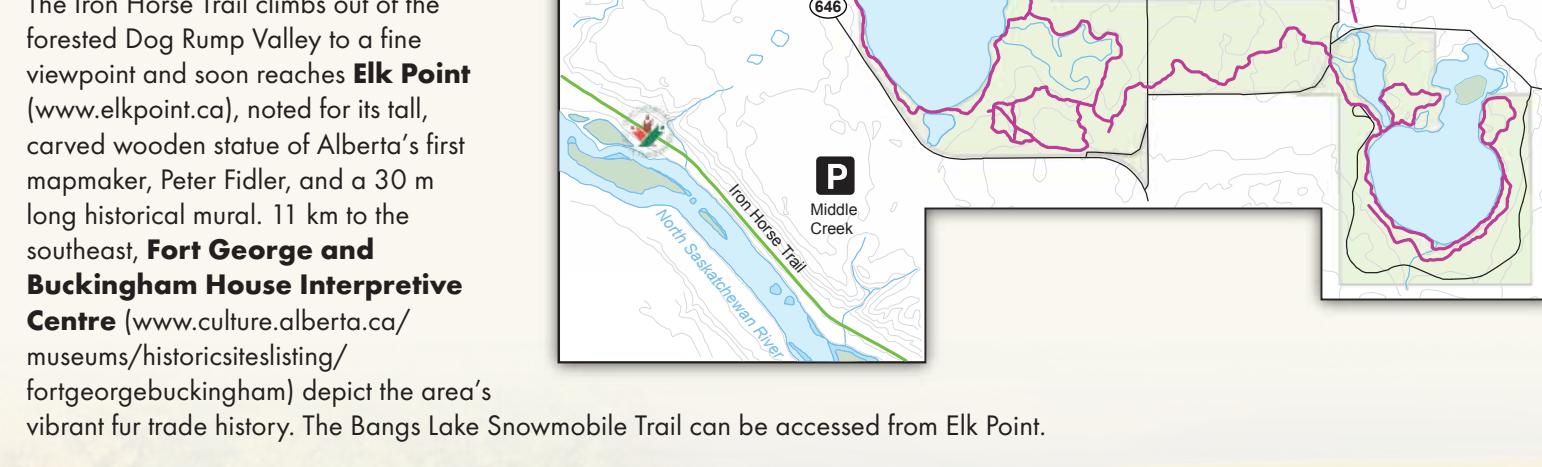
## Northeastern Iron Horse Trail: Abilene Junction to Cold Lake – 98 km



## Southeastern Iron Horse Trail: Abilene Junction to Heinsburg – 88 km

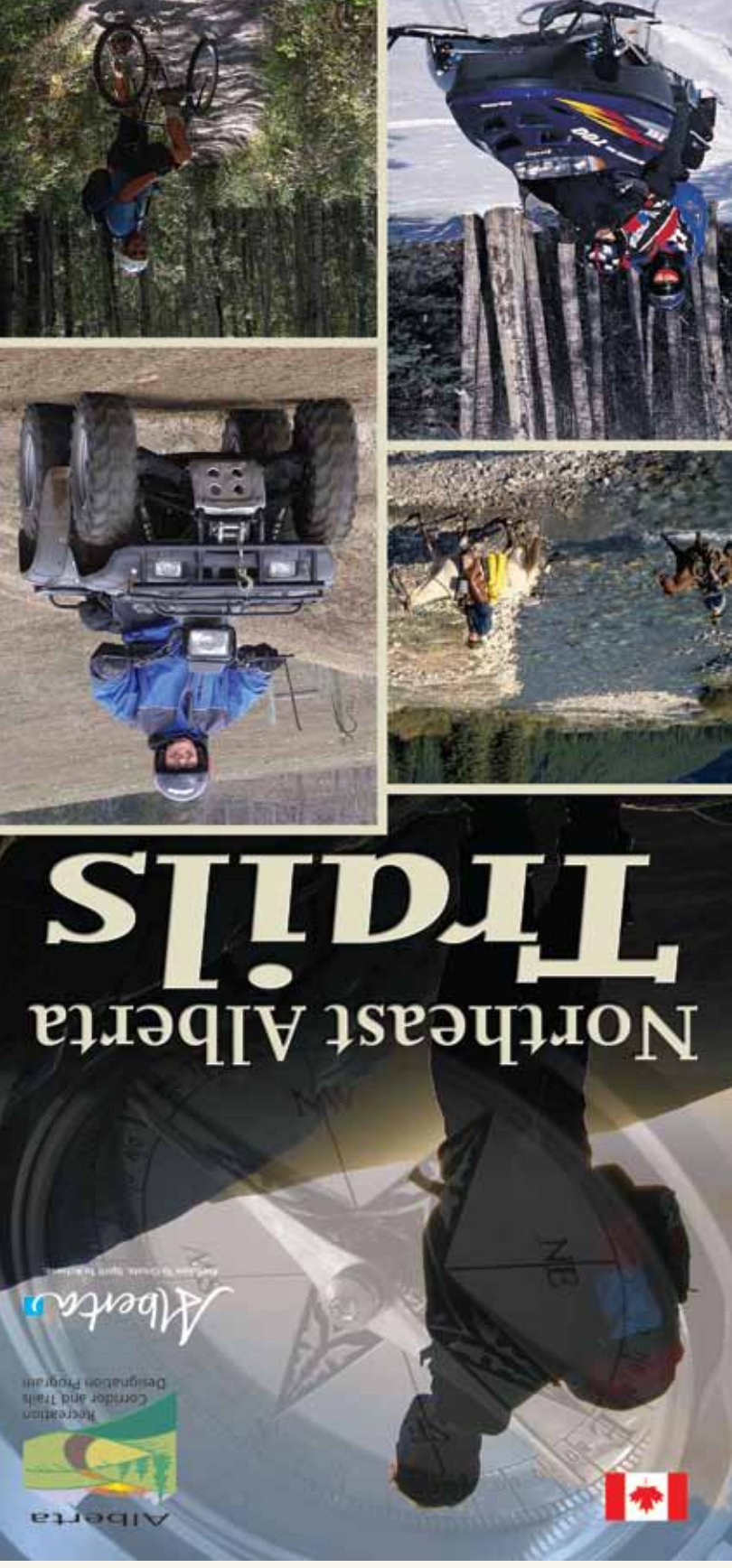
After passing an abandoned railway siding called Owlseye, the trail travels through pleasant farmland to reach **St. Paul** ([www.town.stpaul.ab.ca](http://www.town.stpaul.ab.ca)), home of the world's first UFO landing pad and four monuments that celebrate the area's Aboriginal history and cultural diversity. This regional centre has trails in town and at the adjacent Therien Lakes (good bird watching). Lakeland Cross Country Ski Club's trails are located just north of St. Paul ([www.lakelandcrossski.ca](http://www.lakelandcrossski.ca)).

Continuing southeast, the trail rises above many sloughs and small lakes, beautifully set amongst hills, and meanders through remnants of the old Edouardville railway siding. It then travels along a narrow ravine, above which is a line of bison ranches known as Buffalo Alley. For a short stretch, the old rail bed follows the historic Carlton Trail.



Back on the trail, a giant gravel pit marks the site where the Iron Horse Trail was started in 1993. That's followed by scenic mixed forest offering glimpses of Simmo Lake and the hamlet of Lindbergh. Just east of Lindbergh, snowmobilers can access the Garner Lakes Trail to Bonnyville. Beyond, the trail follows the wide Moosva Valley past a salt pan and along the hilly banks of the North Saskatchewan River. Soon thereafter, the route ends in **Heinsburg**, a busy "ghost town" boasting one of Alberta's last wooden water towers, an original train station and old-time music jambores.

To the north of Heinsburg, **Whitney Lakes Provincial Park** has been sculpted by glaciers and subsequent erosion into a spectacular landscape of eskers, sand hills, hummocks and a mix of forests, meadows and wetlands. An extensive trail system links four lakes, with interpretive signs describing the abundant wildlife (migrating whooping cranes are sometimes seen). Some trails allow mountain biking, which ranges from more challenging, rolling terrain. The historic Carlton Trail can also be followed along the park's southern edge.



The Alberta Trail Mapping Partnership is made possible through the combined efforts of and funding from the following organizations under the auspices of the Alberta Recreation Corridor and Trails Designation Program:

Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation, and Culture  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Alberta TrailNet Society  
Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
Alberta Snowmobile Association

Gratitude is expressed to all local clubs, groups, organizations, individuals and municipalities for their review, comments and updates in developing this map.

For more information or for map access please contact Alberta TrailNet at 877-987-2457.

Photo Credits:

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Travel Alberta

This map provides a general orientation to trails in northeast Alberta. All trail locations are approximate, and some trails may not appear on this map or be up to date. The suggested map series for detailed topographic information is the National Topographic Series (NTS).

The recreational trails shown on this map are unsupervised and are used at the personal responsibility and risk of persons using them.

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## Know Before You Go

To maximize enjoyment of these trails, gather additional details from nearby communities and recreation associations about the trails, current conditions, local sites of interest, area services and access points (see website information in the text that accompanies this map). Further visitor information can be obtained from:

**Travel Alberta:** 1-800-ALBERTA; [www.travelalberta.com](http://www.travelalberta.com)  
**Alberta's Lakeland (includes Alberta's Iron Horse Trail):** 888-645-4155; [www.albertaslakeland.com](http://www.albertaslakeland.com)  
**Kalyna Country:** 888-452-5962; [www.kalynacountry.com](http://www.kalynacountry.com)  
**Lac La Biche Region:** 877-623-9696  
**Alberta Culture and Community Spirit:** [www.culture.alberta.ca](http://www.culture.alberta.ca)  
**Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation:** [www.tpr.alberta.ca](http://www.tpr.alberta.ca)  
**Alberta Sustainable Resource Development:** [www.srd.alberta.ca](http://www.srd.alberta.ca)  
**Alberta TrailNet:** [www.albertatrainet.net](http://www.albertatrainet.net) (see links to provincial trail user associations)  
**Alberta Provincial Campground Reservations:** [online.reserve.alberta.ca](http://online.reserve.alberta.ca) or toll-free 877-537-2757

This map includes designated, managed trails, many can be used year round. Trail quality and difficulty of use can vary considerably, with surface materials ranging from pavement and groomed snow to dirt, gravel and corduroy. Some trails are signed and regularly maintained; others are not. Even maintained trails can be challenging when wet or covered in fresh snowfall.

Temperatures can range from winter lows of -40 Celsius to summer highs in the upper 30s. Precipitation and harsh conditions can occur at any time. In late spring and summer, poison ivy and nettles may be present and bugs can be bothersome, especially in wet and shaded areas.

You may encounter wildlife, including black bears and large ungulates. Fall hunting is permitted in some areas; be aware, and dress and behave appropriately.

Trails may be remote from services or help. Carry sufficient food, water, clothing, first aid and emergency/survival supplies, repair gear, navigation equipment and a mobile phone.