

# Come to the Optimist AMSN&W District Meeting... and Stay for a Mini-Vacation!



Take advantage of the discounted Royal Hotel room rates from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> and go on a mini vacation either before or after the meeting! Here are some great options for you to consider. And don't forget ... Alberta only has a Federal 5% GST (goods and services tax), not a Provincial sales tax (excludes hotel taxes).

## ½ Day Shopping and Sightseeing Around Calgary



### CrossIron Mills Outlet Stores

CrossIron Mills is the largest single-level shopping centre in Alberta and is open year-round. With more than 200 specialty stores, premium brand discount outlets, over 17 large-format anchor stores, and numerous restaurants, it offers something for every shopper. It is located on Highway 2 just north of the Calgary city limits and is 20 KM (12 M) or 17 minutes from the Royal Hotel. For more information and list of stores, check out their website at: <https://www.crossironmills.com/>.

**Shop 'til you drop ... have fun doing it ... and think of all the money you will save!**

### TELUS Spark Science Centre

When it opened in its current location in 2011, it was the first purpose-built science centre in the country in 25 years. It houses the largest dome theatre in western Canada and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors a year and launches blockbuster shows. It changes lives and opens doors to the world of science, technology and innovation. It is an 8-minute drive (5 KM or 3 M) from the Royal Hotel. For more information and ticketing, check out their website at: <https://www.sparkscience.ca/>

### The Calgary ZOO

This Zoo is Canada's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest zoo and is home to more than 1,000 animals. In 2023, it had more visitors than any other zoo in Canada. There are nine destination areas including Africa, Eurasia, Australia and the Prehistoric Park. You can watch animals in the large realistic habitat spaces that fill much of the Zoo's 159 hectares. It's newest multimillion dollar exhibit is [Wild Canada](#). The Zoo is an 8-minute drive (5 KM or 3 M) from the Royal Hotel. For more information and ticketing, check out their website at: <https://www.calgaryzoo.com/>. Discounted tickets available from hotel reception.

### The Calgary Tower

Located 630 ft. above the downtown core, the Calgary Tower offers the best view in the city and is a must-see on any visitor's itinerary. On the Observation Deck you'll experience a spectacular 360° view of the bustling city, the majestic Rocky Mountains, the foothills, and the prairies. The Tower is located downtown and has a fine dining revolving restaurant at the top called [Sky360](#). It is a 14-minute drive (9.2 KM or 5.7 M) from the Royal Hotel. For more information and ticketing, check out their website at <https://www.calgarytower.com/>

### Stephen's Avenue Mall – Downtown

Home to some of Calgary's finest restaurants, pubs, bars and cafes, this outdoor 7 block pedestrian mall offers its foot-travelers uninhibited access to some of downtown's key attractions and facilities including the [CORE Shopping Centre](#), [Arts Commons](#), and [Olympic Plaza](#) (where the 1988 Olympic medals were handed out). However, it will be the atmosphere that you'll most want to somehow capture, package up and take home with you as a souvenir. For more information, check out their website at: [Stephen's Avenue Mall](#)

### Studio Bell – National Music Centre (NMC), Calgary

Studio Bell is home to NMC's expanded collection, which includes more than 2,000 rare instruments and artifacts, as well as four Canadian Music Halls of Fame. With interactive educational programming, live performances, engaging exhibitions, and in-house artist incubation, NMC's new home is so much more than a museum. It is a hub for music, innovation, and cultural discovery in Canada. It is located just east of downtown Calgary and is a 13-minute drive (8.3 KM or 5.2 M) from the Royal Hotel. For more information and ticketing, check out their website at: <https://www.studiobell.ca/>



## Full 1 Day Trips Outside of Calgary



### Royal Tyrell Dinosaur Museum – Drumheller, Alberta

The world-renowned Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller is Canada's only museum dedicated exclusively to the science of paleontology. In addition to housing one of the world's largest displays of dinosaurs, the museum offers a wide variety of creative, fun, and educational programs that bring the prehistoric past to life. It is located east of Calgary near the town of [Drumheller, Alberta](#) and is surrounded by Hoodoos (unique rock formations stone columns). The Museum is approximately a 1.5-hour (136 KM or 84 M) drive one way from the Royal Hotel. For more information and ticketing, visit their website at: <https://tyrrellmuseum.com/>



### Day Trip to the Canadian Rocky Mountains and Banff, Alberta

Rocky Mountain peaks as high as 11,500 ft., glacial lakes, and adventure come together in Banff National Park - Canada's first national park and the flagship of the nation's park system. There is an incredible amount to see and do around the town of Banff, including [Bow Falls](#), [Sulphur Mountain Gondola](#), [Lake Minnewanka](#), [Tunnel Mountain Drive](#), [Cave and Basin](#), [Banff Hot Springs](#), [Banff Springs Hotel](#), and much more! Plus, check out the amazing [food and pub scene](#). One of the local favorites is the [Three Bears Brewery and Restaurant](#). Banff is a 1.5-hour drive (80 miles) west of Calgary on a divided highway (70 MPH) from the Royal Hotel. For more information, check out: <https://www.banfflakelouise.com/>. **A daytrip from Calgary to Banff and return is very doable and is a stunning drive!**

## 2- or 3-day Canadian Rockies Trip – Requires Overnight Stay



### Banff, Lake Louise, and Columbia Icefields Parkway

Interested in taking a 2- or 3-day trip to the Canadian Rockies? If you do, it will be a trip you will never forget. A 2+ day trip would allow you to see all of the sites around Banff (see above), plus the [Bow Valley Parkway](#), [Lake Louise](#), [Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise](#), and the [Victoria Glacier](#) (at the back of Lake Louise). In addition, you could take a drive up the [Columbia Icefields Parkway](#) and see [Bow Lake](#), [Bow Glacier](#), [Crowfoot Glacier](#), and [Peyto Lake Viewpoint](#). The Parkway runs from Lake Louise north along Highway 93 up to the town of [Jasper](#) (driving by the [Columbia Icefields](#)). However, there could be snow along the Parkway drive (between Peyto Lake and Jasper) in early-mid May and some of the attractions may not be fully open yet. For more information on the Icefields Parkway, click on the following link: <https://icefieldsparkway.com/>.

**If you take this once in a lifetime trip, prepare to be amazed!**



A 2- or 3-day trip would require a 1- or 2-night stay at a hotel in Canmore (near Banff), Banff or Lake Louise.

**NOTE:** to visit the Canadian Rockies for a 1-, 2-, or 3-day trip (or longer) you will need to buy a [National Parks Pass](#) in advance online or in person at the [Banff National Park Gates](#) (15 minutes before you reach Banff).