
Calgary
2
Black Diamond
7
Okotoks
Longview
Alberta
540
Nanton
Bar U Ranch
22
2
Keep an eye on the roadsides for Elk, Deer, Moose, Coyotes, Bald Eagles and lots of cows
The World's Largest Truck
Lizard Range
Sparwood
Crowsnest Pass
Fort Macleod
Lethbridge
FERNIE
3
B.C.
Frank Slide
Pincher Creek
SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THEM ALL
Deer
Elk
Bear
Moose
coyote
crow
Eagle
Hawk
cow
horse
Fox
Calgary Tower
Bar U Ranch
Train
Windmill
Largest Truck
Fernie Fox
Horseshoe

Calgary to Fernie

When making the trip from Calgary to Fernie, follow these helpful directions to not only make your way finding easier, but also more enjoyable!

We're going to start from Calgary International Airport. If you're making your way from some other part of the City, feel free to pick up the route at the most convenient point for you.

As you leave the Airport, you'll follow direction for Deerfoot Trail South. When you get to the intersection of Airport Trail and Deerfoot Trail, look up onto the overpass. See that circular blue light pole? This is one of Calgary's more polarizing pieces of public art. What do you think of it? You've got about 3 1/2hrs to debate its merits!

Heading south along the Deerfoot, you'll see to your right Calgary's Downtown Skyline. You'll be making your way around the periphery of Calgary's core for about 35-40mins, depending on traffic. Hopefully you're in rush hour. Some notable buildings in the downtown skyline are the Calgary Tower and the Bow Center. You'll also drive past the Telus Spark, a science and technology museum/ activity center, an IKEA, and a tall glass building filled with cars.

If you're not from Canada, you may also notice that the license plates (or "number plates" if you're British) are different colours. The colour signifies the Province that the vehicle is registered in. Red lettering is Alberta, Blue lettering is BC, and Green lettering is Saskatchewan. What other colours do you see? And can you tell where they are from?

Exiting the southern boundary of the City, you'll merge with Stoney Trail and Macleod. At this point, you'll be on HWY 2. From here, there are a number of options for your trip to Fernie. You can take the Okotoks exit, and head south on Highway 22, or, continue south along Hwy 2 and connect to the 22 at a point further south.



Alternatively, and especially if the roads are bad, or their is a risk of strong wind gusts or blowing snow, you can take Hwy 2 all the way south to Crowsnest Highway, or Hwy #3.

(If you take the Okotoks turn off, beware when driving south along Hwy 22 at Longview. DO NOT SPEED through town. It's a well known local fact that you will get a ticket for going over the posted speed limit.)

Our favourite point to connect to Hwy 22 is at AB-540W. It's a secondary highway, you'll know it's coming up because just before the turnoff is an odometer check sign, about 5km before the turn. You will be heading towards the Bar U Ranch. Tell your passengers to keep their eyes peeled on the fields either side of the road. There is a high probability of seeing coyotes, deer, and maybe even some antelope!

When you get to the intersection of Hwy 22, you'll want to take a left. This area is known for being used to film scenes in the movie "The Revenant", and where Leonard DiCaprio got to experience a Chinook Wind. There are plenty of animals along Hwy 22, so make sure you're keeping an eye on the roadsides and ditches. They aren't the smartest creatures, and sometimes turn and run in front of traffic. Animals that you might see are:

Deer, Moose, Bears, Coyotes, Eagles, Hawks, Cows and Horses (in the fields... but they have been known to escape!)

As you get to the southern end of Hwy 22, the road will become straight and flat. You may have noticed a sign a while back with lights and a wind speed indicator. If the lights were flashing, try with care. Crosswinds can be very intense.

When you get to the big stop sign at Hwy 3, you're going to want to take a right. If you need to get out and stretch your legs, two great options are just ahead. The first is just as you come to the top of the hill with the passing lane. There is a large windmill, and at the road to your left, turn, and make your way a short distance till you see the parking lot on your right. This is Lundbreck Falls. If you're lucky, you may time it just right to see a train crossing the bridge just upstream. The second place to stop as you're heading West on Hwy 3 is at the Burmis Tree. Its been dead for almost 70 years now, but is still propped up and looked after by a dedicated group of locals. This tree has historically marked the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains along Hwy 3, and is a sure sign that you're almost to Fernie!

The third great location to stop and stretch your legs is at the Frank Slide. This gigantic rock slide occurred at 4:10 a.m. on April 29, 1903. Around 110 million tonnes (121 million US tons) of limestone rock slid down Turtle Mountain, burying the town of Frank. There is fantastic interpretative center if you turn right just before you cross the bridge to enter town, and has a number of trails to walk amongst the rocky debris.

The towns of Frank, Coleman, Blairmore and Crowsnest are often simply referred to as "The Crowsnest Pass", or "The Pass". Exiting the Pass, it's about 40 minutes to Fernie. The road winds its way through some tight mountain turns, and follows the train tracks and Michel Creek. As you come into the Town of Sparwood, you can't miss "The World's Largest Truck" parked on the right-hand side of the road. From The Pass to Fernie, be especially vigilant driving at dusk and night, as they don't call this "The Elk Valley" for nothing!

The first views of the Lizard Range always let you know you're almost here. When you arrive in Fernie, if this is your first time, take note that we have an amazing downtown core, that is NOT on the highway strip. Its filled with numerous local restaurants and retail shops, and can be reached by turning left at any of the highway intersections after the Fernie Memorial Arena, but before the West Fernie bridge. To reach our hotel, continue over the bridge, and about 1.5 kms after the bridge, you'll see us on the right. Hope you enjoyed the journey!