

Okotoks Erratic



Calgary Photographic Art Society

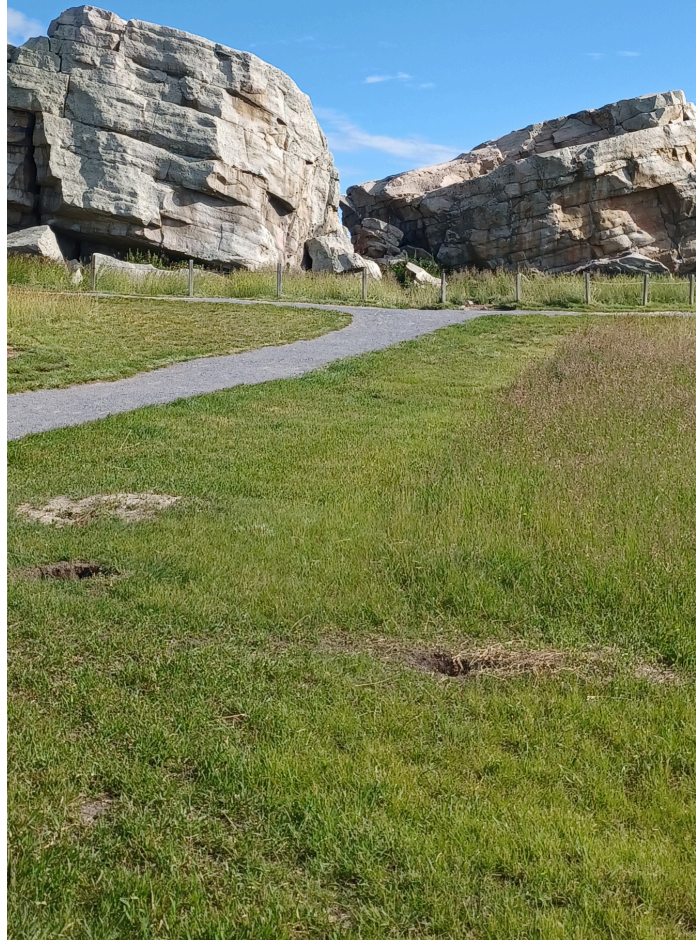
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OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Funded by the City of Calgary, this project aims to introduce readers to lesser-known, hidden gems in Alberta. This guide focuses on uncovering unique and under appreciated destinations that offer rich experiences away from the typical tourist routes. Whether you are seeking serene natural landscapes, charming small towns, or cultural landmarks, 'Off the Beaten Path' provides insights into places that offer a fresh perspective on Alberta's diverse and expansive beauty. By highlighting these locations, the guide encourages exploration and adventure beyond the well-known paths, enriching travelers' appreciation of Alberta's hidden treasure.

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Okotoks Erratic



Jutting almost ten metres above the prairies, Okotoks Erratic is a quartzite boulder that has remarkable origins: the 16500-tonne rock is actually from the Jasper region of the Rocky Mountains and was carried by vast glaciers, leaving it over nine hundred kilometres from its place of origin. Beyond geological significance and offering insight into glacial movements an Ice Age, the Okotoks Erratic is also steeped in Indigenous legend. In fact, the name Okotoks comes from "Okotok", Blackfoot for "Big Rock".



At a Glance

- Located 7 kilometers west of Okotoks along Highway 7W
- Free to visit
- Wheelchair accessible ramp provided at site

Getting There

Okotoks Erratic is located about 10 minutes west from downtown Okotoks and is easily reachable along Highway 7. The attraction site also provides parking for visitors, and a footpath leads to the rock itself. Large signs provide visitors with information on the Big Rock, and also detail the Blackfoot legends surrounding Okotoks Erratic. While a fence has been constructed around Okotoks Erratic to dissuade climbers, the Erratic is under threat from visitors who ignore the warnings and the fence. The rock is home to Indigenous rock art composed of red ochre. Climbing on the rock will irreparably damage these cultural artefacts.



Nearby

Because of Okotoks Erratic's proximity to Turner Valley, it is a popular stop for visitors who are travelling through Southern Alberta. The site is open twenty four hours, and while most people stop by during the day, the rock becomes a striking shade of orange underneath the light of a rising or setting sun, and by night, visitors are treated to stunning views of a starry sky on clear nights.

