

# FRANCOPHONE CIRCLE TOUR

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE MIGHTY PEACE



In the past, many French-Canadian families moved to the Peace Region from Quebec by train and quickly established themselves within dynamic francophone communities.

After settling in areas such as St. Isidore, Falher, Girouxville, and Marie Reine, they began to leave lasting, positive impacts on surrounding communities nearby.

Today, these areas have become some of the most culturally rich attractions within the Mighty Peace that visitors from far and wide seek out. Founded on livelihood, collaboration and tight knit values, the local francophone communities still reflect the vibrant history they were once built upon.

**STOPS** 

256.75 **KILOMETERS** 

RECOMMENDED



Accommodations



Bird Watching



Cross Country Skiing



Dining



Downhill Skiing



Events



History



Ice Fishing



Ice Skating





Information



Playground



Shopping



Sliding Hill





Snowshoeing



Viewpoint



Walking Trail





Wifi



Wildlife



Workshops



For more info on each of the stops in this circle drive, scan here!







Start your tour in the beautiful Town of Peace River, where you can fill your tank, grab a hot meal, and stay in some of the comfiest accommodations.

Historically, Peace River was a vital resource for sustenance and transportation for the Beaver and Cree nation, as well as early Europeans and later became an important location for the Canadian fur trade industry in the late 1800's. In the more recent past, the town played a key role in providing access to remote areas using ferry crossings or steamboat operations, with many float or bush plane companies setting up their headquarters there.

Surrounded by rolling hills and idyllic views of the river, it's sure to be a breathtaking beginning. Be sure to participate in finding the Mighty Peace Geocaches that have been planted in the area to be entered to win weekly and instant prizes!

#### STARTING POINT

Breakfast and lunch can be enjoyed at J's Java Domain, situated on Mainstreet. With their famous cinnamon buns, specialty coffees, handmade sandwiches, and fresh salads, the whole family will be able to fuel up for a day full of adventuring. Supper plans can be made at Board 'N' Barrel, where they serve locally sourced meals which range from delicious appetizers and mouth-watering flatbreads to hearty grilled steaks and comforting pasta dishes.

For travellers needing a place to stay, the Quality Hotel and Conference Centre Sawridge is a great option for those who want to experience modern guestrooms, excellent dining, and entertainment options all in one place.

The Chateau Nova also has brand new rooms with top-of-the-line amenities and great customer service. Guests can also enjoy breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the hotel's restaurant and lounge before taking off on their adventures.

To kick off the Circle Tour, visitors are encouraged to get outdoors and experience the unique scenery at the 12 Foot Davis Events Park.

J's Java Domain: 780-624-5557

Board 'N' Barrel: 587-479-1200





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# ISIDORE















St. Isidore is a hamlet that is home to a thriving francophone community. After the second World War, multiple families took a train from Quebec to live and establish themselves within this area.

Get There: From Peace River, head south on Highway 2, turn left on Highway 688, then turn south on Range Road 204.

#### STOP 1: ST. ISIDORE CULTURAL CENTRE













#### 16km from Peace River

Nestled in the hamlet of St. Isidore, this centre boasts a library and museum that depicts the francophone heritage through costumes, artifacts, and historical pictures. Visitors can admire or acquire traditional weaving done by the Tisserandes de St. Isidore (St. Isidore Weavers) or take part in francophone programming year-round. Outside, there are walking trails, a playground and outdoor skating rink. Guests can warm up afterwards in BarBar, the cozy, onsite lounge.

Not to be missed, the Carnaval de St-Isidore will take place in February and is a must see!



















Northern Sunrise County is home to many attractions, businesses, and one-of-a-kind experiences. The history of the area can be traced back to Alexander Mackenzie's journals, which depicted the area as, "a range of high land covered with white spruce, and soft birch, while the banks abound with alder and willow." Later, many fur traders set up their posts at the confluence of the Smoky, Heart, and Peace River, thus creating a new economy and permanent settlement option.

#### STOP 2: **RENDEZ-VOUS RV PARK**









#### 7.7km from St. Isidore

Stay at Rendez-Vous! This RV Park is fully serviced and open yearround, making it perfect for travellers in any season. With bilingual services, RV and cabin rentals, and over 100 camping stalls, there's room for plenty of people visiting the Peace Region, even in the winter.

Phone: 780-618-1345

Get There: From St. Isidore, head north on Range Road 204, turn west onto Highway 688, then turn right onto Range Road 211, the park will be on your left.











#### STOP 3: **GREEN GODDESS WORKSHOP**





#### 30km from Rendez-Vous RV Park

Step into a serene space at the Green Goddess headquarters and be prepared to be greeted with warm smiles, picturesque surroundings, and herbalism education.



(You must call to make an appointment)

**Get There:** Head south on Highway 2, turn left onto Township Road 820, then turn right onto Range Road 195.



#### STOP 4: HARMON VALLEY PARK







#### 11km from Green Goddess Workshop

This park is an outdoor lover's dream located in Northern Sunrise County! With 3km of groomed cross country ski trails and ideal conditions for snowshoeing, visitors will be able to spend hours under the winter sky here.

Get There: Head north on RR 195, turn right onto Township Road 820, take speed corner onto Range Road 194, proceed onto Township Road 822, then head north onto Range 192.





























McLennan is now known as the "Bird Capital of Canada" and is appreciated and adored by outdoor enthusiasts. In the past, Indigenous people used the area for trapping and named the lake "Kimiwan", the Cree word for rain, Later, it was labelled as a "Transportation Town" because of its strategic location along the railway and Highway 2.

#### STOP 5: McLENNAN KIMIWAN LAKE & LAKE SHORE WALKING TRAILS











#### 74km from Harmon Valley Park

Make your way to McLennan to encounter wildlife, pristine snowcovered trails and some of the best bird watching. Bring your snowshoes and binoculars to Kimiwan Lake for an active afternoon. outside, then head over to the Lake Shore Walking trails for a winter hike in the fresh snow

Get There: Head west on Township Road 830, then turn south onto Range Road 192, turn west onto Township Road 822, proceed onto Range Road 194, take speed curve west to Township Road 820, then turn south onto Highway 2, turn left to stay on Highway 2, then right onto Range Road 195, then left onto Bousfield Avenue.



# STOP 6: McLENNAN ICE FISHING & SLIDING HILL





Outdoor excursions are a must in McLennan! Canadian Wildlife Adventures offer all types of outfitting tours, including ice fishing. Drop a line in at Kimiwan Lake Municipal Campground's pond for some of the best ice fishing available, or toboggan down the local sliding hill with the entire family.



**Phone:** Canadian Wildlife Adventures can be reached at 780-536-7290.

### STOP 7: BLUESKY LODGING AIRBNB



#### 1.5km from Kimiwan Lake Shore Walking Trails

If you're needing a place to recharge before your next destination, Bluesky Lodging offers a cozy, fully furnished, one bedroom home, that is steps away from Kimiwan Lake.

**Booking:** Book online through AirBNB, or visit www.blueskyoutfitting. com or www.aylmerlakelodge.com for more information.

Phone: 780-536-7290

**Get There:** Turn left onto Fourth Street NE, and in 300m the destination is on your left.















The Town of Falher is a small, but mighty area with plenty of things to do, see and experience. Known as the "Honey Capital of Canada", visitors will fall in love with this energetic community after just one visit.

The history of Falher lies with Father Falher, a Franco-Albertan, who was accompanied by 12 other settlers from Quebec that established their roots in the area. After planting successful crops and the introduction of the railway, the area steadily grew into the town it is today.

# STOP 8: FALHER WORLD'S LARGEST BEE



#### 20km from Bluesky Outfitters Accommodations

Created in 1990, the world's largest bee resides in the Town of Falher. Standing over 20 feet tall, it's the perfect spot to snap a selfie and read up about the local history.

**Get There:** Turn left onto 2nd Street NE, then right onto 3rd Ave NE, continue onto Highway 49, then turn north onto Range Road 213A, then turn right onto 3rd Avenue.







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#### STOP 9: HONEY CAPITAL PARK

#### 450m from Falher World's Largest Bee

Kids will "bee" happiest here! Falher's Honey Capital Park is a bee themed playground that will appeal to children of all ages. With a 27-foot slide, four storey beehive structure, and toddler park, it's the perfect spot to let the kids burn off some energy.

Get There: Head west on 3rd Avenue, then turn north onto Range Road 213A, then left onto Central Avenue and it's located on the right.





#### **STOP 10:** TOBOGGANING AT FALHER FRIENDSHIP PARK





#### 900m from Honey Capital Park

Locals and visitors love to enjoy fresh air and laughter on this hill during the winter months, and after a fresh snowfall it's the perfect way to spend an afternoon.

Hours of operation: 24 hours

Get There: Head west on Central Avenue. turn south onto 1st Street, then turn west onto 5th avenue, and it will be located on the righthand side



#### **STOP 11:** ST. JEAN-BAPTISE MISSION

#### 5km from Tobogganing at Falher Friendship Park

The first Falher Church at the St. Jean-Baptiste Mission is now a Registered Historical Site. It was restored to its original appearance and is open for public viewing.



St. Jean Baptiste Roman Catholic Mission Church is a two and one half-storey finished log building situated on approximately 64 hectares of land

roughly 4km southeast of Falher. The church features full dovetail notching, a gable roof, and a small cupola crowned with a cross.

Get There: Head towards AB-49 E, once on the highway turn right onto Range Road 213.

#### **STOP 12:** PARADIS VALLEY HONEY



#### 30km from St. Jean-Baptise Mission

Valley Bee Café is a must-visit destination for nature enthusiasts and honey lovers alike. Step into a world of discovery as you explore the captivating world of bees. The café is a hive of activity during the warmer months from May to September, where



you can savour delectable honey-inspired treats and learn about the intricate lives of these vital creatures. All year round you can indulge in the magic of Paradis Valley Honey by visiting them online at www.paradisvallevhonev.com.

Get There: Head south on Range Road 213A, then turn west onto Highway 49, turn right towards Railway Ave, then left onto Railway Ave, proceed to Range Road 242, turn left onto Railway Ave, it'll be located on the left.



#### **STOP 13:** NORTHERN R&R BED AND BREAKFAST



#### Located in the hamlet of Watino

Welcome to the Northern R&R bed and breakfast, the perfect place to come and find some much needed Rest & Relaxation! This cozy cabin that sleeps 4 people, is beautifully positioned next to the Smoky River surrounded by trees providing plenty of privacy with breathtaking views of the river valley.

Phone: 780-837-5387











The Village of Girouxville is a tight knit francophone community filled with tradition and friendly locals.

Originally known as Fowler, the name given by the railway, Girouxville eventually received its current name in 1915 after one its first settlers with the last name of Giroux.

#### **STOP 14: GIROUXVILLE MUSEUM**



#### 23km from Paradis Valley Honey

With over 6.000 artifacts, Girouxville's Museum showcases the interesting history of the pioneers and missionaries who settled in the region.

Phone: 780-323-4252

Get There: Head east on Railway Ave, turn south onto Range Road 242, then keep right onto Railway Ave, then head south on Highway 49, then turn left onto Highway 744 for 3.5km, and it's located on the right.



#### **STOP 15: SMOKY LANES BOWLING ALLEY**



#### 100m from Girouxville Museum

Smoky Lanes Bowling Alley offers 5 pin bowling and a restaurant to keep players fed and happy. Ideal for the entire family, this entertaining pitstop is a great way to blow off some steam and enjoy quality time with your favourite people.

Phone: 780-323-4244

Get There: Head north for 100m, located on

the right.









# STOP 16: PEACEFUL PINES BNB



#### 500m from Smoky Lanes Bowling Alley

This beautiful chalet style two story bed and breakfast nestled among mature pines will make visitors feel as though they are on a mountain getaway while staying right in town. This spacious and well appointed home is located within walking distance to the village centre. The private guest entrance allows access to this beautifully kept, child friendly, accommodation which offers all the comforts of home for up to 8 people.

Phone: 780-837-5387

# HAMLET OF MARIE REINE









# STOP 17: GIROUXVILLE OUTDOOR RINK





#### 200m from Bowling Alley

Available at the Multi-Use Facility, this outdoor skating rink is equipped with a change room, outdoor lights, and hockey nets. Plan your visit with friends, fill a thermos with hot chocolate and get on the ice for a frosty skate outdoors.

Hours of operation: 24 hours

**Get There:** Head north on 50th Street, then turn left onto 52nd Avenue, located on the right.







#### 40km from Girouxville

One of the sweetest stops, Simoneau Honey will have your tastebuds bursting with happiness! With locally harvested honey, they offer plain honey, creamed honey, naturally flavored honeys (with spices added), bees wax candles, bulk wax, and honey stix.

**Get There:** Head east on 52nd Avenue, then turn north onto 50th Street, which will turn into Highway 744 for 39km, destination is on the left.







# STOP 19: MARIE REINE PLAYGROUND & WALKING TRAILS



#### 1km from Simoneau Honey

Parents will love this playground and accompanying trails as much as the kids! This is the perfect opportunity to get out of the vehicle, stretch your legs and fill your lungs with fresh air as you wrap up your tour through the Mighty Peace.

Get There: Head south on Highway 744, location is on the right.

#### STOP 20: THE TOWN OF PEACE RIVER







Finishing up the Circle Tour, travellers will find their way back to Peace River to conclude their experience through many of Mighty Peace's hidden, and well-known gems. Order a delectable meal, put your feet up at one of the many hotels, and get ready to plan out your next adventure!



Get There: Head north on Highway 744 for 22.6km



Once you've completed a stop on the loop, mark it down here. Don't forget to share your photos on social media and tag us for a chance to be reposted! @mightypeacetourism

- St. Isidore Cultural Centre
   Rendez-Vous RV Park
   Green Goddess Workshop
   Harmon Valley Park
   McLennan Kimiwan Lake & Lake Shore Walking Trails
   McLennan Ice Fishing & Sliding Hill
   Bluesky Lodging AirBNB
   Falher World's Largest Bee
   Honey Capital Park
   Tobogganing at Falher Friendship Park
   St. Jean-Baptise Mission
   Paradis Valley Honey
   Northern R&R Bed and Breakfast
  - ☐ 14. Girouxville Museum
- ☐ 15. Smoky Lanes Bowling Alley
- ☐ 16. Peaceful Pines Bed & Breakfast
- ☐ 17. Girouxville Outdoor Rink
- ☐ 18. Marie Reine Simoneau Honey
- 19. Marie Reine Playground & Walking Trails
- 20. The Town of Peace River









