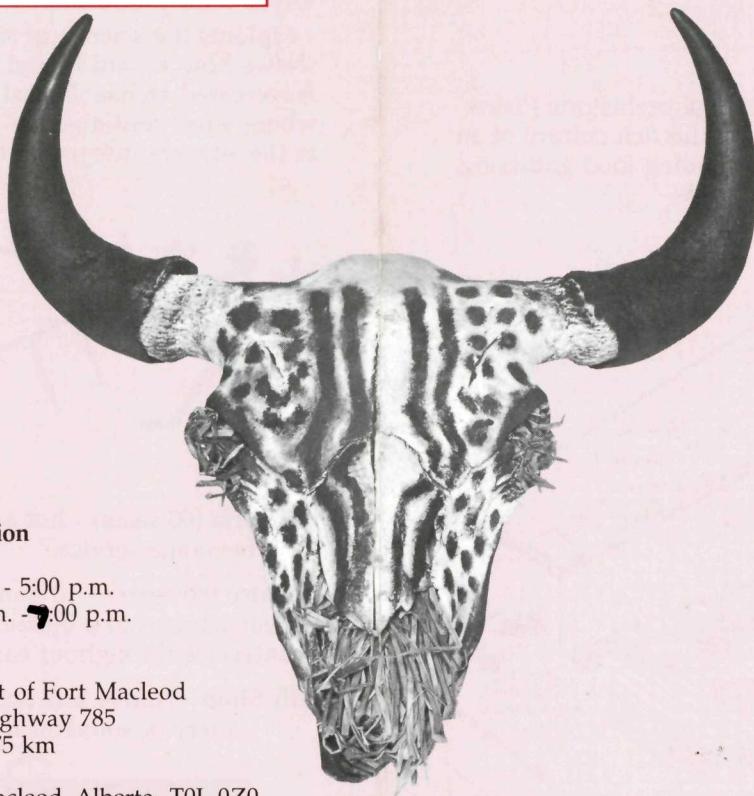




# Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre



## Hours of Operation

(7 days a week)

Winter: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Summer: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

## Location

18 km Northwest of Fort Macleod

on Secondary Highway 785

From Calgary: 175 km

Box 1977 Fort Macleod, Alberta T0L 0Z0

(403) 553-2731 ~~(Calgary, TX) 265-0048~~



# Alberta

CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM

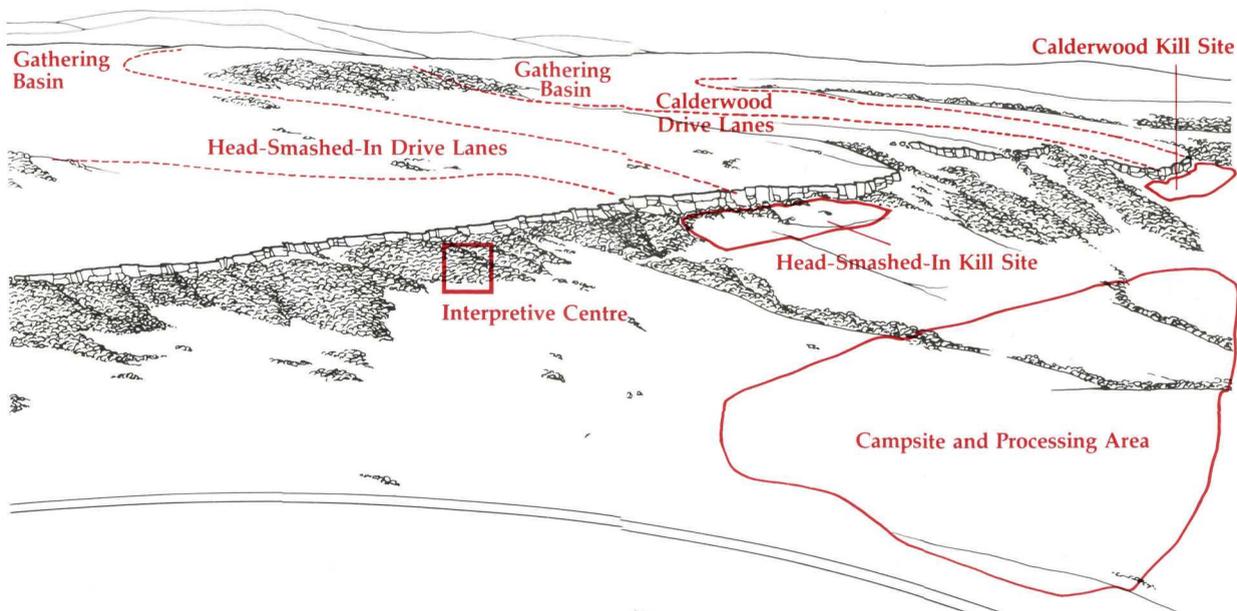
# A

about 150 years ago, according to legend, a young brave wanted to witness the plunge of countless buffalo as his people drove them to their deaths over the sandstone cliffs. Standing under the shelter of a ledge, like a man behind a waterfall, he watched the great beasts cascade past him. But the hunt was unusually good that day, and as the bodies mounted, he became trapped between the animals and the cliff. When his people came to do the butchering, they found him with his skull crushed by the weight of the buffalo. Thus they named the place "Head-Smashed-In".

**Drive Lanes** - a complex network of stone cairns extending up to 8 km away from the jump. These were used to direct the herd toward the kill site.

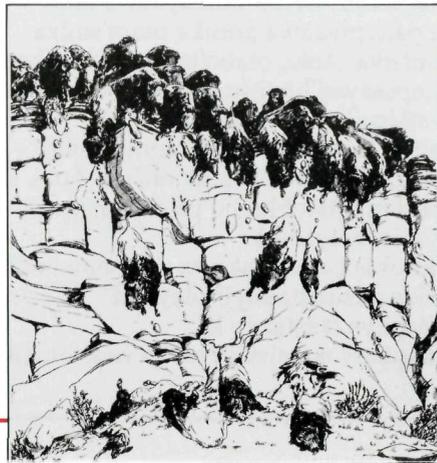
**Kill Site** - an exposed escarpment, about 10 m high and 100 m in length. Deposits from successive jumps lie almost 10 m deep at the base of the cliff.

**Camp Site** - butchering and processing of the meat obtained from the jump was performed on the flat prairie located below the jump.



Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, Head-Smashed-In is among the oldest, largest and best preserved of hundreds of buffalo jump sites across the western Plains. Major components of Head-Smashed-In include:

**Gathering Basin** - the Olsen Creek Basin, about 40 km<sup>2</sup>, served as the "staging area," where the buffalo were gathered into groups and gradually lured toward the cliff.

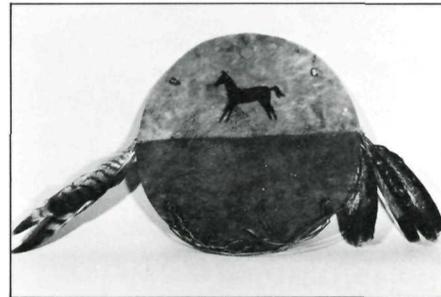




**Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump** Interpretive Centre documents the buffalo hunting culture of the Plains Indians from ancient times to the arrival of the Europeans.

For self-guided tours, we recommend you allow about 1½ hours for the exhibits in the Centre, and an additional hour for the outdoor interpretive trails and archaeological excavations. Information on guided tours is available at the front desk.

DUE TO THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SITE, WE MUST ASK THAT YOU REMAIN ON THE TRAILS AT ALL TIMES.



### Napi's World

- explores the delicate ecology of the Northwestern Plains. Exhibits discuss the geography, climate and vegetation of the Plains.

### Napi's People

- examines the lifestyle of prehistoric Plains Indians. Exhibits detail the rich culture of an ancient way of life, including food gathering, ceremonies and family life.

### The Buffalo Hunt

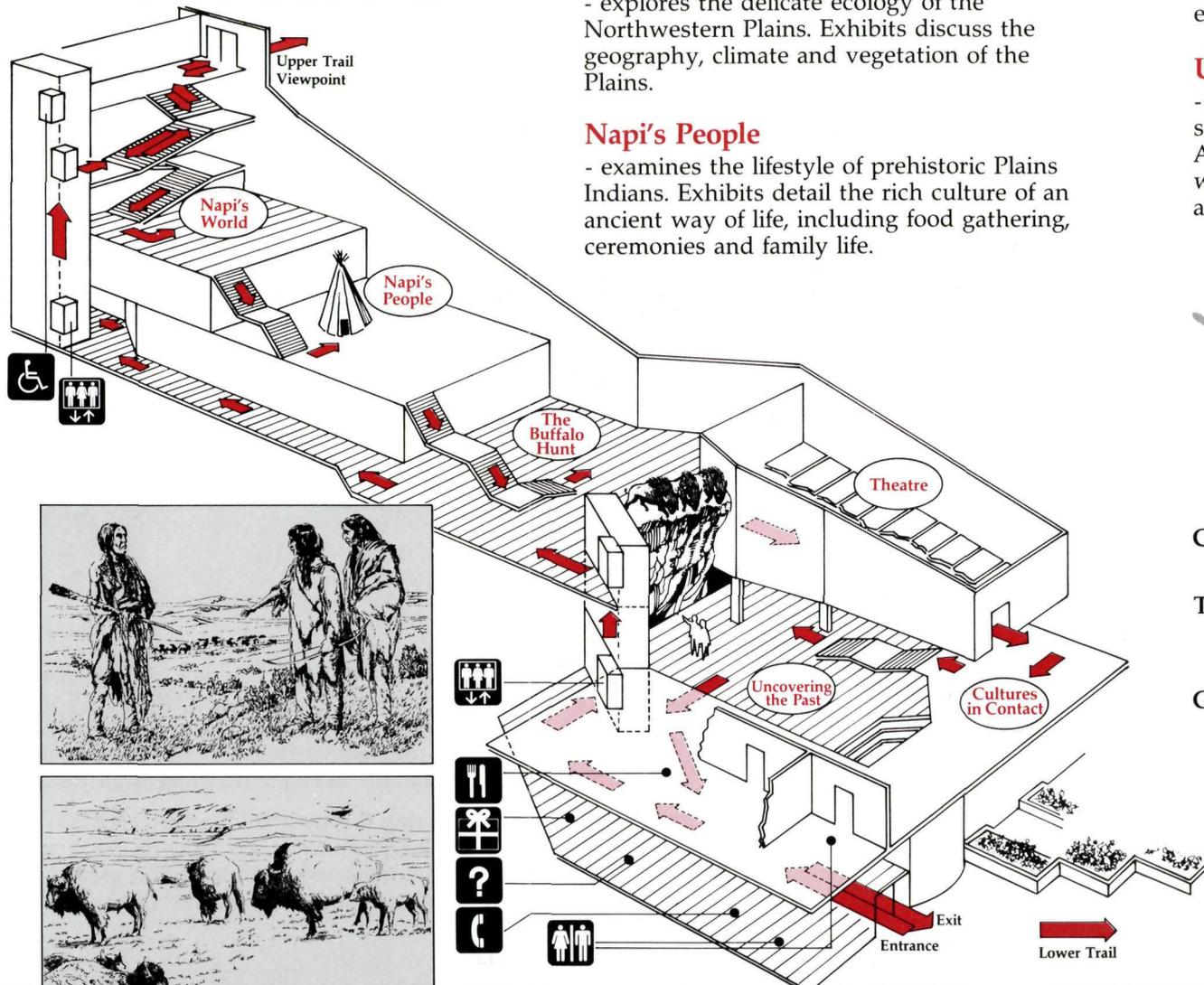
- presents the fascinating story of how a buffalo jump works. The display begins with the important pre-hunt ceremonies, works through the process of gathering and driving the buffalo, and concludes with the dramatic kill at the cliff.

### Cultures in Contact

- charts the decline of traditional buffalo hunting, with the introduction of the horse and gun. The arrival of Europeans brought new diseases to Native peoples, and the near extinction of the buffalo.

### Uncovering the Past

- explores the science of archaeology, and shows how we study and learn about the past. A recreated archaeological dig and a laboratory, where work continues on artifacts discovered at the site, are integral to this exhibit.

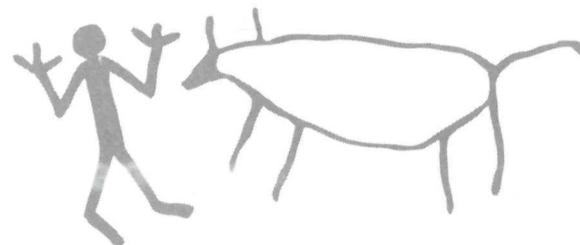


### AOKI

Anniihka pisskanihka  
ayaakitaohkanipihsoo'pihka  
aakitsinnaahkootaitsinikatawa annaka  
iiniipaitapiiyiwaka, aoki ki ainnika otaoo'toohsi  
aapamiaapiikoaisi.

### SSTSIPOIPO'TAKSSIISTSI

Aakotooma'painimiaawa Naapiwa  
otksaahkomma; annika saissksiksikoyika, ki  
ainnaka kaawa'pomaahkaawaka, ki  
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ainnaka aakitsitsinii'pa piyisskoohtaka  
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awaatanio'takiyaawa  
maahkitohkoissksini'saawa matoomaitapiiyi  
onoohkanistsipaitapiiyihpiayi, ki  
otsissitapiiya'tsiistsayi, ki  
niitaakanistssokotsistapi'tsii'pi isskoohtsika.



**Cafeteria** (60 seats) - hot and cold food and beverage service.

**Theatre** (80 seats) - 10 minute film featuring a reenactment of a buffalo hunt, shown at intervals throughout each day.

**Gift Shop** - Native arts and crafts, and a variety of souvenir items.

