Day 1: Into the Interpretive Landscape

Weekend in the Wilderness

Backcountry immersion — horseback through Willmore, fossil-rich exhibits, and golden-hour at the Crack of Doom.

Trip Snapshot

BEST FOR	Backcountry-curious travellers
LENGTH	2 ½ days, 2 nights
SEASON	Mid June - Mid September
PACE	Moderate to active
HOME BASE	Grande Cache

Day 1: Into the Interpretive Landscape

Morning — Fossils, traplines, and trackways.
Begin at the Tourism & Interpretive Centre — a compact museum covering years of Grande Cache history. If you have time for a second cultural stop, the Willmore Wilderness Foundation keeps an office in downtown Grande Cache with a 250-year archive of the Canadian Rockies, plus books and the acclaimed 13-part Canadian Rockies Series on DVD.

Afternoon — Walk the Griffiths Trail.
Versatile network with options from 1.5 to 15 kilometers. If the weather turns, two Indigenous-owned operators offer hands-on workshops: Ochitow Lifestyle & Design runs hide-tanning and beadwork sessions year-round, and Holistic Habits offers wellness workshops featuring locally harvested plants.

Evening — Settle in at a local lodge.
Grande Cache Inn & Suites, or the Grande Cache Hotel, for the full mountain-town feel.

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Day 2: The Wilderness Day

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HOME BASE	Grande Cache or Staging Area Camp

Day 2: The Wilderness Day

Today is the reason you came. Willmore Wilderness Park is 4,600 km² of fully protected, non-motorized Rocky Mountain landscape immediately north of Jasper. There are no bridges, no maintained signage — but over 750 km of traditional trails.

A day trip on horseback from Sulpher Gates is the single most rewarding way to experience Willmore in a short window. Three outfitters: High Country Vacations (traditional pack-horse trips), Indian Trail Adventures (Indigenous-owned, named for a centuries-old route), and Elk Ridge Quarter Horses (1.5–5 hour rides at UBAR Ranch). For a premium alternative, Indigenous Tours with Lauren Moberly offers helicopter tours over the traditional territory of the Rocky Mountain People — year-round, and one of the only ways to see the high alpine without a multi-day pack trip.

Evening — Sulphur Gates at Golden Hour

Finish at the lookouts with a sandwich and a thermos. Between 8 and 9 p.m. in July, the canyon walls turn a colour that's hard to describe and almost impossible to photograph well.

Insider Tip: Willmore Wilderness Park allows only foot, horse, and mountain-bike travel — no motorized vehicles, no drones, no leaving anything behind. Cell service ends at the parking area. File a trip plan, carry bear spray, and treat all natural water.

Day 3: Rivers, Roads, and the Goodbye

Weekend in the Wilderness

Backcountry immersion – horseback through Willmore, fossil-rich exhibits, and golden-hour at the Crack of Doom.

Trip Snapshot

BEST FOR	Backcountry-curious travellers
LENGTH	2 ½ days, 2 nights
SEASON	Mid June - Mid September
PACE	Moderate to Active
HOME BASE	Grande Cache or Staging Area Camp

Day 3: Quiet Morning, Slow Departure

Morning - Lakes Trail.
Ease into the last day with the Lakes Trail to Victor Lake and Grande Cache Lake. Small-town quiet, with locals walking dogs and the occasional morning paddler.

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Midday – Central Park & Labyrinth.
Stop at Central Park (Hoppe Avenue and Shand Avenue), then a final walk at Labyrinth Park. If you have a few hours to spare, pick up the One Day Historical Driving Tour brochure at the Interpretive Centre – a nine-stop self-guided route through the area's fur-trade and coal-mining past.