

IGC 2028

The 38th International Geological Congress

Calgary, Canada

August 12 - 20, 2028

Geosciences for Humanity

First Circular | March 2026

www.igc2028canada.org



Credits: Sherpas Cinema, via Tourism Calgary

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that we live, work and play, and today are gathered on the ancestral and traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy, made up of the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations; the Îethka Nakoda Wicastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation. The city of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to the Otipemisiwak (Oti-pem-se-wa) Métis Government, Métis Nation Battle River Territory (including Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6). We acknowledge all Indigenous people who have made Calgary their home.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my privilege to invite the global geoscientific community to our province for the 38th International Geological Congress in 2028.

Alberta is a global leader in responsible energy production, carbon capture, utilization and storage, critical minerals exploration and sustainable resource development. The diverse landscape here tells an important story, and there is so much to explore. From the Rocky Mountains to the Badlands and the vast energy resources that help meet the world's needs, our geological heritage is something that needs to be experienced in person. Our province is also home to leading-edge technology and research, and the kind of innovation that is helping shape the next century of earth science.

Please consider adding this important event to your calendar for 2028. We have a warm western welcome waiting for you, with plenty to see and do in Calgary in addition to the conference sessions. Our province is a place of incredible beauty and opportunity, with a bold spirit that is hard to resist.

I hope you will come and see Canada's wild side for yourself.
We can't wait to have you here!



A blue ink signature of Danielle Smith.

Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta



Calgary

Jeromy Farkas, Mayor

Welcome to Calgary

On behalf of the City of Calgary and my fellow Council Members, it is my incredible honour to invite you to Calgary for the 38th International Geological Congress.

Our City is on land where the Elbow and Bow Rivers meet near our downtown and not far from the BMO Centre. In the language of the Blackfoot it is known as *Mohkínstsis*, meaning "elbow."

For thousands of years, this has been a place of gathering, connection, and community for all of the peoples who have called this land home.

Today, we celebrate Calgary as Canada's *Blue Sky City*, where under our big blue skies, everyone is invited to gather, share ideas, and celebrate all that brings us together. That is why Calgary is home to more than 240 ethnic communities and 120 languages, making this place the third most diverse city in Canada.

Between the mountain peaks and the open plains, Calgary sits at a crossroads. A crossroads of the traditional and the new. It's a place where the prairie meets the skies, where industry meets community and where people come together and find a home.

It's a place of diverse terrain, surrounded by five UNESCO sites that make our city a fitting location for a global gathering of the brightest minds in earth science. Our two universities, The University of Calgary and Mount Royal University, are leaders and pioneers that are training our future scientists.

While we've grown into a dynamic global city, we still hold onto our small-town charm. Between your sessions, I invite you to make time to explore all the city has to offer — vibrant neighbourhoods, lush parks, a thriving arts and culture scene, and unforgettable culinary flavours. Explore the limitless possibilities that are around every corner.

Calgary has so much to offer you during your visit and we hope that you will come for IGC 2028 and extend your stay to explore.

Jeromy Farkas
Mayor of the City of Calgary

Calgary Historic City Hall, 700 Macleod Trail S.E., Second Floor | Calgary, AB, Canada T2G 2M3
P.O. Box 2100, Station M, #8069 | themayor@calgary.ca





International Union of Geological Sciences

www.iugs.org

Subject: Letter of Invitation from the President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) to attend IGC 38- Calgary 2028

Johannesburg, 15th December 2025

Dear Colleagues of the International Geoscience Community,

On behalf of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), I would like to invite you to participate in the 38th International Geological Congress (IGC). This unique quadrennial event is scheduled to take place in Calgary, Canada, from 12 to 20 August 2028.

Since its establishment in 1878, the IGC has served as a unique platform for international collaboration, networking, scientific exchange, and strategic dialogue within the geosciences. Recognised as the premier global forum for advancing Earth sciences, each Congress, convened under the auspices of the IUGS, offers an essential platform for deliberating urgent global geological issues and shaping the future of the geosciences.

In 2024, Canada was selected to host the 38th International Geological Congress (IGC). The theme of the Congress, “*Geosciences for Humanity*,” emphasises the critical importance of geosciences in addressing societal needs, advocating for sustainability, mitigating natural hazards, and supporting responsible resource exploration and utilisation. The Congress will feature a comprehensive and inclusive scientific program encompassing all principal disciplines of the geosciences, supported by general and thematic sessions, symposia, and high-level plenary lectures and keynote addresses. In addition to the scientific program, a wide variety of workshops, short courses, exhibitions, and business meetings of IUGS constituent groups and affiliated organisations will also be conducted.

Calgary presents an excellent venue for a Congress of this magnitude and ambition. Recognised twice by *The Economist* as the most livable city in North America, it offers a state-of-the-art convention centre in a secure, vibrant, and readily accessible urban setting. The Canadian Rockies and surrounding regions serve as a unique natural laboratory, complemented by a series of pre- and post-Congress field excursions providing delegates with memorable opportunities to explore Canada’s rich geological heritage.

We are confident that the 38th IGC will serve as a landmark event, advancing scientific excellence, strengthening international cooperation, and inspiring future generations of geoscientists. Your participation will be integral to its success. We look forward to welcoming you to IGC 38th in Calgary – August 2028, for what promises to be an exceptional and productive Congress.

Sincerely,

Prof. Hassina Mouri
President of International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

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INVITATION FROM THE CONGRESS CO-CHAIRS

On behalf of the National Organizing Committee, we are pleased to welcome you to the 38th International Geological Congress (IGC), to be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada (August 2028). IGC 2028 will bring together geoscientists, researchers, industry professionals, and students from around the world to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and discuss the latest advances in Earth Sciences.

IGCs are the global forum for the advancement of Earth Sciences that have occurred every four years since 1878. The IUGS James M. Harrison Award for Distinguished Service is named after the Canadian who was the first president of IUGS. The most recent IGC hosted in North America was 1989 in Washington, DC. The Geosciences of the Americas Symposium extends from pole to equator to pole highlighting opportunities for collaboration with Latin American geoscientists.

The focus for IGC 2028, **“Geosciences for Humanity”**, reflects the importance of geosciences for solving the significant challenges facing humanity. Keynote Daily Themes such as “Sustainability, Climate Change and Natural Disasters” and “Water Resources” emphasize where the geosciences can be used to address these challenges.

Mineral exploration has been at the heart of Canada's history, including the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 which led to the establishment of the Yukon Territory. Canada, and the Americas, also preserve the geological history of the Earth, from its formation 4.6 billion years ago to the present day. Against this backdrop, the congress will explore topics including climate systems, natural resources, natural hazard mitigation, corporate social responsibility, and Indigenous reconciliation.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Canadian Rockies, Calgary is a major energy hub in North America and offers a unique setting that reflects both the geological richness and the spirit of discovery that define the geosciences. We look forward to an engaging program of scientific sessions, field excursions, workshops, and networking opportunities that foster collaboration and innovation across the global geoscience community.

Calgary is an international hub, easily accessible from all global locations. The city provides a safe and affordable multicultural experience, with world-class hotels, restaurants and shopping. Day trips from Calgary include UNESCO World Heritage Sites (now also IUGS Geological Heritage Sites) such as the iconic Canadian Rocky Mountains (Burgess Shale) and Dinosaur Provincial Park. Calgary has twice been selected by The Economist as the most livable city in North America. The new and inspiring BMO Centre venue, the largest in Western Canada, can support up to 60 parallel sessions to accommodate the expected 10,000+ participants.

Interwoven with the scientific program, workshops, and field trips; the GeoExpo (trade show) will provide opportunities to connect with national and international universities, investment opportunities, service providers, state of the art technology and applications, while exploring core shacks (for both petroleum and mineral exploration). Ocean Networks Canada is a supporting organization and we are working towards including the Canadian Space Agency in collaboration with the “Space and Planetary Science” Keynote Daily Theme. The Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen will circumnavigate the moon in Artemis II soon after the distribution of this first circular.

The distribution of this first circular represents the opening of proposals for scientific sessions, field excursions and workshops. IGC 2028 will feature a diverse program of field excursions highlighting the geological heritage across the North American craton, from the Pacific to the Arctic to the Atlantic Oceans.

Please stay in touch with IGC 2028! We welcome you to select the [‘Add me to the mailing list’](#) link when you visit the congress website, fill the form to express your interest in attending, and to provide us with feedback. We can then provide you directly with updates regarding the 38th IGC.

In closing, we look forward to welcoming you to IGC 2028 in Calgary to make this a momentous **“Geosciences for Humanity”** event, a rewarding experience and a memorable adventure for geoscientists from around our planet.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Boggs and Glenn Dolphin
Co-chairs, 38th IGC, Calgary 2028



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Katherine Boggs, Glenn Dolphin

Co-Chairs, Executive Committee and National Organizing Committee

John Daugulis, Global Planning Solutions

Professional Conference Organiser and Secretariat

David Lentz, Tânia Martins, Murdoch McKinnon, Jerry Demorcy

Co-Chairs, Scientific Program Subcommittee

Susanna Occhipinti, Courtney Onstad, Mitch Maracle (YES), Jerry Demorcy (YES)

Co-Chairs, Education and Outreach and Young Earth Scientist (YES) Subcommittee

Jean Hsieh, Patricia Fraino, Holly Bley

Co-Chairs, Field Excursion Subcommittee

Lilian Navarro

Chair, Communications and Social Media Subcommittee

Roberta Delidais

Chair, Sponsorship Subcommittee

Daniel Lebel

Chair, International Advisory Committee (IAC)



CANADA IGC 2028 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director

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Director

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Director



Credit: Glenn Dolphin



Credit: Glenn Dolphin

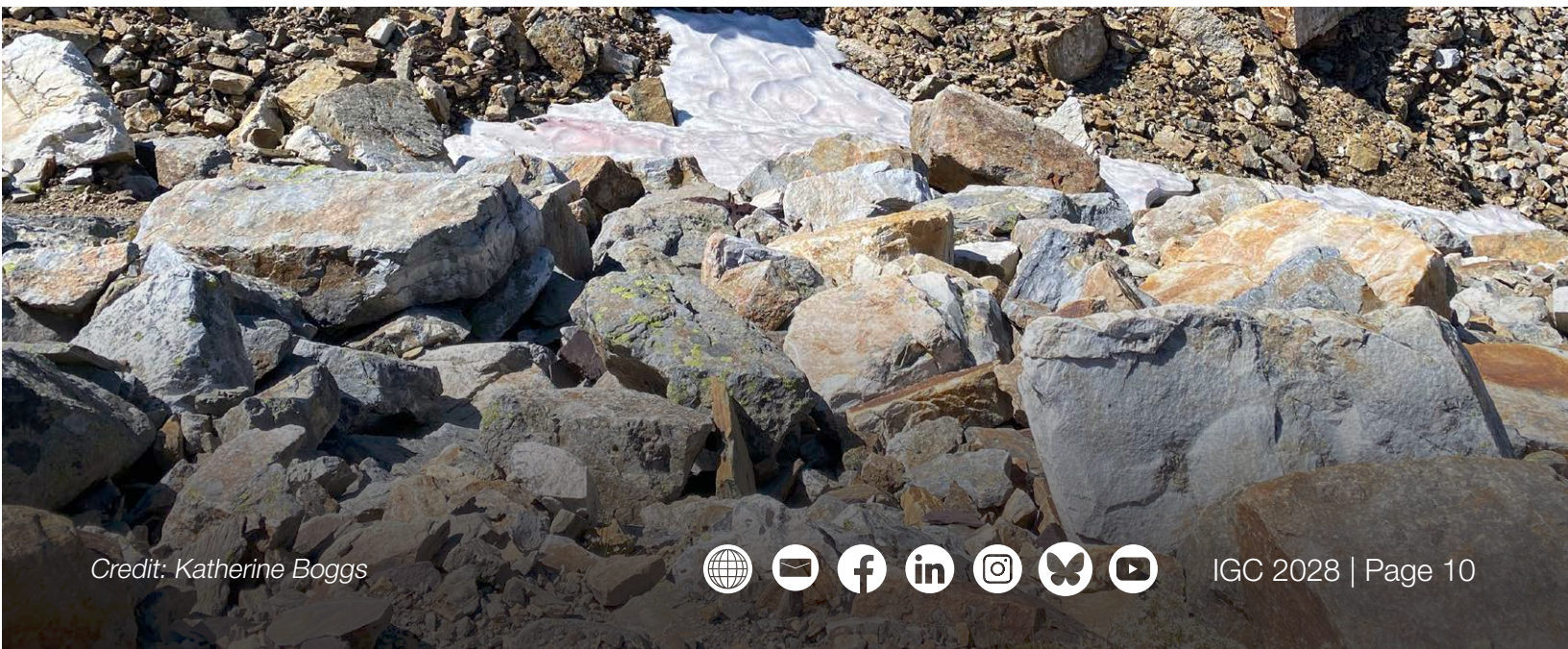
AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

We are pleased to recognize our deep collaboration with affiliated societies that, collectively, will provide a remarkable breadth of geoscientific expertise and knowledge to IGC 2028.



MINERALOGICAL
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION
MINÉRALOGIQUE DU CANADA

These affiliated societies will hold their 2028 annual scientific conference within and as part of IGC 2028.



SPONSORS

Foundational Sponsors



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Mobile App Sponsors

Coffee Break Sponsor

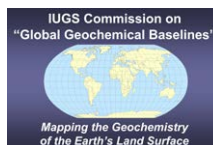
Official Carriers



[Click here to review the IGC 2028 Sponsor Opportunities!](#)

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

We are working with the following supporting organizations to disseminate information about IGC 2028, throughout the world and across disciplines and cultures:

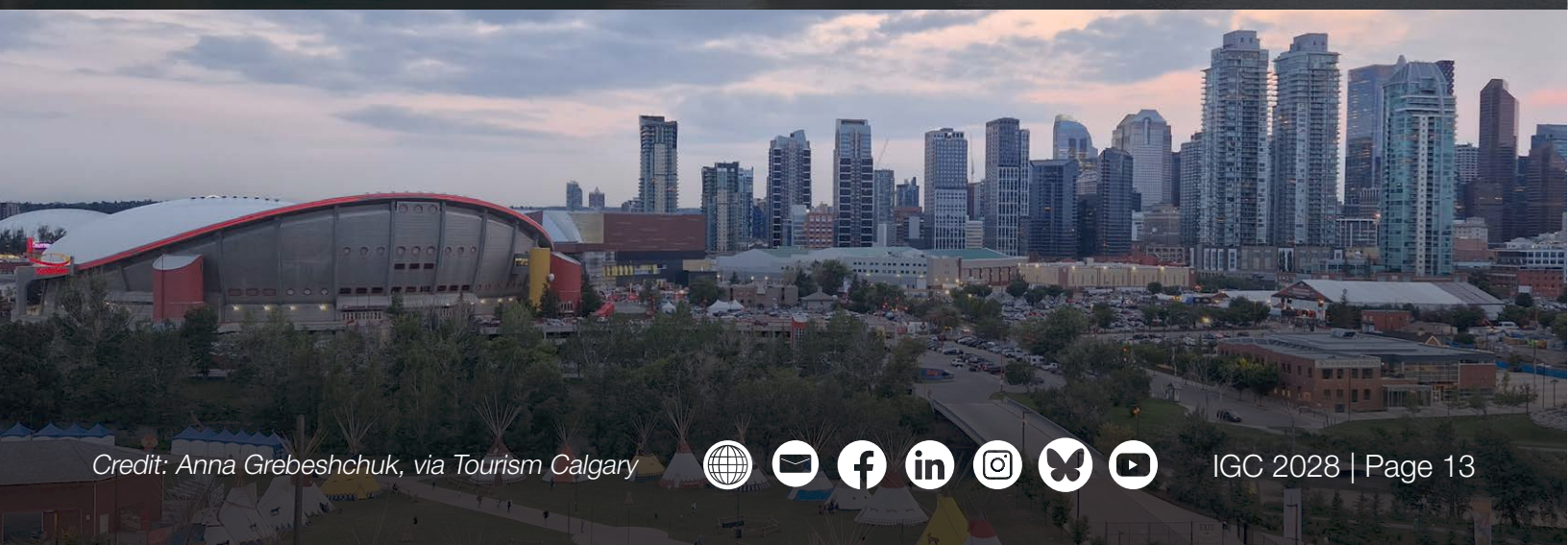
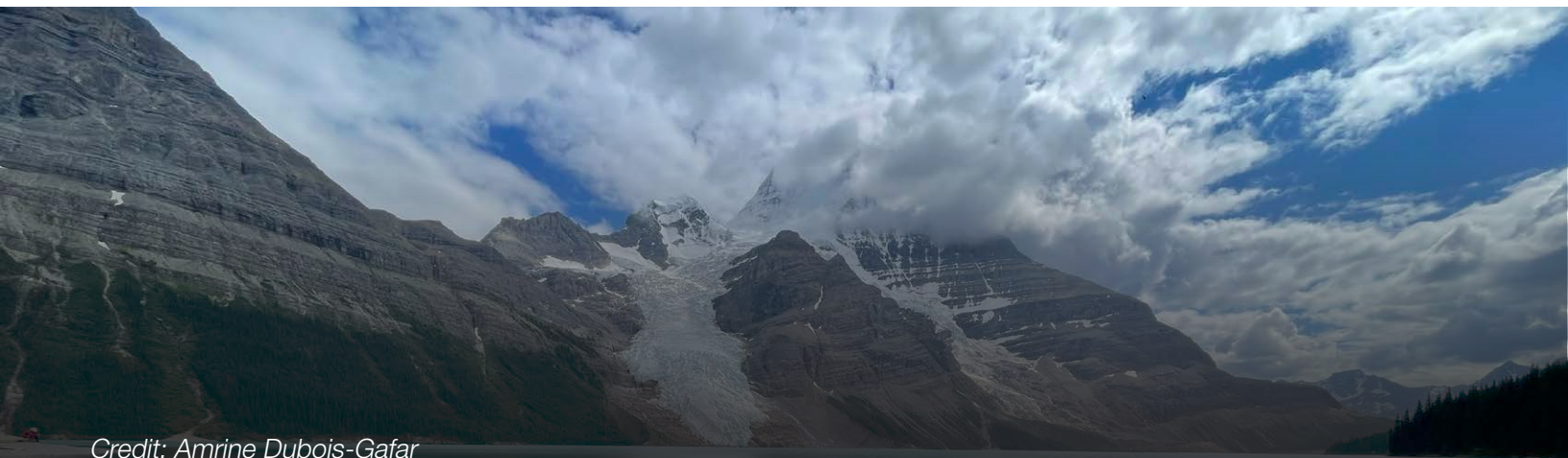


ABOUT CALGARY

Calgary sits on the edge of the spectacular Rocky Mountains which correspond to a fold and thrust belt on the eastern side of the Canadian Cordillera, and on the western side of the vast expanse of the Canadian prairies, which are the surface expression of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. This young, fast growing city has an underlying energy that keeps its community strong, excited and motivated, creating a setting that combines natural beauty with a dynamic and inviting urban environment. With a population of almost 1.5 million, Calgary is a place of big skies and big ideas, with welcoming and friendly people. There is always something to do - a new restaurant to try, festival to lose yourself in or attraction to experience. Calgary is dynamic. The city is also gaining global recognition for our architecture, young and affluent population, and celebrated arts and culinary scenes. It's a combination of cosmopolitan feel and undeniable community spirit that gives Calgary its unique energy.

Calgary is a meeting destination like no other: a mix of big-city energy and warm Western hospitality. With community spirit at its core, Calgary is full of shareable experiences. From a bustling downtown to character-filled neighbourhoods, along winding rivers and inside every welcoming venue, there are a billion reasons that make Calgary the perfect place to host your next meeting or event.

There are five UNESCO World Heritage Sites with geological significance within an easy day trip from Calgary. Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park contains thousands of petroglyphs in 50 locations dating back over 5,000 years. In addition to excellent riparian habitats and beautiful badland landscapes, Dinosaur Provincial Park preserves exceptional fossils from all ten Cretaceous dinosaur families. Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump is located where the Foothills of the Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains. It is one of the best-preserved and largest buffalo jumps and includes an impressive museum depicting the cultural significance of the site to the Blackfoot First Nation. Moreover, evidence for the Cambrian Explosion of life was first discovered at the Walcott Quarry of the Burgess Shale in the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks.



ABOUT CALGARY

CALGARY CUISINE

Calgary is a vibrant culinary destination where innovation meets bold flavors. With over 200 restaurants in the downtown core alone, you'll find everything from upscale dining to classic western fare, all crafted by internationally acclaimed chefs. Whether you're indulging in a gourmet experience or savoring local favorites, Calgary's cuisine is a feast for every palate.

ARTS & CULTURE

Calgary's arts and culture scene is alive with creativity, offering world-class performances from ballet to musicals and comedy. Home to diverse theatre companies, music halls, galleries, and festivals, the city is a dynamic hub where artistic expression thrives.

SHOPPING IN CALGARY

From handcrafted cowboy boots to high-end fashion, Calgary's shopping scene is as diverse as its skyline. Discover local boutiques, bustling malls, and unique finds that make retail therapy an unforgettable experience.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS LEAGUES

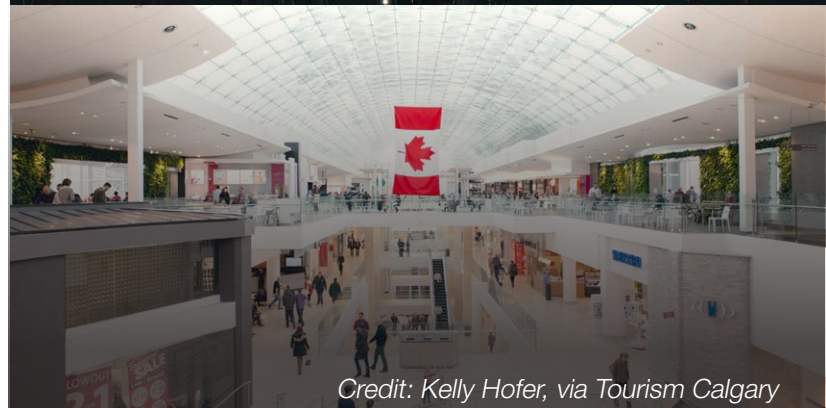
As the proud home of six professional sports leagues -including hockey, ringette, football, soccer, equestrian, and lacrosse - Calgary offers thrilling year-round action. Fans can witness elite athletes in action and experience the city's undeniable energy, whether at the stadium, on the ice, or on the field.



Credit: Stay & Wander Media Inc, via Tourism Calgary



Credit: Kiani Evans - Arts Common Presents, via Tourism Calgary



Credit: Kelly Hofer, via Tourism Calgary



Credit: Calgary Flames / Brady Plewright, via Tourism Calgary

1

Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks
(including Burgess Shale IUGS Geological Heritage Site)



Murdoch McKinnon

2

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump



Travel Alberta / Robt & Ramberg

Five UNESCO World Heritage Sites (and two IUGS Geological Heritage Sites),
with spectacular geology, within a day's drive of Calgary



Map data: Esri, USGS
Cartography: Murdoch McKinnon

3

Waterton-Glacier
International Peace Park



Amrinda Dubois Galar

4

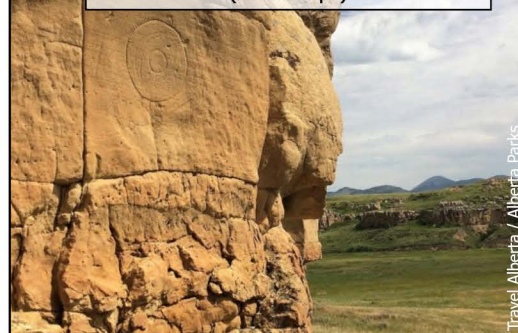
Dinosaur Provincial Park
IUGS Geological Heritage Site



Travel Alberta / Scott Ramberg

5

Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park
(Áísínai'pi)



Travel Alberta / Alberta Parks

GETTING TO CALGARY

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

As Canada's third-busiest airport, YYC offers unparalleled convenience with over 100 direct national and international flights. A 20-minute drive downtown and a 90-minute drive to the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Banff, Calgary's location is the ultimate destination for blue sky experiences.

For the latest flight details, [visit YYC's website](#).

AIRLINE OFFERS

Airline discounts will be provided through WestJet and Air Canada who are the official carriers of the Congress.

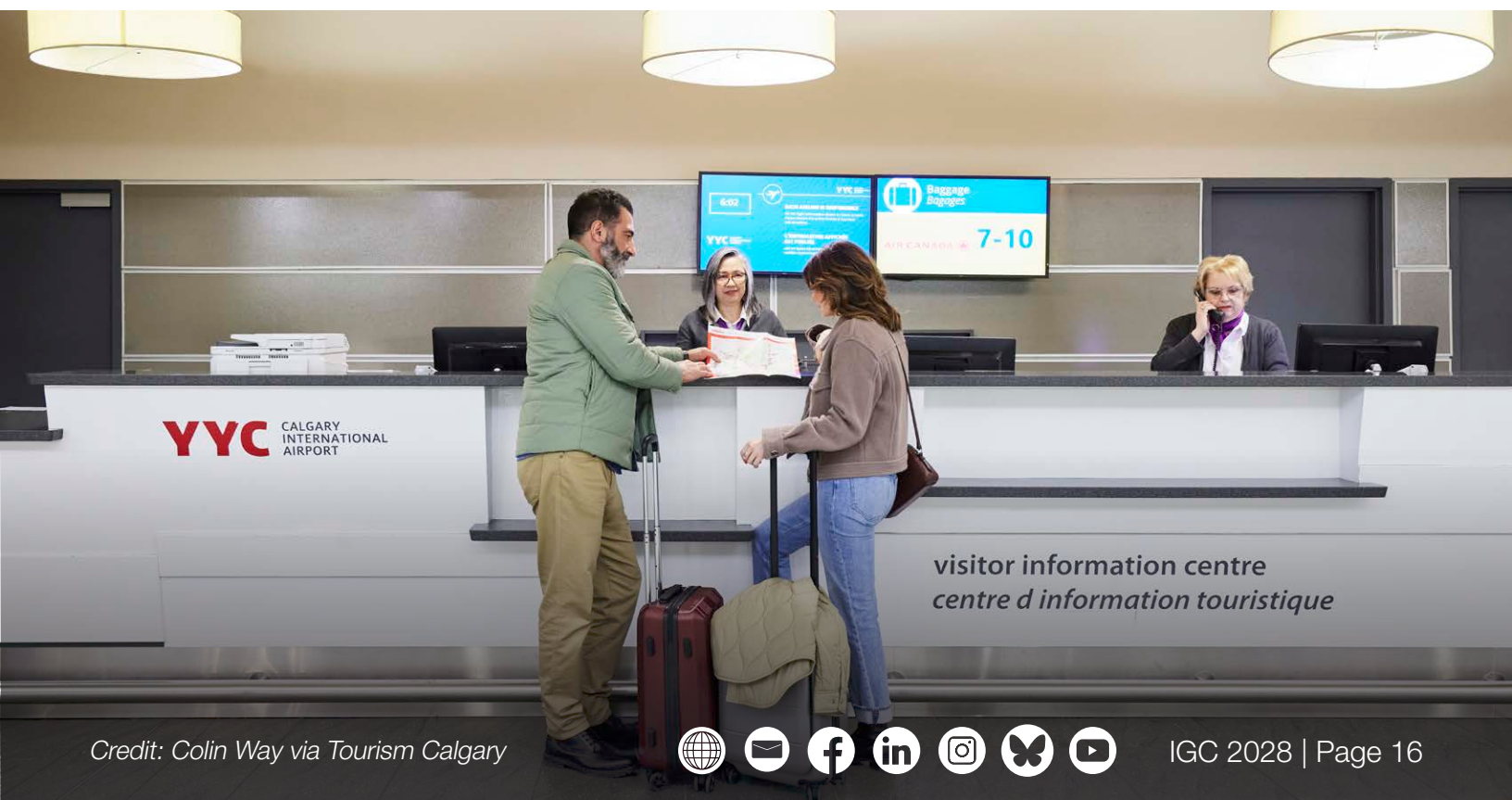
GETTING AROUND CALGARY

- Taxis & Ride Sharing: Available at YYC and downtown. Mobile booking options offer added ease
- Rental Cars: Conveniently located at the airport and throughout downtown Calgary.
- Public Transit: Travel seamlessly with Calgary's C-Train, featuring a Free Fare Zone in the downtown core.

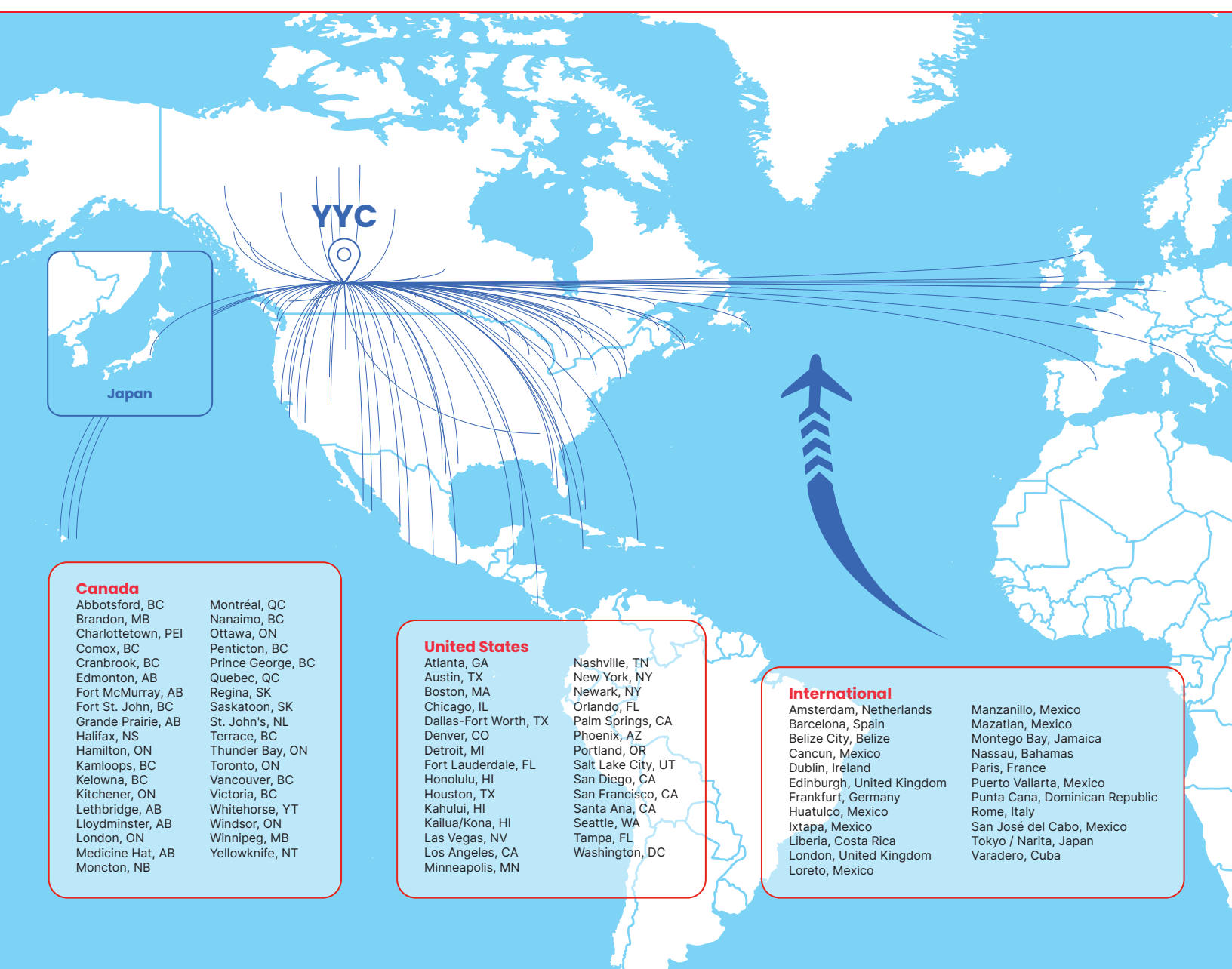
EXPLORE CALGARY ON FOOT

Calgary's downtown is highly accessible, with a compact, flat layout and extensive pathways that make it easy to explore on foot, by bicycle, or by other active transportation options. From bustling streets to serene green spaces, Calgary blends urban energy with natural beauty, offering many ways to experience the city.

Visitors are encouraged to explore Calgary and access additional information through the [Tourism Calgary website](#).



DIRECT FLIGHTS TO YYC



Credit: Colin Way via Tourism Calgary

CONGRESS VENUE

BMO CENTRE AT STAMPEDE PARK

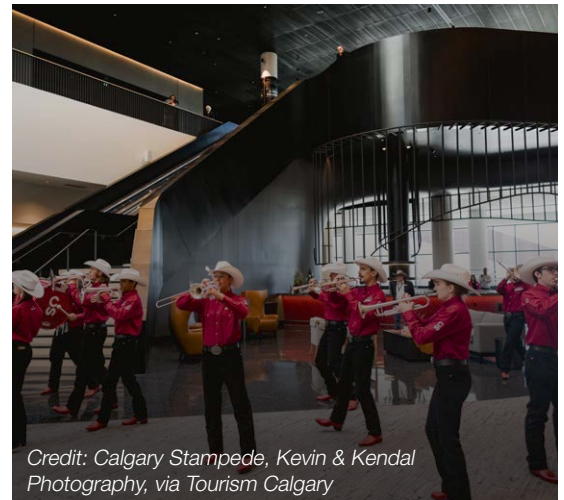
The BMO Centre at Stampede Park is located on the southeast corner of downtown in the heart of Calgary's emerging cultural and entertainment district. The BMO Centre is part of the Calgary Stampede, a not-for-profit community organization that preserves and celebrates Western heritage, culture, and community spirit. Each year, for more than a century, Stampede Park hosts the Calgary Stampede, known as the "Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth", welcoming over four million guests and hosting over 1,200 events.

The BMO Centre is Canada's second largest convention centre and the largest in Western Canada. It has a total of 1 million sq. ft., made up of 500,000 sq. ft. of saleable space and 500,000 sq. ft. of pre-function and heart of house space. The building is made up of numerous spaces to accommodate and host a variety of events, such as conventions, trade and consumer shows, special events, and meetings. It offers 350,000 sq. ft. of contiguous exhibit space, 150,000 sq. ft. of meeting space and Calgary's largest ballroom at 50,000 sq. ft.

Located adjacent to the BMO Centre there are also two unique event venues. Firstly, the Nutrient Western Event Centre, ideal for indoor rodeos or agricultural events with 20,000 sq. ft. of exhibit area and seating for 2,500. Lastly, the Big Four Roadhouse is a concert or corporate hosting venue with built in 40ft. bar and stage, it has a total of 120,000 sq. ft. of event space on two levels.



Credit: Colin Way, via Tourism Calgary

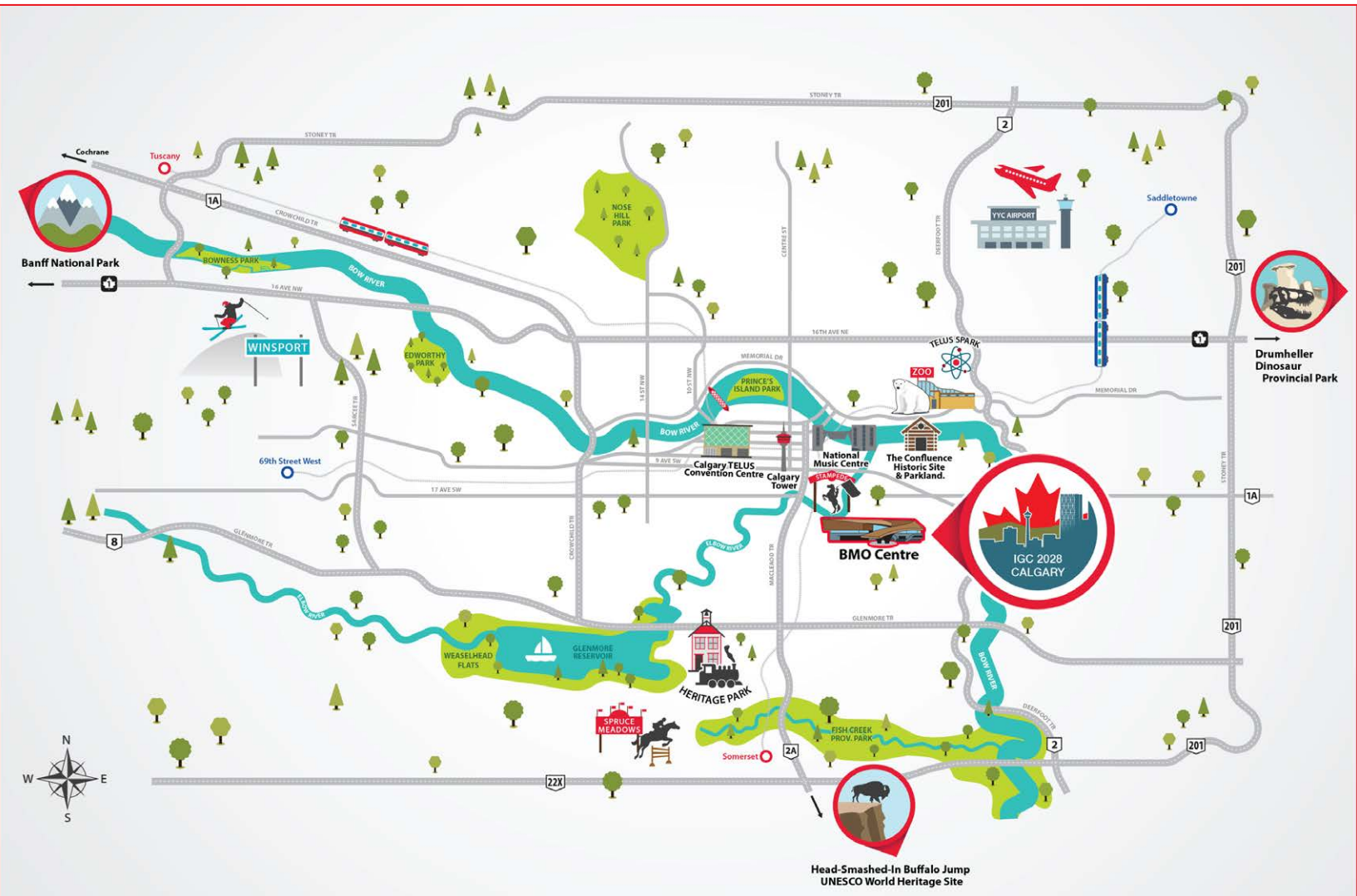


Credit: Calgary Stampede, Kevin & Kendal Photography, via Tourism Calgary



Credit: Kevin & Kendal Photography

CONGRESS VENUE

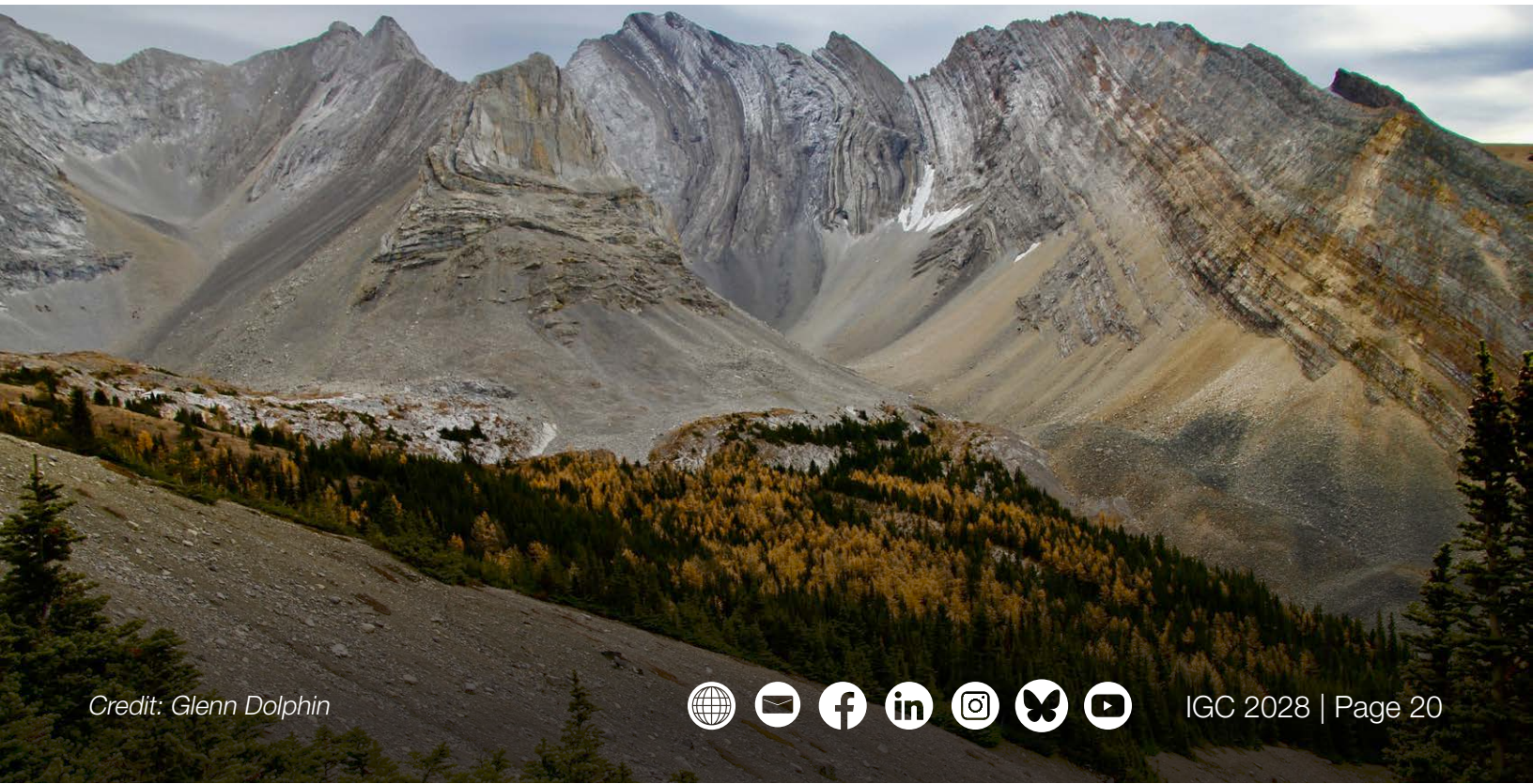


Credit: Calgary Stampede, Kevin & Kendal Photography, via Tourism Calgary



IMPORTANT DATES

Release of First Circular; Session Submission opens, Draft Scientific Program	March 2026
Release of Second Circular	January 2027
Sessions Submission closes	March 2027
Abstract Submission opens; Early Registration opens	June 2027
Rolling abstract review starts	July 2027
Abstract Submission closes	March 2028
Final Program	Summer 2028
Pre-Congress Field Excursions	30 July - 13 August 2028
Accompanying Person Tours	August 13 - 18
Scientific Program	14 - 18 August 2028
Post-Congress Field Excursions and Workshops	19 August - 2 September 2028



KEYNOTE DAILY THEMES

Each day will have a “Hot Topic” Keynote Daily Theme that will focus on topics highlighting and showcasing the connection between the geosciences and humanity. Panel discussions will start each day, and plenary talks will end each day, bringing distinguished speakers, policy makers, political leaders, Indigenous groups, and other stakeholders such as social scientists, health workers, and educators together to address these current affairs. These discussions and talks will be recorded and packaged for distribution to universities and schools so that these conversations can be continued after the conference.

These Keynote Daily Themes are designed to facilitate overarching, ongoing, and interdisciplinary discussion which is complementary to the detailed technical sessions.

Day 1: Sustainability, Climate Change and Natural Hazards

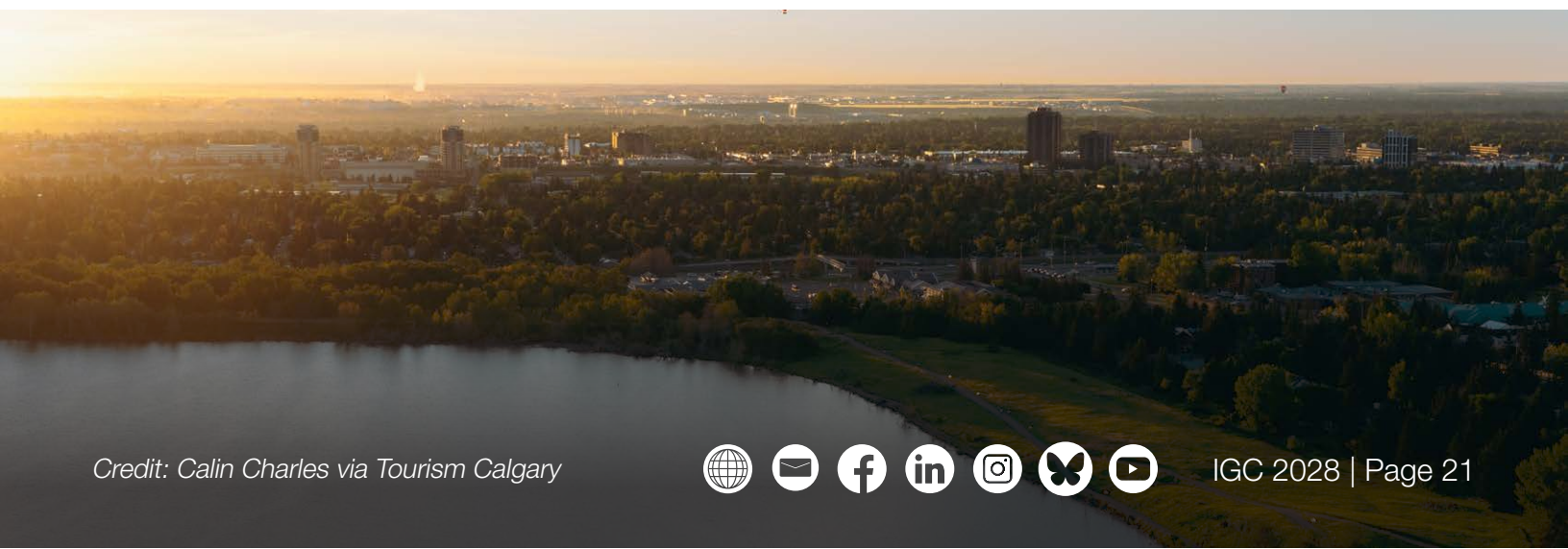
Day 2: Shaping Geosciences for the Future - “Young Earth Scientists” Day

Day 3: Space and Planetary Geosciences

Day 4: Critical Minerals and Sustainable Energy Transition

Day 5: Water - water resources, oceans, glaciers, permafrost, groundwater

These are separate to the scientific program theme groups and themes. Note, you cannot submit sessions to the Keynote Daily Themes.



CONTRIBUTE TO THE PLANNING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

CALL FOR SESSIONS

The National Organising Committee invites your participation in planning the Scientific Program by submitting a session proposal against any of the defined themes. [Visit the Call for Sessions Portal](#) and indicate your interest by submitting a session proposal. The closing of the sessions submission period will be in March 2027, in order for the final program structure to be ready for the Call for Abstracts, set to take place in June 2027.

The Scientific Program definition is well advanced, based on the overall content of past IGCs and advice received from the members of the Scientific Program Subcommittee and other organizational and advisory bodies. You will find below the list of Theme Groups, each theme group being an umbrella for some 200 themes under which you may submit a session proposal. You will find the full list of themes represented in the session submission system. Please note, similar sessions may be reconciled in consultation with submission chairs to maximize coordination and address space considerations. Submitters will be alerted should this happen to their session proposal. The updated Scientific Program for abstract submissions will reflect any reconciliations. You may communicate with the theme coordinators [through the contact email supplied on the website](#) if you wish to have more details on the theme definition or any related question.

The theme groups and themes are still subject to some adjustments in the coming months. In case you do not find an important theme group against which you would wish to submit a session proposal or you need help in selecting a defined one, we invite you to provide suggestions to the Scientific Program Subcommittee co-chairs or the theme group coordinator(s) through the contact indicated on the session submission system.

ABSTRACT TIMELINE

Abstracts will be submitted through the congress website within each approved session starting in June 2027. Abstracts will be subjected to rolling review with approval starting in July 2027 to support those who require early visa submissions. **All abstract submissions must be received by the cutoff date of March 31, 2028.**

WORKSHOPS AND SHORT COURSES FOR THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

A range of expert workshops and short courses will be available at an additional cost. Information will be made available through the congress website as it becomes available.

Through this First Circular, the Calgary 38th IGC is calling for workshop and short course submissions. If you wish to deliver a workshop or short course, or suggest a topic, please provide your proposal on our [online submission system](#). The closing of such submissions will occur in March 2027 and submissions will be approved on a rolling basis so that they can be advertised early. The Scientific Program Subcommittee will be using science excellence criteria and will seek to avoid duplication. Workshop and short course inclusion in the final program will be subject to sufficient participant registration.

SCIENTIFIC THEME GROUPS

Category I - Geoheritage, Education, Outreach, Communications, Policy, Career Development

A. Geoscience Education Research and Teaching	Jennifer Cuthbertson, Canada
B. Science Communication, Outreach, Public Engagement and Community Partnerships	Courtney Onstad, Canada
C. GeoHeritage, GeoParks and GeoTourism	Asier Hilario, Spain
D. History and Philosophy of Geoscience	Glenn Dolphin, Canada
E. Geoscience and Policy	Kim Picard, Canada
F. Geoscience Workforce Development and Careers	Renzo Ocampo, Australia
G. Professional practices	Paul Hubley, Canada
H. Diversity and Inclusion	Hema Achyuthan, India; Riddhi Dave, Canada
I. Indigenous Geosciences	Mitch Maracle, Canada
J. Geoethics	Silvia Peppoloni, Italy
K. Museums, Core Facilities and Collections	Kerry Murphy, Canada
L. Geoarchaeology	Adrian Burke, Canada

SCIENTIFIC THEME GROUPS

Category II - Foundational Geosciences; Stratigraphy, Paleontology, Petrology, Geochemistry, Forensic, Medical, Space

M. Stratigraphy Meets The Future	Charles Henderson, Canada
N. Vertebrate Paleontology	Craig Scott, Canada
O. Paleontology sensu lato: Ichnology, Invertebrates, Micropaleontology, Palynology, Geobiology	Paul Johnston, Canada
P. Paleoceanography, Paleoclimate, Limnogeology, Paleogeography	Jenni Scott, Canada
Q. Metamorphic Petrology	Xinyu Xu, Canada
R. Igneous Petrology	Yarden Gedalia, Canada
S. Sedimentary Petrology	Alex MacNeil, Canada
T. Geochemistry and Geochronology	Bridget Bergquist, Canada
U. Forensic Geology	Laurance Donnelly, United Kingdom
V. Medical Geology	Lola Pereira, Spain
W. Space and Planetary Geosciences	Hafida El Bilali, Canada

SCIENTIFIC THEME GROUPS

Category III - Earth Resources: Energy, Minerals, and Reclamation

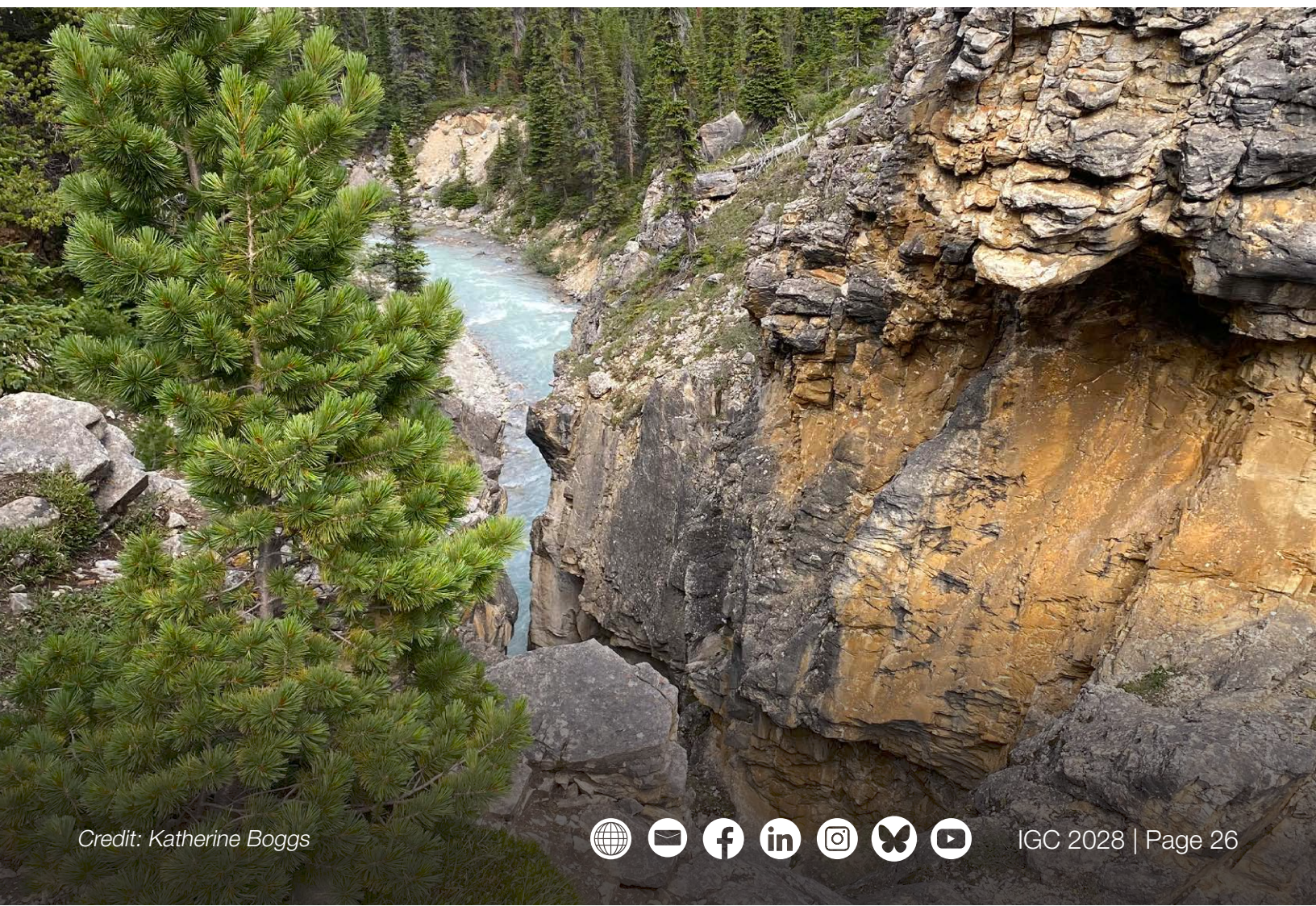
X. Geoscience for Petroleum: Foundation for Energy Affordability and Security	Kelsey MacCormack, Canada
Y. Geothermal Energy	Stephen Grasby, Canada
Z. Mineral Exploration and Ore Systems: From Discovery to Sustainable Use	Tania Martins, Canada
AA. Deep Geological Reservoirs	Martin Scherwath, Canada
AB. Sustainable Closure Planning and Land Reclamation	Murdoch McKinnon. Canada



SCIENTIFIC THEME GROUPS

Category IV - Climate Change, Soils, Atmosphere, Coastlines, Water

AC. Climate Change, Biogeosciences, and Critical Zone Science	Emma Aronson, United States of America
AD. Earth Surface Processes in Regolith-Soil Systems: Architecture, Resources, and Sustainability	Carmen Krapf, Australia
AE. Atmosphere	Kayley Walker, Canada
AF. Coastal Geosciences	Mitch Maracle, Canada
AG. Oceanography	Paul Myers, Canada
AH. Marine Geosciences	Hiroshi Kitazato, Japan
AI. Water	Brian Smerdon, Canada



SCIENTIFIC THEME GROUPS

Category V - AI for Geosciences, Geomatics, Earth Observation, Geoengineering, Drilling Programs, Computing, Geohazards, Continents and Below

AJ. Geomatics and Geodesy	Ismael Foroughi, Canada
AK. Geodata Science and Earth Observation	Mana Rahimi, Canada
AL. Innovative Platforms and Solutions to Enhance Geoscience Data Visualization	Kelsey MacCormack, Canada
AM. Geoengineering, Geotechnology, Geomechanics	Othman Nasir, Canada
AN. Scientific Drilling, Interdisciplinary Programs, and Earth Systems	Daniel Lebel, Canada
AO. Mathematical and Computing Geosciences, Big Data, AI	Jeff Boisvert, Canada
AP. Geohazards and Urban Geology	Malaika Ulmi, Canada
AQ. Foundation of and Below Continents: Geophysics, Structural Geology and Tectonics	Manish Mamtani, India
AR. Supercontinent Cycles, Large Igneous Provinces, and Geodynamics	Hafida El Bilali, Canada
AS. The Geosciences of the Americas Symposium	Basil Tikoff, United States of America; Enrique Castellanos, Cuba; Gerardo de Soto, Costa Rica; Jorge Gomez Tapias, Colombia; Cristobel Ramirez de Arellano, Chile
AT. Geosciences in Africa Symposium	Asfawossen Asrat, Botswana/Ethiopia; Bjorn von der Heyden, South Africa; Tamer Nassar, Egypt; Kombada Mhopjeni, Kenya/Namibia; Emmanuel Kazimoto, Tanzania; Monica Juvane, Mozambique

PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS FIELD EXCURSIONS

A diverse and engaging array of Field Excursions are being organized for delegates. Field Excursions will be held in Canada, and are being planned for across the Americas and Greenland.

The Field Excursions will run prior to, during, and after the 38th IGC.

There will also be an interesting selection of day excursions during the congress.

Please note that the Field Excursions will be confirmed based on participant interest and logistical feasibility. The registration for field excursions will start with the Third Circular due out in 2027.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE PLANNING OF THE FIELD EXCURSIONS

The Field Excursion program is still in the early stages of planning. The National Organising Committee invites your participation in the proposals of field excursions. [Visit the Call for Field excursions portal](#) and indicate your interest as a field trip leader by proposing a field trip.

The following field excursions have been selected to be showcased in this First Circular:



EXAMPLES OF PRE-AND POST-CONGRESS FIELD EXCURSIONS

Credit: Jeff Freymueller

FT01 - GLACIERS, TECTONICS, AND THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH TRAIL (JUNEAU, ALASKA, USA TO WHITEHORSE, YUKON, CANADA)

Duration: 4-5 days

This excursion will explore some of the spectacular geological features along the corridor from Juneau, Alaska to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Starting in Juneau, we will travel up Lynn Canal to Skagway, then take the historic White Pass Railroad up into Canada, following the path of the Klondike Gold Rush.

In Yukon Territory, we will explore glacial, tectonic and other features, including the southern section of the Denali fault, the geological and historic records of rapidly-changing glaciers. For example, the advance and retreat of glaciers has changed the lake level of Kluane Lake dramatically over recent centuries.

Mining and economic geology are closely tied to the history of the region, on both sides of the border.

Credit: Eric A. Hegg, 1898, Wikimedia Commons



EXAMPLES OF PRE-AND POST-CONGRESS FIELD EXCURSIONS

Credit: Christopher Collom



FT02 - BURGESS SHALE WALCOTT QUARRY

Duration: 1 day

This day-long guided hike takes you to the high country of Yoho National Park to view the Walcott Quarry in the 508 million year old Burgess Shale, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Famous for excellently preserved invertebrate fossils, the Burgess Shale offers a rare window on the early evolution of animal phyla during the “Cambrian Explosion.” The hike provides an overview of middle Cambrian geology and palaeontology in the area and evidence for coeval hydrothermal mineralization. Glaciers visible along the way show evidence of retreat during the modern warm period.

The Walcott Quarry site has limited access, and only two groups of 12 participants are allowed by Parks Canada per day. Participants should be fit as the hike is 22 kilometres round-trip, with 825 metres of elevation gain.



Credit: Paul Johnston and Christopher Collom



EXAMPLES OF PRE-AND POST-CONGRESS FIELD EXCURSIONS

Credit: Royal Tyrrell Museum



FT03 - DINOSAUR PALEOBIOLOGY AND DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS OF DINOSAUR PROVINCIAL PARK, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Duration: 1 day

Dinosaur Provincial Park (DPP) is the largest area of badlands topography in Canada, was the first UNESCO World Heritage Site designated based on fossil material, and is globally recognized for its abundance of Late Cretaceous vertebrate fossils, especially dinosaurs. Due to the abundance and high-quality preservation of vertebrate fossils, DPP has historically been, and remains today, an epicenter of paleontological research.

Participants will enjoy a day of hiking across outcrop of upper Belly River Group transgressive sequence (fluvial to estuarine) including the Oldman, Dinosaur Park and Bearpaw formations. The hike will take participants to historic and current paleontological sites, with a specific focus on different vertebrate taphonomic modes, including articulated skeletons, monodominant ceratopsian (horned dinosaur) bonebeds, multitaxic microvertebrate bonebeds, isolated bones, and possible dinosaur trackways, as well as paleobotanical sites. The history of collecting and research, vertebrate diversity and paleoecology, and changing ideas of dinosaur paleobiology in DPP will be covered.

Dinosaur Provincial Park is a two-hour drive from Calgary. The fieldtrip will be restricted to the hike, with no collecting involved.



Credit: Royal Tyrrell Museum



EXAMPLES OF PRE-AND POST-CONGRESS FIELD EXCURSIONS

Credit: Paul Golightly



Credit: CML



FT04 - SUDBURY IMPACT STRUCTURE AND EVOLUTION OF THE IMPACT MELT AND ASSOCIATED NI-CU-PGE MINERALIZATION

Duration: 5 days

The 1.85 Ga Sudbury Impact Structure is one of the world's oldest, largest, best-preserved, and best-exposed extraterrestrial impact structures. It also contains some of the world's largest and most valuable Ni-Cu-PGE deposits, some of which are still in operation, under development, or being defined. The trip will provide an overview of the geology of the Sudbury Structure with an emphasis on the evolution of the impact melt sheet and its relationship to the associated Ni-Cu-(PGE) sulfide ores.

We will examine a wide range of spectacular mechanically $\pm$ hydraulically-stripped outcrops and road cuts to illustrate: 1) the effects of shock metamorphism on the surrounding target rocks (e.g., shatter cones and pseudotachylites), 2) the crystallization products of the impact melt sheet, 3) the various types of ore-hosting impact breccias, and 4) fall-back and suevitic material from the impact. Sudbury is home to the Harquail School of Earth Sciences and Mineral Exploration Research Centre at Laurentian University, which will host evening lectures.



Credit: CML

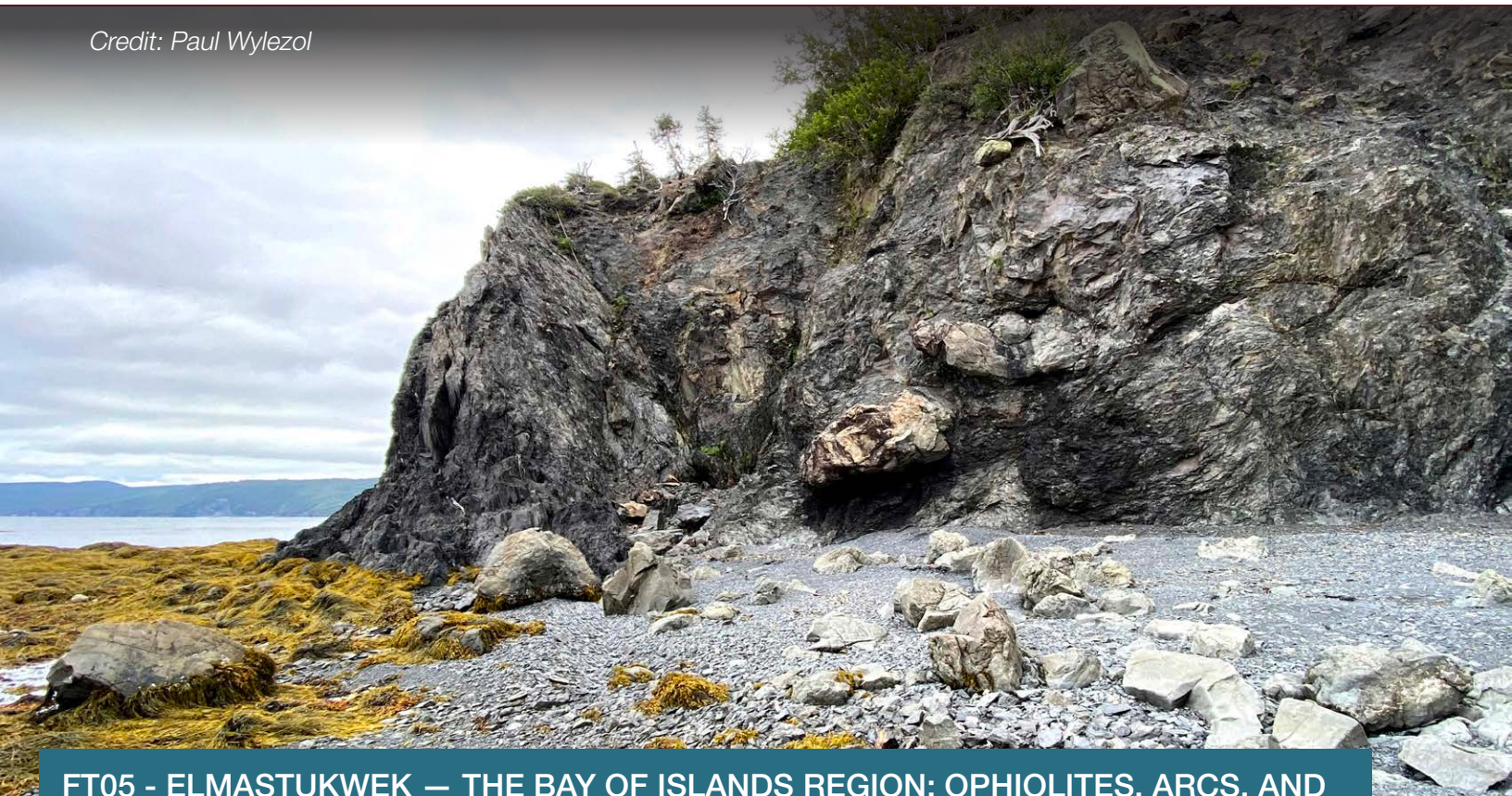


Credit: CML



EXAMPLES OF PRE-AND POST-CONGRESS FIELD EXCURSIONS

Credit: Paul Wylezol



FT05 - ELMASTUKWEK — THE BAY OF ISLANDS REGION: OPHIOLITES, ARCS, AND A CONTINENTAL MARGIN IN THE CABOX ASPIRING GEOPARK

Duration: 3 days

Cabox Aspiring Geopark is based around Elamastukwek, the Bay of Islands in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Geopark is located in a critical area of the Paleozoic Appalachian orogen, where spectacular massifs of the Bay of Islands Ophiolite were fundamental to the earliest interpretations of Paleozoic plate tectonics, and continue to inform geoscience about ocean-floor processes.

The trip will provide a broad view of the regional geology, including the Paleozoic carbonate-dominated shelf, the laterally equivalent deep-water sedimentary rocks of the Humber Arm Supergroup, arc rocks of the Little Port assemblage (Coastal Complex), ocean floor preserved in the Bay of Islands Ophiolite, and the record of Quaternary glaciation and deglaciation. The rocks were deformed both in Ordovician arc-continent collision and in the subsequent accretion of exotic terranes, and show spectacular tectonic features including refolded folds, sup-ophiolite metamorphism, and mélanges.



Credit: Paul Wylezol



GEOHOST PROGRAM AND HUTCHISON AWARDS

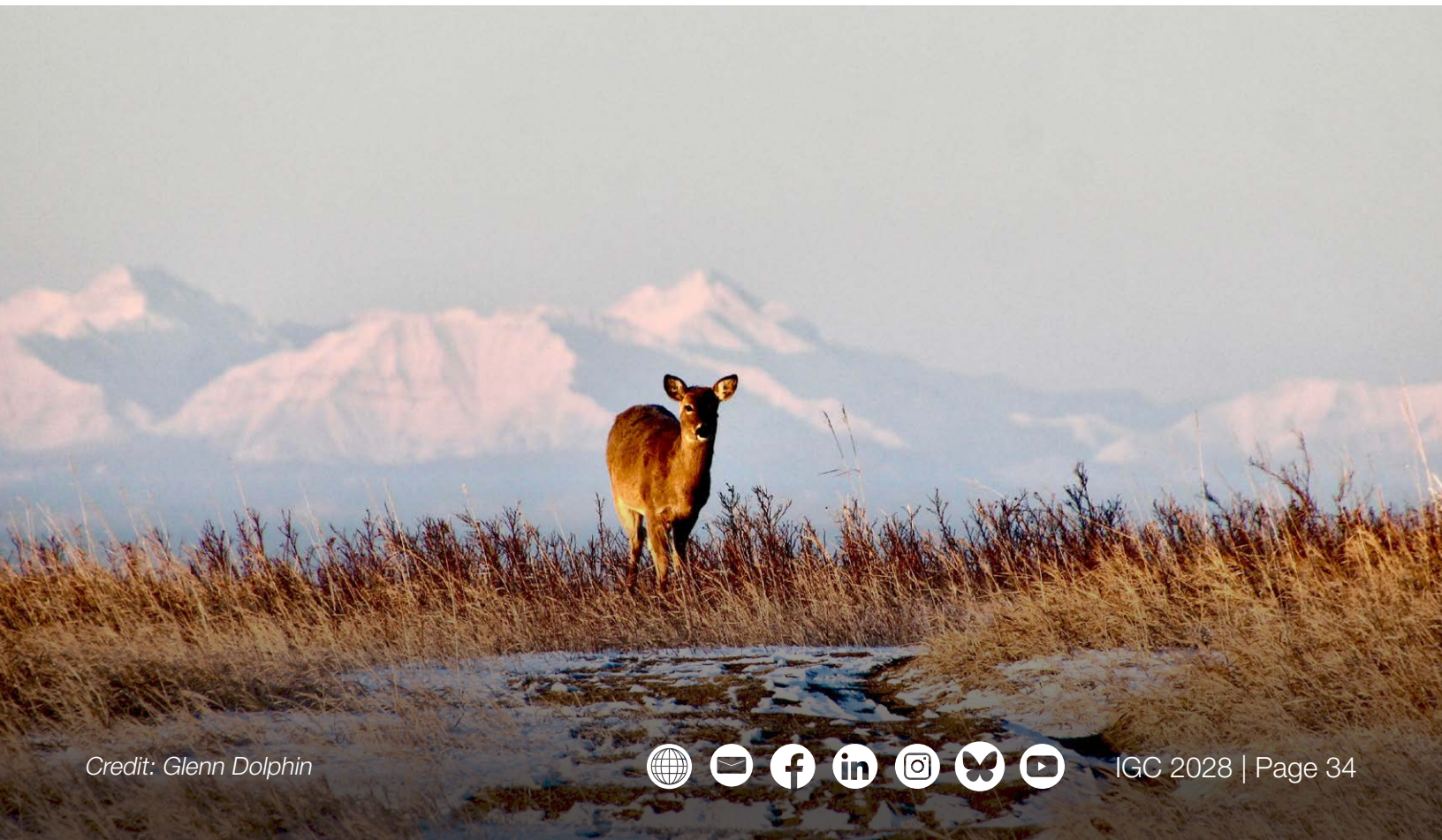
The Organizing Committee is working hard to attract funds to support attendance of the congress by appropriate delegates from low-income countries. This support will be provided through the GeoHost program. It will be necessary for those wishing to be considered for GeoHost support to complete an application process and agree to present a paper or poster during the 38th IGC. It is anticipated that the application process for individuals seeking GeoHost program support will be announced in the Second Circular, planned for January 2027. To ensure that you receive the Second Circular, please sign up to our [mailing list](#). Individuals from developing countries who do not wish to present papers or posters will not be eligible for the GeoHost program. They should independently pursue other sources of funding from international agencies to support their attendance at the 38th IGC, such as the [UGS Hutchison Young Scientist Foundation Travel Awards](#).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Organizing Committee of IGC 2028 invites enthusiastic volunteers to join the team that will help deliver a memorable and smoothly run Congress. Volunteers play a vital role in supporting sessions, assisting delegates, and ensuring the overall success of this global event.

Those wishing to contribute their time and expertise are encouraged to register their interest to be a volunteer by joining the [mailing list](#) or by visiting the [Congress website](#). More details will be forthcoming to those who express such interest.

Volunteer participation strengthens the community and helps showcase the best of our host region. We look forward to welcoming you to the team.



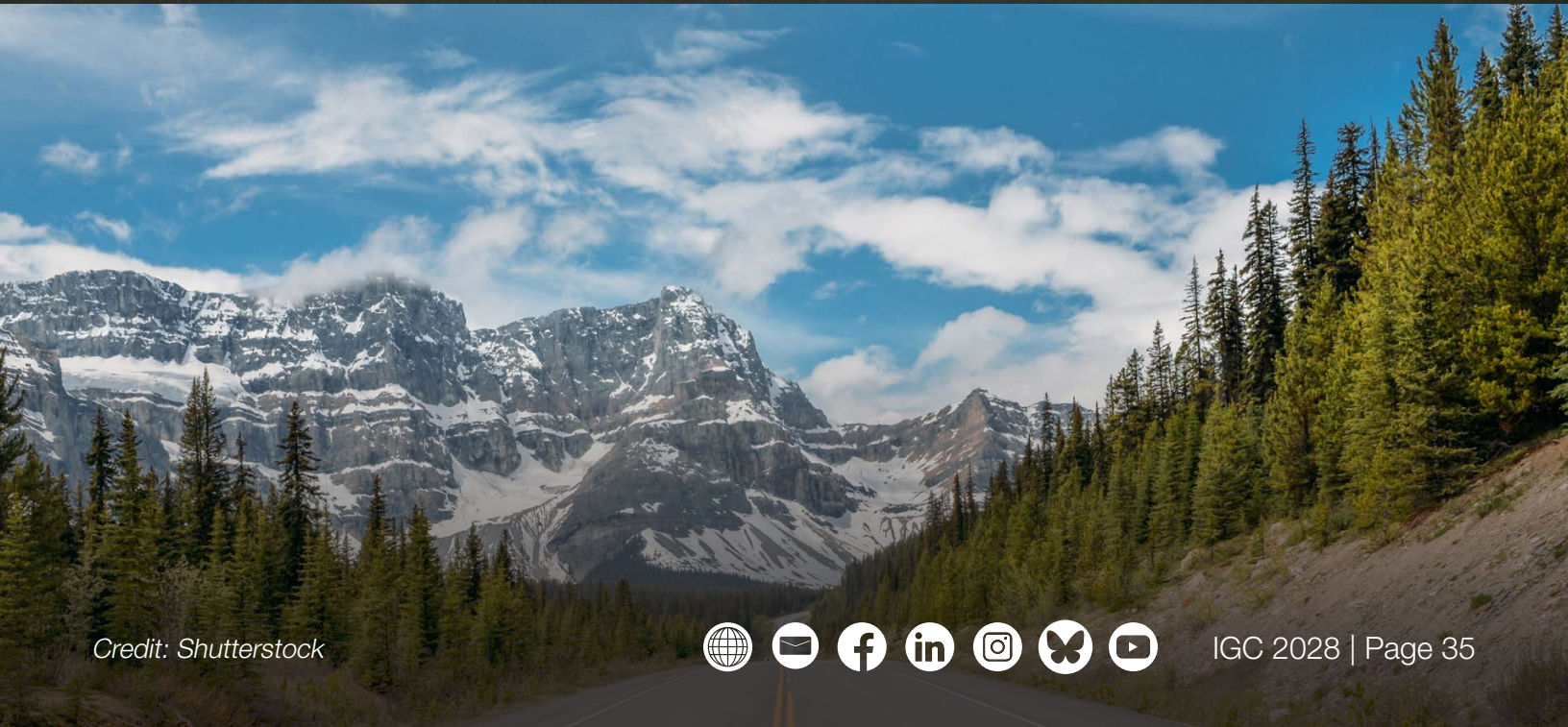
ATTENDING IGC 2028

IGC 2028 is committed to ensuring broad global participation by making the Congress as accessible and affordable as possible. Reduced registration rates will be offered for students, seniors, GeoHost program participants, and delegates from low- and middle-income countries, helping to remove financial barriers for emerging researchers and those traveling from developing regions.

In addition, a range of budget-friendly accommodation options will be available throughout Calgary, including economical hotel choices and affordable residence-style lodging offered in partnership with local universities. Together, these initiatives support a more inclusive Congress and help welcome a diverse community of geoscientists from around the world.



Credit: Michael Moynihan, via Tourism Calgary



Credit: Shutterstock

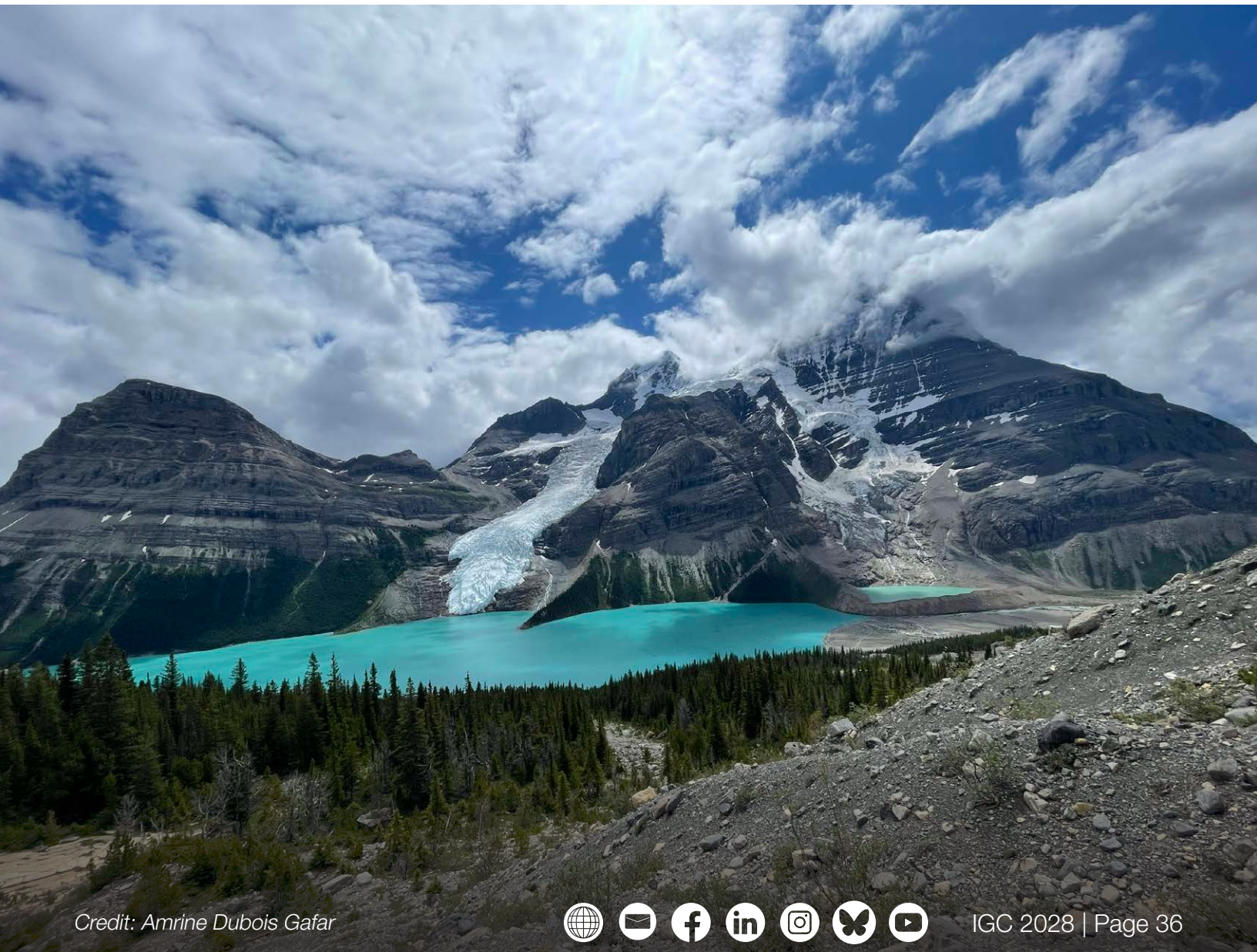


ENTERING CANADA AND VISA INFORMATION

International delegates attending the IGC 2028 in Calgary will be supported by a streamlined entry and visa process designed specifically for large scientific congresses hosted in Canada. Depending on nationality, visitors may require either a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) or an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to enter the country. Participants are encouraged to review Canada's official immigration guidelines early, as visa processing times can vary by region. Upon registration, delegates will receive appropriate documentation, such as invitation letters, to support their visa applications and ensure a smooth arrival experience.

To further facilitate entry for all participants, the IGC 2028 will be formally registered with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) under the International Events and Conventions Services Program (IECSP). This registration provides several advantages, including recognition of the event by Canadian border officials and access to expedited support for delegate entry, scientific equipment, promotional materials, and exhibit shipments. The IECSP designation reinforces Canada's commitment to welcoming the global geoscience community and ensures delegates can focus on their congress experience with confidence and ease.

For more information on entering Canada, please visit [Canada's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada website](#).

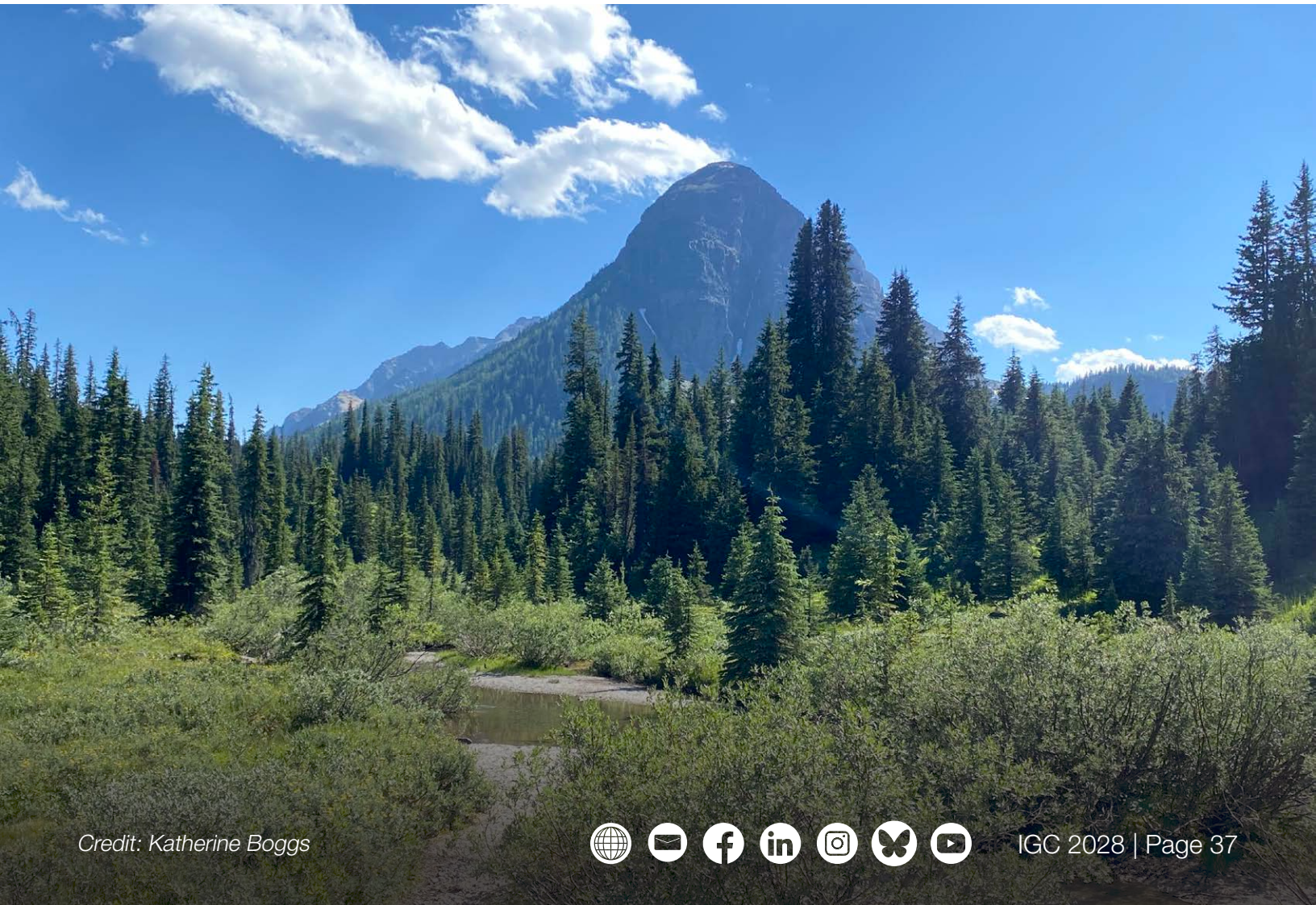


SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION INFORMATION

The IGC 2028 provides organizations with comprehensive and high-value opportunities to connect with an estimated 10,000 delegates from across the global geoscience community. Sponsors at all levels benefit from strong brand visibility through digital, onsite, and program-based recognition, while higher-tier packages offer premium exposure such as website homepage videos, speaking opportunities, major event sponsorship (e.g., Gala Dinner or Welcome Reception), and substantial exhibit space allocations. With sponsorship levels ranging from \$25,000 to \$160,000, plus a wide range of à-la-carte options, such as poster sessions, lunch symposia, water stations, Wi-Fi, and delegate materials, organizations can tailor their investment to align with their marketing goals and audience engagement strategies. These opportunities position sponsors prominently in front of decision makers, researchers, government agencies, and industry leaders across every discipline of Earth Science.

The Congress also offers a robust **GeoExpo exhibition**, providing exhibitors access to a global audience of innovators and influencers in geology. Exhibit packages include turnkey booth options (6–18 sqm) or space-only rentals, with sponsors receiving discounted rates and priority selection. Exhibitors benefit from high-traffic positioning adjacent to refreshment areas and poster sessions, ensuring consistent delegate flow, as well as inclusion in the Welcome Reception, lunches, and coffee breaks through exhibitor badges. This environment creates a powerful platform to showcase new technologies, launch products, generate leads, and build international business relationships in a concentrated and influential setting. Overall, the prospectus presents a diverse and highly customizable suite of opportunities for organizations to maximize visibility, engagement, and impact at one of the world's largest gatherings of geoscience professionals.

[Click here](#) for more information on the sponsor and exhibitor opportunities.

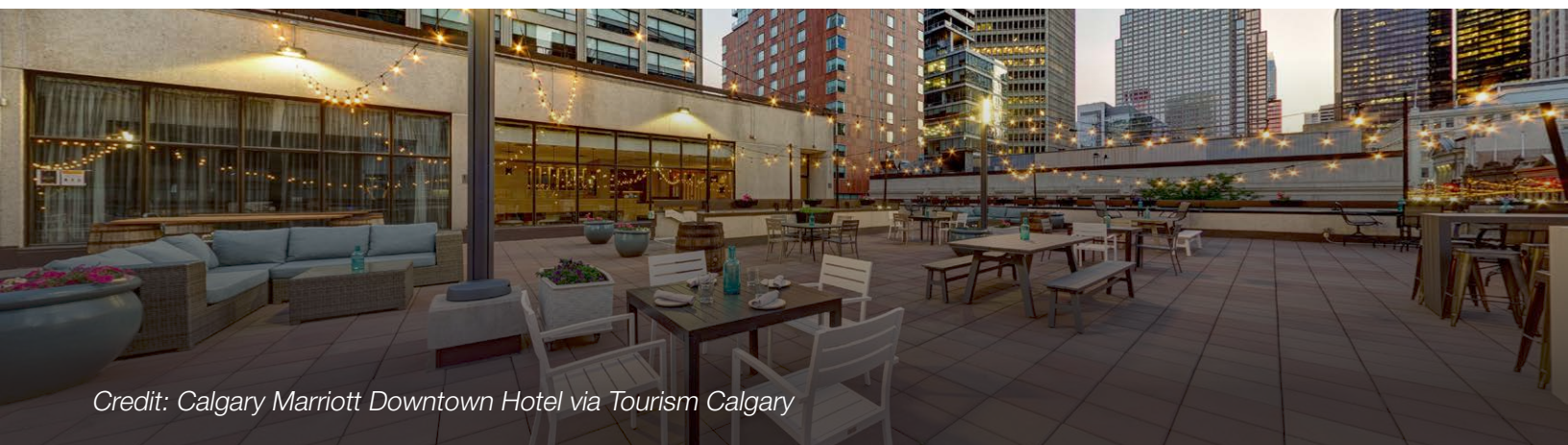


ACCOMMODATION

Calgary is home to world-class accommodations. With over 15,000 hotel rooms, there's something for every budget and preference. There are just under 5,000 guest rooms in the downtown area and access to many more via the Light Rail Transit (LRT) which is located adjacent to the BMO Centre at Stampede Park.

Additional budget-friendly accommodations will be available through local universities. Congress attendees, including GeoHost participants, will have many affordable options to choose from.

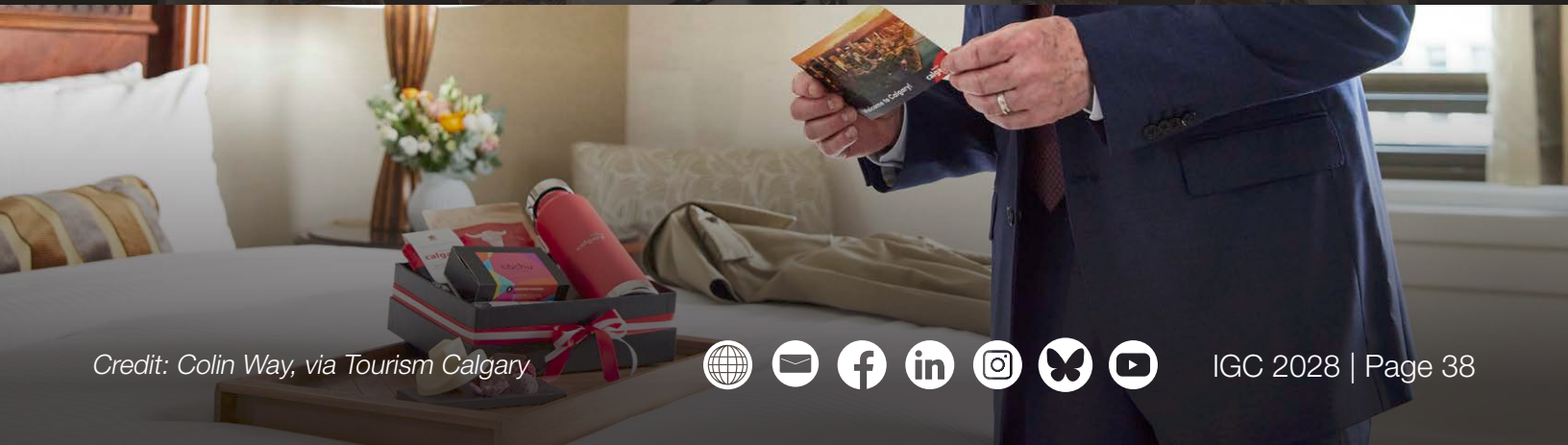
The UCalgary offers options from contemporary suites with hotel amenities to budget-friendly student residence buildings with single rooms or shared accommodation apartments. MRU Residences offer fully furnished one-, two- and four-bedroom apartments and townhouses. SAIT offers spacious multiple suite stylings, from studio to four-bedroom suites. On-campus food services are available at each location, with a range of price options.



Credit: Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel via Tourism Calgary



Credit: Hyatt Regency Calgary via Tourism Calgary

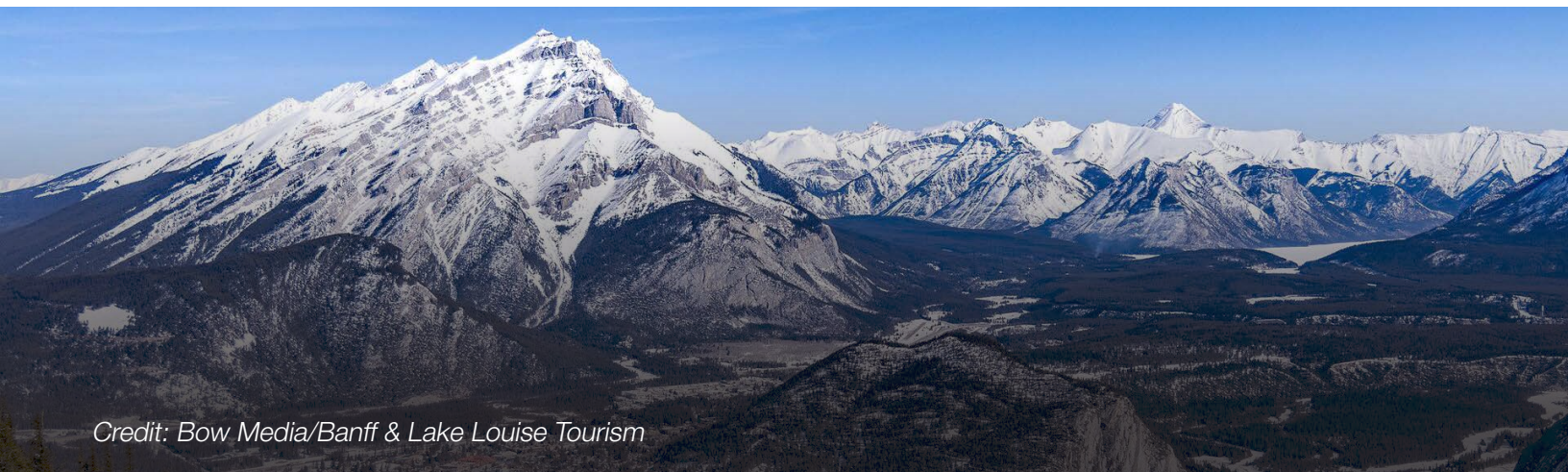


Credit: Colin Way, via Tourism Calgary

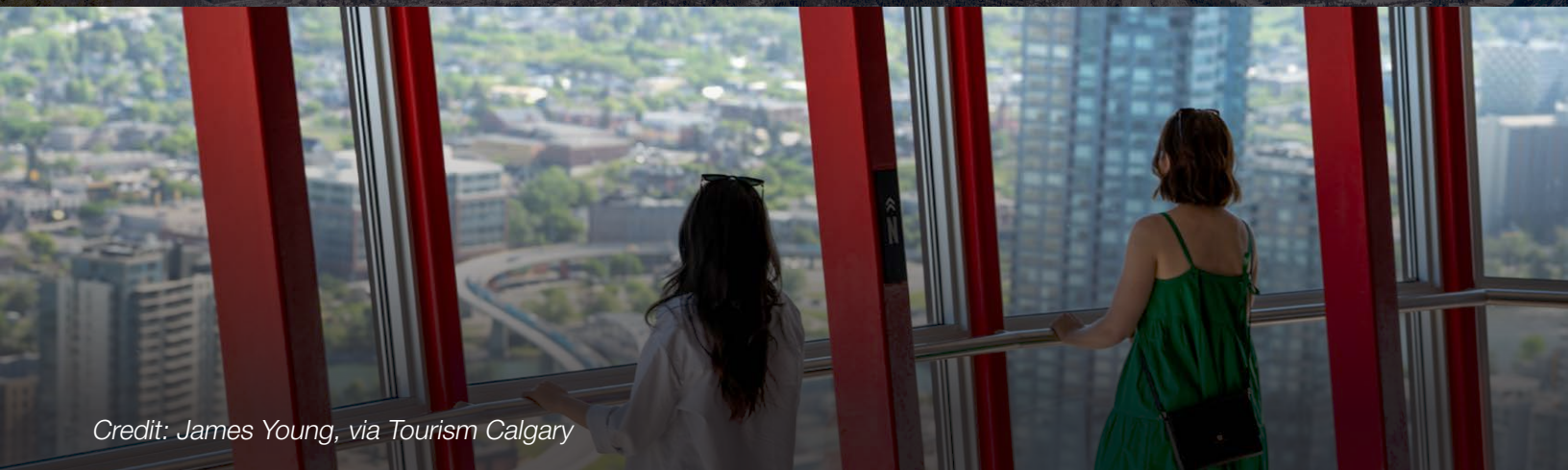
LOCAL TOURS

Calgary offers an exceptional gateway to some of Canada's most iconic natural and cultural attractions, making it an ideal destination for delegates seeking memorable touristic experiences before or after the Congress. Just a short drive west, visitors can explore the breathtaking Canadian Rocky Mountains, including Banff and Lake Louise, world-renowned for their turquoise lakes, alpine trails, and wildlife. To the east lie the dramatic badlands of Drumheller and the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology, home to one of the world's richest dinosaur fossil collections. Closer to the city, delegates can enjoy Calgary's vibrant culinary scene, museums, Indigenous cultural experiences, extensive outdoor network and unique neighbourhoods. With five UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the region and an abundance of outdoor adventure, history, and culture, Calgary provides endless opportunities for exploration and discovery.

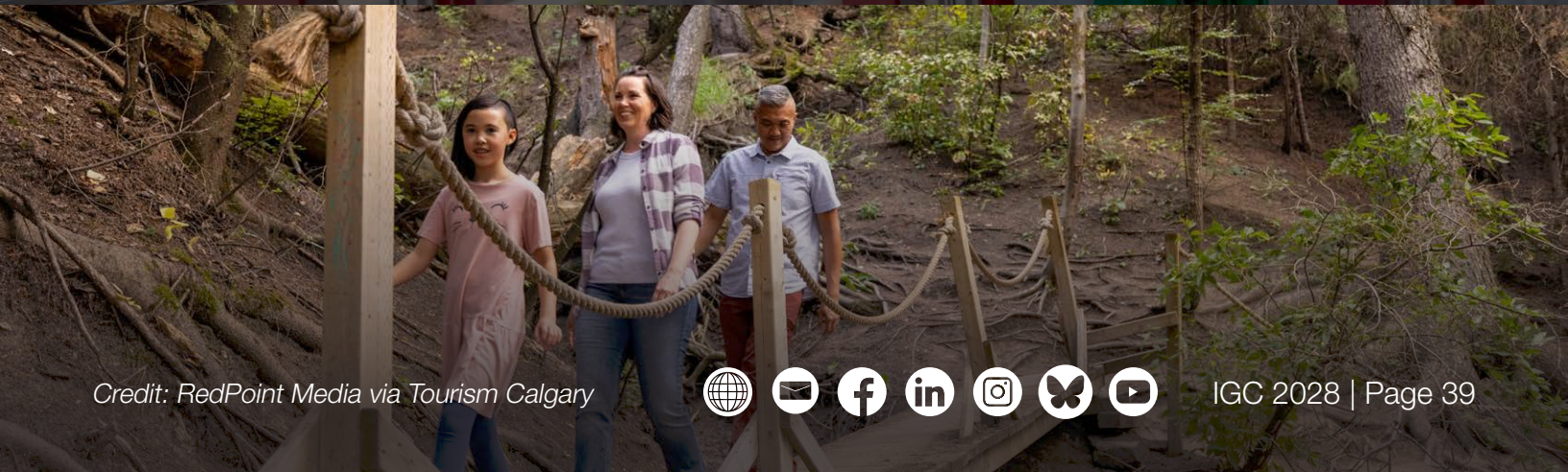
[Click here](#) for more information on the potential local activities you can experience before, during and after the Congress.



Credit: Bow Media/Banff & Lake Louise Tourism



Credit: James Young, via Tourism Calgary



Credit: RedPoint Media via Tourism Calgary



HELP SPREAD THE WORD

You can start to participate in the general organization of the 38th IGC Calgary 2028 by:

- Signing up to the [mailing list](#) and watch for updates in future newsletters and circulars
- Subscribing to our social media
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Instagram](#)
 - [Bluesky](#)
 - [YouTube](#)
- Signing up as [a volunteer](#)
- Submitting a [science session](#)
- Submitting a [field trip proposal](#)
- Submitting a [workshop or a short course proposal](#)
- Checking out the [website](#) for more information
- Putting the congress date in your diary!

And most importantly, by sharing this invitation and First Circular with colleagues so that more people learn about the upcoming 38th IGC.

Get started today!

