

Yurt User Manual & Visitor Guide



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What is a yurt?

A yurt is the traditional dwelling of Central Asia nomads. Made to resist extreme climates, this circular shape abode has five basic elements: lattice walls, roof beams, a roof ring, a door, and a felt and hide covering. Since the 13th century, yurts have been used by nomadic horse herders as portable homes. It takes less than a day to deconstruct or set-up a yurt.



Yurt in Mongolia (Alex Mueller)

The yurts at Camp Valaqua are a modernized version of the traditional yurt. They are warmer than a tent and have insulated walls and roofs, and a wood stove to keep you cozy on those cool fall evenings. In the summer, the yurts are kept cool with windows, dome, and door openings that provide cross ventilation. Yurts provide the ultimate camping experience, combining the comfort of a cabin and the intimacy of sleeping in the great outdoors.

Camp Valaqua has two yurts available, each with the capacity to sleep up to four people.

Within this manual you will find basic rules to be followed when staying in the yurts and a visitor guide with activities in the area. If you have any questions that are not answered in this manual, please contact Valaqua at 403-637-2510 or email manager@campvalaqua.com

What is provided with your yurt?

Each yurt comes equipped with several amenities to make your stay as comfortable as possible. Please remember that any of the provided items must remain in the yurt throughout your stay and will need to be accounted for upon your departure.

- Wood stove and solar lights
- Kitchen table with four chairs
- 1 single over double bunk bed plus pull-out queen couch.
- Close to outhouse
- Water provided in a water jug
- Gas barbecue
- Fire pit and complimentary firewood

Yurt Rules

The yurts at Camp Valaqua were built to provide a unique camping experience for anyone wishing to experience comfort camping. Please respect the yurts, the landscape, and the other visitors by following a few simple rules during your stay.

- Due to the risk of allergies of future visitors as well as the risk of damage, pets are not allowed in the yurts. Pets onsite must be under control at all times.
- Smoking is strictly prohibited inside the yurts
- Cooking inside the unit is not allowed. This can damage the weatherproofing and poses a health risk to you as well as being a fire hazard. Please use the barbecue provided or cook outside using a camp stove.
- Please store food in your vehicle. You are camping in bear country and a yurt is a tent. To reduce the risk of negative wildlife encounters, food should not be stored, prepared, or consumed in the yurts.
- Additional tents or trailers are permitted at the rate of \$25/night/unit
- Fires are only permitted in established fire pits and wood stoves.
- Fireworks are not permitted.
- Please leave your yurt in the same condition you found it – undamaged, clean, and tidy.
- Sweep the yurt out prior to departure.

What to bring

There are some items you will need to bring when staying in a yurt, and several optional items you may choose to pack to feel a little more at home.

The following are items you should bring to facilitate your stay.

- Food & beverages (closest grocery store is located 15 minutes away in Cremona)
- Pillows and sleeping bags or duvets/blankets
- Towels, toiletries, etc
- Flashlight or headlamp (for walking to the outhouse or sitting outside in the dark)
- Matches or a lighter
- Appropriate clothing and footwear, hat and sunglasses
- Camping stove for cooking or boiling water (OUTDOOR USE ONLY)
- Dishes and bin and soap for washing dishes
- Cookware for cooking on the fire
- Coolers and bins for food storage
- Slippers or indoor shoes

Optional items to bring with you from home are as follows:

- Sharp kitchen knives
- Paper towels, tissues
- Table cloth
- Bathing suits and water shoes if you want to swim in the river
- Clothesline to hang wet towels and bathing suits outside
- Lawn chairs or camping chairs
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Games

Tips for yurt camping

Camping in a yurt is a unique experience. Certain design features, when used correctly, can help to make your stay the most comfortable it can be. To get the most out of your yurt experience, browse through some of our tips and tricks.

Tip #1: Ventilation is key to temperature control inside a yurt. On hot days, keep your window covers rolled up so air can flow through the yurt. Open the roof vent as well. Be careful not to over-crank the dome cover as it only opens about 6 inches. To stay warm on cool evenings, keep your windows and roof vent sealed tight. The wood stove heats the yurt very effectively.

Tip #2: Always make sure to close window covers and the roof vent during any rainfall. If you plan on leaving the yurt for any amount of time and there is a possibility of rain, please close the windows and roof vent.

Tip #3: Cooking is not allowed inside the yurt, so prepare meals that can be cooked on a BBQ, on a camp stove, or over the fire, or stick with sandwiches and snacks to avoid having to cook all together!

Tip #4: Once you have finished washing the dishes, please dump the dirty water into the outhouse to avoid attracting wildlife.

How to open the windows

The yurt windows have three components: (1) an outer solid fabric, weatherproof privacy cover with side zippers, (2) a removable clear vinyl window that is secured on all four sides with Velcro and, (3) a permanently fixed bug screen. To open the windows, use the following procedure:

- 1) The fabric window coverings can be opened from the outside of the yurt with the vertical zippers on each side. Unzip each side from the bottom up. Once unzipped, roll the fabric from the bottom up and secure it at the top with the ties/clips provided.



- 2) The clear plastic window is secured with Velcro on all four sides and can be either completely removed or lowered part way by detaching the top half and then reattaching to the Velcro on the sides.



If you remove the windows entirely, store them loosely rolled and under the bed inside the yurt. Please do not leave the windows outside or lying on the ground.

- 3) When opening the dome roof window, turn crank until window has opened approximately 6 inches. This window DOES NOT open all the way. Once you feel friction when cranking, the window has fully opened. Please do not force the crank as this will break the window hinge.



Fishing

The Little Red Deer river is a great place to fish for brown trout and mountain whitefish. This stretch of river is currently a catch and release zone with a zero limit for trout and whitefish and a bait ban. There is a northern pike limit of 3, but pike are not a prevalent species.

If you wish to harvest fish, Winchell Lake 10 minutes South of Water Valley is a stocked lake with a trout limit of 5. Fishing requires a current fishing license. Information provided here is current as of this writing, but please refer to the Alberta Sportfishing Regulations for current information:

<https://albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs/es2.html>

Restaurants

There are a few dining options in the Water Valley/Cremona area:

Water Valley Saloon – Water Valley

A western saloon with a classic selection of pub food. The ambience is worth the visit!

The Coyote Grill – Cremona

The Coyote Grill offers a contemporary dining experience with a surprisingly extensive menu.

Neilon's Tavern – Cremona

A selection of burgers and pizza

Oriental Kitchen – Cremona

Western style Chinese food.

Hawk's Nest Motel – Cremona

A selection of sandwiches and entrees.

Groceries and supplies

KC Foods – Cremona

A small family run grocery store in Cremona that will meet most of your shopping needs.

Water Valley Hardware – Water Valley

Not a grocery store, but an everything else store. The Hardware has an impressive selection and can help with many RV or outdoor equipment needs.

Petro Canada – Cremona

The closest gas station with the expected selection of snacks and treats.

Wood Stoves

The wood stoves do a great job of making your stay a warm and cozy one. There are a few things you can do to help the woodstove heat as efficiently as possible:

To light a fire:

- 1) Open the door of the woodstove and put your tinder (crumpled paper or small wood shavings) into the woodbox. Loosely cover with kindling (slightly larger wood pieces) and light. Leave the door of the woodstove open as the fire catches.
- 2) Once the fire is burning, add dry wood as appropriate until the woodbox is no more than 2/3 full. Then close the door and open the damper (lever below the door) by moving it all the way to the left.
- 3) When the fire begins to draw and is burning well, close the damper at least halfway (but not all the way) to slow the fire down and use the heat efficiently.
- 4) Once the stove has burned down, you can add one or two logs every time the fire has burned down to embers.

Golf

There are several golf courses close to Camp Valaqua:

The Water Valley Golf and Country Club is a 10-minute drive to just south of Water Valley. <https://watervalleygolf.ca/>

The Tooth of the Dogpound Creek Golf Course is a 20-minute drive and is located just east of Cremona <https://www.toothofthedogpound.com/>

The Beaver Damn Golf and RV Resort is a 20-minute drive <https://beaverdamgolf.ca/> and is located just north of Madden.

Hiking

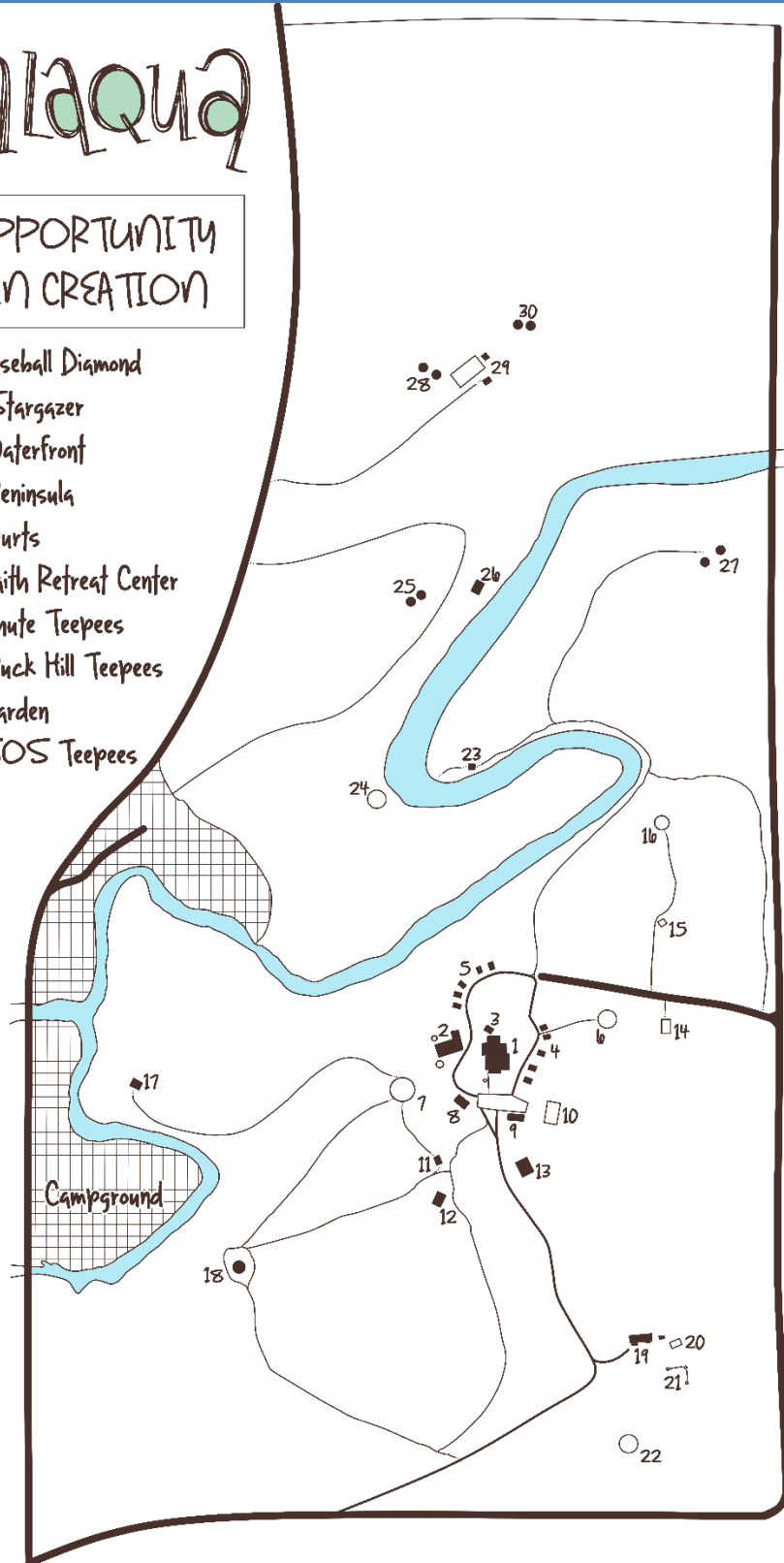
Valaqua has 250 acres of land for you to explore. There are some established hiking trails on the south quarter (near the main camp) and you are welcome to hike to the top of the hill to visit the garden, wander along the river, and enjoy the space. Please be respectful of other camp users and of camp property. The site map helps to clarify our property boundaries.

Valaqua Site Map

Camp Valaqua

PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY
TO ENJOY GOD IN CREATION

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Lodge | 21. Baseball Diamond |
| 2. Jackpine | 22. Stargazer |
| 3. Vauxhall | 23. Waterfront |
| 4. Cabins 1-5 | 24. Peninsula |
| 5. Cabins 6-10 | 25. Yurts |
| 6. Campfire Circle | 26. Faith Retreat Center |
| 7. Old Chapel | 27. Chute Teepees |
| 8. Brown House | 28. Buck Hill Teepees |
| 9. Shop | 29. Garden |
| 10. Basketball Court | 30. SOS Teepees |
| 11. Nature Center | |
| 12. Quonset | |
| 13. Director's House | |
| 14. Archery | |
| 15. Climbing Wall | |
| 16. Sky Swing | |
| 17. Permanent Shelter | |
| 18. Outtrip Center | |
| 19. White House | |
| 20. Volleyball Court | |



Check-out Procedures

To Check -out:

- 1) Tidy and sweep out the yurt. Look around and make sure you aren't leaving anything behind!
- 2) Please ensure all garbage is contained in the bearproof garbage. If this is impossible, we ask you to please bring additional garbage to the main camp and put it in the dumpster behind the main lodge. Please do not leave garbage in or around the yurts as this attracts all the wrong kind of animal traffic.
- 3) Upon leaving, please make sure the gate on the road is closed and locked.

Thank you for staying in the Camp Valaqua Yurts. We hope you had a relaxing and comfortable retreat!

Emergency Contacts

Cell service is spotty in the Little Red Deer River valley. You may get service at the top of the hill or in Water Valley.

All emergencies	9-1-1
Camp Valaqua Office	403-637-2510
To Report a Wildfire	310-FIRE (310-3473) toll free
Report a Poacher	1-800-642-3800