

CLUB PROFILE

Official club name: The Friendship Force of Lethbridge

Closest major airport: Calgary International Airport

Cost of transportation between the airport and our city (based on 20 people):

by bus: approx. \$45CAD pp one way (takes 2 1/2 hours) or reduced fare if purchased in advance

by air: Air Canada operates a turbo prop commuter service between Calgary and Lethbridge (cost varies, but plane has small seating capacity and not recommended for groups)

by car pool (small groups): Hosts and ambassadors make private arrangements

The maximum number of ambassadors our club can host: 25 (or more, subject to negotiation)

About the club: The Friendship Force of Lethbridge was chartered in January 1995 as Canada's first club. We have about 60 members, two thirds of whom are married couples. We normally host two inbound groups per year, preferably from June through September. Also, our club enjoys one or two outbound exchanges during the year.

About the region: Lethbridge is in the south of the Province of Alberta on the Pan American Highway which is the transportation corridor connecting Alaska through the USA, Mexico to South America, with the flat prairies surrounding us but within a short drive to the Rocky Mountains. Our city has a population of about 85,000 and growing steadily. Agriculture and associated industries and services are the mainstay of the economy. Irrigation began here with the earliest of settlers so that Lethbridge has become to be the "Irrigation Capital of Canada". Other reasons that many people live here are a very successful university and college, and one of Canada's largest agricultural research centres. Additional information may be found at www.lethbridge.ca. Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (for some of the world's most spectacular mountain scenery), the Crowsnest Pass historic corridor, and Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site are quite close by for day trips. June is a beautiful season for us, and summers are normally quite hot and dry, so those are our choice times for guests.

About the exchange: Our program normally includes a welcome reception, day trips, a farm/country barbecue, hosted suppers, and a farewell dinner. Our entire membership is invited to the welcome and farewell parties, and is encouraged to join other hosting activities as well. Hosts are happy to arrange for ambassador's expressed interests or requests on optional days.

We can arrange bus transportation to and from Calgary at an extra cost to the ambassadors. We are also able to arrange transportation to or from nearby clubs in the U.S.A. and Canada. Come visit us, and our part of wonderful, beautiful Canada! We look forward to hosting you!

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