



LET'S LEARN ABOUT LARCH TREES



ALL ABOUT LARCHES



What Do Larch Trees Look Like?



In the summer, larch trees in Alberta look like any other green tree, and it's hard to tell them apart from their forest friends. But when September comes around, something magical happens. The needles on larch trees turn into a beautiful golden color, while the other trees stay green and, well, kind of boring.

How to Spot a Larch Tree?

The easiest way to find a larch tree is to wait until fall and look for those shiny golden needles. If you can't wait that long, just check their needles. Larch trees in Alberta have tiny nipple-like bumps on their branches, and each of those little bumps grows up to 40 needles.

When Can You See Golden Larches?

Larch trees start to change color in mid-September. At first, they look a bit like a bright lime-green, but soon they turn into a breathtaking golden forest. You can enjoy these golden trees all through September and sometimes even into October.

How Long Do They Stay Yellow?

Well, that changes every year, but usually, larch trees start dropping their golden needles in early October. So, you can still go on larch tree adventures in October, but there might be fewer golden needles as the month goes on. When the needles start to fall, the hiking trail might change into a golden yellow carpet with all the needles on the ground!

Where Do Larch Trees Grow?

Larch trees like to live up high in the mountains, much higher than regular towns like Banff, Canmore, or Calgary. They thrive at elevations between 5,900 to 7,900 feet above the sea. You'll find a lot of them around Lake Louise, Moraine Lake and Highwood Pass in Kananaskis.

What Types of Larch Trees Are There?

There are three types of larch trees in Alberta. The most common one is the Subalpine larch, also called Lyall's larch. Then there's the Western Larch, which is the tallest and hangs out in Waterton and the Crowsnest Pass. The third one is the Tamarack, also known as the Eastern Larch, and it likes to live north of the Red Deer River.



LARCH HIKES BINGO

Just for Kids

LARCH VALLEY 8.6 KM	PTARMIGAN CIRQUE 3.6 KM	RUMMEL LAKE 11.7 KM
KICKING HORSE PASS VIEWPOINT 1.7 KM	FREE SPACE	LAKE AGNES/ BIG BEEHIVE 11.4 KM
CHESTER LAKE 9.0 KM	ARETHUSA CIRQUE 4.6 KM	TRYST LAKE 6.6 KM

