



Downtown Medicine Hat provides **free 2-Hour street parking** with additional **limited 2 and 4 hour spaces** in their multi-level transit parkade (access from 4 St SE).

Downtown Self-Guided Walking Tours

Medicine Hat's historic downtown is ideally suited for a stroll, with a cold or hot drink in hand. Take in the history and art that makes our downtown so great!

The pins on the facing page indicate some points of interest and act as reference to their specific sections found below.



Historic Walking Tour

Take a deep-dive into Medicine Hat's history, and into some of the most prominent buildings in the city.

[Find out more on page 16](#)



Downtown Murals

The past few years have brought plenty of new murals to the city's downtown. Grab a coffee and enjoy the art!

[See details on page 18](#)



James Marshall Murals

One of the most prominent artists in the city's history, enjoy a tour of James Marshall's beautiful brick murals.

[Discover more on page 20](#)



Coffee Walk

So much coffee, so many baked goods! Check out a handful of the city's exceptional cafes.

[Savour the locations on page 22](#)



Public Art

Enjoy a meandering walk downtown to explore this free and fully accessible artistic diversity from local to international, and emerging to established Artists.

[Appreciate the details on page 23](#)



Historic Walking Tour

A couple enjoys a coffee outside the Hargrave-Sissons Block on a self-guided tour downtown.

1 Courthouse

It is little known outside of Medicine Hat, but during World War II, the city was home to Canada's largest prisoner of war camp, which held 12,000 prisoners, more than the population of the city at the time.

2 St. John's Presbyterian Church

The first church building downtown, St. John's also served as the first school-house. At a 1901 meeting, a woman named Mrs. Blatchford proposed the building of a new church that could be a better representation of a growing congregation. The motion was carried, and the church standing today was officially opened in September 1902.

3 Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church

Talk about irony—in the same month the Fifth Avenue church celebrated paying their mortgage with a ceremonial burning, there was a fire that burned so hot, the stained glass had to be replaced.

4 St. Barnabas Anglican Church

If you look at the orientation of St. Barnabas Anglican Church, you will notice it does not directly line up with True North. Instead, it is laid out exactly east and west in relation to the sunrise on St. Barnabas Day (a few degrees different). Go ahead, come back on June 11 and see for yourself.

5 Hull Block

At seventeen years old, William Roper Hull moved to Canada from England to work on a relative's farm. Ever ambitious, he and his brother grew a small Calgary butcher shop business into Western Canada's first systematic beef processing operation. He built buildings across Alberta, including downtown Medicine Hat's largest and most significant building, the Hull Block.

How do I find these Historical spots?
They're marked on our **Downtown Self-Guided Tour Map** on pages 14/15

6 Cypress Club

In the early twentieth century, as US journalists made Medicine Hat the butt of jokes about supplying bad weather, a vote was set to take place regarding a city name change. Those in favour of the city's name gathered at the Cypress Club and drafted a letter to English author, Rudyard Kipling, asking him to weigh in. His impassioned response arrived in Medicine Hat weeks later, urging the city to "proudly go forward as Medicine Hat – the only city officially recognized as capable of freezing out the United States and giving the continent cold feet."

Thanks to that letter, Medicine Hat was here to stay.

7 Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

During World War I, this branch took great pride in their staff members' effort on the battlefield. Sgt JC Matheson was a member of the 10th Battalion and left a heartfelt letter detailing his battalion's role in the second Battle of Ypres. With bullet holes in his helmet, no food or water, and dying soldiers all around, he pondered "how I ever came through is a mystery to me."

8 Monarch Theatre

"Can't we figure out some scheme to make a bunch of coin this year?" asked WB Finlay, one of Medicine Hat's early businessmen. When the answer to this question was to farm, he exclaimed: "well dammit then, let's grow wheat!"

WB Finlay would eventually focus his entrepreneurial skill on building Medicine Hat's Monarch Theatre. It stands today as the oldest in Alberta, predating the Fort MacLeod theatre by months.

9 Beveridge Building

In the early twentieth century, Hatters were optimistic about their future, thanks to a manufacturing boom centered on natural gas and clay deposits. That optimism led to the construction of several large, remarkable buildings like the Beveridge Building. Furniture was sold here from 1911-1984, and it has recently been brought back to life as an events space.

10 Turpin Block

Another example of building in optimistic times can be found in the Turpin Block, which was built in 1905. It is considered to be one of the first buildings designed by architect William T. Williams after his arrival from the United States.

What you see of the Turpin Block today is approximately one-third of the full building, which was damaged by fire in 1999. The original building was recreated at Calgary's Heritage Park.

11 Hargrave-Sissons Block

Brothers-in-law James Hargrave and Dan Sissons came to Medicine Hat in 1883 and set up a ranch on Riverside and built a wooden store downtown and a trading post at Fort Carlton on the North Saskatchewan. They often traded goods for livestock and even buffalo bones. Hargrave became known as the "Great Bone King". The store pictured above was built in 1901, replacing the original store.

12 Canadian Pacific Railway Station

Thanks to early reports that Southern Alberta was unsuitable for agriculture, engineer Sir Sandford Fleming, originally proposed the CPR avoid Southern Alberta altogether (he also designed Canada's first postage stamp and advocated for worldwide standard time). If it wasn't for a CPR decision to overturn Sandford's decision, this Chateau-style station (one of the finest in Canada) would never have been built.

Where are these Murals located?
They're indicated on our **Downtown Self-Guided Tour Map** on pages 14/15

Downtown Murals



1 Deer in the City

Painted by local artist **Wendy Struck**, Deer in the City is a fittingly named tribute to the commonly sighted deer who live along the river valley and can be seen throughout Medicine Hat.

2 Hope and A Future

Bright, in both imagery and message, this mural by Medicine Hat artist **Sonz1** is an unavoidable message of positivity and optimism. Found on the Southwest wall of Medicine Hat's Olive Tap in the downtown core, this welcoming message greets everyone and reminds us that there is indeed hope and a future for all.

3 Penny Profit

One of the best and most prominent examples of classic graffiti in Medicine Hat, this mural covers the long-standing Penny Profit discount store's back wall almost entirely. The mural depicts a stylized graffiti artist spraying graffiti on the walls of Canada's sunniest city. This mural was a collaborative Australia-based artist **c4m71** and local artist **Will Oskam**.

4 No Rain No Flowers

Another message of hope is tucked into a small corner on the upper edges of downtown Medicine Hat painted in 2020 by **Teanna Church**. While small, it is worth the walk to see the pretty floral mural carrying the message "no rain, no flowers." Beautiful in its simplicity and featuring a bouquet of nearly a dozen flowers, this small mural is one of the most inspiring in the city.

5 Exposure

Edmonton, Alberta-based artist **Josh Creighton** explores the dimensions between composition and complementary colour configurations.

6 Somnium (the Face)

This mural is another excellent example of classic graffiti. **Bacon**, a Toronto-based artist, is known for his colourful works. His Medicine Hat piece, titled Somnium (the Face), brings life to Medicine Hat's historic Assiniboia Hotel.

7 Tunnel Vision

South Railway St. Side — In 1988, the Winter Olympics were held in Calgary, only 300 kilometres Northwest of Medicine Hat. A legacy project of the 1988 Olympics was the World's Largest Tepee, which is now on display in Medicine Hat. This mural features an artistic silhouette of the tepee



during a bright Medicine Hat summer sunset. This vibrant piece is a combined effort by **Will Oskam**, **Sonz1** and California-based **FASM Creative**.

North Railway St. Side —The Underpass is a hub of street art connecting Medicine Hat's downtown to North Railway Street's eclectic neighbourhood and into the park-like River Flats neighbourhood. This mural features a combination of geometric shapes, intersecting straight lines and circles. Blues, greens, and greys are reminiscent of the city's iconic Assiniboia Hotel sign, which can be seen in this mural's background.

Tunnel Interior — Medicine Hat's downtown tunnel has been transformed into a showcase for dozens of local graffiti artists, sponsored and

vetted by the Medicine Hat-based Pop Up Parks organization. As with all art, it starts underground before emerging for the world to see.

8 Vehicle Underpass

One of the most striking murals is also one of the easiest to miss. Mere minutes from the Riverside Veteran's Memorial Park, this bright, colourful mural was led by street artists **Doktoer** and **Jesse Gouchey** as an homage to missing and murdered indigenous women. Across Canada, hundreds of unsolved cases of murdered or missing Indigenous women where the RCMP say there was no foul play. This mural is a reminder that all life has value, and we must not turn a blind eye to injustice.

9 Growing Hope in Our Community

The Medicine Hat Women's Shelter and Station Coffee Company teamed up to promote a feeling of hope with this mural by **Sarah Slaughter Art**. "Growing Hope in Our Community" is a positive message designed as a reminder that no one should have to endure family violence, and there are those who can help.

Main: Sisters pass by the **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women** mural located vehicle underpass.
Inset Left: **Somnium (the Face)**.
Inset Right: Four art lovers share a laugh next to **Exposure**.

James Marshall Murals Walking Tour



A look at Marshall's mural, *Flood of 1995* located in Riverside Veteran's Memorial Park.

Who is James Marshall?

James Marshall is exceptionally curious about the environment in which he lives, and proud of his province. His brick relief murals can be found across Canada but, being born and raised in Medicine Hat, there is a concentration of several masterpieces commemorating local legends, historic moments, and religious icons. Downtown Medicine Hat is a great place to start your immersion in this Albertan treasure, with many murals within walking distance of some of Alberta's finest cafés. What's even better, you're in Canada's sunniest city so it's almost guaranteed you'll have a pleasant day for a walk.

1 St. John's Presbyterian Church

St John's is Medicine Hat's oldest church, standing since 1902. On the outside wall along Second Street, two of Marshall's murals can be found, depicting religious themes. One depicts Christ on the cross, while the second shows Christ with a small congregation huddled around a child.

2 BATUS Park

BATUS Park is a small downtown park where Medicine Hat's first City Hall stood. Marshall's mural commemorates the importance of the British military, which operates the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) 30 kilometres from town. The unit has deep roots in Canada's sunniest city with ties to Canada's largest World War II POW Camp.

3 Riverside Veteran's Memorial Park

Heron Fountain. When it was decided to beautify this idyllic downtown park, James was asked for input on a water feature. His idea was so well-received, it became a focal point to those who entered the park, with the mural of two herons among branches is one of Marshall's most intricate works.

Flood of 1995: This wall represents the tragic flood that hit Medicine Hat in 1995. It also showcases how our incredible community came together to help and support one another. This mural was built to raise funds for those affected by the flood, through community support and an anonymous donor.

Bandshell. A wonderful summary of Medicine Hat's heritage. From its importance as a First Nations gathering place to one of Western Canada's most important early industrial centres, this mural weaves centuries of stories together.

4 City Hall

Marshall's first mural shows the Legend of the Saamis, from which the city of Medicine Hat draws its name. According to legend, a harsh winter forced Blackfoot elders to send a young tribesman, his new wife, and wolf dog to save the starving tribe. Following the frozen South Saskatchewan River, the group

found Medicine Hat's river valley. After summoning spirits from an unfrozen hole in the river, a giant serpent emerged and asked for sacrifice in exchange for special powers of hunting prowess. To this day, that hole in the river never freezes.

5 St. Patrick's Catholic Church and National Historic Site

St. Patrick's Catholic Church is one of Medicine Hat's most visible landmarks. Inside, the ascension of Christ can be found, completing Marshall's Stations of the Cross. It is the 17th of Marshall's Stations of the Cross, with the first 16 found a block away.

6 Stations of the Cross

In 1995, Marshall was asked by a group of Catholic nuns to depict Jesus' condemnation, crucifixion, rise and ascension in a series of 17 murals. Soon after beginning, his studio was hit with the flood of 1995, collapsing mural 13. Luckily, it was rebuilt and installed in time for the turn of the millennium.

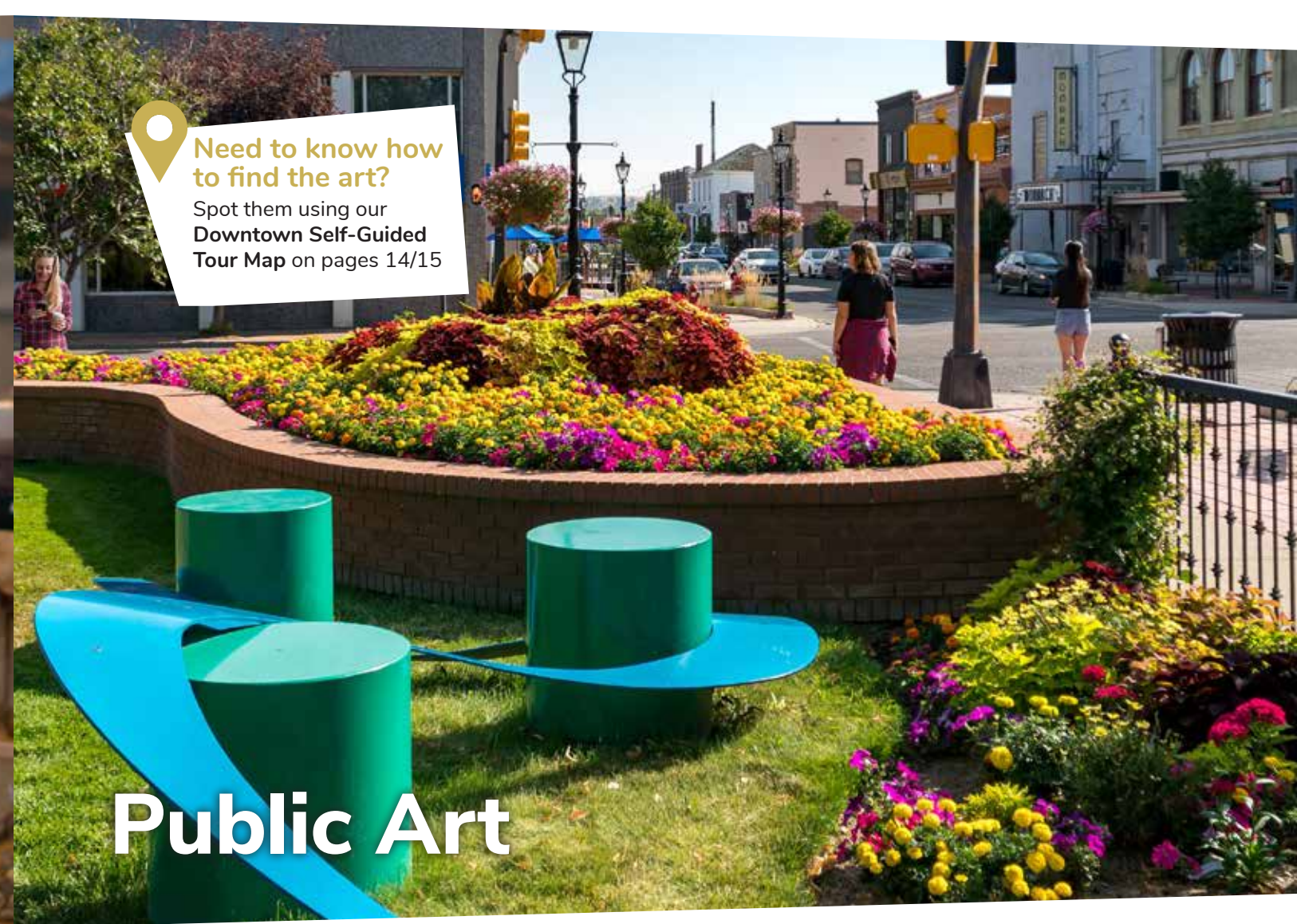
Want to see these up close?
Discover them using our **Downtown Self-Guided Tour Map** on pages 14/15



Where are these stops?
Find them using our **Downtown Self-Guided Tour Map** on pages 14/15

Indy Coffee Tour Stops

Enjoy a cup of coffee or something sweet at Station Coffee Co. on 2 St. SE.



Need to know how to find the art?
Spot them using our **Downtown Self-Guided Tour Map** on pages 14/15

Public Art

Reka (River) is located on the corner of 2 St. SE and 6 Ave. SE, downtown.

1 Madhatter Roastery

This quirky place roasts freshly imported beans from all over the world to perfection. Fresh roast beans can be ground and bagged to suit your home brewing machine. The staff will treat you like family and make you feel like you've found your second home. Oh, and a full in-house menu.

Pro Tip: Follow the rich, toasted aromas wafting out onto the street.

- 📍 @MadhatterRoastery
- 📍 @mhroastery
- 📍 mhroastery.com
- 📞 403.529.2344
- 📍 513 3rd Street SE

2 Station Coffee Company

A hip shop with exposed brick walls and an always buzzing espresso machine. The baristas have some impressive creations up their sleeves, including The Root Beer Godfather, a chilled concoction made up of local Hell's Basement root beer, two shots of espresso, and a little bit of cream.

Pro Tip: Ask your barista which lavish baking would pair with your coffee choice.

- 📍 @StationCoffeeCompany
- 📍 @StationCoffeeCo
- 📍 stationcoffeeco.ca
- 📞 403.529.1115
- 📍 644 2 ST SE

3 Inspire Studio, Gallery & Café

A bright and roomy gallery which showcases the original artwork of a variety of local artists. You'll find inspired comfort food like sandwiches, delicious homemade soups, freshly roasted coffee, specialty tea 'bible' and in-house made desserts.

Pro Tip: Ask about the Monarch Theatre dinner and a movie deal.

- 📍 @inspirestudioandcafe
- 📍 @InspireCafe1
- 📍 inspireart.ca
- 📞 403.548.2233
- 📍 675 2nd Street SE

Public Art adds meaning and uniqueness to our community. It humanizes the built environment and invigorates public spaces by providing an intersection between past, present and future.

Medicine Hat's public art does so in a broad range of media and themes; from contemporary two story graffiti murals to sculpted brick monuments to traditional bronze sculptures.

Enjoy a meandering walk downtown to explore this free and fully accessible artistic diversity from local to international, and emerging to established Artists.

1 Turn Turn Turn (A Resting Place)

Located at the Esplanade at 401-1 St SE. Aluminum and Concrete sculpture by Blake Senini (2011).

2 Germans from Russia

Also located at the Esplanade at 401-1 St SE. Bronze sculpture by Jim Hauser (2011).

3 Day and Night

3 St SE alley at 5 Ave SE, Miywasin Friendship Centre. Exterior latex painting by Wendy Struck (2013).

4 Reka (River)

Located in BATUS Park at the corner of 2 St SE and 6 Ave SE. Steel and concrete sculpture by J.R. Cooper & R. MacInnis (2012).

5 North Railway Exchange

Found at 4 St SE at North Railway St. on the side of MacKenzie Drugs. Painting by YMCA Summer Students (1998).

Finished the tour and looking for a lunch?

Just across Finlay Bridge over the South Saskatchewan River sits the lovely **Zucchini Blossom Market & Cafe**. A short drive from downtown, **Café Verve** on Dunmore Road will share their passion for coffee, tea, fresh-made food and live music with you.

Want to stay downtown? Check out the Hat's two newest cafes, **The Copper Leaf Cafe** and **Country Crumbs Cafe**. Both offer fresh-baked goods, a range of coffee to choose from and a cozy atmosphere.