

# Drumheller the Boomtown

In 1911, the first coal mine opened in the Red Deer river valley. Soon communities sprang up around every mine and every language of Europe was spoken on the streets.

For the next 50 years, coal defined Drumheller. 139 mines were registered, from Nacmine to East Coulee, and 60 million tonnes of coal were shipped out of the valley. As natural gas replaced coal for home heating, mines closed and the industry declined. The Atlas was the last mine to operate, and produced coal until 1979.

Look carefully and you will see evidence of the coal boom. Piles of red rock are old slack (waste coal) piles. Black stripes on the valley walls are seams of coal. Wooden towers may be coal processing structures. Even modern neighbourhoods are clustered around former mine entrances.

**This driving tour explores a few of the major mines that once dominated life in Drumheller.**



*Today*, the Atlas Coal Mine National Historic Site preserves the last of the Drumheller mines. Atlas staff tell awe-inspiring tales of the coal miners and their families.

*atlascoalmine.ab.ca*

Rotary



ATLAS COAL MINE  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



# COAL DUST TRAIL

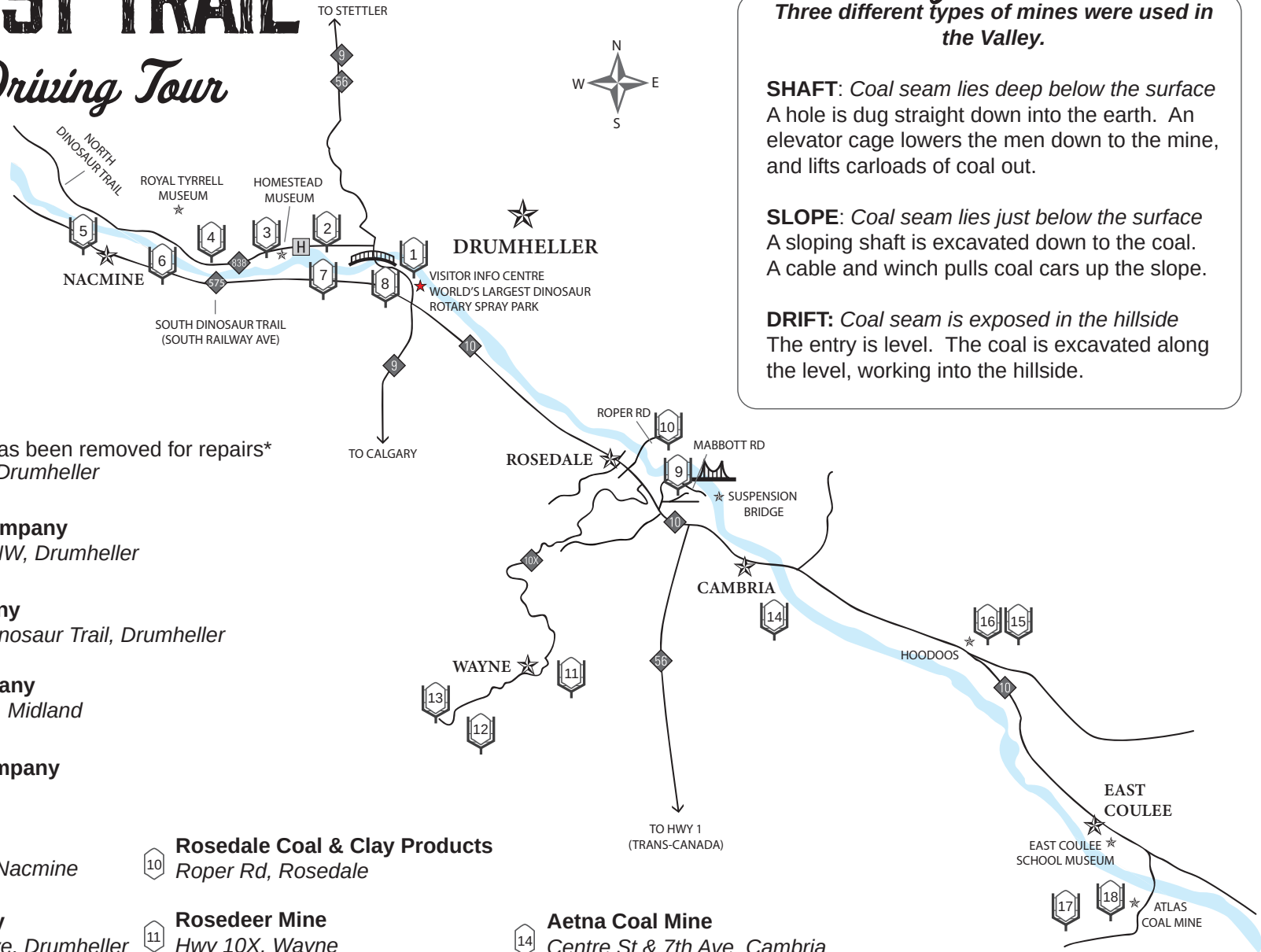
*Historic Driving Tour*



*Drumheller Valley, Alberta*

# COAL DUST TRAIL

## Historic Driving Tour



*Did You Know?*

Three different types of mines were used in the Valley.

**SHAFT:** Coal seam lies deep below the surface. A hole is dug straight down into the earth. An elevator cage lowers the men down to the mine, and lifts carloads of coal out.

**SLOPE:** Coal seam lies just below the surface. A sloping shaft is excavated down to the coal. A cable and winch pulls coal cars up the slope.

**DRIFT:** Coal seam is exposed in the hillside. The entry is level. The coal is excavated along the level, working into the hillside.

1 **Introduction Sign** \*Sign has been removed for repairs\*  
Visitor Information Centre, Drumheller

2 **Hy-Grade Coal Mining Company**  
N. Dinosaur Trail & 9th St NW, Drumheller

3 **The Brilliant Coal Company**  
Homestead Museum, N. Dinosaur Trail, Drumheller

4 **Western Gem Coal Company**  
16th St NW & 2nd Ave NW, Midland

5 **Red Deer Valley Coal Company**  
S. Dinosaur Trail, Nacmine

6 **Commander Mine**  
9th St & S. Dinosaur Trail, Nacmine

7 **Newcastle Coal Company**  
12th St W. & S. Railway Ave, Drumheller

8 **Drumheller Mine**  
Ramada Inn, Drumheller

9 **Star Coal Mine Ltd.**  
Susp. Bridge, Mabbott Rd, Rosedale

10 **Rosedale Coal & Clay Products**  
Roper Rd, Rosedale

11 **Rosedeer Mine**  
Hwy 10X, Wayne

12 **Western Commercial Mining**  
Hwy 10X, Wayne

13 **Jewel Collieries**  
Hwy 10X, Wayne

14 **Aetna Coal Mine**  
Centre St & 7th Ave, Cambria

15 **Arcadia Mine**  
Hwy 10 E at the Hoodoos

16 **Maple Leaf Minerals**  
Hwy 10 E at the Hoodoos

17 **Murray Collieries**  
W of Atlas Coal Mine, East Coulee

18 **Atlas Coal Mine**  
East Coulee