

Tickets are now available online for the live outdoors told by the wildlife of Banff National Park. It is brought to life in the Cascades of Time Gardens using large-scale puppets, oversized illuminated animal figures, lighting, sound and lasers. The experience follows an enchanted trail and is delivered by illuminated sculptures, an engaging story with captivating sound effects.

It aims to tell the story of the wildlife of Banff National Park, and their appreciation for the safe space that Banff National Park has gifted them.

After the hugely popular launch last year, Banff & Lake Louise Tourism are bringing Christmas magic back. An owl guides the way through the immersive story featuring **wolves**, bears, buffalo, moose and more, all seeking the spirit of Christmas.

The experience was designed to remind people of the natural beauty of the park and the creatures that live there.

Local Indigenous Sculptor/Painter, Jason Carter is responsible for designing the animal sculptures that make this live Christmas story come to life. His illuminated creations inspired by the animals of Banff National Park produce an immersive experience that feels authentic and magical.

"We're using manufactured sounds that don't exactly mimic the sounds of wild animals, so that the wild animals don't mistake the sounds coming from our experience as their counterparts in the wild. We're closely monitoring decibel levels and have strategically aimed the speakers at the trail to limit sound spill outside of the event area," said David Matys with Banff & Lake Louise Tourism.

Two years in the making, the initial concept for the lighting experience was developed by the BLLT events team and shaped through input sessions with their membership.

"It was refined and brought to life in collaboration with local talent including Bridget Ryan, Erik Dionne of Lektrik Design, David Simard of LeDav Productions, Jason Carter and Old Trout Puppet Company. Bridget Ryan crafted the story.

"As the art director for the project, Bridget Ryan has played an instrumental role in bringing this experience to life. Bridget collaboratively wrote the story behind In Search of Christmas Spirit, managed the production of the Jason Carter designed animals, and worked with the Old Trout Puppet Workshop Society to design and build the illuminated puppets that are also part of the experience. She also worked with local and regional talent to design and produce the custom soundscape specially designed to incorporate all senses into the experience."

Those interested must reserve tickets for all members of your party, other than children 2 years old and under. There is no group ticket option. Strollers may be left upon entry into the gardens (unsupervised area). No pets, only humans allowed. There will be no food or beverage available on site. People are advised to arrive with a registered ticket on time and have the ticket (e-ticket or printed) readily available to show staff at the checkin tent located upon entry into the Cascades of Time Garden.

In Search of Christmas Spirit is free and ticketed, and takes an estimated 45-minutes to complete the story journey. Organizers remind people that because it is outdoors it is important to dress appropriately, including wearing proper footwear. There is limited access, with an uneven walkway and irregular steps. Organizers advise bringing walking poles with metal tips and/or shoe spikes.

Should the event be cancelled due to weather conditions, registrants will be notified through email. The experience runs from Nov. 23 -Dec. 31, 2022.