# Saskatchewan Travel Guide

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# Saskatchewan.

# This is where stories are told..

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Living Skies & Badlands

Prairie Life & City Lights

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Unlimited Lakes & Parkland

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Northern Lights & Waterways

Winter in Saskatchewan

## Need More Information?

Let our friendly travel counsellors help you plan your Saskatchewan vacation. With one toll-free call or click of the mouse, you can receive travel information and FREE trip planning assistance.

Service is offered in Canada's two official languages -English and French. Le service est disponible dans les deux langues officielles du Canada – l'anglais et le français.

#### Call Toll-Free: 1-877-237-2273 Chat Live: TourismSaskatchewan.com

#### Important Numbers

#### Call 911 in an emergency

Travellers experiencing a serious health-related situation, illness or injury should call 911 immediately. Available provincewide, 911 will assist with identifying and dispatching appropriate emergency services.

#### Call 811 for HealthLine inquiries

Travellers who may be experiencing a health-related situation, unexpected illness, chronic illness or injury can access professional health advice by dialing 811, the number for Saskatchewan's HealthLine.

#### Highway Hotline

Regina and area: 306-787-7623 Saskatoon and area: 306-933-8333 SaskTel Cellular Network: \*ROAD (\*7623) Toll-free across Canada: 1-888-335-7623 hotline.gov.sk.ca/map

#### Websites

TourismSaskatchewan.com is where you will find a wealth of travel planning information, ideas for vacations, road trips, activities and more. You can chat live with a knowledgeable travel counsellor.

FishHuntSask.com is where you can plan your Saskatchewan fishing and hunting adventures. It features travel and licensing information, outfitter listings, blog articles, travel offers and more.

Email us at toursask.info@tourismsask.com.

#### Social Media

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- youtube.com/TourismSaskatchewan
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- 😇 instagram.com/FishHuntSask

#### Parks Reservations

**Provincial Parks** parks.saskatchewan.ca 1-833-75K-PARK (1-833-775-7275) 1-800-205-7070 (general inquiries)

**National Parks** reservation.pc.gc.ca 1-877-737-3783

**Regional Parks** saskregionalparks.ca Online reservation booking is available for some parks.

#### Free Saskatchewan Travel Resources



Saskatchewan Fishing & Hunting Map This colourful map offers information about Saskatchewan's great fishing and hunting opportunities.

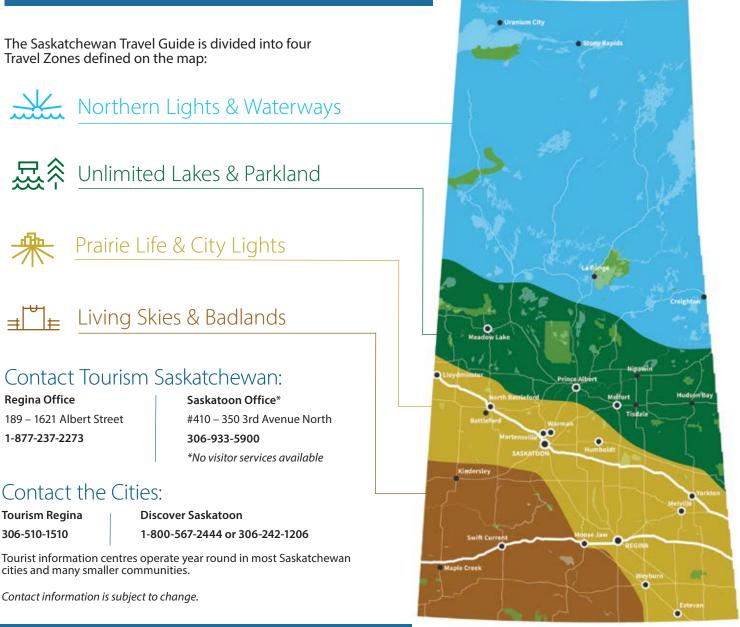


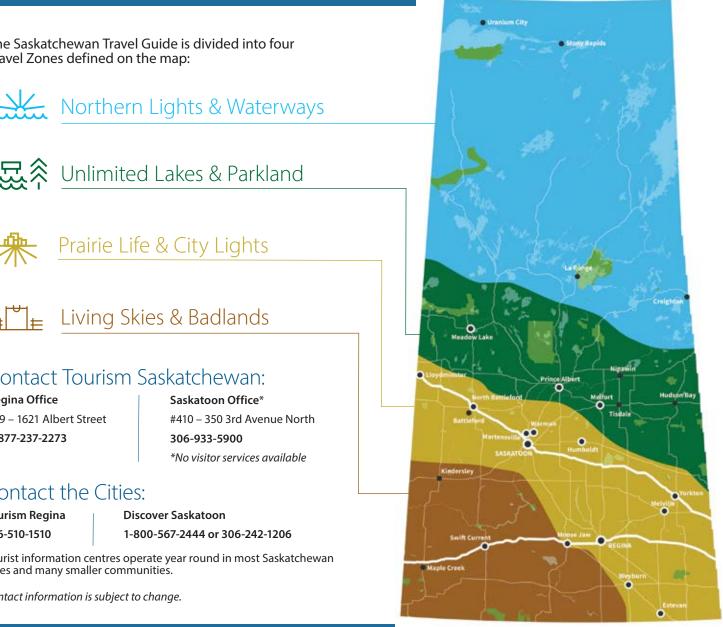
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## Saskatchewan Travel Zones

The Saskatchewan Travel Guide is divided into four Travel Zones defined on the map:









189 – 1621 Albert Street 1-877-237-2273

306-510-1510

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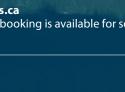
#### Information Warning and **Disclaimer:**

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Saskatchewan Official Road Map This fully detailed navigator is a handy tool



for touring the province.

Travel corridors, along with all communities, major highways and roads are shown in full detail on the Saskatchewan Official Road Map.

Saskatchewan comprises lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, and the traditional home of the Métis.

## Saskatchewan at a Glance

## **Ouick Facts**

- » Saskatchewan's population reached 1,132,505 in 2021. Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada
- >> The capital city is Regina, with a population of 249,217 (metropolitan). The largest city is Saskatoon, with a population of 317,480 (metropolitan). Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada
- >> Saskatchewan has 2 national parks and over 20 national historic sites, 39 provincial parks and historic parks and 79 accredited regional parks.
- >> Saskatchewan covers 651,900 sq. km one-half of the province is covered by forest, one-third is farmland and one-eighth is freshwater.
- >> Saskatchewan is located in the heart of North America, neighbouring the provinces of Manitoba and Alberta. To the south, it borders the American states of Montana and North Dakota. To the north is the Northwest Territories.
- >> The Cypress Hills reach 1,392 m above sea level, the province's highest elevation point.
- >> Saskatchewan's principal export industries are mining, oil and gas, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

## National Distinctions

- >>> Saskatchewan is home to Canada's only training academy for Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) recruits, in Regina.
- » Scotty, the world's largest T. rex skeleton was excavated near Eastend in 1994-95. It is one of only 20 such discoveries in the world.
- >> The Athabasca Sand Dunes are the most northerly major sand dunes in the world, and among the largest in North America.
- >> The Canadian Light Source, a stadium-sized synchrotron light research facility, is located on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon.
- >> Saskatchewan supplies more than one-third of the world's total exported durum wheat and is the world's top exporter of lentils and dry peas.
- >> Nineteen archeological dig sites unveil the past at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, a national historic site that echoes the stories of Indigenous peoples who have gathered here for as long as 6,400 years.

a my				
ving time from	To Regina	To Saskatoon		
ncouver, BC	2 hours	2 hours		
lgary, AB	1 hour 25 min	1 hour 15 min		
monton, AB	1 hour 30 min	1 hour 10 min		
nnipeg, MB	1 hour 10 min	1 hour 30 min		
ronto, ON	3 hours 20 min	3 hours 35 min		
nneapolis, MN	2 hours 15 min	2 hours 20 min		

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**Q** RCMP Academy, "Depot" Division

# Living Skies & Badlands



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Claybank Brick Plant National Historic Site and Massold **Clay Canyons** 

Fort Walsh National Historic Site

Grasslands National Park - West/East Block

Our Lady of the Assumption Co-Cathedral Notre Dame de l'Assomption

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park - West/Centre Block

**Danielson Provincial Park** 

Douglas Provincial Park

Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park

Historic Park

Historic Park

Cabri Regional Park

Ceylon Regional Park

Clearwater Lake Regional Park

Dunnet Regional Park

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**Elrose Regional Park** 

18)

Eston Riverside Regional Park



Jean Louis Legare Regional Park

(24)

**Kindersley Regional Park** 

(26)

Lac Pelletier Regional Park

(37)

(51)

(55)

(59)

(66)

McLaren Lake Regional Park

(48) Notukeu Regional Park

(49) Ogema Regional Park

(50) **Outlook & District Regional Park** 

Palliser Regional Park

(53) Pine Cree Regional Park

(54)

Radville-Laurier Regional Park

Shamrock Regional Park

Thomson Lake Regional Park

(74)

Wood Mountain Regional Park



# Eyes to the Sky in the Cypress Hills

When the glaciers retreated, they missed a spot in the southwestern corner of the province, leaving a forested plateau towering high above the plains below at **Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park**. The unexpected mountain-like oasis on the border between Saskatchewan and Alberta reaches an elevation of 1,392 m above sea level, marking the province's highest geographical point.

#### Views

The mix of landscapes - towering hills, lush lodgepole pine and white spruce forests, and fescue prairie and wildflowers - provides breathtaking views. Take a driving tour to some of the park's most scenic spots, including Lookout Point and Bald Butte in the Centre Block. In the West Block, experience a Saskatchewan sunset from the Conglomerate Cliffs.

In the West Block area, pack your tent, supplies and your horse. In addition to two quiet, rustic campgrounds with few amenities, there is an equestrian campground with corrals. On horseback, witness spectacular vistas as you explore a portion of the Trans Canada Trail to see the Hidden Conglomerate Cliffs.



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#### Trails

The Trans Canada Trail transects the park. In the Centre Block, this trail covers over 16 km of rugged countryside and will challenge the seasoned hiker. With an extensive network of trails in this area of the park, visitors can hike the backcountry to see nature untamed or navigate relaxing self-guided trails with interpretive signage. Paved trails provide quick access between the campgrounds and the beach, resort and swimming pool in the core area.

#### Camping

Wake up to the heady aroma of the lodgepole pine forest in one of the park's seven front-country campgrounds that range from basic to full-service. For a fully equipped camping experience, stay in one of the two Camp-Easy yurts. After a full day of swimming at the pool or beach and stand-up paddleboarding or canoeing on Loch Leven, swap stories and make s'more-filled memories with your family around a crackling evening campfire.

#### Ziplinina

For those feeling adventurous, one of the popular attractions in the park allows you to experience its beauty (and the forest canopy) by zipline. Treeosix Adventure Parks now offers Electric Triboard rentals, providing an exciting new way to explore the park. Additionally, visitors can enjoy an outdoor climbing wall, treetop drop, 18-hole disc golf course, electric fat bike rentals, slackline course and mini-zips for the little ones.



#### History

West Mounted Police (NWMP) post impact on the Nakoda People in southwest Saskatchewan.

#### Dark Skies

The brilliance of the night sky will amaze you if conditions are right for stargazing in this designated Dark Sky Preserve. Public programs and special astronomy events are held at the Dark Sky Observatory each summer

# Fly Fishing

For those passionate about fly-fishing, Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, and its unique landscape, is a must-visit destination. Steep valleys, rolling hills, towering lodgepole pine forests and sweeping grasslands provide a feast for the senses.

The constant and cool streamflow of spring-fed creeks offer ideal habitat for trout all year long. Some streams have been stocked since the 1920s and a few have established populations of what could now be considered wild trout. Three species of trout - brown, rainbow and brook trout – have been introduced into the winding streams. Battle Creek contains all three, which is why it is a favourite location for avid flyfishers.

Each species has its own merits. Rainbow trout is an acrobatic fighter, often jumping out of the water in an attempt to throw the hook. Brook trout is a beautiful looking specimen, especially in autumn when they

is revered for the challenge they present to anglers in coercing them to strike. Battle Creek flows from Alberta into the West Block

of the park. It meanders south through open prairie and into Montana, where it eventually joins the Milk River. The creek can be accessed easily at Fort Walsh National Historic Site. Parking at designated angler spots within the park is strongly advised. More remote entry points can only be reached on foot.

present.

WHERE TO STAY: The Resort at Cypress Hills, Cobble Creek Lodge, Spring Valley Guest Ranch, Historic **Reesor Ranch** 

#### At Fort Walsh National Historic Site, find out what life was like in a working fort during a time that shaped the history of Western Canada. The fort was a North established in 1875 and played a key role in bringing Canadian law to the West. Hear stories of the Cypress Hills Massacre and its





Outside of the park, Battle Creek crosses private land through much of its course. Always respect the landowner's property. Permission to enter is necessary. Obey posted signs, do not litter, stay on trails, close any gates that are opened to access specific areas, and always be aware of any fire hazard that may be

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# Maple Creek: THE MODERN WEST

Get the full flavour of southwest Saskatchewan hospitality with a visit to the Maple Creek area. The community has held the titles of Canada's Greatest Western Town and Friendliest Town in Saskatchewan.



Before you stroll the sidewalks and browse shops among Maple Creek's Heritage District, stop by the Southwest Saskatchewan Visitor Centre that is open seasonally and located just off Highway 1.

Pop into The Daily Grind Roastery and Coffee Shop for a freshly brewed fair trade coffee. This gathering place for locals and tourists alike has a rustic country





feel and serves down-home cooking and baking, while selling specialty items and giftware.

Relive your childhood at Cowtown Kids Toy & Candy. With a focus on selling high-quality traditional and nostalgic toys, it has the distinction of being the largest independent toy store in Saskatchewan.

Stop by Rafter R Brewing's taproom to enjoy a pint or flight of its craft beer brewed onsite. Venture just north of Maple Creek to sample some Cypress Hills Winery fruit wine or mead at its new tasting bar, bistro and gift shop. Under new ownership, the winery continues to use recipes developed by the Bohnets - its founders - to achieve the same great taste that customers know and love.

Housed in a red cedar log barn, Grotto Gardens Family Fun Farm has a bakery, market, gift shop, saskatoon berry orchard and petting zoo. However, the family-run agritourism business is best known for its popular goat yoga, alpaca walks, farm train tours and newest attraction, the Mini Golf Putting Zoo. As mini golfers make their way around the 18-hole course, they are surrounded by the sights and sounds of the farm animals on every hole.

Year round, the welcome mat is rolled out at Historic **Reesor Ranch**, a century-old working guest ranch located just outside of the West Block boundary of Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. Explore the surrounding hills on a horseback trail ride or ATV tour. At the end of the day, gather in the Ranch Hall or around a crackling campfire to swap stories, while enjoying cowboy poetry by the local bard.





Lake Diefenbaker, southern Saskatchewan's largest lake and premier recreation area, boasts some of the most dramatic shorelines in the province. Ragged cliffs, rolling hills and big sandy beaches with shallow waters make it the perfect destination for your next stay and play vacation.

#### Camping & glamping

Three provincial parks are located along the lake's shores: Saskatchewan Landing, Douglas and Danielson, all with their own beaches, campgrounds and plenty of nearby amenities. Palliser Regional Park is another great choice for an afternoon at the lake. Park your RV, tent or enjoy a fully equipped camping experience in one of two Camp-Easy yurts at Douglas Provincial Park. Glamping Resorts Ltd. offers luxury safari tents at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park. Some fixed-roof accommodations include Sarah's Cove Condo Rentals at Harbour Inn in Elbow and Mainstay Inn Resort & Restaurant at Palliser Regional Park.

#### On the water

Glide along the 800 km of shoreline as the wind catches your sail on Lake Diefenbaker. Living Sky Sailing School offers tours and excursions or sailing lessons. Launch your boat and spend the day on the lake. With wide-open water and secluded bays and coulees, it is the ideal spot for watersports enthusiasts.

## Tee off!

In Elbow, hit some golf balls at Harbor Golf & RV Park, an 18-hole championship course situated on the bluffs overlooking the lake and marina (Lakeside Marina Service). You can also enjoy scenic vistas and panoramic views while teeing off at Sask Landing Golf Resort and the desertlike, links-style Sage View Golf Course at Palliser Regional Park.

## Reel one in

Head out for a day of fishing and reel in a record-breaking catch. Renowned for its trophy-sized rainbow trout, Lake Diefenbaker is also known for the diversity of species found in its waters, including walleye, northern pike, burbot, yellow perch, whitefish and lake trout.



© Sask Landing Golf Resort

#### TRAVEL TIP ------

If you are travelling from Lucky Lake on the west side of Lake Diefenbaker to Riverhurst/ Palliser Regional Park on the east side, you (and your car) can hop on the seasonal Riverhurst Ferry. The ferry is toll-free and operates 24 hours a day.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Lake Diefenbaker is a manmade wonder created by the construction of the Gardiner and Qu'Appelle Valley Dams in the late-1960s. Learn more at the Gardiner Dam Interpretive **Centre**, which is located in Danielson Provincial Park on Hwy 44. The centre features visual interpretive displays, souvenirs, tourist information, food service and a vintage film on the construction of the dam. Gardiner Dam is also a starting point for the 125-km Chief Whitecap Waterway (Trans Canada Trail) that takes you through the beautiful South Saskatchewan River valley to the city of Saskatoon.

# Photographing the Darkest Skies in Canada at Grasslands National Park



For those looking for a more accessible

adventure, the park has several shorter

hikes in both blocks, as well as scenic

The Ecotour Scenic Drive is a 20-km

stretch of gravel road that cuts through

the heart of the West Block. It's a prairie

safari for wildlife photographers with

regular sightings of the free-roaming

bison herd, deer, pronghorn, coyote and

live among the black-tailed prairie dog

even rattlesnakes. Visitors at dawn or dusk

might also spot burrowing owls, who often

The East Block offers distinctly wild vistas

exposed history. Drive or cycle the paved

11-km Badlands Parkway and enjoy one

of the six scenic viewpoints. While on

dinosaur fossils within the park and it

is home to several active dinosaur digs.

During Fossil Fever (August 13-17, 2024),

trails, keep a sharp eye out as rainwater

and erosion are constantly unveiling new

set apart by an eroded landscape with

drives with viewpoints.

colonies.

**O** Grasslands National Park

We're standing on the edge of a butte overlooking the Valley of 1,000 Devils in the East Block of Grasslands National Park. It's midnight. Below us, the dark, vague and motionless outlines of the valley floor, but above us, a cosmic chandelier of light dangles overhead. It's the galactic centre of the Milky Way galaxy, clear and crisp with detail even to the naked eye. I've hiked into the backcountry on the Valley of 1,000 Devils Trail with astrophotographer Ben Hutton, on assignment for Tourism Saskatchewan.

Astrophotographers measure light pollution on something called the Bortle Scale – the greater the light pollution in an area, the harder it is to see objects in the night sky. For many parts of the Eastern United States and most of Western Europe, light pollution levels, even in the countryside, never dip below 3-4 on the scale. In the heart of big cities, it's generally 8-9. In Grasslands National Park, it's a 1, the lowest level on the scale.

Hutton and I are here to document what it means to be one of Canada's largest and darkest Dark Sky Preserves.

Grasslands is one of Saskatchewan's two national parks, a 730-sq. km expanse of native prairie grassland and a snapshot

of Saskatchewan before the plow. It's an incredible tract of land, spread between two blocks, the West and the East. Both offer camping, scenic drives, hiking trails and virtually no human-made light pollution.

We've hiked the first 6 km of the 12-km Valley of 1,000 Devils Trail in the East Block. The loop track begins and ends at the Rock Creek Campground and makes for a good day hike, but the park also allows backcountry camping amongst the hoodoos and badlands of the valley. It's true off-grid camping and requires some planning and preparation, with no access to water or washroom facilities and summertime temperatures reaching +40°C. A backcountry permit is required, as well as checking in and out at the Rock Creek Campground office.

The extra effort is worth it though as hikers often have the backcountry entirely to themselves. We certainly do tonight, and from our vantage point, we can't see a single light in the surrounding countryside. Hutton has handpicked this location, at the head of a branch of the valley, to frame the Milky Way above the valley floor. Meanwhile, I have been sitting in quiet awe, the park offering unparalleled solitude under a blanket of stars.



visitors can join paleontologists from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in the field as they work to preserve and catalog these fossils.

For non-backcountry stargazing, Parks Canada recommends the Belza Day Use Site, Two Trees Trail, Frenchman Valley Campground, Rock Creek Campground or the parking areas along the Badlands Parkway for car-accessible stargazing and astrophotography. It is advised to limit your travel at night because the terrain can be difficult. Watch for deer and other animals crossing the roads.



#### AUTHOR: MATT DUGUID



Matt Duguid is a Content Creator for Tourism Saskatchewan. He experiences Saskatchewan every way he can - whether it's on-road, off-road or via bike path, hiking trail or on a stand-up paddleboard. Favourite campsite: Deer Hollow #17 in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. Want to know more about a place ne's been? Ask him at @duguidoutdoors.

Hear astrophotographer Ben Hutton explain the art of capturing Saskatchewan's night skies in one of Canada's largest and darkest Dark Sky Preserves.



# Plan Your Trip

#### **GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK:**

>> Located in southwest Saskatchewan, near Saskatchewan-Montana border; West Block – approx. 150 km S of Swift Current; East Block – approx. 215 km S of Moose Jaw

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

- >> Frenchman Valley Campground (West Block) RV/tent/oTENTik sites
- > Rock Creek Campground (East Block) RV/tent/oTENTik sites
- >> Backcountry camping (West Block/East Block)
- >> Equestrian camping (West Block/East Block)
- >> The Crossing at Grasslands (Val Marie)
- >> The Convent Inn (Val Marie)
- >> Sky Story Bed & Breakfast (Val Marie)
- >> The Sanctuary Inn (Val Marie)

#### **AREA ATTRACTIONS:**

- >> Prairie Wind & Silver Sage (Val Marie
- >> Val Marie Heritage Grain Elevator Tour (Val Marie)
- >> Wood Mountain Post Provincial Historic Park (Wood Mountain)

Walk the path of relaxation and meditation at The Crossing at Grasslands.

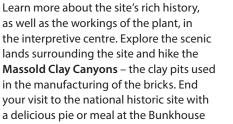




#### as well as the workings of the plant, in the interpretive centre. Explore the scenic lands surrounding the site and hike the Massold Clay Canyons - the clay pits used in the manufacturing of the bricks. End your visit to the national historic site with a delicious pie or meal at the Bunkhouse Café.

#### Wood Mountain Uplands

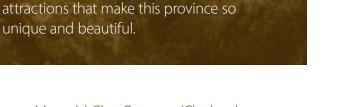
Rockglen lies in the beautiful Wood Mountain Uplands - unglaciated hill country with treed valleys and a large geological history, including the formation of the uplands, as well as the area's fossils, Indigenous artifacts and flora and fauna species. The centre is home to a museum, accessible deck, as well as a fully serviced surrounding countryside, hike the Burning Hills Trail, located 2 km south of town.



variety of wildlife. Visit the Rockglen Visitor Centre to learn about the rich gallery, tearoom with wheelchair-RV park. For a spectacular view of the

#### St. Victor Petroglyphs Provincial Historic Park

The more than 300 rock carvings in St. Victor Petroglyphs Provincial Historic Park were carved between 500-1700 A.D.. They are the only known petroglyphs on



#### Massold Clay Canyons/Claybank Brick Plant National Historic Site Located in the hills near Avonlea, the

Saskatchewan's varied landscape is on

full display in the south. This part of the

province features legendary badlands,

some of the largest tracts of untouched

grassland. Appreciate Saskatchewan in

all of its glory as you discover the natural

unique forested areas, fertile farmland and

**Claybank Brick Plant National Historic** Site is an impressive example of early-20th century industrialism. The site has remained virtually unchanged since 1914. Brick made at the plant graces the facades of many notable buildings in Saskatchewan and across Canada.



# Natural Attractions

#### Big Muddy Badlands/ Castle Butte

O Jones' Peak

The Big Muddy Badlands are sprawling, intricate hills, valleys and caves that once served as a place of refuge for Chief Sitting Bull. Later, they were a hideout for legendary outlaws Sam Kelly, Dutch Henry and the Sundance Kid. A relic of the Ice Age, Castle Butte rises 60 m above the surrounding landscape. It's a striking formation that served as a landmark for Indigenous Peoples, members of the North West Mounted Police and early Canadian settlers. Castle Butte is on private land but accessible to the public from June 1 to November 1. Coronach Visitor Centre and **Big Muddy Tours** offers full- and half-day guided tours of the badlands, outlaw caves and local Indigenous sites. Pre-booking is required, and visitors use their own vehicle.

## Great Sand Hills

Discover Southern

Saskatchewan's

Located north of Trans-Canada Hwy 1 near the village of Sceptre, the Great Sand Hills rise five storeys above the prairie landscape. The rolling sand dunes cover more than 1,900 sq. km. Mule deer and sharp-tailed grouse live among the native prairie trees, shrubs and grasses in this unique region. A directional map to the dunes is available in Sceptre at the Rural Municipality of Clinworth office or the Great Sandhills Museum & Interpretive Centre.

#### Avonlea Badlands

Discover the Avonlea Badlands on a prebooked tour guided by Avonlea Heritage Museum staff. Housed in a 1912 CN train station, the museum has a variety of themed rooms that depict an old-time Main Street. Additional buildings include CN Cook Car, St. David's Anglican Church and the Pioneer Display Building.

Early morning or near sunset are the best times to view the glyphs from the public lookout point. The site is fenced, and pre-arranged tours are offered by the Friends of St. Victor Petroglyphs. The group established a small interpretative centre in **St. Victor** (2 km from the site) called Monarch Lodge. Displays highlight the petroglyphs, as well as archeological artifacts and paleontological specimens from the local area. It also features an exhibit on the arrival of the Métis Peoples in the area, complete with a full-sized replica of a Red River Cart. A Dakota tipi is located beside the centre, as well as a mud-plastered house from the late-1880s.

#### Jones' Peak

website.

the Canadian Plains that are etched upon a horizontal surface.

For the best view of the ancient landscape surrounding Eastend, drive up to Jones' Peak just outside of town and witness this magnificent panorama. It offers a breathtaking view of the river valley and surrounding land, and is a popular lookout for spotting birds and wildlife. Maps and information about driving tours of the area are available on the Town of Eastend

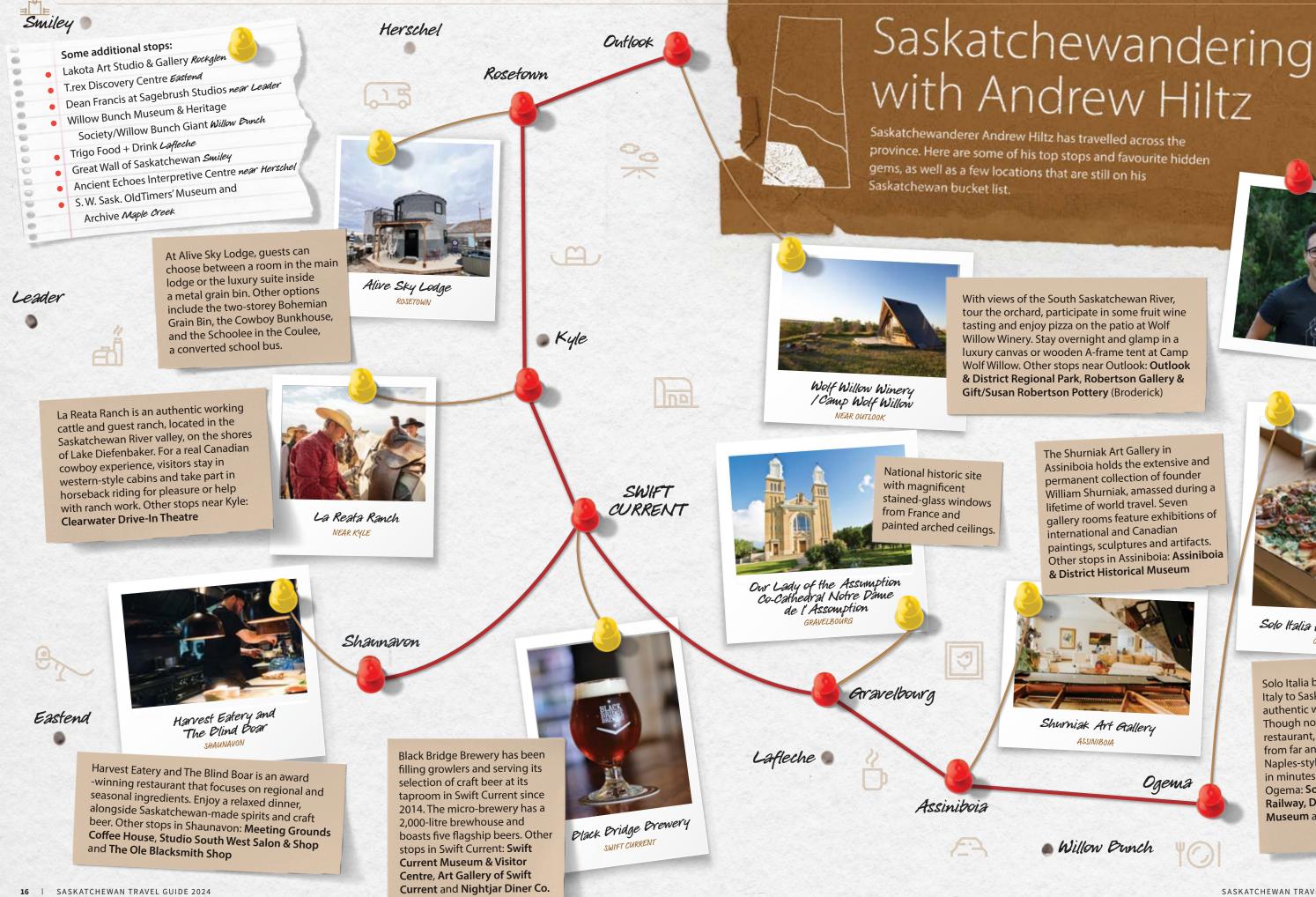


#### Old Wives Lake Nature Area

Near Mossbank, the Old Wives Lake Nature Area is a designated Migratory Bird Sanctuary and part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Old Wives Lake is the second largest saline lake in Canada and one of the best bird watching spots. In spring and fall, numerous bird species rest and feed here during migration. It is a stopping point for several at-risk species, including the piping plover and long-billed curlew. A 2.4-km walking trail winds through natural terrain. A viewing deck, gazebo and picnic areas complete the trail.

#### TRAVEL TIP

Please note that some of Saskatchewan's natural wonders are located in protected provincial or national parks, on private land or in ecologically fragile environments When accessing these areas, be respectful and obey all posted signs, close gates, park ted <mark>areas a</mark>nd pack <mark>out w</mark>hat you pack in. As visitors, we are all responsi<mark>bl</mark>e a these nat



Rockglen

William Shurniak, amassed during a gallery rooms feature exhibitions of paintings, sculptures and artifacts. Other stops in Assiniboia: Assiniboia



Solo Italia Fine Pasta Inc.

Solo Italia brings a taste of Italy to Saskatchewan with its authentic wood-fired pizza. Though not a sit-down restaurant, it attracts people from far and near for its Naples-style pizza that cooks in minutes. Other stops in Ogema: Southern Prairie **Railway, Deep South Pioneer** Museum and Bud's BBQ

## Chasing cowboy dreams at smalltown rodeos



#### Drive anywhere in the Prairies on a summer weekend and you are bound to see a large truck hauling a stock trailer, the driver's silhouette outlining a cowboy hat. Chasing belt buckle dreams down dusty grid roads and secondary highways, these cowboys and cowgirls spend hours on the road going town to town in hopes of taking home a win and padding their pockets.

A lasting cultural institution, small-town rodeos are still as prevalent today as they have ever been, a testament to a strong ranch background that spread across the province. The geographic area referred to as Palliser's Triangle, making up most of southwest Saskatchewan, is composed of sandy soil and prone to low moisture. As such, ranching is often the agricultural practice of choice. The result is that southern Saskatchewan specifically boasts a lineage of not just strong ranch ethic, but world-class cowboy and cowgirl stock.

Wood Mountain, in particular, has a unique and lasting history, hosting the Wood Mountain Sports & Stampede since 1890. The longest-running rodeo in North America, the event is an opportunity to step back into the past. Tucked amongst rolling hills, a silhouette of Chief Sitting Bull is perched on the horizon, a reminder of when the chief and his Lakota people sought refuge from the U.S. army on

this side of the border. The rodeo still showcases "ranch rodeo" events, which test contestants' skills at more practical ranch tasks, such as wild horse riding, sorting and penning cattle and the ever-popular wild cow milking.

From the Cowboy's Prayer to kick things off to the loud music from the cabaret lasting into the early hours of the morning, every small-town rodeo offers a sensory and cultural experience just down the road. The opportunity to engage in an event and population that has been part of the fabric of this province for well over 100 years is not to be missed.

My friend Ashton Lehman, a working cowboy and steer wrestler/roper, once told me the best way to become a millionaire as a rodeo cowboy is to start with \$2 million. Lucky for us, admission to a rodeo is generally \$20 and a burger and beer is \$10.

#### AUTHOR: NATHAN JONES

Nathan Jones is a photographer and videographer based in Saskatoon. Born and raised on a farm in northwestern Saskatchewan, he is particularly interested in documenting community and culture in rural and remote areas. Commercially nis focus is on agriculture, tourism and conservation, but he can often be found on a grid road trying to find another small own rodeo or hidden camp spot. Check nim out at jonesphoto.ca.

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

**Picnic in the Park** Swift Current • June 2, 2024

Sandhill Rodeo Lancer • June 8-9, 2024

2024 Lake Diefenbaker Walleye Classic *Elbow* • June 8-9, 2024

Mortlach Saskatoon Berry Festival Mortlach • June 15, 2024

Long Day's Night Music Festival Swift Current • June 20-22, 2024

Cars in the Hills 2024 Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park June 22, 2024

**River and Rail ArtVenture** Outlook • June 22-23, 2024

SaskPower Windscape Kite Festival Swift Current • June 22-23, 2024

Frontier Days Regional Fair and CCA Rodeo Swift Current • June 26-29, 2024

Wood Mountain Sports & Stampede Wood Mountain • July 5-7, 2024

SaskExpress at Douglas Douglas Provincial Park • July 7, 2024

SaskExpress at Sask Landing Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park July 12, 2024

Beyond the Big Dipper Grasslands National Park - West Block July 12-13, 2024

Shaunavon Boomtown Days Shaunavon • July 18-21, 2024

Assiniboia Polkafest Assiniboia • July 19-20, 2024

Mossbank Old Wives Lake Festival Mossbank • July 19-21, 2024

2024 Sask Landing Walleye Tournament Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park July 20-21, 2024

Gateway Festival Bengough • July 26-28, 2024

Dino Days Weekend Eastend • July 26-28, 2024

Annual Riverhurst Bean Festival Riverhurst • July 27, 2024

Saskatchewan Summer Star Party Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park August 7-11, 2024

**Fossil Fever** Grasslands National Park - East Block August 13-17, 2024

Hilltop Sheepdog Trial 2024 Mankota • August 28-September 1, 2024

Southern Cruisers' Annual Fall Car Show & Shine Assiniboia • September 7, 2024

Beaver Flat 50 Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park September 14, 2024

Val Marie Annual Indoor Bob Larson **Memorial Rodeo** Val Marie • September 20-21, 2024

**Beechy Western Days** Beechy • September 20-22, 2024

For more information about events in the province, visit tourismsaskatchewan.com/things-to-do/events.



Contact organizers for the latest event information.

# Prairie Life & City Lights



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# Family-Friendly 🖇 Fun in Saskatoon

Looking to keep the kids busy this summer? Saskatoon is full of places where children can have a great time (and the grown-ups can relax a little bit too!). There are plenty of indoor and outdoor options to entertain them.



Set down a blanket and have a family picnic, catch your first fish, ride the new Kinsmen Express II train (wheelchair accessible), and meet the many denizens of the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo. Visit the Kinsmen Bear Exhibit and you may see grizzly bears Mistaya and Koda wrestling, digging or playing in their pond. At the Nutrien Ark, Arctic wolves Nuna, Anori and Inneq, along with Kazi the snow leopard, will amaze and delight.

## Nutrien Playland at Kinsmen Park

Celebrate the magic of play at Nutrien Playland at Kinsmen Park. Take a ride on the ferris wheel for a bird's-eye view of the city, twirl around on the colourful carousel or hop aboard the modern-day freight train for a park tour. Watch the kids play on the mini-zipline, dig in the sand or cool down on the splash pad. It is the perfect spot for a hot weekend day or weekday afternoon.



#### Nutrien Wonderhub

Nutrien Wonderhub is the first and only children's museum of its kind in Saskatchewan. At this state-of-the-art facility, children and their grown-ups can enjoy more than 25,000 sq. ft. of interactive exhibits, programs and opportunities for playful learning. Wonderhub's Little Bridges exhibit, created by renowned artist Mackenzie May Dupre, offers a delightful environment for kids to explore and learn while celebrating Saskatchewan's cultural heritage through bridge-themed activities.

## The Stoked Centre

At The Stoked Centre, rip around on highspeed electric go-karts, fly high on the 200-ft. zipline, challenge yourself on the two-storey SkyTrail rope course, or bowl a few games at the 10-pin bowling alley.

#### River Landing (Meewasin Valley)

Pack up the kids and head down to the river, where you can cool off on a hot Saskatoon summer day at the Saskatchewan River Basin Water Spray Feature at River Landing. This attraction was designed with the local geography and natural and cultural heritage in mind.

## Remai Modern

Remai Modern, considered one of North America's most visionary art galleries, boasts the world's largest collection of Picasso linocut prints. From the outside, the gallery makes a bold statement with its award-winning architecture. Step through the doors and explore the impressive modern and contemporary art exhibits. It also has regular kid-friendly programming, including stroller tours and the Cameco Children's Play Area.

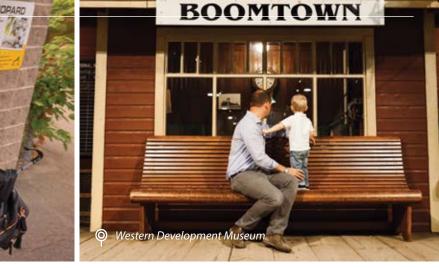
## Prairie River Cruises

See Saskatoon from the water on the top deck or inside the heated cabin of The Prairie Lily. Let Prairie River Cruises be your guide as you enjoy the beautiful scenery of the South Saskatchewan River. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon sightseeing tour with your family and gain a unique perspective of the city.

## Western Development Museum

Imagine yourself washing clothes on a scrub board, stoking the fire in the cook stove and shopping in the general store as you explore the lives of Saskatchewan's early settlers at the Western Development Museum - Saskatoon. 1910 Boomtown, the life-size re-creation of a main street from yesteryear, also boasts a priceless collection of antique automobiles and a working exhibit, the Boomtown Café.







## Wanuskewin Heritage Park

With the aim of advancing the understanding and appreciation of the evolving cultures of the Northern Plains People, Wanuskewin Heritage Park tells the story of 6,400 years of history. Walk back in time as you follow the Path of the People, explore the Trail of Discovery or climb to the east prairie along the Trail of the Bison. Follow the Bison Viewing Trail to the lookout point to see the Plains Bison herd that was recently reintroduced to its ancestral homeland. The interpretive playground, designed to incorporate the historical significance of the site and the many Indigenous Nations that gather here, will definitely be a hit with the kids.





# Fresh and Delicious: Farm-to-Table Dining at Odla Restaurant & Market

Arlie LaRoche grew up farming in Saskatchewan, but it wasn't until later in her life that she realized how lucky she was to be so close to her food and the land. "I always took for granted that I knew where my food was coming from," LaRoche said. "I realized that that was not something to take for granted, that a lot of people had no connection to a farm anymore."

LaRoche wanted to help other people experience that connection. She had pursued a career in environmental consulting but says her taste buds led her back to the farm.

"I learned that if I want good food, I probably have to grow it," LaRoche said.

In 2013, LaRoche started Farm One Forty with her husband Brett. The 140-acre farm

SASKATCHEWAN TRAVEL GUIDE 2024

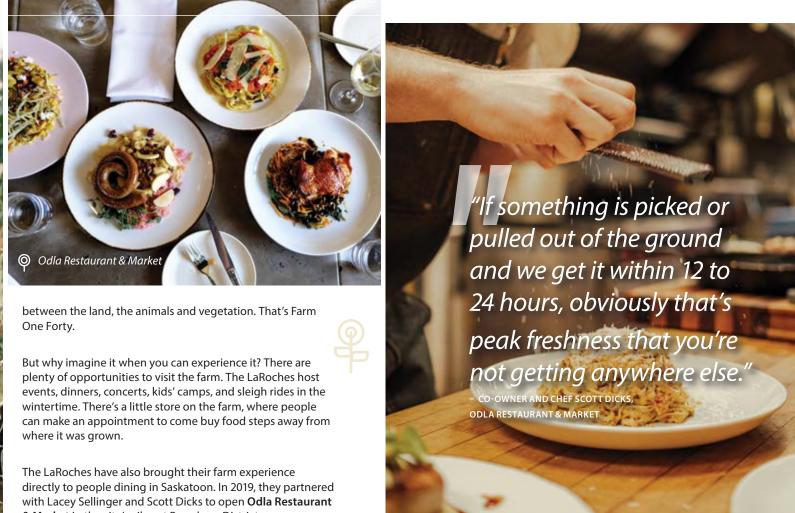
is located 25 km southwest of Saskatoon. The land sits in the peak of North America's great plains. In Saskatchewan, these prairie landscapes feature rich and dark brown soils that support millions of acres of cultivated farmland.

The LaRoche's farm has cultivated a different relationship with its soils compared to most conventional farms in the area. Farm One Forty is a regenerative farm. Regenerative farming is a practice

that involves aligning agriculture efforts with nature to protect soil and promote biodiversity. LaRoche describes it as a means to improve the quality of the soil, water, air and forage.

"We're just always trying to be a benefit to the land rather than taking away from it," she said.

When LaRoche returned to farming, she couldn't fathom taking a different approach. "I saw it as the only way forward." Imagine a farm where all of the animals have a role in sustaining each other and the land. The chickens help protect the garden. Grazing cattle and sheep keep grasses short and fertilize the fields. The pigs dig into the soil, mixing in organic matter. It's a beautiful relationship



& Market in the city's vibrant Broadway District.

In addition to being co-owners of the restaurant, Sellinger is the in-house Sommelier and General Manager and Scott Dicks is the Chef.

What's most important to Dicks is that the food served at Odla is fresh and delicious. This is why they source local incredients harvested at the peak of production. Farm One Forty supplies the restaurant with vegetables, grass-fed beef, lamb and pasture-raised pork. Dicks works with about 50 other local producers to supply ingredients for the rest of Odla's menu.

LaRoche said the partnerships Odla has formed with local producers work so well because the restaurant creates its dishes based on what's in season and when things are ready. They also do much of the animal butchery in-house, not just taking select cuts but using the whole animal. "We're letting their product shine and we're showing it the respect it deserves." Dicks said.

Sellinger says she doesn't know of any other place where a restaurant could source so many ingredients within 50 km of its location.

"If something is picked or pulled out of the ground and we get it within 12 to 24 hours, obviously that's peak freshness that you're not getting anywhere else," Dicks said.



Odla's staff are inspired and challenged by their efforts to only use Saskatchewan ingredients. "We have to be a little bit more creative on finishing a dish or balancing a dish with what's available to us," Dicks said.

Sellinger hopes people who dine at Odla come with guestions about the food that's on their plate. "We want people to know where their food is coming from and harken back to a simpler time when everything was just from the garden or at the farm," Sellinger said.



Learn more about farm to table dining with Odla and Farm One Forty



## Plan an urban dining tour in Saskatoon and Regina

menu of familiar and upcoming culinary establishments. Here is a sampling of

#### SASKATOON Bannock Express P 1205 22nd Street West

to accommodate her growing business,



great restaurants, but **Odd Couple** stands

 $\Theta_{334\,20th}$  Street West

POP Wine Bar is one of Saskatoon's most

## $\Theta_{210\ 20th\ Street\ West}$

what you need. Located in Saskatoon's Riversdale neighbourhood, Hometown **Diner** offers great breakfast dishes made with care and high-quality ingredients. eggs to the Ukrainian Brekkie and the

## ♀ 226 2nd Avenue South

Ayden Kitchen & Bar, F&B Restaurant

#### REGINA

Avenue Restaurant is a beautifully



## 9 3000 Wascana Drive

Bar Willow, located on the shore of Wascana Lake, boasts the best view in outdoor patio, enjoy the sunset over the sample the extensive wine menu and snack on elevated casual fare. Warming

## P1625 Broad Street/2072 Aurora Boulevard

Caraway Grill offers exceptional Indian with an additional location in the east end

Homestead Bar à Vin. Owner Josh McLean



Centre, Skye Café & Bistro offers an

# 12 Hours in Moose Jaw: CANADA'S MOST NOTORIOUS CITY

I'm just going to come out and say it: Moose Jaw is my favourite city in the province.

Why, you ask? If I had to explain it in one word, it would be Wakamow – 20 km of trail stretched across 500 acres of valley. The urban park stole my heart from the moment we met.

But my love for the city goes deeper than the nature that runs through it. It's the laid-back charm of the downtown - the heritage buildings, murals and boutique-style shops. The city begs to be photographed. And the cherry (or should I say cherries) on top are its food, art and history.

Oh, Moose Jaw and its notorious history that conjures images of a colourful past involving gangsters (Al Capone allegedly spent time here).

Because I think you'll like Moose Jaw as much as I do, I built you an itinerary that's guaranteed to make you fall in love with the city as quickly as I did. Let's get started.

You have 12 hours in Moose Jaw. Your time starts now.

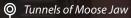
AUTHOR: ANDREW HILTZ

nim on Instagram @saskatchewanderer.











Go underground to learn the history of Canada's Most Notorious City at the Tunnels of Moose Jaw.

> 3:30 p.m.: Relax and unwind at Temple Gardens Hotel & Spa. One of the city's most famous attractions draws visitors from far and near with its therapeutic geothermal mineral water pool and spa.

5:30 p.m.: Uncover the history of the local alcohol industry in Saskatchewan from the 1870s to today during a wine and dine experience with **Prairie Bee** Meadery, in partnership with Grant Hall Hotel. Sample cocktails and shop for your favourite products in the showroom of Saskatchewan's first craft meadery. Then make your way to the Grant Hall Steakhouse & Lounge in the hotel for some fine dining.

8:30 p.m.: Enjoy a beverage at Rosie's



on River Street. You've earned it.

#### — TRAVEL TIP —

If you want to extend your visit and spend the night, the aforementioned accommodation properties are great options.

#### DID YOU KNOW? -

You can relive history with a ride on the only operating steam locomotive in Saskatchewan at the Western Development Museum -Moose Jaw. Transportation is the theme of the museum, which dedicates part of its aviation exhibit to the Canadian Forces Snowbirds 431 Air Demonstration Squadron.

10 a.m.: Step back in time at the Tunnels of Moose Jaw with a themed tour that explores local legend. Beneath downtown streets, immerse yourself into the world of Prohibition-era bootleggers in the Chicago Connection Tour, or experience the life of a Chinese immigrant working at an underground laundry on the Passage to Fortune Tour. Bunker 24 (wheelchair accessible) tells the story of Canada's growth as a nation following the Second World War. The backdrop is a 1950s Cold War bunker, and you are entering your first day of training as a new recruit.

12 p.m.: Enjoy art and lunch at the Yvette Moore Gallery. Housed in the restored 1910 Land Titles Building, the gallery showcases the work of the internationally renowned painter, along with creations from over 40 western Canadian artisans. Its onsite restaurant, The Gallery Café, serves classic prairie cuisine with an artistic take.

2 p.m.: Breathe in fresh air as you wander the trails of Wakamow Valley. The lush parkland and natural habitat is home to a variety of flora and fauna, including over 190 species of birds.



# Top Attractions in Regina

Located in the southern part of the province, Saskatchewan's capital city is teeming with must sees and dos. Plan a vacation to the Queen City and visit these top attractions.

#### Wascana Centre

Cool off from the Saskatchewan summer heat as you paddle out on a canoe, kayak or stand-up paddleboard to one of Wascana Lake's many constructed islands, or take a leisurely cruise with Ferry Boat Tours. Wascana Centre, one of the largest urban parks in North America, is an oasis in the middle of the city and an excellent venue for walking, cycling and jogging. The park is equipped with accessible options to ensure everyone can enjoy its beauty. It is also the home to the 104-hectare Wascana Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary, where you might spot some wild creatures, from painted turtles and wetland birds to pelicans and cormorants. Wascana Pool is a new addition to

Wascana Centre. The outdoor pool is an exciting, inclusive and vibrant facility that provides a unique outdoor summer experience for those of all ages. The facility includes two waterslides, a climbing wall, lazy river and accessible side by side slides.

#### Royal Saskatchewan Museum

In 2019, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum's newest star attraction made its debut. Scotty, the world's largest and oldest Tyrannosaurus rex, calls the Regina museum its second home (the first is the T.rex Discovery Centre in Eastend). This scale replica is so massive that it required major redevelopment of the museum to allow for two-storey viewing of the dinosaur skeleton. Another exhibit -



RCMP Academy, "Depot" Division



*HOME: Life in the Anthropocene* – explores the human condition and its impact on the world. The museum's First Nations Gallery reflects the history and traditions of Indigenous Peoples and their relationship with the land for over 10,000 years.

#### Saskatchewan Science Centre and Kramer IMAX Theatre

Igniting the scientific curiosity of young and old, the Saskatchewan Science Centre has more than 185 hands-on exhibits featuring history, nature and technology. It is also home to the IMAX movie theatre and Atom + Geek Science Shop.

The RCMP Heritage Centre brings to life one of Canada's oldest and most iconic stories, the story of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). While the museum is modern, its setting on the grounds of the RCMP Academy, "Depot" Division, is steeped in history. Established in 1885, "Depot" Division is considered the "Cradle of the Force," with all RCMP members from across Canada receiving their training in Regina. Explore over a century of history, from the formation of the North West Mounted Police in 1873 to the modern-day Mountie. In the exhibit hall, check out the Musical Ride virtual reality experience or get behind the wheel of the driving simulator. You can also hop on their summer Trolley Depot Tours and see the Sergeant Major's Parade.

## MacKenzie Art Gallery

Spend a leisurely afternoon browsing works of art at the MacKenzie Art Gallery, Saskatchewan's oldest public art gallery. Located in the T.C. Douglas Building, the gallery features thought-provoking creations from around the world, with nearly 5,000 pieces in its permanent collection. Wander through the 24,000 sq. ft. of gallery space and then stop in The Gallery Shop to purchase locally made, handcrafted and thoughtfully



#### **RCMP** Heritage Centre

#### Saskatchewan Leaislative Building

Constructed in 1912, the Saskatchewan Legislative Building is one of the grandest buildings in Western Canada. Designed by the Maxwell Brothers of Montreal in Beaux-Arts style, the building was constructed with Manitoba Tyndall stone and 34 types of marble. View the grand staircase, rotunda, galleries and Legislative Assembly Chamber during a guided tour, offered multiple times daily. Learn about the vision that early leaders had for the province and the many famous Canadians who are a part of Saskatchewan's political legacy. To discover points of historical interest on the grounds near the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, take a 45-minute self-guided tour through Wascana Centre.

#### Government House

Experience life in turn-of-the-century splendour and admire its Victorian-era elegance while exploring Government House, which was built in 1891 to house the Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Territories. Now it's home to a museum, a conservatory and formal Edwardian Gardens. Engaging tours, programs and exhibits will take you back in time.



# Growing Over The Hill Orchards and Winery

Most people don't spend much time thinking about the taste of an almond beyond the few seconds it takes to crunch one between our teeth. For Dean Kreutzer, co-owner of Over the Hill Orchards and Winery, it's the work of years.

Among his many other projects, Kreutzer is trying to create a sweet almond that can withstand the semi-arid southern Saskatchewan climate. The process, which started with bitter almonds brought over from Europe, is slow and uncertain, full

## Visit the Valley: A Day Trip to Lumsden

Turn a quiet Saturday into a spontaneous day trip. Whether you're interested in treating yourself to great food and drink or browsing unique shops, grab your friends, fill your tank and discover these hidden gems in the town of Lumsden.

## Food and Drink

Free Bird's philosophy is "common food done uncommonly well." Serving brunch, lunch and dinner, the menu features unique takes on fried chicken, shrimp tacos, pizza and burgers.

#### **Last Mountain Distillery**

Are you curious to find out exactly how a handful of grain becomes a glass of spirits? Take a tour of Last Mountain Distillery with owners Colin and Meredith Schmidt, who will walk you through the process and even let you in on the secret of their dill pickle vodka (hint: it's dill). Tours are available on Saturdays from 12 to 5 p.m. Pick up a bottle of spirits made from Saskatchewan grain on your way out.

#### Jane Dough's Bakehouse and Coffee Company

Jane Dough's Bakehouse and Coffee Company is a bakery specializing in simple, soul-warming baking and daily breakfast and lunch menus - think carrot cake and soups and stews served in hollowed-out bread bowls. Its owner, Jane, sources all of her ingredients locally, and everything is made-from-scratch. The bakery's cinnamon buns are a local favourite.

## Shopping

#### **Thr3e Clothing Connection**

On James Street, Thr3e Clothing Connection offers a curated collection of trendy and timeless styles for everyday wear, and has racks and racks of beautiful and stylish clothes, shoes and accessories for women.

#### The Painted Parasol Gift & Toy

The Painted Parasol Gift & Toy is an eclectic boutique shop that offers an assortment of fine products, including home decor, giftware, jewellery, bath and body products, local arts and crafts, toys, candy and baby items.

#### Lumsden Florist, etc.

Lumsden Florist, etc. is a quaint little shop located in scenic downtown Lumsden. It offers unique, quality flower designs, a wide selection of plants, DIY workshops and kits, and gift options, such as throw pillows, coffee cups, jewellery and purses.

## Other Stops

While daytripping, visit these market gardens located in the picturesque Qu'Appelle Valley between Lumsden and Craven:

#### **Corn Maiden Market at Lincoln Gardens**

Corn Maiden Market at Lincoln Gardens, a garden centre and country market, has fresh produce and herbs, locally made jams, honey and baking, as well as a gift shop, corn maze and pumpkin patch onsite.

#### **Frontier Gardens**

Further down the road, Frontier Gardens has been a popular market garden for over 50 years, with its saskatoon berry U-pick and pumpkin patch.



of dead ends and attempts that result in failure. But with patience and careful attention to detail, he may get there in just a few more years.

It's a story that he likes to tell crowds of visitors who have come to sample Over the Hill's fruit wines and pies. It may sound like a dry topic, but he delivers it with an easygoing charisma and knowledge that makes almond breeding sound riveting.

Dean and Sylvia Kreutzer didn't start with almonds. In 2000, they purchased a plot of land overlooking the gorgeous Qu'Appelle Valley and set out to create a Certified Organic farm with fruits that were not typical for Saskatchewan. Sour cherries, apricots, wine grapes, strawberries that taste like classic bubblegum – all of these plants can be found growing there at various times of the year.

The Kreutzers were new to fruit growing when they planted their first cherry tree in 2000. Sylvia grew up on a farm, but Dean had no agricultural experience. Nonetheless, they were both passionate about creating something new and unique on the prairies.

In the years since, Over the Hill Orchards and Winery has grown into a wonderful tourist attraction. Located a short drive from Regina (near Lumsden), it features tours of the facility, a storefront for its many food and wine offerings, and a dining room for events and tastings. Keep an eye out for the Supper in the Orchard series, in which Saskatchewan chefs prepare a multi-course meal using mostly local ingredients as Sylvia and Dean take visitors on a tour of the orchard. If you go, ask Dean how his almonds are coming along.





# Saskatchewan's heritage on display in our small cities

Saskatchewan's smaller urban centres are rich in historical and cultural attractions. Visit these communities and learn more about the past, the character of this province and the people who call it home.

#### Yorkton

Yorkton is a main commercial hub for east central Saskatchewan and one of the major centres of Ukrainian settlement in the province. At the Yorkton branch of the Western Development Museum, 100 Years of Saskatchewan History is on display. See an actual settler shack preserved for visitors and learn the sad story of the Humeniuk carved figures. Community pride and support drove an ambitious restoration of the Yorkton Brick Flour Mill, which offers guided tours in the summer months (online booking required). Storyboards on the grounds highlight milestones in the mill's history and share insights on pre-settlement times. The Godfrey Dean Art Gallery features contemporary works from Saskatchewan artists. Learn more about the city's heritage on a self-guided walking tour of Yorkton. Maps and information are available through Tourism Yorkton.

OMELVILLE Railway Museum

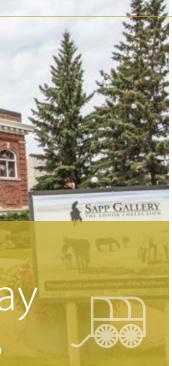
#### Melville

The Melville Heritage Museum is housed in the historic Luther Academy. The 1913 collegiate Gothic-style building houses more than 10,000 artifacts displayed over three floors. Features include a chapel, library and rooms dedicated to railway, military and sports history. A relocated Grand Trunk Pacific station serves as the Melville Railway Museum. Out front is a CN steam locomotive, Grand Trunk Pacific flat car and CN old-style caboose, while indoor exhibits include telegraphs and other communications equipment.

## Estevan

The Estevan Art Gallery & Museum has an impressive permanent collection with two components: fine art in the form of prints and paintings; and artifacts relating to North West Mounted Police (NWMP) history. The province's oldest NWMP detachment post was relocated to the museum grounds. The Souris Valley Museum focuses on human history and life in southeast Saskatchewan. Indoor exhibits recreate settings from the past - a post office, bank, general store and settler homes, and include an Indigenous Peoples exhibit. The museum grounds feature a schoolhouse, homestead shack, vintage harvest cook car, and heritage mining

display.



#### Weyburn

The Weyburn and Area Heritage Village replicates an early-1900s village community through its collection of buildings and artifacts. The Soo Line Historical Museum highlights stories and history of the area and includes the largest private collection of silver known to exist -5,000 items are on display.

## Lloydminster



Spend the day exploring Lloydminster's historic downtown and take a selfie in front of one of the many colourful murals during an ArtWalk. Impressive public art can be found throughout the border city, which straddles the boundary of Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Lloydminster Museum & Archives (formerly Lloydminster Cultural & Science Centre) features a permanent gallery dedicated to the history of Lloydminster and region. The facility also has a temporary gallery to host travelling exhibits and a gift shop.

## North Battleford

View powerful images of the Northern Plains Cree through the art of renowned Indigenous artist Allen Sapp at the Allen Sapp Gallery/The Gonor Collection in North Battleford. Sapp's real-life depictions of his past have been seen around the world and earned the late artist provincial and national recognition, including the Order of Canada. At the North Battleford branch of the Western Development Museum, tour a working 1920s-era village and farm with a fully preserved grain elevator.





# Kichiota Indigenous Destinations:

SPECIAL PLACES FOR MANY PEOPLES

Saskatchewan's first Indigenous tourism corridor – Kichiota Indigenous **Destinations** – is a partnership between Whitecap Dakota First Nation, Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation. The first of its kind in Canada, the corridor offers a variety of experiences that highlight the history and traditions of Northern Plains Indigenous cultures.

The name Kichiota has roots in both Cree and Dakota languages and is described as "a coming together of Indigenous languages, creating a whole greater than the sum of its parts." There is no direct translation, but applied to this unique partnership, the meaning of the name becomes "special places for many peoples."

#### Whitecap Dakota First Nation

Soak in the spectacular views of the award-winning golf course and South Saskatchewan River valley from the indoor rooftop pool at the **Dakota Dunes Resort** & Casino. Located south of Saskatoon, the 155-room resort stands as a tribute to its Indigenous heritage with angular window trims and exterior wood panels echoing the traditional tipi. This thoughtful nod to the culture carries through to the hotel's guest rooms by way of art and design.

The full-service resort also includes a 10,000-sq. ft. conference centre, the Moose Woods Home Fire Grill, which offers a farm-to-table dining experience. An exhibit corridor leads to the curated Wanuskewin Gift Shop, where you can

purchase unique, handcrafted items made by local First Nations artisans.

While enjoying a stay at the resort, hit the gaming floor at the Dakota Dunes Casino, pull out the clubs for a round at the 18-hole Dakota Dunes Golf Links or book an authentic Indigenous cultural experience through Dakota Dunes Adventures.

#### Wanuskewin Heritage Park

A gathering place for all nations of the Northern Plains for over 6,400 years, Wanuskewin Heritage Park is the longestrunning archeological dig site in Canada. This flagship attraction is also on its way to UNESCO World Heritage Site designation.

Walk back in time as you follow the Path of the People, explore the Trail of Discovery or climb to the east prairie along the Trail of the Bison. Follow the Bison Viewing Trail to the lookout point to see Wanuskewin's growing herd – all descendants of the last

1-20



extinction in the 1870s.

Through the centre's immersive programming and expanded exhibits, learn about the cultural significance of the animal, as well as the role they played in a major archeological find. Bison activity was credited with uncovering a 1,200-year old petroglyph. Careful excavation revealed the stone tool used to carve the rock image, as well as three additional petroglyphs.

Taste traditional Indigenous cuisine with a contemporary twist at the refreshed restaurant, or browse the well-curated gift shop and art gallery. Experience a special evening at one of the park's popular Han Wi Moon dinners. The outdoor dining event treats guests to a decadent meal made from foraged and locally sourced ingredients, served at sunset, followed by a campfire with storytelling.

and tipi sleepovers.

# Cree Nation

Cree Nation.

Overnight glamping, Indigenous cuisine (discover the secrets of making bannock!), cultural performances and dancing are just some of the tourism offerings available.

1,000 bison on the prairies before near-

Other cultural experiences include archeological tours, native plant walks,

# Beardy's & Okemasis'

Pêmiska Tourism invites visitors to experience Cree culture and hospitality, and hear untold stories of Saskatchewan's past while visiting Beardy's & Okemasis'



A 30-km portion of the Trans Canada Trail runs through the community and connects to Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park. The scenic, forested trail is the backdrop for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and ATV adventures.

Hear Dr. Ernie Walker share the story of how the bison at Wanuskewin Heritage Park helped uncover a major archeological discovery at the site.





# Pick a Park

2

## Good Spirit Lake Provincial Park

**Q** Good Spirit Lake, 48 km NW of Yorkton

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy sites - one tent and two yurts), Good Spirit Golf Resort, Mistik Resort

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, golfing (Good Spirit Golf Resort), hiking (Trans Canada Trail), disc golf, mini golf (PAR-TICI-PUTT Mini Golf & Rentals), fishing, boat/equipment rentals (PAR-TICI-PUTT Mini Golf & Rentals)

## The Battlefords Provincial Park

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 Second

#### Accommodations: camping, Jackfish Lodge Golf & Conference Centre

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, golfing (Jackfish Lodge Golf & Conference Centre), hiking, mountain biking, mini golf (Lakeshore Mini Golf), disc golf, fishing, boat rentals (Beachside Boat Rental)

#### Blackstrap Provincial Park

P Blackstrap Lake, 40 km SE of Saskatoon

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy sites – two yurts), Blackstrap Glamping Resort

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, hiking, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, mountain biking, disc golf, Sask Aquatic Adventures, fishing



# Pike Lake Provincial Park

#### Pike Lake, 30 km SW of Saskatoon

4

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy site – one yurt), Night Owl Camping Cabins

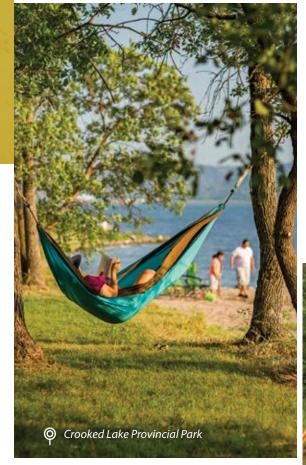
Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, hiking, swimming pool/waterslide (wheelchair accessible), birdwatching/ wildlife viewing, mini golf (Pike Lake Minigolf), disc golf, bike rentals, fishing

## Moose Mountain Provincial Park

♥ Kenosee Lake, 23 km N of Carlyle

Accommodations: camping, Kenosee Inn and Cabins

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, golfing (Golf Kenosee, White Bear Lake Golf Course – outside of park), hiking, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, mountain biking, fishing, disc golf, horseback riding (Kenosee Lake Riding Academy), mini golf (Masters Mini Golf), boat/equipment rentals, Prairie Dog Drive-In Theatre, Sask Aquatic Adventures, Cannington Manor **Provincial Historic Park** 



# 6

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy sites - three yurts)

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, fishing, hiking, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, mini golf (Echo-Par Mini Golf), golfing (Echo Ridge Golf Course – outside of park), Saskatchewan Fish Hatchery

Accommodations: Sundays Log Cabins, Katepwa Beach Hotel

viewing

8

site – one yurt)

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, fishing, hiking, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, golfing (Last Oak Golf and Country Club – outside of park at Cowessess First Nation)





#### Echo Valley Provincial Park

♥ Echo Lake/Pasqua Lake, 8 km W of Fort Qu'Appelle

#### Katepwa Point Provincial Park (day-use park – no entry fee)

♥ Katepwa Lake, 17 km SE of Fort Qu'Appelle

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, fishing, hiking, golfing (Katepwa Beach Golf Club), disc golf, birdwatching/wildlife

#### Crooked Lake Provincial Park

© Crooked Lake, 40 km N of Broadview/ Trans-Canada Hwy 1

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy



10

#### Buffalo Pound Provincial Park

**Q** Buffalo Pound Lake, 33 km NE of Moose Jaw

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy sites – two yurts; hammock camping)

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, mountain biking (Fresh Trails Mountain Bike Skills), hiking, swimming pool (wheelchair accessible), birdwatching/ wildlife viewing (Nicolle Flats Interpretive Area), mini golf (Squirrely Putt & Play), disc golf, fishing, bison herd

#### Rowan's Ravine Provincial Park

Q Last Mountain Lake, 46 km NW of Craven

Accommodations: camping, G & S Marina Outfitters

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, fishing, hiking, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, Wild Waves Waterpark, mini golf (Rowan's Ravine Mini Golf Course)

#### Regina Beach Recreation Site

(day-use park – no entry fee)

Q Last Mountain Lake, 50 km NW of Regina

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach (accessible with a beach mat and floating beach wheelchair), Sask Aquatic Adventures, fishing, hiking, birdwatching/ wildlife viewing, golfing (Regina Beach Golf Club)



For provincial parks reservations, visit parks.saskatchewan.ca or call toll-free 1-833-75K-PARK (1-833-775-7275).

For general inquiries, call toll-free 1-800-205-7070.



## Hidden Gems and **Roadside Attractions**

It's time for a road trip! You'll find surprising sights and welcoming communities down the highways and back roads of Saskatchewan. Watch for these hidden gems and selfie-worthy roadside attractions on your travels.





#### Cochin Lighthouse *♥*<sub>Cochin</sub>

A landlocked prairie province is the last place you'd expect to find a lighthouse, but if you take a trip to Cochin, you'll see one with your own eyes. The Cochin Lighthouse was built in 1988 on Pirot Hill overlooking Jackfish and Murray lakes. Climb the 153 steps up the hill to visit the structure and you will be treated with an amazing view of the surrounding landscape and vast prairie skies.

#### World's Largest Bunnock $Q_{Macklin}$

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Norld's Largest B

If you don't know what a bunnock is, take a trip to Macklin and check out the World's Largest Bunnock sculpture that doubles as a tourist information centre. A bunnock is the anklebone of a horse and used in a game of the same name. Each year, the town hosts a world championship tournament that draws more than 1,000 competitors.

#### Sesula Mineral and Gem Museum and **Rock Shop**

#### *♥Radisson*

Remember the childhood thrill of finding a beautiful stone at the beach or just off a forest path? At the Sesula Mineral and Gem Museum and Rock Shop in Radisson, relive that fascination and discover a trove of gems and minerals. The museum also has Canada's only baby T. rex on permanent display. Launched in 2016 by Judah Tyreman, who was just 12 years old at the time, and his little sister Avi, the museum is a treat for rock lovers or anyone who enjoys spending time discovering something unusual and new.

#### Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

#### *♥Battleford*

Take a photo with Canada's biggest bat at the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Battleford. With over 4,000 archival materials, the museum displays the province's rich baseball history dating back to 1879.

# On the Trail of History

The Louis Riel Trail is a 364-km route from Regina to Saskatoon to Prince Albert. The Resistance. Riel was captured by government forces and brought to Regina, where he along the Louis Riel Trail mark episodes in the

## **Batoche National** Historic Site

At Rosthern, turn east onto Hwy 312, then onto Hwy 225, to visit Batoche National Historic Site. View history through the experiences of Métis residents who farmed along the South Saskatchewan River and had their way of life disrupted in the late 1800s. Guided and self-guided summer tours pass by remaining homes, the restored St.-Antoine-de-Padoue church and rectory, and the site of the Battle of Batoche - where residents defended their land during the 1885 Northwest Resistance. Visitors are urged to plan ahead and check the Parks Canada website, pc.gc.ca, for hours of operation.

#### Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre

Through exhibits, activities and displays of artifacts, stories are shared about the Northwest Resistance and First Nations, Métis and settler history in 1870-1905. The centre features a 24-m tower and viewing platform, sculpture court and picnic area.





## Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park

At Duck Lake, turn west on Hwy 212 to reach Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park. An important station for the Hudson's Bay Company and negotiation site for Treaty 6, Fort Carlton caught fire and was destroyed during a hasty evacuation that took place during the Northwest Resistance. Today, the site features a reconstructed palisade, trade store, fur and provisions storage, clerks' guarters and tipi encampment. Interpretive programming and hands-on activities are offered during the summer.

# Ø Fort Battleford National Historic Site

#### UNIQUE ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

As your road trip continues, watch for these larger-than-life roadside attractions along the way:

- >> Mac the Moose (*Moose Jaw*)
- >> Eiffel Tower Park (*Montmartre*)
- >> World's Largest Coffee Pot (Davidson)

>> Lesia – Canora's Welcome Statue (Canora)

>> World's Largest Red Paper Clip (Kipling)





#### TRAILS OF 1885

These national historic sites and provincial historic parks are a part of the transprovincial Trails of 1885 initiative (trailsof1885.ca). Here are a few additional Saskatchewan sites that make up the trail:

- > Fort Battleford National Historic Site
- Humboldt & District Museum
- > Humboldt & District Gallery
- Original Humboldt Site
- » The Marr Residence National Historic Site
- **RCMP** Heritage Centre
- > Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek National Historic Site

"Saskatchewan is the duck factory of North America, so a very high percentage of North American ducks are born and raised here."

# Exploring the Diversity of Birds in Saskatchewan

♥ Whooping cranes

Stan Shadick has seen more species of birds in Saskatchewan than anyone else. He started birding when he was just six years old, and now, decades later, he spends his time sharing his passion and expertise with others. "There's always something to see," Shadick said.

As operator of **Saskatoon Custom Bird Tours**, Shadick runs about 50 different birding tours across the province. The tours range in length from just a few hours to multi-day expeditions.

He volunteers his time as a birding guide, directing tour fees to **Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation**, a rescue organization in Saskatoon that helps injured or orphaned mammals and birds.

#### Birding on the Prairies

Cadwall ducks

**\_** 

Saskatchewan is well-known for its prairie landscapes. The grasslands and waterways of these plains are home to a range of flora and fauna, including many special birds. Shadick describes the area as "a very special habitat, not found in most other parts of Canada."

The wetlands of the prairies feature small shallow water bodies that make up the Prairie Pothole Region. These glacial potholes are the breeding habitat for waterfowl. "Saskatchewan is the duck factory of North America, so a very high percentage of North American ducks are actually born and raised here in Saskatchewan," Shadick said. During springtime in the grasslands of this region, Shadick guides tour groups out to an active lek, which is the breeding ground for sharp-tailed grouse. This early-morning tour allows birders to hear the grouse dancing in the darkness before they can see them. The birds' feet purr as they stomp the ground and their tail-feathers click like rhythmic, rattling bones. The sound is mesmerizing.

As the first light of day arrives, birders will see the arched shapes these dancing grouse create with their bodies, as they reach out and curve down their wings. "It's truly awesome to see," Shadick said.

#### A Bird for Every Season

When it comes to birding, it's not just about the places. It's also about the time of year. Shadick suggests people who are curious about birding in Saskatchewan venture out during different seasons to experience the best variety of birds. The spring and fall migrations are two of the most interesting times for birding in Saskatchewan. "We're basically situated where two or three different migration flyways meet and intersect," Shadick said. This means that Saskatchewan gets both eastern and western North American birds.

During the fall, there's a special chance to see the majestic migrating whooping cranes that stopover in Saskatchewan as they make their way south. These endangered birds are a sight to see, being one of the tallest in North America. The estimated population for the species is less than 800 in the wild, but it has risen from around 20 in the 1940s. On Shadick's whooping crane tour, participants will learn



about the incredible conservation efforts undertaken to increase the species population.

As temperatures drop, arctic birds migrate from the north into the province. In winter, Saskatchewan has one of the highest concentrations of snowy owls when compared to anywhere else in the world. In the warm months of summer, many Saskatchewan lakes become hotspots for shorebirds. "Saskatchewan's shorebird habitats are some of the best in North America," Shadick said, noting Chaplin Lake as a special point of interest.

It's designated as one of Saskatchewan's Important Bird Areas, in part because this lake attracts a tremendous number of shorebirds and is a breeding ground for the rare piping plover.

#### Beyond the Prairies

Throughout the year, Shadick tours birders through Saskatchewan's most scenic areas – from sandhills to forests to grasslands. "Saskatchewan's diversity in habitat is why so many different birds can be seen in the province", Shadick said. He runs tours to lakes and unique birding sanctuaries, including Canada's oldest migratory bird sanctuary at Last Mountain Lake.

There's also the opportunity to explore the northern boreal forest, where birds like the northern hawk owl and willow ptarmigan can be spotted, and subalpine regions in the southwest of the province, including the Cypress Hills.

That's one of Shadick's favourite places for birding. "Biologically at least, it's an outlier of the Rockies, so we get a lot of subalpine birds in the Cypress Hills and some special birds," Shadick said. "The cordillera flycatcher [is] a very pretty flycatcher with quite a bit of yellow on the breast. We believe this is the only nesting location in Canada for this particular subspecies of Western Flycatcher." After a lifetime of birding, Shadick said it's only about every year or two that he sees a new species in Saskatchewan.

He still finds it exciting to see a rarity in the province. However, what Shadick enjoys most is bringing people out to witness the diversity of birds – showing others how to identify the unique characteristics of our feathered friends, while listening closely to their distinct songs.

## Stan's Birding Checklist

Pull out your binoculars and check these species – some common in Saskatchewan and some rare or endangered – off your birding bucket list:



# On Tap: 20 BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES ACROSS SASKATCHEWAN

Is it possible to have too much of a good thing? At Saskatchewan's many breweries and distilleries, you'll find award-winning spirits, crisp ciders, ales brewed with locally grown ingredients, as well as an overall level of quality born from passion and commitment to craft.

Nokomis Craft Ales does one thing and one thing only: make simple and staggeringly good ales with quality ingredients. The Nokomis Brown Ale, with its blend of sweetness and roasted barley flavours, is a testament to the sheer craft that goes into craft beer. Fill your growler at the brewery in **Nokomis**, or enjoy its beers at restaurants and bars across the province.

## District Brewing Co.

Brewing Co.'s tasting room is the perfect

National Brewing Corp. has its assortment

E

# Bushwakker Brewpub

Head to Regina's Warehouse District and enjoy a locally made brew and a bite to eat. Over the last few years, the city's craft brewing scene has become an attraction all its own. Award-winning Bushwakker Brewpub serves its signature beers with next-level pub grub.

## Rebellion Brewing Co.

Rebellion Brewing Co. believes that drinking great beer can make you a rebel.

# Malty National Brew



## Homebound Brewery Inc.

Homebound Brewery Inc. in Warman is 100 per cent brewer-owned and operated. Sip on one of its small-batch craft beers in the cosy taproom, on the patio or take some brews to go.

Established in 2018 in the restored historic armoury building in North Battleford, Armoury Brewing Company is described as having a great atmosphere and great beer. Fill a growler or sit in for a pint or

## Mile Legacy Brewing Company

9 Mile Legacy Brewing Company was named after the nine-mile stretch between the founders' family farms.

2 Mile Legacy Brewing Company

## of their ingredients on the farm. Acres of fresh fruit, flowers and grains are

11

harvested and distilled into award-winning gin, whisky and liqueurs. Book a tour of the farm, just a short drive from **Saskatoon**, and sample a spirit or liqueur in the tasting room.

Paddock Wood Brewing Co.

Paddock Wood Brewing Co. was established in 2002, and is one of

Black Fox Farm & Distillery

Saskatchewan's first major microbreweries.

found bottled, canned and on-tap in liquor

stores and restaurants across the province.

Stop by the brewery for a chat and a case

Black Fox Farm & Distillery was started by John Cote and Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote

with the intent of connecting people to

agriculture. The Cotes grow 90 per cent

Its unique and refreshing brews can be

Saskatoon

of beer!

**O** Saskatoon

#### High Key Brewing Co. 13 $\phi_{Saskatoon}$

High Key Brewing Co. makes traditional ales and porters, with surprising seasonal beers. Find High Key's brews at bars, restaurants and liquor stores across the province, or visit its new taproom on 23rd Street E.

#### Prairie Sun Brewery **P**Saskatoon

On Broadway Avenue, Prairie Sun Brewery has a reputation for excellent beer made with Saskatchewan-influenced flavours. Its beers are a series of unconventional and flavourful brews that will expand both your mind and your palate.

#### Crossmount Cider Company 5 **Q** Saskatoon

Established in 2016, Crossmount Cider Company has grown into the largest craft cider company on the Prairies, producing hard apple cider from 100 per cent Canadian apples. Tour the apple and pear tree orchard and taste six delicious flavours of cider. Find it at pubs and liquor stores around the province, or visit the cidery for tastings and tours.

#### 16 **P** Saskatoon

and bitters.

## Saskatoon

#### 18 Saskatoon

#### 19 **P**<sub>Saskatoon</sub>

Specializing in small-batch craft beers, 21st Street Brewery blends tradition, creativity and boldness to produce an unmatched selection of local brews. Stop by the brewery, located in the heart of downtown Saskatoon, below Winston's English Pub and Grill.





#### Lucky Bastard Distillers

Curious about the story behind this Saskatoon distillery's name? Hint: It has to do with a winning lottery ticket. Spend an evening with friends at an event, tour the 15,000-sq. ft. facility or take a cocktail class and sample some Lucky Bastard Distillers products, including cocktail-ready spirits, liqueurs

#### Better Brother Brewing Co.

Identical twin brothers opened Better Brother Brewing Co. in the City Park neighbourhood in 2020. With floor-toceiling windows in the taproom, patrons can catch a glimpse of the brewing process. Pair your favourite beer with something from its light fare menu.

#### Stumbletown Distilling

One of Saskatoon's newest distilleries, Stumbletown Distilling boasts the first vodka made with 100 per cent locally grown Saskatchewan purple wheat. Its full-service cocktail bar showcases the unique variety of spirits it produces. Pick up a bottle at the distillery during a tour or tasting or find Stumbletown at liquor stores across the province.

#### **21st Street Brewery**

#### Shelter Brewing Company **♀** Saskatoon

Shelter Brewing Company labels itself as a "nano brewery," with four core brews and three rotating taps available at its warm and inviting taproom on 2nd Avenue in downtown Saskatoon. Shelter's beer is only sold from its taproom, so take the time to drop by and try a glass, or purchase some cans to go. Have a taco or three while you're there – drinking can be hungry work.



\*Remember to drink responsibly and always plan a safe ride home.

Hear John Cote and Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote explain what makes Black Fox Farm & Distillery's award-winning spirits uniquely Saskatchewan.





# Create with Clay at Freba Pottery



On the stretch of Yellowhead Hwy 16 between Dafoe and Wynyard, stands a small wooden building with a sign that reads Freba Pottery. Inside, the shelves are lined with beautiful handmade ceramics. If no one's around, no problem – simply leave some cash or transfer funds to the store owner.

A store run on the honour system is rare these days. It may be something you can only find in a place like rural Saskatchewan, where, as owner Marea Olafson says, "a little trust goes a long way."

Olafson opened Freba Pottery in 2013, leaving the door unlocked and betting on the goodness of strangers. She was inspired by a visit to a studio in British Columbia, which also ran on the honour system. Returning to Saskatchewan, Olafson began to learn the craft of pottery. There's more to Freba Pottery than just the roadside store, though. Olafson has turned her passion into an immersive experience.

Launched in January 2023, Elemental Claycation is a pottery retreat for groups of individuals to connect through creativity. Guests stay in a shared accommodation space in the newly renovated attic of a 104-year-old heritage house steps away from the quaint pottery shop.

The package also includes a curated menu that highlights Saskatchewan food producers and seasonal options, prepared by local chef Adrienne Jackson. Throughout the weekend, guests learn how to throw their own cups and bowls, glaze their creations, and load and unload the kiln.

At the end of the retreat, guests will have an unforgettable experience and their very own pottery.



## Shop Local in Rural Saskatchewan

When it comes to shopping off the beaten path in Saskatchewan, you'll find charming small-town storefronts and warm, welcoming shopkeepers everywhere. Pop in on your way through or plan a day trip to one of these hidden gem boutiques.

## Kinder Surprises Antiques

Kinder Surprises Antiques is housed in a gorgeous hip roof barn near Davidson and is jam-packed with beautifully displayed items. Each treasure comes with its own history and story – from antiques and reclaimed building parts to glassware and furniture. Stroll through the main street lined with heritage buildings including a one-room schoolhouse and church.

#### Becky's Place

#### ♥ Fort Qu'Appelle

**Becky's Place** is a unique Indigenous-owned retail and craft shop located in **Fort Qu'Appelle**. Purchase beaded gifts, ribbon skirts and shirts, star quilts and blankets, original art and carvings from local artisans.

#### Hand Wave Gallery & Craft Shop @ Meacham

For almost four decades, the Hand Wave Gallery & Craft Shop in Meacham has been showcasing the work of Saskatchewan craftspeople in gallery exhibitions. Mediums include pottery, textiles, woodwork, jewellery, sculpture, art books, stained/fused and blown glass, prints, photography, quilting and others.

#### Sisters' Boutique & Bistro

#### 🍳 Montmartre

After stopping for a selfie at **Montmartre**'s popular replica of the Eiffel Tower, visit **Sisters' Boutique & Bistro** to find women's clothing and accessories, locally consigned art, jewellery, collectibles, and rustic pieces of furniture.

#### The Little Glass Hut

#### ♀ <u>Lebret</u>

In Lebret, The Little Glass Hut is a studio and retail shop that features handcrafted stained glass, stepping stones, pottery, quilting, photography, paintings and jewellery.

#### Prairie Girl Gallery & Gift Boutique @ Moosomin

Prairie Girl Gallery & Gift Boutique is a gallery, boutique and art centre located in the historic McNaughton Building in Moosomin. Stop in and browse original artwork by owner, artist and musician Eli Barsi, along with handmade crafts by Saskatchewan artisans.

Relax and find your creativity at Freba Pottery.



# Soak in the healing 20 waters at Manitou Beach

Billing itself as the "Dead Sea of Canada," Manitou Beach is a resort town built on the shores of the mineral-heavy waters of Little Manitou Lake. Located roughly midway between Regina and Saskatoon, and only a few minutes from the town of Watrous, Manitou Beach is the perfect place for a relaxing beachside afternoon or therapeutic weekend getaway.

According to legend, the lake's reputed healing properties were discovered by a group of Indigenous People travelling through the area. Some of the members of the group, suffering from smallpox and fever, stopped at the lake and discovered that the water relieved their symptoms and restored them to full health.

Today, Little Manitou Lake is renowned for its ability to soothe and rejuvenate bathers. Unlike any other water body in North America, Little Manitou Lake draws people from around the world for its intense mineral concentration and remarkable buoyancy – it is impossible to sink in this water. Take a dip and try it for yourself.

To experience the healing waters in an indoor setting, visit **Manitou Springs Resort & Mineral Spa**. Relax and unwind as you soak in the heated mineral pool. Next stop: Serenity Massage & Esthetics, the resort's full-service spa. The 105-room hotel also has a gift shop, fitness centre, and a few dining options, including a poolside café and expansive outdoor patio, along with Water's Edge Restaurant and Lounge, which has panoramic views of the lake.



Only four blocks from the spa is **Danceland**, a little piece of history in the modern world. Built in 1928, the old-fashioned dance hall was a popular attraction for Saskatchewanians looking for an evening of fun. It's one of the few remaining dance floors built on a cushion of horsehair, which is said to give an unparalleled dance experience. Kick up your heels at one of the weekend events featuring polka, Latin and big band performances.

These attractions are only a start. Spend an afternoon exploring the resort village, including its unique beachfront eateries and shops. The **Little Manitou Art Gallery** displays the work of more than 300 Saskatchewan artists in seven pavilion galleries – all in a garden setting. The gallery also hosts live music performances every Saturday in June, July and August.





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With its eclectic cultural attractions and nostalgic hidden gems that reflect the spirit of a time when excursion trains brought vacationers to the area for relaxation and entertainment, Manitou Beach is sure to provide you with a getaway that will restore and recharge your mind and body.

#### DID YOU KNOW? -

Salty Cinema Drive-In Theater (formerly Jubilee Drive-in Theatre) has been screening blockbusters since the 1950s. One of the last drive-in theatres left in Saskatchewan, it's an experience straight out of an earlier time – but with the pristine quality of digital projection. The theatre also has a 24-seat indoor facility.

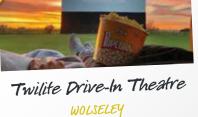


#### Some additional stops:

- Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area/Last Mountain Bird Observatory Last Mountain Regional Park
- YDB Scoops Yorkton
- Happy Hollow Corn Maze near Lumsden
- The Grotto Vibank
- Quill Lakes International Bird Area Wynyard / Foam Lake
- Cork & Bone Bistro Moosomin
- Ukrainian Museum of Canada Saskatoon
- Sunnyside Creamery Martensville
- Station Arts Centre Rosthern

Yorkton

For a nostalgic way to spend a summer evening, watch a movie on the big screen at one of the province's drive-in movie theatres. Saskatchewan is home to five locations that are preserving this retro pastime. Opened in 1954, Twilite Drive-In Theatre in Wolseley has been an area attraction for decades. Other stops near Wolseley: Swinging Bridge, The Wolseley Gallery, Grace & Thyme (Indian Head), Historic Bell Barn (Indian Head)



Moosomin

# Game Day in Saskatchewan



## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

Energy City EX & KCRA Rodeo Estevan • June 14-16, 2024

**RCMP Sunset Ceremonies** *Regina* • July 1, 9, 16 and 23, 2024

Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival Saskatoon • July 2-August 25, 2024

Yorkton Exhibition Summer Fair Yorkton • July 3-6, 2024

SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival Saskatoon • July 4-13, 2024

North American Chuckwagon Championship Lloydminster • July 4-14, 2024

Doukhobor Dugout House NHS Season Opening: Blankets of Comfort Blaine Lake • July 6, 2024

Spirit of Manitou Studio Trail *Watrous* • July 6-7, 2024

**Poundmaker Indigenous Performance** Festival Poundmaker Cree Nation • July 9-11, 2024

Lloyd Ex Fair *Lloydminster* • July 10-13, 2024

**Regina International Fringe Theatre Festival** Regina • July 10-14, 2024

Cheer loud for your team on game day in Saskatchewan! Regina is home to the Canadian Football League (CFL)'s Saskatchewan Roughriders Football Club and Saskatoon is the where the Saskatchewan Rush Lacrosse Club takes on its opponents in the National Lacrosse League (NLL).



## Rouahriders

For a real sense of Regina's community spirit, take in a Saskatchewan Roughriders football game. Fans flock to Saskatchewan Roughrider games all over Canada, but there's nothing quite like sitting in Mosaic Stadium, surrounded by cheering fans. Take home a game day memento with a visit to the Rider Store.

In 2022, the 109th Grey Cup was hosted in Regina, marking the fourth time the

championship game was held in the city, and the first time it was played at the new Mosaic Stadiun. In the Saskatchewan Roughriders' century-long history, the team has won four Grey Cup Championships: in 1966, 1989, 2007 and 2013.

#### Saskatchewan Rush

Feel the excitement as the Saskatchewan Rush takes to the field at SaskTel Centre and welcomes NLL teams from across North America. The season runs from December to April.

Rep your favourite lacrosse team with some official Saskatchewan Rush merchandise from The FEZ – the Fan Experience Zone.

Since the team's move to Saskatchewan from Edmonton in 2016, it has won the Champion's Cup twice - in its inaugural season in Saskatoon and in 2018.

#### Piapot Traditional Powwow Piapot First Nation • August 16-18, 2024

Shake the Lake Outdoor Music Festival (Conexus Arts Centre) Regina • August 23-24, 2024

Regina Dragon Boat Festival Regina • August 30-31, 2024

**Nuit Blanche** Saskatoon • September 28, 2024

Canadian Western Agribition *Regina* • November 25-30, 2024

**Carlyle's Dickens Village Festival** Carlyle • December 6-7, 2024

For more information about events in the province, visit tourismsaskatchewan.com/things-to-do/events.



Contact organizers for the latest event information.

# Unlimited Lakes & Parkland

Back to Batoche Days Batoche National Historic Site • July 18-21, 2024 Nutrien Fireworks Festival Saskatoon • August 30-31, 2024

Saskatoon Fringe Festival Saskatoon • August 1-10, 2024 Macklin World Bunnock Championship

Macklin • August 2-4, 2024

Mid Summer's Art Festival Fort Qu'Appelle • August 3, 2024

Tournament

Country Thunder Saskatchewan Craven • July 11-14, 2024

Saskatchewan Festival of Words Moose Jaw • July 18-21, 2024

The Queen City Ex (REAL District)

Regina • July 31-August 4, 2024

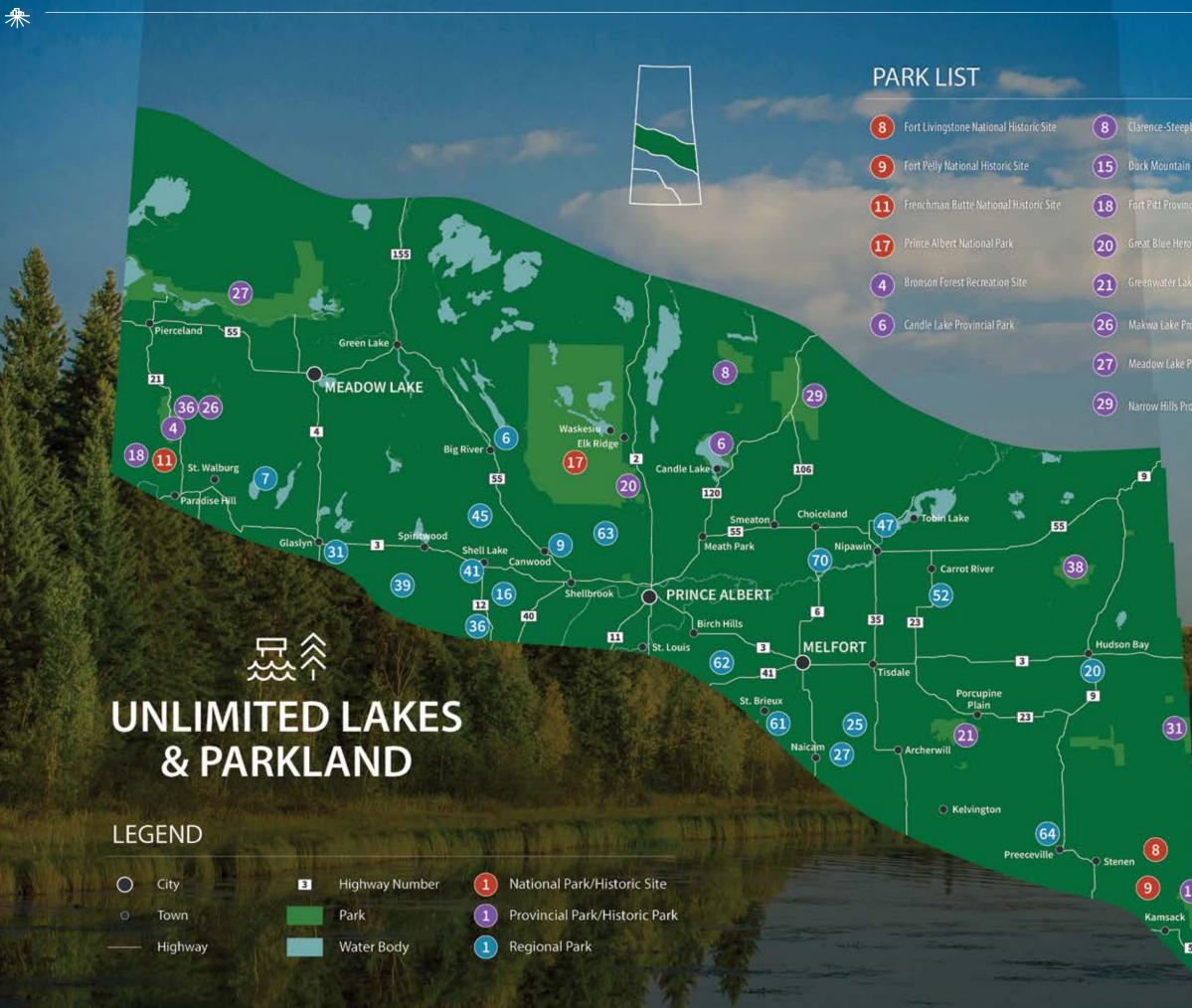
**Fort Carlton Trade Days** Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park • July 13, 2024

**Cannington Fair** Cannington Manor Provincial Historic Park August 4, 2024

Saskatoon EX Saskatoon • August 6-11, 2024

Wind & Waves Festival Rowan's Ravine Provincial Park August 10, 2024

North West Territorial Days The Battlefords • August 14-16, 2024



ank Lakes Provincial Park	31	Porcupine Hills Provincial Park
rovincial Park	36	Steele Narrows Provincial Park
al Historic Park	38	Wildcat Hill Provincial Park
Provincial Park	6	Big River Regional Park
Provincial Park	7	Brightsand Lake Regional Park
rincial Park	9	Canwood Regional Park
ovincial Park	16	Emerald Lake Regional Park
incial Park	20	Hudson Bay Regional Park
	25	Kipabiskau Regional Park
	27	Lake Charron Regional Park
	31	Little Loon Regional Park
	36	Martins Lake Regional Park
	39	Meeting Lake Regional Park
WARE SET	41	Memorial Lake Regional Park
	45	Morin Lake Regional Park
A. Mary	47	Nipawin & District Regional Par
-	52	Pasquia Regional Park
Strike and	61	St. Brieux Regional Park
	62	Struthers Lake Regional Park
	63	Sturgeon Lake Regional Park
	-	

6	Steele Narrows Provincial Park
8	Wildcat Hill Provincial Park
6	Big River Regional Park
	Brightsand Lake Regional Park
9	Canwood Regional Park
6	Emerald Lake Regional Park
0	Hudson Bay Regional Park
5	Kipabiskau Regional Park
7	Lake Charron Regional Park
1	Little Loon Regional Park
6	Martins Lake Regional Park
9	Meeting Lake Regional Park
1	Memorial Lake Regional Park
5	Morin Lake Regional Park
7	Nipawin & District Regional Park
2	Pasquia Regional Park
1	St. Brieux Regional Park
2	Struthers Lake Regional Park

(64) Sturgis & District Regional Park – Lady Lake

(70) Wapiti Valley Regional Park



# Family Fun in the Boreal Forest

When was the last time you wandered through the woods? Enjoy the call of the wild with your family at **Prince Albert National Park** – 3,875 sq. km of outstanding natural wonders where parkland meets forest. The park is one of Saskatchewan's most popular four-season destinations, a place where you can mix northern wilderness encounters with the comforts of a lakeside resort. Located approximately 90 km north of **Prince Albert**, the charming resort village of **Waskesiu**, situated in Prince Albert National Park, has a wide range of services.



#### Recreation

Recreation is the name of the game here with hiking, swimming, golfing and canoeing.

With more than 150 km of hiking trails within the park, you can choose your own path at your own pace. There are 17 trails varying in length and level of difficulty – from short walks and day hikes to overnight backcountry excursions. All hiking trails, including Red Deer Trail and Waskesiu River Trail, offer breathtakingly scenic views, wildlife, lush vegetation and many points of interest.

Hit the beach and spread a towel in the sand, take a dip in the clear, shallow waters, explore the shoreline by stand-up paddleboard or enjoy the hot summer days with boating and on-water activities, such as waterskiing and wakeboarding. In addition to the 600-metre-long Main Beach, located in the townsite, there are

#### Camping and Accommodations

Within the park boundaries, there are five front-country, vehicle-accessible campgrounds. Pitch your tent or park your RV in one of two major campgrounds.

Red Deer Campground is a 161-site full-service (water, sewer and electrical hook-up) pull-through campground for recreational vehicles (RVs) and trailers located in the Waskesiu townsite.

Beaver Glen Campground is ideal for RV and tent camping in a wilderness setting. Located on the fringe of the townsite, it has 200 electrified back-in sites, as well as modern, accessible washrooms and centrally located camp kitchens. It also has 10 reservable oTENTiks. Rough it in style in this family-friendly accommodation – a cross between an A-frame cabin and a prospector tent equipped with beds and furniture on a raised floor.

For a more rustic setting or peaceful, lakeside camping, there is the Narrows Campground, Namekus Lake Campground or Sandy Lake Campground. With a backcountry permit, adventure-seeking visitors can hike or canoe and camp in remote reaches of the park. There are 15 designated backcountry campgrounds in four different wilderness areas.

If you prefer the amenities or luxury of a hotel, condo or cabin, stay at one of the park's deluxe all-season accommodations, including the Hawood Inn, Lost Creek Resort, The Lakeview Hotel, Kapasiwin Bungalows, The Suites at Waskesiu or Elk Ridge on the Lake.





seven other road- and water-accessible beaches scattered around Waskesiu Lake.

Golf one of the province's most picturesque and challenging layouts. Designed by Stanley Thompson and built in the 1930s, the Waskesiu Golf Course is an 18-hole grass-green course with rolling terrain and a mature forest flanking the fairways. For those who prefer golf of the mini variety, Little Al's Mini Golf is part of the redeveloped recreation area that includes resurfaced tennis and pickleball courts, a new multi-sport court, shuffleboard, outdoor fitness facility, ninja course for kids, and a renewed lawn bowling green, which has a 70-year history in the park. Spikeball, bocce ball, outdoor chess and checkers, foosball, table tennis and disc golf (course in the Day Use Area) are also available.

Learn about conservationist Grey Owl at the **Friends of the Park Bookshop**, or visit his cabin first-hand with an interpretive tour guided by **Waskesiu Marina Adventure Centre**. By foot, canoe or boat, make the pilgrimage to the one-room log cabin on the shore of Ajawaan Lake.

Following a day of outdoor pursuits, look for the comforts of home in the Waskesiu townsite. Pick up some summer fashions and keepsakes at unique boutiques and shops and enjoy a delicious dinner at one of the many local restaurants, such as **Restaurant Pietro**, **Pete's Terrace** 



Restaurant or Hecho en Waskesiu. Grab an ice cream cone for dessert at Big Olaf Sundaes and walk the length of the breakwater overlooking the park's expansive beach or catch a family-friendly movie at Twin Pine Cinema.

From your campsite to the golf course and backcountry to the beach, opportunities to connect with your family are endless.



## Elk Ridge Resort

Down the road, located just outside of the park, is **Elk Ridge Resort**'s signature property. Indulge in firstclass comfort with a stay in one of its upscale accommodation options - the lodge, log cabin, townhouse or cottage. Start your day with a massage or pedicure at Drift Spa & Wellness before you head out for a round on the championship 27-hole golf course, where it's not uncommon to see elk on the fairway. Enjoy fine dining set amidst rustic elegance at Fredrich, the resort's newest dining experience. The restaurant's patio has a spectacular pond view

Another (more casual) dining option is The Wyld at Elk Ridge, located in the golf course clubhouse.

Here, you will also find the Waskesiu location of **Treeosix Adventure Parks**. Get your adrenaline pumping by soaring up to 21 m above the ground on a two-hour zipline tour. With seven lines, an outdoor climbing wall, slackline park, giant swing and spikeball court, prepare to see the forest from a new vantage point. Recent additions to basecamp activities include electric fat bike rentals. Prince Albert National Park

## Photographing Wildlife in Prince Albert 0 h National Park

#### Scenic Drives

Finding wildlife to photograph in Prince Albert National Park can be as easy as touring one of the many scenic drives. Highway 263 is a paved route that explores the transitional area of boreal forest and aspen parkland. Narrows Road follows the southern edge of Waskesiu Lake and passes through several ecosystems. Take the northern passage around Waskesiu Lake on Kingsmere Road. The route leads to many trailheads in the park, including Grey Owl Trail.

#### **Beautiful Trails**

Setting out on foot through the forest is an enjoyable way to seek out wildlife experiences. The park has many trails that explore different areas of the park. Whatever your ambition or skill level, Prince Albert National Park has a trail to suit you.

#### Perfect Timing

Golden hour – when the sun hangs low on the horizon at sunset and sunrise - is typically an idyllic time to take photographs. These moments are even more ideal for wildlife photographers because many of the park's wild residents emerge at dawn and dusk.

Any time of year is favourable for capturing wildlife photos in the park. Each season offers unique photographic opportunities. Foxes and other creatures have vibrant colours that stand out in snowy winter settings. New growth comes in spring and it's calving season for bison. Summer is lush and active. The fall colours are amazing – larch trees are worth a trip alone.





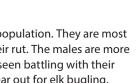
## Elk Everywhere

The park is well known for its elk population. They are most active in the fall season during their rut. The males are more aggressive during rut and can be seen battling with their antlers locked together. Keep an ear out for elk bugling.

## Respect for Wildlife

Remember to keep a safe distance – about 100 metres for larger animals, such as bears, bison or elk. Don't risk your safety. Use a telephoto lens.

Deer, foxes, wolves, otters and many other species of wildlife can also be seen in the park. All wild animals should be respected. This includes not feeding the animals or pursuing them into the woods.





Minto

O Common Loon

**O** River Otter

Duane Larson explores wildlife photography in Prince Albert National Park.



# From Fields to Forge: Discover Northeast Saskatchewan

"As a second generation knifemaker, *I* wanted to continue the legacy that my father built but with a different model. I wanted to bring people here and create tourism within the community." – GRANT SCHILLER, GRANT SCHILLER KNIVES



In the beautiful area of northeast Saskatchewan lies the towns of Nipawin and Carrot River, each painting a unique portrait of tradition and innovation. From the award-winning businesses in Nipawin to the rich agricultural heritage of Carrot River, this region invites travellers seeking adventure and culinary delights alike. Two local entrepreneurs, Grant Schiller of Grant Schiller Knives and Michael Brownlee of Mable Hill Farm & Marketplace, have played pivotal roles in creating thriving destinations for tourists and locals alike.

#### Grant Schiller Knives Carrot River

Grant Schiller Knives is where tradition meets adventure in an immersive journey unlike any other. Step into the world of artisan knifemaking with Grant Schiller as your guide and unlock the secrets of this timeless craft, while enjoying your surroundings in the beautiful Carrot River area.

It all started when Schiller, a second-generation knifesmith, began a remarkable journey that would redefine the boundaries of his craft and expand the vision for his business beyond the confines of his workshop. He saw an opportunity to share his passion with the world, offering guests a chance to experience the artistry and tradition behind each finely crafted blade.

"As a second generation knifemaker, I wanted to continue the legacy that my father built but with a different model," Schiller said, sharing that he and his father would travel elsewhere to conduct workshops. "I wanted to bring people here and create tourism within the community." 人人







At Grant Schiller Knives, every workshop is more than just a lesson in knifemaking – it's an immersive experience designed to ignite your sense of adventure and creativity. Whether you're a beginner ready to learn the basics or a seasoned enthusiast seeking to refine your skills, Schiller's workshops cater to all levels of expertise. Offerings recently expanded to include multi-day workshops, which are hosted in a newly renovated building in Carrot River.

Under Schiller's expert guidance, workshop attendees will hammer, grind, and polish their creations, each stroke of the hammer imbued with the spirit of generations past. But it's not just about crafting knives – it's about forging connections, building community, and preserving a tradition that spans the ages. With each workshop, Grant Schiller Knives invites you to become part of a story that is as old as time itself - a story of craftsmanship, resilience, and the timeless beauty of the blade.



Nestled in the heart of the northeast, Mabel Hill Farm Kitchen & Marketplace has transformed into a culinary haven, drawing visitors far and wide to its rustic charm and delectable offerings. Chef and owner Michael Brownlee's journey back to his roots sparked the creation of this culinary gem, steeped in family tradition and a passion for fresh, quality food.

Inspired by his upbringing on a fruit and vegetable farm near Carrot River, Brownlee's culinary adventure began at a young age, catering local events while still in high school. After honing his skills at the Culinary Institute of Canada and working at esteemed establishments like The Inn at Bay Fortune, Brownlee returned to Saskatchewan with a vision: to blend fine dining with the comforts of rural living.

In 2018, Mabel Hill Farm Kitchen & Marketplace sprouted from the fertile soil outside of Nipawin and blossomed into a hub for farm-to-table cuisine and warm hospitality. With four acres of lush gardens supplying the freshest ingredients, Brownlee's vision of treating guests to an unforgettable dining experience took root.

But Brownlee's ambitions didn't stop there. Recognizing the demand for special events and gatherings, he embarked on the ambitious project of constructing a pavilion on the property, turning Mabel Hill into a sought-after venue for weddings and celebrations.

Mabel Hill Farm Kitchen & Marketplace stands as a testament to Brownlee's unwavering passion and the power of community-driven entrepreneurship. With each dish served and every event hosted, Brownlee continues to redefine the tourism landscape, one delicious meal at a time.







Chef Michael Brownlee shares his passion of growing food and cooking it.





#### PLAN YOUR TRIP

- Nipawin/Carrot River Area: Located in northeast Saskatchewan - approx. 270 km NE of Saskatoon and 360 km N of Regina
- >> Accommodations:
  - Nipawin & District Regional Park (Nipawin) - Camping
  - Aurora Houseboats
  - Cabin rentals
    - Reel'em Inn Cabins
  - Carrot River Inn (Carrot River)
  - Shell's Fitness & Soul Center (Carrot River)
  - Pasquia Regional Park (Carrot River) – Camping
- **>** Other Area Attractions:
  - World-class fishing Tobin Lake and Codette Lake
- Golfing
- Evergreen Golf Course (Nipawin)
- Rolling Pines Golf and Country Resort
- (Tobin Lake)
- Pasquia Regional Park Golf Course (Carrot River)
- Dining
- The Dam Smokehouse (Nipawin
- The Spot Restaurant & Lounge (Nipawin) Wild Bill's Pizza (Nipawin)

# Connecting to the land and its stories in northwest Saskatchewan

"There is so much history that hasn't been shared yet from our First Nation community members and Elders. We want to share our history and culture through those stories

about the land." DEVON FIDDLER, WATERHEN LAKE FIRST NATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The area around Meadow Lake is distinct for its pristine beauty. Picture this – lush forests, calming lakes, and skies that dazzle with clouds during the day and northern lights at night. It is where the traditional lands of First Nations and Métis peoples reflect stories and customs that bridge cultures and teach respect for the land and the natural world.



O Cree North Adven

Waterhen Lake First Nation owns two tourism businesses in Meadow Lake Provincial Park – Miywâsin Ôta Resort and Waters Edge Eco Lodge.

The name Miywâsin Ôta means: "It is beautiful here." The four-season lakeside resort boasts comfortable cabins, a campground for nightly rentals and dozens of long-term campsites. During winter, guests receive complimentary ice fishing tents with cabin rental, while snowmobile rental allows for thrilling rides along designated trails. In summer, visitors can rent pontoon and fishing boats to explore the waters and fish for the day. All are among lush boreal forest, beneath star-filled skies and on land that echoes stories of the Cree Peoples.

"There is so much history that hasn't been shared yet from our First Nation community members and Elders," Devon Fiddler, CEO of Waterhen Lake First Nation Development Corporation, said. "We want to share our history and culture through those stories about the land."

The property already had a sterling reputation as one of Saskatchewan's top spots to escape and reconnect to nature. Subtle changes now reflect the customs and traditions of local First Nations and their relationship to the land - past and present. A new menu now features locally grown products and ingredients foraged from the forest.

Blaine Mirasty launched his tourism business, Cree North Adventures, in 2019. The operation is next to his home on Flying Dust First Nation, near Meadow Lake, and provides the experience of sleeping in an 18-ft. "glamping-style" tipi, participating in land-based activities,





hearing stories told by Elders, and learning about Indigenous traditions and culture.

Mirasty cites a Cree word, miyo*pimâtisiwin*, to explain his motivation for the venture. "It means the Cree way," he said. "Learning skills to live off the land is an aspect that I want to bring back. That is how I see tourism – as a way of relearning culture and relearning some of the traditional practices, even language."

His family is a blend of Plains and Woodland Cree, and customs from both branches are woven into the visitor





experience. "They are two different traditional lifestyles," he said. "My dad's side, the Plains Cree, were about riding horses and following the bison. On my mom's side, the Woodland Cree, it was about trapping and living in the forest."

Cree North Adventures guests enjoy a range of experiences, in addition to the comfortable tipi accommodations. Options include horse-drawn wagon rides, canoeing and kayaking the Meadow River, Elder storytelling and campfire cooking demonstrations, traditional women's Fancy Dance performances, and more. In winter, there are guided snowshoe tours along the river and through the boreal forest.

Cree North Adventures continues to evolve, with plans for expansion and enhancing experiences - all in the spirit of miyo-pimâtisiwin. Mirasty and his team welcome guests to engage in hands-on learning, connect to the land and make new discoveries about Cree life.

Further west on Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation, kaniyasihk **Culture Camps** has been delivering immersive land-based learning opportunities for over 20 years.

Owner and founder Kevin Lewis wears many hats - host, educator, guide, knowledge and language keeper, scholar and researcher. He refers to the Cree word oskâpêwis to describe his role. "It means a person who is a server, who serves the community and helps the Elders," he said. "That person might develop into one of the best hunters, berry pickers or medicine gatherers. You are making sure that



welcoming and hosting guests. "We've made devout friends over 20 years and continue to make more," he said. "When people visit, they bring health, they bring friendship. It's not just us delivering a program or saying, 'we're going to show you this.' They, as equals, bring their teachings, as well."



# Cabin Country

Welcome to cabin country – where rolling parkland transitions to northern boreal forest that covers half of the province and frames nearly 100,000 lakes and rivers. Here, summer days are spent at the beach with your toes in the sand, roasting marshmallows and telling stories around the fire and vacationing with family at your favourite cottage or campground.

#### Duck Mountain Provincial Park

#### Madae Lake, 25 km E of Kamsack

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy sites – two lakefront yurts), Madge Lake Retreats

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, golfing (Madge Lake Golf Resort), hiking (Trans Canada Trail), Sask Aquatic Adventures, horseback riding (Madge Lake Riding Stables), mini golf (Waves Ice Cream & Mini Golf), disc golf, fishing, marina/boat rentals (Pickerel Point Marina)

#### Greenwater Lake Provincial Park

#### P Greenwater Lake, 38 km N of Kelvington

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy sites – two yurts), Greenwater Cabin Rentals Ltd., Lake Life Inn Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, golfing (Greenhills Golf Resort), hiking, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, mini golf, fishing, marina/boat rentals (Greenwater Lake Marina)

#### Candle Lake Provincial Park

© Candle Lake. 80 km NE of Prince Albert

Accommodations: camping, Candle Lake Golf Resort Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach (purple sand beach, sand dunes), golfing (Candle Lake Golf Resort), hiking, mini golf, marina/boat rentals (Candle Lake Golf Resort), fishing, disc golf, Sask Aquatic Adventures



#### Narrow Hills Provincial Park 25+ lakes, including Lower Fishing Lake and the Gem Lakes, 78 km N of

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy sites – two yurts), Caribou Creek Lodge Ltd., Pine Ridge Resort Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, fishing/fly fishing, hiking (Gem Lakes Trail), birdwatching/wildlife viewing, mountain biking, Narrow **Hills Scenic Drive** 

#### Great Blue Heron Provincial Park

*Emma Lake/Christopher Lake/Anglin Lake, 50 km N of Prince Albert* Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy site – one Mongolian yurt), Land of the Loon Resort, Sunset Bay Resort Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, golfing (Emma Lake Golf Course), hiking, mountain biking, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, disc golf, fishing

#### Meadow Lake Provincial Park

9 20+ lakes, including Greig Lake/Kimball Lake/Waterhen Lake/ Lac des Iles, 40 km N of Meadow Lake

Accommodations: camping (Camp-Easy sites – two yurts), Lake Time Rentals, Tawaw Cabins 2004 Ltd, Flotten Lake Adventures Resort

Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, golfing (Northern Meadows Golf Club), hiking (Boreal Trail), birdwatching/wildlife viewing, mini golf (Dutch Treat Mini Golf), fishing, boat rentals (Greig Lake Store)



#### Makwa Lake Provincial Park

**Narrows Provincial Park** 

9 5 lakes, including Makwa Lake, 4 km W of Loon Lake Accommodations: camping Amenities/Nearby Attractions: beach, golfing (Loon Lake Golf Course and Country Club), hiking, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, mini golf (Beach Coners Ice Cream and Mini Golf), fishing, Steele

# TRAVEL TIP

For provincial parks reservations, visit parks.saskatchewan.ca or call toll-free 1-833-7SK-PARK (1-833-775-7275).

For general inquiries, call toll-free 1-800-205-7070.

# Take a Hike in Northern Saskatchewan

Northern Saskatchewan, with its rolling parklands, boreal forests and maze of waterways, is full of trails to discover. Here are a few to get you started – from short loops to multi-day excursions. Lace up those boots and head out for some adventure in nature.

#### Boundary Bog Trail, Prince Albert National Park

#### Distance: 2-km loop

A boardwalk allows you to enter the rarely seen world of the black spruce fen with its carnivorous plants, dwarf birch and golden tamarack. Note: Trail expected to re-open on June 28, 2024.

#### Gem Lakes Trail, Narrow Hills Provincial Park

#### Distance: 5.5-km loop

Discover steep, treed valleys among five sparkling little lakes named after precious stones – Jade, Diamond, Opal, Sapphire and Pearl - on the Gem Lakes Trail. Brilliant fall colours reflect on the mirror-like lake surfaces.

#### Tom Ouellette Nature Trail, Makwa Lake Provincial Park Distance: 3.4-km loop

With an elevation change of 200 ft., visitors are treated to scenic views of the Bronson Forest while exploring diverse landscapes. Hikers can enjoy wildlife viewing and plant identification as they make their way through larch, birch and aspen trees.

#### Shady Lake Trail, Prince Albert National Park

Distance: 1.7-km loop



O Narrow Hills Provincio

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Descend 70 m to a muddy mineral lick on the shore of narrow Shady Lake. Look for tracks of elk, deer and moose who come to eat minerals brought to the surface by springs. Near the end of the trail, a 750-m trail spur leads to Height of Land tower with a spectacular view of Shady Lake.



#### Boreal Trail, Meadow Lake Provincial Park

Distance: 135 km (one-way thru-hike) The Boreal Trail in Meadow Lake Provincial Park spans an epic 135 km, east to west across the park. This destination backpacking trail traverses through wild and varied ecosystems. Watch birch and pine leaves turning, see rocky cliffs and wander on the shores of northern Saskatchewan's massive lakes. Backcountry campsites are available throughout the trek and numerous entry-exit points are available for shorter hikes.

#### Rice River Canyon, 94 km east of Carrot River on Hwv 55

Distance: 21.6 km (out and back) Located in an ecological reserve on the northwest side of the Pasquia Hills, Rice River Canyon is a rugged backcountry wilderness hike. Over the last 12,000 years, the river has carved out an impressive valley. The walls stand high above you, reaching 400 ft. above the riverbed. The hike to the river forks is 10.6 km one way. Wear hiking shoes that can take on water and pack trekking poles, as there is no real trail to follow and you will be walking along and through the river. Plan to overnight at one of the primitive campsites along the floodplain. Water levels fluctuate throughout the year, and it is recommended to hike this trail later in the season.

#### TRAVEL TIP

Wherever the trail takes you, you're sure to have an unforgettable experience. Always do your research and take these safety precautions when hiking and camping in the backcountry:

» Make a trip plan and inform family and friends, in case of an emergency on the trail; consider taking a wilderness first aid course.

>> Cell service can be limited or non-existent; carry a satellite communication device.

» Keep an eye out for wildlife; carry bear spray and wildlife deterrents.

» Trails are in sensitive ecosystems; practice leave no trace principles when exploring. Pack out what you pack in.



# Saskatchewandering with Andrew Hiltz





In Hudson Bay, The Railway Ave. Pub is an experience all on its own – with a nod to the unique railway history of the town. The restaurant/bar has a relaxed atmosphere in which to enjoy signature cocktails, extensive wine and craft beer lists, and delicious pub grub. Other stops near Hudson Bay: Hudson Bay Regional Park



destination restaurant with an impressive menu of western-inspired cuisine with a contemporary flair. Its expansive outdoor deck and performance space is perfect for events. Rawhides also offers overnight bunkhouses and an onsite campground, an off-sale store, as well as a salon and barber shop. Other stops near Stenen: Fort Livingstone National Historic Site and Fort Pelly National Historic Site

Carrot River

The Railway Ave. Pub HUDSON BAY

Hudson Bay

**YO** 

Stenen





## Ness Creek – where people and cultures harmonize

At Ness Creek Site, near Big River, some people claim that magic happens there. Others insist that it is the power of the boreal forest that lures them back every year. Many agree that Ness Creek is more than just a place; it is a state of mind.

Much of the credit can go to a dedicated group of people who saw the potential for turning a meadow where cattle once grazed into a gathering and performance

#### space for music lovers. More than 30 years later, the acclaimed Ness Creek Music Festival is a signature summer event that features indie, roots and folk music from across Canada and around the world.

The Ness Creek Site is a flurry of activity outside of the main festival weekend. The summer schedule includes two other annual music showcases – Electric Sky Electronic Music & Arts Festival and

#### Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Time Music Festival. In between are numerous performances, music camps, a biennial international artists collaboration and a range of events and land-based learning opportunities. Investments in infrastructure – cabins, campsites and an indoor event facility, The Jack Millikin **Centre** – have made the site attractive to

more than just the festival crowd.

In winter, Ness Creek is popular for its Fire & Ice Festival, cabin rentals, 30 km of groomed cross-country ski and snowshoe trails, horse-drawn sleigh rides, and more. Above all, the human connection burns bright and it is a place where the warmth of the people takes the chill out of the season.

#### Where to Stay:

Discover Ness Creek is the source for cabin rentals at the main site, ranging from cosy two-sleeper suites to more spacious units that can accommodate 4-8 people. Ness Core Ventures Rent-A-Yurt and Nesslin Lake Campground provide more options for summer getaways in the boreal forest.

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

Back in the Boreal Meadow Lake Provincial Park • June 1, 2024

Prince Albert Street Fair Prince Albert • June 15, 2024

Canada Day Waskesiu/Prince Albert National Park July 1, 2024

**Country at the Creek Music Festival** *Big River* • July 4-6, 2024

Tobin Lake Walleye Championship Tobin Lake • July 12-13, 2024

Ness Creek Music Festival Big River • July 18-21, 2024

Annual Fair and Exhibition *Melfort* • July 19-21, 2024

Onion Lake Cree Nation Annual Powwow Onion Lake First Nation • July 19-21, 2024

Waskesiu Children's Festival Waskesiu/Prince Albert National Park July 20, 2024

Saskatchewan's Outback KCRA Rodeo Carrot River • July 20-21, 2024

Lilies in Bloom at Honeywood Parkside • July 21, 2024

Dog Patch Music Festival Loon Lake • July 26-28, 2024

Saskatchewan Premier's Walleye Cup Tobin Lake • August 8-10, 2024

Sask Parks Summer Cinema Narrow Hills Provincial Park • August 10, 2024

Thickwood Hills Studio Trail Shell Lake • August 10-11, 2024

Frenchman Butte Museum Festival Frenchman Butte • August 11, 2024

Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Time **Music Camp** 

Big River • August 12-16, 2024 Fish for Freedom Ladies Fishing Tournament

*Nipawin* • August 16-17, 2024

Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Time **Music Festival** *Big River* • August 16-18, 2024

Sask Parks Summer Cinema Duck Mountain Provincial Park • August 17, 2024

Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival Waskesiu/Prince Albert National Park August 23-25, 2024 Electric Sky Electronic Music and Arts Festival 2024 Big River • August 23-26, 2024

Sask Parks Summer Cinema *Greenwater Lake Provincial Park* August 24, 2024

Sask Parks Summer Cinema Candle Lake Provincial Park • August 31, 2024

A Touch of Autumn at Honeywood Parkside • September 15, 2024

**Tapestrama Cultural Festival** Prince Albert • September 28-29, 2024

Evergreen Artisan Market Prince Albert • November 1-2, 2024

For more information about events in the province, visit tourismsaskatchewan.com/things-to-do/events.



Contact organizers for the latest event information.



# Northern Lights & Waterways

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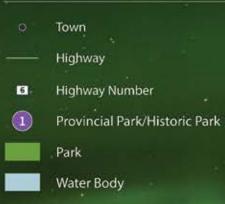


# NORTHERN LIGHTS & WATERWAYS



## LEGEND

## PARK LIST



)	Athabasca Sand	Dunes	Provincial	Pa



- 1 Cumberland House Provincial Historic Park
- (22) Holy Trinity Anglican Church Provincial Historic Site
- 24 Lac La Ronge Provincial Park







# Evolving the family business at Aski Holistic Adventures and Big Eddy Lodge

The Saskatchewan River Delta is the largest inland river delta in North America. Its meandering river channels and tracts of wetlands create a distinct, unparalleled ecosystem. The delta is where rare plant species thrive, millions of birds come to nest, and wildlife and fish are abundant.

Evidence of human history dates back 3,000 years. Today, First Nations and Métis residents continue to draw their livelihood from the land and water, are stewards of the land, and recognize the importance of the natural environment to spiritual and cultural well-being.

The Carrières have lived on the delta for generations. Looking back at the family's history, there is a pattern of guiding, hosting guests and introducing them to the land, surroundings, and nearby community of **Cumberland House**.

Solomon Carrière, owner of **Big Eddy Lodge**, shares stories of his grandfathers – York boat captains who assisted guiding expeditions to the far north. His grandmothers managed multiple roles as caregivers, artisans and hostesses "who always supported their families in creating livelihoods on the lands and waters around them," he said.

Solomon's father and uncles began guiding visiting bird hunters in the 1930s, taking a hiatus to serve in the Second World War. After the war, the tourism business expanded and "As a family, we have made these wilderness lands our home, and it has provided for us a wonderful livelihood filled with unique experiences."

Saskatchewan River Delta

Big Eddy Lodge began welcoming anglers, hunters, photographers and scientists conducting research on the area's delicate ecosystem.

Solomon began guiding when he was eight years old. He and his wife Renée took over the business in 1982. "We were fortunate to have three children, all of whom were raised and homeschooled in the wilderness and homelands surrounding Big Eddy Lodge," he said. "As a family, we have made these wilderness lands our home, and it has provided for us a wonderful livelihood filled with unique experiences." He emphasized that Cumberland House, today, continues to uphold its Cree language and culture.

#### Learning the business

Daughter Michela recalls how she and her siblings helped their parents. "As young as eight or nine, we were assisting my mom in the kitchen, preparing meals for up to 20 people hunting at the lodge," she said. "As I got older, I was involved in transportation





 taking guests in and out by motorboat or snowmobile. By 15, I took on another role as a canoe guide."

#### Curiosity leads to

a career

Growing up on the delta was ideal for a child curious about plants and nature. From as early as she can remember, Michela was fascinated by the flowers, trees and mosses around her home. Influenced by her grandparents in Cumberland House, she assembled her own collection of plants and wondered about their special properties. At age 13, some of the answers came to her in a book about Cree traditional medicines harvested from the land. She eventually studied biology and horticulture at the University of Saskatchewan and focused her studies on the medicinal use of plants.

In 2016, Michela was cast in the documentary television series Merchants of the Wild, which followed six Indigenous youth on a 25-day canoe journey across northern Ontario. Involvement in the show provided a valuable life lesson. She realized that she had the skills, leadership and drive to create a unique new tourism offering at Big Eddy Lodge. Michela launched **Aski Holistic Adventures** in 2018.

#### The name says it all

Finding the perfect name was a lengthy process. Including a Cree term was first and foremost, and Michela was inspired by the word *aski*, which means land/ earth. Next came looking closely at the offerings and finding words that reflect the experiences and the promise made to visitors. "I wanted something to really describe *aski*," she said. "It's outdoor adventure, but not the extreme kind. I needed to tone it down, so chose holistic – reflecting a slower pace and activities in nature that can involve all skill levels. And I like the acronym – AHA. You come out here to have your 'aha' moments."

## One location, two businesses

The two businesses complement each other on multiple levels. When Big Eddy Lodge is full with anglers and hunters, Michela may take over the cooking and help with housekeeping. Year round, she manages marketing and social media activities for both businesses.

When Aski Holistic Adventures is hosting groups, Solomon lends his expertise as a guide, world-champion paddler, skier, cyclist, angler and talented bird caller. New guest experiences include birding tours, remote bike tours and traditional fire practices. An expanded trail system and outpost allow for longer, more remote excursions on the delta. The Carrières encourage leaving a small footprint on the landscape, which is home to hundreds of species of migrating and wintering birds, rare plants, and endangered species.



Explore North America's Largest Inland Delta with Aski Holistic Adventures.





# Floatplanes and Big Fish: Giant Northern Adventures

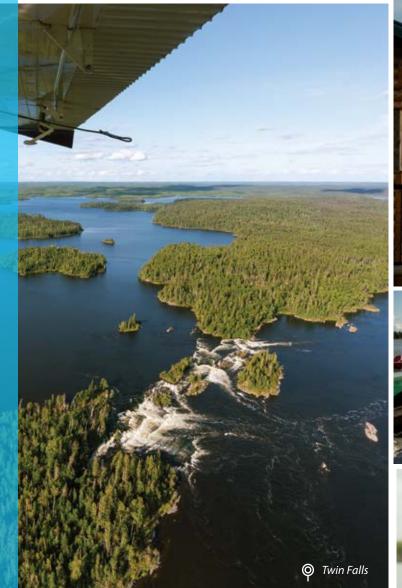
Within moments of our taxi out from the launch in Missinipe, out there amongst the canoes and kayaks and fishing boats of Otter Lake, we're up. A burst of power across the water. Then a rapid ascent and a short flight, in a single-engine floatplane. Maybe 10 minutes, 15 at most, to our island destination. Within seconds, we're already in a whole different world.

Below us, the glory and splendour of northern Saskatchewan spreads out. Green and blue, more shades than you can imagine. Hills and lakes and ponds and cascades. A patchwork quilt of islands, interlaced with the many cold, clean streams of the Churchill River.

"We're going for the rocket ship landing," the pilot says, in the super-ultra-laid-back tone of voice used by pilots everywhere, casual behind the yoke in his ripped jeans and Ray-Bans. As he banks us around and descends back down, it's a bit of a roller coaster ride. But soon we're skimming along calm waters and headed for the dock, and three days of big-time northern adventures at a fly-in fishing camp.

I will say this at the outset: I am not a good fisherman. In fact, I have a very complicated relationship with angling. A friend of mind has a saying: "Fishing is just a good way to ruin a boat ride." And you know what? I tend to agree.

But while I don't love fishing, I'm all about the catching. That flash of adrenaline when the fish hits the line. The thrill of the fight, reeling hard. That triumphant moment you bring a big fish into the boat.



And I love everything else about a fishing trip, too. The beauty of the surroundings, the peacefulness of being on the lake, the joy of getting to know the guide. And I get all of that in abundance here at Twin Falls Lodge.

Hemmed in by two waterfalls – thus the name – the lodge feels like a world apart. Spacious wooden decks with views in three directions. Big breakfasts and hearty dinners, followed by evenings of beer on tap and chats around a crackling fire. Falling asleep each night to the pervasive, super-calming sound of those cascades, carried on a cool breeze through your open window.

And another thing Twin Falls Lodge offers? Really good fishing. On the first morning, Andrew Roberts picks me up in his sporty boat. If fishing boats were cars, this would be a Camaro. We roll out on the Churchill, in search of walleye.

Running 1,600 kilometres from northern Alberta to Hudson Bay, the Churchill River was once a major thoroughfare for trappers and fur traders. The Cree call it "Missinipi," or "Big Waters." In this part of Saskatchewan, that powerful river splinters into many lakes and bays and coves and rapids, the network of waterways seeming to go on forever.









On any fishing trip, a certain heaviness hangs over the boat, before the first fish is caught. The thought unspoken, but still all too real, and very possible: Is this the day we get completely skunked? As in, no fish. Trust me, I've had it happen before.

But while we catch fish, early and often, they remain rather small. Roberts supplements the angling with education. As we make our way to more of Roberts' secret spots, we pause near Stanley Mission, Amachewespimawin Cree Nation, Roberts' home.

He points out a high cliff, and explains that in the past, every autumn, the chief would fire an arrow toward it. "If the arrow reached the top, they would have a good winter," Roberts explains.

I learn more along the way, too, especially on the second day of fishing, when Andrew's cousin Lester joins us. We crash down Stanley Rapids in the motorboat another roller coaster ride - and a short ride after that, land the boat to hike up to Nistowiak Falls, the highest cascades in the province. "Saskatchewan's all flat, right?," Andrew says to me with a wry smile, as the multi-levelled falls thunder beside us.

We cruise slowly past ancient rock paintings, and Lester tells me that there's more downstream, and upriver. And the two, chatting back and forth in Cree, prepare some delicious fish and chips, a shore lunch of fresh walleye, eaten under the watchful gaze of an eagle. As we enjoy, they take turns telling stories, about floatplanes and traplines and winters travelling by dogsled.

But the big fish remain elusive. Lots of small ones, but nothing worth a photo. Until the final hour of the trip. Andrew is determined we will get one legendary fish on the line. Trying one last bay, we cast our lines. (I ask Andrew its name, and he, keeping the spot secret, responds "it's just a bay.")

#### AUTHOR: TIM JOHNSON

Tim Johnson was Tourism Saskatchewan's ravel-writer-in-residence in summer 2023. Johnson has visited 148 countries on all seven continents, always in search of a good story. He's taken the Trans-Siberian across frozen andscapes during the coldest winter in a decade cruised on a submarine below the Antarctic Circle, tipped back fermented camel's milk in a Mongolian tent, and heli-hiked in Greenland. He contributes regularly to the Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail. Reader's Digest and the Vancouve Sun, and also writes for CNN Travel. The New Yorker, National Geographic, Bloomberg, BBC Travel, The Daily Beast, The Telegraph (UK) and many others

And, sure enough, I feel that trademark tug on the line. Nothing like a little 2-lb. walleye. This is a true monster of the deep. I set the hook as strongly as I can. And then, adrenaline surging into my arms, I reel like never before. It feels like I'm fighting a hammerhead shark.

Both of the cousins shout encouragements: "Keep the line tight! Don't lose it!" Finally, I get the fish to the side of the boat, and Andrew scoops it up in the net. A rather large northern pike. Andrew helps me position the huge fish in my hands, and Lester takes a photo.

I will always treasure that photo. But even more so the stories and tales, and time spent, with Andrew and Lester. And memories of rivers and lakes carved out of the Canadian Shield in this beautiful corner of northern Saskatchewan.

- Flyout Point: Missinipe 80 km N of La Ronge on Hwy 102
- » Accommodations in Missinipe: - Thompson's Resort
  - Churchill River Canoe Outfitters - Campgrounds:
  - -Missinipe Campground
  - -Churchill River Campground
  - -Devil Lake Campground

#### Amenities: **Churchill River Trading Post**

#### Area Attractions:

- Lac La Ronge Provincial Park
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church Provincial Historic Site, Stanley Mission
- Nistowiak Falls
- Canoe Adventures/Rentals/Shuttles: - Churchill River Canoe Outfitters (Missinipe)/Montreal River Outpost (Air Ronge)



## Chef Jenni Lessard creates the recipe for a rewarding culinary career "





Chef Jenni Lessard always takes a piece of Saskatchewan with her when she travels. More specifically, she takes something edible, where permitted. Packing delicious treats, such as bison jerky, dried berries, wild rice, Boreal Heartland teas, pulses, and grains, comes as natural as packing a toothbrush and change of clothes.

She has a purpose behind it. "We are such a culturally and geographically diverse province, and it's hard to explain that to people," Lessard said, acknowledging that food speaks in a different, more convincing way.

Lessard juggles many plates as a chef, business owner and manager, caterer, instructor, and culinary consultant. She has been called a trailblazer for multiple reasons, including becoming the first female chef and first Métis executive chef at Wanuskewin Heritage Park; working as chef-in-residence at the Saskatoon Farmers' Market; and, most recently, serving as interim executive director for a new national organization - the Indigenous Culinary of Associated Nations.

Lessard's enthusiasm for Saskatchewan food and talent comes through in

her conversations, and in her cooking and menu planning. "I'm immersed in Saskatchewan's culinary scene - it's kind of my whole world," she said, acknowledging that she is not alone and that innovation and creativity in the industry is building the province's reputation with food travellers. "Every person who is doing something interesting and unique with local products, with traditional dishes, with Indigenous cuisine, is blazing the trail for the next person. We have a special scene here – one that has great potential."

Ever grateful for the support and encouragement she has received during her career journey, Lessard is committed to "paying it forward" and helping others succeed. "My focus now is supporting other people interested in a culinary career," Lessard said. "I've had so much help along the way, from people who have written articles about me, who have invited me to events, or championed my cause whether it was local cuisine or Indigenous cooking. My goal for the next 15 years is to bring people along with me."

"When I'm 90 and ready to take off my apron, I hope that I can look at the culinary scene and lose track of the number of Indigenous women, women of colour, new Canadians, settler Canadians and people overall who are part of the industry," Lessard said. "I hope that the list will be expansive and inclusive, and continue to grow."



Canada's most renowned sand dunes are located in Athabasca Sand Dunes **Provincial Park** in Saskatchewan's northwest corner. These are the world's most northern sand dunes and it's an stretch of shoreline on the southern edge of Lake Athabasca.

It's been a bucket list destination of mine for years. On my 10-day trip last summer, I experienced the most spectacular views of windswept dunes. They were comparable to far-flung destinations

Most dramatic of all are the dunes in the

from the lake's edge to the southern horizon. Their formation began when the were exposed to prevailing winds. underwater dunes seen today.

But it's not just about the dunes out here. desert pavement covers swaths of the

moving sand and, over time, it's been They are specifically adapted to survive in



FIELD TO SHIELD CULINARY TOUR

Hosted by Chef Jenni Lessard of Inspired by Nature Culinary Consulting and Adventure Destinations, the Field to Shield Culinary Tour is an authentic six-day/five-night experience showcasing Saskatchewan's culture and culinary uniqueness. En route to **Missinipe** for a four-night stay at **Thompson's Resort**, the tour will travel from **Saskatoon** and make stops at Batoche National Historic Site and Elk Ridge Resort. While in the north, learn about Indigenous culture and local ingredients and savour fantastic food. On the return trip to Saskatoon, the tour will stop at Wanuskewin Heritage Park and finish with a wrap-up meal at a local Saskatoon restaurant. For 2024, there are two tours to choose from: August 23-28 and September 7-12.



O Thompson's Re



and content creator behind The Lost Girl's Guide to Finding the World. She is a go-to travel expert in Saskatchewan but is no stranger to trips abroad. Having travelled solo through more than 60 countries on all 7 continents, she's a passionate storyteller in pursuit of adventure, learning and liscovery. Find her online 🤇



A rare and delicate pebbly veneer called polished rock structures called ventifacts.



The blue jewel next to the golden dunes is Lake Athabasca. With 2,140 km of shoreline and a depth of 124 m, it's considered an inland sea. It's notorious for its high winds and waves and famous for its monster lake trout and northern pike. Most spectacular is the William River Delta (one of three rivers) that spills 3,000 tonnes of sand into the lake. It forms an intricate braided pattern of strips of dark river channels juxtaposed against swirls of caramel-coloured sandbars – an incredible sight best seen from the windows of a floatplane.

There are no amenities and no cell service in the area. Options to get here include boating in or landing a floatplane along the southern shore of Lake Athabasca. Access communities include Fort McMurray, Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Uranium City. The park can also be reached from the William River and the MacFarlane River by paddlers with whitewater canoeing experience. A trip to Athabasca Sand Dunes Provincial Park is a genuine wilderness destination for the truly adventurous.

# How to See the Northern Lights in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan is a great location for experiencing one of the most amazing natural wonders on earth – the northern lights. Watching the lights dance across the night sky is a moment remembered forever.

#### What are the Northern Lights and When to See Them in Saskatchewan?

The northern lights are caused by the atmosphere's reaction to energy released by the sun. This energy creates a colourful display at night, which are the northern lights, also known as the aurora borealis.

The northern lights are very unpredictable. The most reliable forecast is produced about 30-45 minutes ahead of time.

Here are some helpful apps that show this information in a user-friendly format:

• Aurora Alerts is a great app for incorporating aurora predictions with current weather in an easy-to-read format. SpaceWeatherLive is a bit more in-depth and a reliable source.

 For live updates, the Saskatchewan Aurora Hunters Facebook group is a great source of information.

Here are some important things to consider in an aurora forecast:

• KP Index is an estimate of activity in the forecast. It is a generalization of strength but is not always reliable.

• BZ is one of the most important indicators for the data. A high negative BZ number for a sustained period of time can help produce a good show visible across Saskatchewan.

#### When to See Them:

The best times of year to see the northern lights are February through April or September through October. These are the best months based on aurora activity, hours of darkness and weather. Aurora can occur any night of the year. Winter has more hours of darkness, meaning higher chances of seeing them.

#### Times of Day:

The northern lights can only be seen about two hours after sunset until two hours before sunrise. At midnight, the aurora oval is at its peak over Saskatchewan. Some shows last a very short time, while others last all night.

#### Where to see the Northern Lights in Saskatchewan and Picking a Location

The great part is since the northern lights occur in the sky, they can be visible almost anywhere in Saskatchewan depending on the strength of the show. Most often, overhead views and the best views occur in the north. In the south, it's more typical to see the northern lights lower on the horizon. A strong aurora storm of KP5+ can be seen overhead anywhere in Saskatchewan.

Porcupine Hills Provincial Park

#### **Picking a location:**

• You don't want to have light pollution between you and the northern horizon, so heading south of a city isn't recommended. The further from the city the better, making small towns and rural areas ideal places to get an easily accessible view.

• To help you find a dark location near you, check the dark sky finder map.

• Make sure to pull off safely when you find a quiet gravel road or public parking area.

• Be respectful of private property.

• Having an unobstructed view of the northern horizon is important.

• Know the area. It is best to check out your location during the day.

What to Consider when Planning to View the Northern Lights and Improving your Experience: • Cloud Cover: Heavy cloud cover or fog will block your view.

Moon Phase: It is best to go when there is no moon, or as little as possible to allow for the darkest sky.

• What to Expect: A northern lights show will often start as a faded white haze in the sky. The white hazy band can transform quickly into bright vibrant moving colours. Avoid using lights, or having headlights on when there are others viewing with you. It takes about 15 minutes for our eyes to adjust to darkness. Bring a head lamp or flashlight and extra batteries for safety.

• Dress Warm: Even in warm weather, it gets cold at night. Safety gear is important when heading out at night. Patience is important. The northern lights are highly unpredictable, and a great show can come out

Don't forget your favourite warm drinks, snacks and a blanket to cuddle up with loved ones for the show.

With a little patience, determination and preparation, you can be enjoying a bucket list moment right here in Saskatchewan, watching the enchanting northern lights dance into the night!

> Explore the wonders of the night sky with Jeanine Holowatuik





AUTHOR: JEANINE HOLOWATUIK Jeanine Holowatuik is an astrophotographer and avid aurora chaser. Based in Hudson Bay and surrounded by the boreal forest. Iolowatuik started Northern Escape Photography to share her passion for dark skies, capturing nature and exploring the wilderness Learn more about her work at n and on Instagram @jeanir



#### Grease River

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## Some additional stops/events: Arctic Lodges Reindeer Lake Hunt Falls Grease River

- Lloyd Lake Lodge Lloyd Lake
- Pemmican Lodge ile-à-la-Crosse
- Whitewater Festival 2024
- June 28-July1 near Missinipe

Churchill River Canoe Outfitters provides canoe trip services for adventurers. Explore the Churchill River and other scenic northern Saskatchewan rivers. Montreal River Outpost offers canoe, kayak, and SUP rentals, along with shuttle services in Lac La Ronge and beyond. They're a fully stocked outdoor retailer for your Northern Saskatchewan adventure needs.

#### Île-à-la-Crosse



Situated prominently on the banks of the Churchill River in the northern community of Stanley Mission, the Holy Trinity Anglican Church is the oldest building in Saskatchewan. Built in a Gothic Revival style, the church was constructed between 1854 and 1860 from hardwood logs cut by local Indigenous Peoples and features stained glass imported from England. Other highlights along the Churchill River: Indigenous Rock Art (Pictographs) and Nistowiak Falls

Boreal Heartland Food Products AIR RONGE

## Saskatchewandering with Andrew Hiltz

Saskatchewanderer Andrew Hiltz has travelled across the province. Here are some of his top stops and favourite hidden gems, as well as a few locations that are still on his Saskatchewan bucket list.

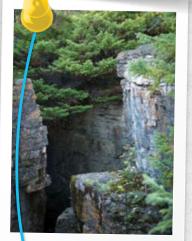
Churchill River Canoe Outfitters /Montreal River Outpost MISSINIPE / AIR RONGE

r Ronge

Missinipe



Near Creighton and Denare Beach, see the Limestone Crevices along Amisk Lake's south shore. Formed by coral in an ancient seabed, the ground was pried apart by repeated freezing and thawing, creating a labyrinth of moss and stone. You can see ice at the bottom, even in July. Other highlights nearby: T&D Amisk Camp, Beaver City Tours and The **Ridge on Amisk Resort** 



Limestone Crevices AMISK LAKE

> Amisk Lake

## Discover the hidden treasures of

northern Saskatchewan with Boreal Heartland. From chanterelle mushrooms to Labrador tea, northern Saskatchewan yields a bounty of wild delicacies. For millennia, Indigenous communities have thrived on hunting, foraging, and fishing here, and now they share this abundance with the world.

Reindeer

Lake



# Winter in Saskatchewan

## When the Snow Falls: Top Saskatchewan Winter Destinations

While Saskatchewan is blanketed in white, strap on some crosscountry skis or skates, hit the trails on your snowmobile or stay cosy by the fire with some hot chocolate. Embrace the snowy season at some of this province's most popular parks and fourseason family-friendly destinations.

#### Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park

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As the snow settles in the lush lodgepole pine and white spruce forests of the Cypress Hills, pull out your cross-country skis or snowshoes and explore the 17 km of groomed trails in the Centre Block. Winter fun in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park also includes tobogganing, skating, and snowmobiling (only in the designated area in the Centre Block). Open year round, The Resort at Cypress Hills has hotel rooms, townhouses and rustic cabins, as well as onsite dining.

WHERE TO STAY: Camp-Easy, The Resort at Cypress Hills

#### Prince Albert National Park

Enjoy the comforts of the resort village of Waskesiu, while experiencing northern wilderness encounters in the heart of Prince Albert National Park. From the townsite, you can explore winding, scenic trails on cross-country skis or by snowshoe. Hit the ice for some indoor skating at the Paul G. Horne Memorial Arena or venture out for some ice fishing on Waskesiu Lake. After a day of outdoor recreation, warm up by the fire in the enclosed camp kitchen near the Main Beach

#### WHERE TO STAY:

Hawood Inn, Lost Creek Resort, Kapasiwin Bungalows, The Suites at Waskesiu, Waskesiu Resorts

© Elk Ridge Resort

#### Blackstrap Provincial Park

season.

Begin a whimsical winter journey just a 35-minute drive south of Saskatoon at Blackstrap Provincial Park, where the snow-kissed landscape transforms into a wonderland. For those seeking more traditional winter pursuits, the Blackstrap Provincial Park Trail system offers 15 km of trails catered to beginner to advanced hikers, and cross-country skiers. You can also strap on snowshoes and head out for a beautiful day in the winter snow. After a day of snowy exploration, retreat to the cozy cottage of Blackstrap Glamping Resort, where rustic charm meets modern comfort. Nestled amidst the snowy vistas, it offers the perfect sanctuary for unwinding and relishing the magic of the

#### WHERE TO STAY: **Blackstrap Glamping Resort**

#### Elk Ridge Resort

Breathe in the fresh northern air as you head out for a cross-country ski or snowshoe at Elk Ridge Resort. Experience the boreal forest in all of its winter glory as you glide through or hike the resort's more than 15-km groomed trail system. Then strap on some skates or grab a broom and rocks and curl (or crokicurl) a few ends. The lodge overlooks a frozen pond with a skating loop and hockey rinks, as well as

# O Moose Mountain Provincial Park

a curling sheet. Before the day is done, hit the toboggan hill where you can jump on a tire tube and race to the bottom. This premier all-season resort has a variety of accommodation options, including the lodge, log cabins, townhouses or cottages, two restaurants, a spa and an indoor saltwater pool, hot tub and waterslide for the little ones.

#### WHERE TO STAY: Elk Ridge Resort, Elk Ridge on the Lake (Waskesiu)

#### **Buffalo Pound Provincial Park**

Step into a majestic winter wonderland just a short drive from Regina at Buffalo Pound Provincial Park. Immerse yourself in the serenity of the snowy landscape as you ride through trails, such as the Nicolle Flats Homestead and Valley Trail, on a thrilling fat biking adventure or explore the pristine surroundings on snowshoes. For crosscountry skiers, the park offers groomed trails that wind through breathtaking vistas.

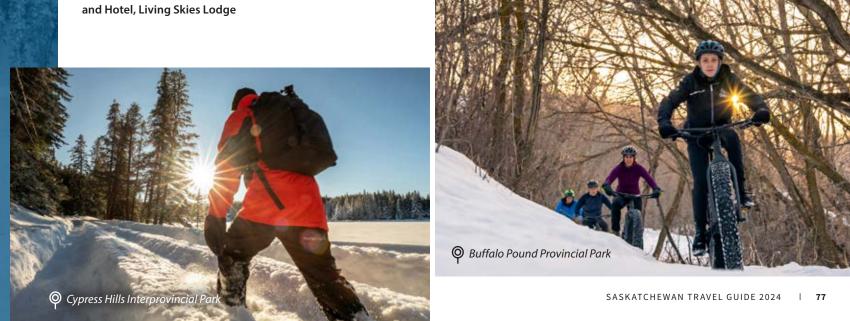
#### WHERE TO STAY:

Camp-Easy, Life's a Beach Rentals, **Glamping Resorts Ltd.** 

#### Moose Mountain Provincial Park

Bordering small lakes and scenic viewpoints, Moose Mountain Provincial Park has an extensive trail system that allows winter enthusiasts to enjoy the beauty of the park. Travel through this unique southern Saskatchewan forest on over 100 km of groomed snowmobile trails, 50 km of ski trails groomed for both classic and skate skiing and 10 km of snowshoe trails. Candlelit ski, cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals are available at the Kenosee Inn on behalf of the Moose Mountain Lions Club. Located in the park overlooking Kenosee Lake, Kenosee Inn and Cabins has hotel rooms and cabins available to rent for your snowy getaway.

WHERE TO STAY: Kenosee Inn and Cabins, Bear Claw Casino and Hotel, Living Skies Lodge





#### Ness Creek Site

The Ness Creek site, home to music festivals and cultural events in the summer, transforms into a winter oasis hidden in the boreal forest. Discover Ness Creek has 10 winterized cabins, designed and furnished to keep visitors cosy through all seasons, available to rent. Onsite activities include ice skating and 30 km of groomed cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails. At nearby Ski Timber Ridge, hit the slopes for some downhill skiing and snowboarding. The hill has six runs and a snowboard park.

WHERE TO STAY: **Discover Ness Creek** 



#### Nipawin/Carrot River/ Tobin Lake

With a three-month season (mid-December to mid-March), opportunities for winter anglers to get out on the ice are countless. There is an abundance of great fishing lakes across central Saskatchewan. With a world-record ice fishing catch in the books, Tobin Lake, near Nipawin and Carrot River, should be one of your go-to spots for that trophy walleye. This area is also a part of the 1,000 Miles of Snow network and home to some of the province's most popular snowmobile trails. Downhill skiing and snowboarding fun await at nearby Wapiti Valley Ski & Board Resort. Trapper Creek Outfitters (Nipawin) and Campbell's Racing Sled Dogs (Melfort) offer dogsledding adventures in the area.

WHERE TO STAY: Carrot River Inn, The Outerbanks (near Wapiti Valley Ski & Board Resort)



#### Meadow Lake Provincial Park

In the province's northwest, Meadow Lake Provincial Park is the ideal location for winter adventure. With more than 20 lakes, rivers and streams within its boundaries, the park has no shortage of ice. Set up a hut, drill some holes and spend the afternoon ice fishing. Explore the expansive park by snowmobile on more than 175 km of trails.

#### WHERE TO STAY:

Water's Edge Eco Lodge, Lake Time Rentals, Flotten Lake Adventures Resort, Tawaw Cabins 2004 Ltd, Miywâsin Ôta Resort

#### Duck Mountain Provincial Park

Book a four-season condo or cabin rental at Madge Lake Retreats for a relaxing stay at Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Bring your snowmobile and ride the 70 km of snowmobile trails with varied terrain, or pull out the downhill skis or snowboard and hit the slopes at Duck Mountain Ski Area. Five cosy warm-up shelters greet cross-country skiers on the 60 km of maintained trails in the park.

WHERE TO STAY: Madge Lake Retreats



O Duck Mountain Provincial Park

#### Echo Valley Provincial Park/ Katepwa Point Provincial Park/ Qu'Appelle Valley

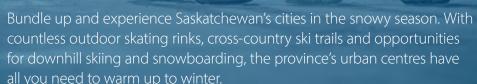
New to the Echo Valley Provincial Park is a Ninja Warrior-style course with a slackline, bouldering wall and zipline. At Mission Ridge Winter Park, near Fort Qu'Appelle, strap on your snowboard and clear the frost from your goggles as you take to one of the 15 runs. The ski hill also has two

terrain parks, a tube park, three conveyor lifts and a triple chair lift. Get your winter jacket, ski pants and helmet and ride the more than 350 km of snowmobile trails in the area. The Ou'Appelle Valley lakes are also favourite ice fishing spots in southern Saskatchewan.

#### WHERE TO STAY:

Camp-Easy, Sundays Log Cabins, Katepwa Beach Hotel

# Vinter in the Ci





#### Saskatoon and Area

Lace up some skates and take to the ice at the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ Nutrien Plaza, located in Kiwanis Park next to the historic Delta Hotels by Marriott **Bessborough**. The outdoor skating rink has a cosy warm-up shelter, fire pit, washrooms and skates available to borrow.

**Optimist Hill**, Saskatoon's premier winter recreation facility, has tubing lanes and areas for tobogganing, downhill skiing and snowboarding. There is also a terrain park with rails, boxes and jumps, and a magic carpet conveyor to carry people to the top of the hill.

The Meewasin Valley trails become a winter wonderland once the snow flies. Pull out your cross-country skis

or snowshoes and explore the city in all seasons. Glide along the groomed trails at Holiday Park and Wildwood golf courses, or venture outside of city limits to Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Beaver Creek **Conservation Area, Eb's Cross-Country** Ski Trail (near Duck Lake) or Dakota Dunes Resort & Casino. Other guided winter experiences at the resort include horsedrawn sleigh rides, snowshoe adventures, bird tours and ice fishing.

WHERE TO STAY: Delta Hotels by Marriott Bessborough, Alt Hotel Saskatoon, The James Hotel, Dakota Dunes Resort & Casino

#### Regina and Area

Snowshoe through Wascana Centre or strap on skis and travel the park's many pathways in cross-country style. The city of Regina boasts almost 14 km of groomed ski trails for people of all ages and skill levels. The trails are located at various sites, including Douglas Park, Kinsmen Park, Les Sherman Park and AE Wilson Park. Outside of the city,



#### WINTER HIGHLIGHTS IN SASKATCHEWAN'S **SMALLER CITIES**

#### Moose Jaw and Area

Following a snowshoe or cross-country ski through the Wakamow Valley, soak in the soothing water at Temple Gardens Hotel **& Spa**. For more outdoor adventure, go fat biking on the trails at **Buffalo Pound Provincial Park.** 

#### Prince Albert and Area

Little Red River Park boasts more than 30 km of forest trails and is a cross-country skier's dream with 12 groomed tracks of varying difficulty. Other popular winter activities in the park include tobogganing, snowshoeing, and downhill skiing and snowboarding at the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre, which has two beginner hills and one intermediate run.

#### Yorkton

Throw some rocks during a game of crokicurl or strap on some skates and explore the Patrick Park Skating Pathway.

#### North Battleford and Area Put on some cross-country skis and hit the

trails at Finlayson Island Nature Park, or go downhill skiing or snowboarding at the popular Table Mountain Regional Park.

White Butte Trails Recreation Site has 13 km of trails in treed sections of gently rolling hills, while the Wascana Valley Natural Area Recreation Site has 15 km of trails for skiing and snowshoeing.

With spectacular views of Wascana Centre and the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, the Rink on Wascana is Regina's newest public outdoor skating rink. Designed with a focus on accessibility, it has ramps, fixed and mobile lighting, professional boards, rubber matting and warming and washroom facilities. BYOS - bring your own skates, as rentals and loaners are not offered at the Wascana Lake rink. Or try out **The Rink** @ **City** Square, located in the heart of downtown Regina. Skates are available on loan from the Warming Chalet near the ice surface.

WHERE TO STAY: The Hotel Saskatchewan - Autograph Collection by Marriott, The Atlas° Hotel



## Snowmobile 1,000 Miles of Snow in Northeast Saskatchewan

Northeast Saskatchewan is home to one of the most unique trail systems in Canada – a 1,000-mile snowmobile route connecting the 12 communities of **St. Brieux**, **Melfort**, **Tisdale**, **Kelvington**, **Zenon Park**, **Aylsham**, **Nipawin**, **Carrot River**, **Arborfield**, **Porcupine Plain**, **Weekes** and **Hudson Bay**.

Snowmobilers are not only a common sight in this region, but they are warmly welcomed. In each town, sleds are recognized as legal transportation and there are miniature traffic signs posted in ditches and at intersections. Hotels, cabins, and bed and breakfasts are set up to accommodate multi-day snowmobilers. Some provide heated shops for sleds, while others offer snowmobile parking and space for trucks and trailers. Several accommodations, including Shell's Fitness & Soul Center in Carrot River and Fir River Ranch in Hudson Bay, have saunas or hot tubs that are perfect for guests to warm up and enjoy some post-ride relaxation.

There are a number of restaurants along the way that offer an unexpected culinary experience worthy of a stop. Not-to-miss locations include **The Dam Smokehouse** and **Mabel Hill Farm Kitchen & Marketplace** in Nipawin, **The Railway Ave.**  Pub in Hudson Bay, and Golden Grain Bakery in Melfort.

Weekend trips are convenient to explore each part of the region. But the entire 1,000 miles (more than 1,600 km) of snow is an incredible feat to accomplish for those looking for an extended adventure taking seven to 10 days to travel the entire loop.

Traversing across picturesque parkland with its iconic grain bins and wooden barns, you'll spot one of Saskatchewan's last prairie sentinels – a wooden grain elevator – just outside of the community of Weekes. From open fields to the snowladen jack pine and spruce trees that make up part of the boreal forest, the trails are a prime location for some of Saskatchewan's best powder and trail riding. It's not unusual to have up to six feet of snow accumulate throughout the season.

This is why it's one of Saskatchewan's most popular destinations for snowmobiling.

While Greenwater Lake Provincial Park north of Kelvington and Tobin Lake north of Nipawin are popular locations for day riders, certain areas are only accessible in wintertime – like Wildcat Hill Provincial Park east of Arborfield. Muskeg conditions and lack of roads make it nearly impenetrable in the summertime. But in winter, the carefully routed and groomed trail winds its way up to Bankside Lake through dwarf forests and along several steep canyons. The warm-up shelter on the edge of the lake is the only sign of civilization in the otherwise rugged and wild park.

A wonderful part of snowmobiling these trails is discovering the unique shelters built and maintained by the local snowmobile clubs. The **1,000 Miles of Snow** trail system wouldn't be the success it is without the countless hours of work contributed by each community, snowmobile club and their local volunteers.

There are more than 40 shelters on the 1,000 Miles of Snow route, including one of the newest located between Zenon Park and Arborfield. The shelter is modelled after a red railway station, complete with its own rail crossing sign out front.

Shelters are equipped with indoor stoves, outdoor firepits, racks to hang and dry gear, first aid kits, maps, chopped wood, an axe and an outhouse. But best of all, they are the perfect spot to stop and prepare a meal, while warming up and sharing in good conversation with friends.





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## How to Plan Your Trip

If you're planning to ride the 1,000 Miles of Snow route, here are a few recommendations to help you prepare for your trip.

## Pick Your Route

Decide whether you want to travel out from a single location or carry an overnight bag and stop in a different community each night. Tisdale and Porcupine Plain are great central locations, while St. Brieux is perfect to head east and loop the trail system.

Share a detailed trip itinerary with family or friends and carry a route map with you. The **Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association** has an interactive online trail map (**ssa.evtrails.com**). There is also an app for both Apple and Android phones that works offline if the trail maps have been downloaded in advance.

#### Layer Up

3

4

Temperatures in Saskatchewan can drop below -30 C. Merino wool and fleece are ideal layers to wear underneath a snowmobile suit. Avoid cotton clothing as it absorbs moisture and makes you feel cold and damp. Wearing thickly insulated gear designed for snowmobiling is best for staying warm. Hand and feet warmers are easy to stash in a pocket and can add an extra bit of warmth on long rides or particularly cold days.

#### Pack a Trail Lunch

There are more than 40 warm-up shelters spread out along the trail system. Pack in snacks and a thermos or plan a hot dog roast over an open fire for the perfect trail lunch. Make sure to clean up any garbage and take it with you when you leave.

## Carry Extra Fuel and Parts

Saskatchewan is big and fuel-up locations are limited in each town. Carry a jerry can of gas and a few extra sled parts and tools in the event of a breakdown on the trail. Cell service isn't guaranteed in all areas, so you'll want to be prepared if you're on the trail longer than expected.

#### Leave No Trace

These trails are a wonderful system to access thanks to the dedication and effort of each of the local snowmobile clubs that groom the trails, maintain the shelters, and implement signage along all 1,000 miles. Leave no trace policies including staying on groomed trails, packing out garbage, and respecting private property and wildlife to ensure the trails remain a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

Visit sasksnow.com for updated trail conditions, interactive trail map, event calendar, safety training, registration and more.



# Winter Angling: A Guide to Ice Fishing

Winter in Saskatchewan offers outdoor enthusiasts countless adventures, including incredible ice fishing. Once the lakes and rivers across the province freeze, communities of ice fishing shacks pop up.



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By mid- to late-December, ice on Saskatchewan's pristine lakes is most often solid enough for fishing (but always check conditions before crossing frozen bodies of water). With the right bait, you can catch walleye aplenty. Northern pike, perch, whitefish, lake trout and burbot can also be caught in winter. Thawing is rare before mid-March. The three-month season gives winter anglers ample time and opportunity to get out on the ice.

#### Where to Go and What You'll Catch

Saskatchewan boasts an abundance of healthy, record-sized fish. Here are some of the top ice fishing locations throughout the province:

#### Tobin Lake

With a world-record ice fishing catch in the books, Tobin Lake, near Nipawin, should be one of your go-to spots for that trophy walleye. The lake is home to many other species, including yellow perch, northern pike, burbot, whitefish and goldeye. It has been named one of the top ice fishing destinations in Canada.

#### Last Mountain Lake

In the south, Last Mountain Lake is a favourite ice fishing spot. At more than 90 km long, the size of the lake means that there is plenty of room for all winter anglers wanting to drill some holes and drop a line. This lake has healthy populations of northern pike, walleye, yellow perch, whitefish, burbot and common carp.

#### Lake Diefenbaker Lake Diefenbaker, in the southwest,

is another prime ice fishing location, renowned for its trophy-sized rainbow trout. With its vast 800-km shoreline, the lake is also known for the diversity of species found in its waters, including walleye, northern pike, burbot, yellow perch, whitefish and lake trout.

#### Qu'Appelle Lakes (Pasqua, Echo, Mission and Katepwa)

A series of four small lakes in the southeast, the Qu'Appelle Lakes are favourite drive-to spots. Also known as the Fishing Lakes, they are very accessible and home to a fish hatchery. Here, you can catch an impressive number of species, including walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, whitefish, burbot, sauger, channel catfish, rock bass, black bullhead, big mouth buffalo, dog fish and common carp, among others.



#### WHAT TO KNOW

recommended.

return time.

>> Canadian residents and non-residents 16 >> Wear naturally warm clothing, head and over, must have a valid Saskatchewan and footwear. Dressing in layers is Angling License to ice fish (except for Free Fishing Weekend). Purchase one online (saskatchewanhal.ca/licensing.page), >> Always check weather and ice conditions at any Saskatchewan angling licence issuer, at select provincial park offices or the Ministry of Environment, or by phone at 1-855-848-4773.

Ice fishing requires relatively little equipment: ice auger (manual or power), ice fishing rod and reel, tackle box and bait. Ice fishing shacks or shelters are optional and can range from pop-ups to ice castles. A seat (sturdy bucket), sled and heater are nice, too.

Boundary Dam/ Rafferty Dam

For a unique catch, Boundary Dam near **Estevan** is the go-to spot for largemouth bass. In fact, it's the only place to go. Due to the nearby power plant, the water is much warmer, which makes it possible for the species to thrive. Other species found in the reservoir and neighbouring Rafferty Dam include walleye, northern pike and yellow perch.

#### Northern Saskatchewan Lakes

Saskatchewan has world-class freshwater fishing, and many of the province's nearly 100,000 lakes and rivers can be found in the north. Opportunities for ice fishing are endless. A few drive-to/road-accessible lakes include Amisk Lake, Deschambault Lake, Otter Lake and Dore Lake. In the far north, experience a remote winter angling adventure like no other at Cree Lake. Northern pike, walleye, lake trout and arctic grayling are some of the species that inhabit the waters of northern Saskatchewan.

beforehand, pack winter survival gear,

and tell someone when and where you

are fishing, as well as your estimated

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**OPERATOR CONTACT INFORMATION** 

1,000 Miles of Snow (Central) • 1000milesofsnow.ca • 1-888-586-9855 9 Mile Legacy Brewing Company (Saskatoon) • 9 milelegacy.com • 306-373-2337

21st Street Brewery (Saskatoon) • 21ststreetbrewery.ca • 306-374-7468

Alfred's Playground (Prince Albert) - citypa.ca/en/parks-recreation-and-culture/alfred-jenk Alive Sky Lodge (Rosetown) • alivesky.ca • 306-716-2040

Allen Sapp Gallery/The Gonor Collection (North Battleford) • allensapp.com • 306-445-1760 Alt Hotel Saskatoon (Saskatoon) • germainhotels.com/en/alt-hotel/saskatoon • 1-833-258-Ancient Echoes Interpretive Centre, Tea Room and Guided Tours (Herschel) • ancientechoe Arctic Lodges (Reindeer Lake) • arcticlodges.com • 1-888-353-2432

Armoury Brewing Company (North Battleford) • facebook.com/people/Armoury-Brewing-Art Gallery of Swift Current (Swift Current) • artgalleryofswiftcurrent.org • 306-778-2736

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Aurora Houseboats (Tobin Lake) • aurorahouseboats.com • 306-862-7014

Avenue Restaurant (Regina) • facebook com/avenueYOR • 306-525-1919

Avonlea Heritage Museum and Avonlea Badlands Tours (Avonlea) • avonleamuseum.ca • 3 Back2Nature Wellness and Adventures (Saskatoon) • back2naturewellness.com • 306-291-8 Bandits Distilling Inc. (Weyburn) • banditsdistilling.ca • 306-842-4448

Bannock Express (Saskatoon) • facebook.com/BannockExpressCatering • 306-979-1212 Bar Willow (Regina) • barwillow.ca • 306-385-3663

Batoche National Historic Site (Batoche) • parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/sk/batoche • 306-423-6 Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek National Historic Site (Rosthern) • parks.canada.ca/lh Beach Coners Ice Cream and Mini Golf (Makwa Lake Provincial Park) • facebook.com/peop Beachside Boat Rental (The Battlefords Provincial Park) • beachsideboatrental.com • 306-38 Bear Claw Casino & Hotel (White Bear First Nation) • bearclawcasino.ca • 1-877-909-2327 Beaver City Tours (Amisk Lake/Denare Beach) • facebook.com/people/Beaver-City-Tours • 3 Beaver Creek Conservation Area (Saskatoon) • meewasin.com • 306-374-2474 Beaver Grill Express (North Battleford) • beavergrillexpress.com • 306-441-9040 Becky's Place (Fort Qu'Appelle) • facebook.com/people/Beckys-Place-Arts-Crafts-Creations Better Brother Brewing Co. (Saskatoon) • betterbrotherbrewing.com • 306-220-5337 Betty's Diner (Blaine Lake) • facebook.com/people/Bettys-Diner/100068622761368 • 306-4 Big Eddy Lodge (Cumberland House) • bigeddylodge.ca • 306-888-7333

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Narrow Hills Provincial Park - tourismsaskatchewan.com/provincialpark/3043/narrow-hills-provincial-park - 306-426-2622	49, 58, 59
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Nesscore Ventures Rent-A-Yurt & Nesslin Lake Campground (Big River) - nesslinlake.com - 306-227-9453	62
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nell's Fitness & Soul Center (Carrot River) • shellsfitness.com • 306-768-7483	55, 61, 8
nelter Brewing Company (Saskatoon) - shelterbrewing.ca - 306-979-9249	41
nurniak Art Gallery (Assiniboia) • shurniakartgallery.ca • 306-642-5292	17
sters' Boutique & Bistro (Montmartre) · facebook.com/dillpicklesoup · 306-424-2835	42
ki Timber Ridge (Big River) • facebook.com/skitimberridge • 306-469-4545	77
xye Café & Bistro (Regina) • skyecafeandbistro.com • 306-352-7593	26
xy Story Bed & Breakfast (Val Marie) • skystory.ca • 306-550-5377	13
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oo Line Historical Museum (Weyburn) • weyburn.ca/soo-line-historical-museum • 306-842-2922	31
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quirrely Putt & Play (Buffalo Pound Provincial Park) - facebook.com/squirrelyputtnplay - 306-631-8937	35
. Victor Petroglyphs Displays/Provincial Historic Park Tours (St. Victor) • stvictorpetroglyphs.ca • 306-642-5386	15
t. Victor Petroglyphs Provincial Historic Park (St. Victor) • tourismsaskatchewan.com/provincialpark/313/st-victor-petroglyphs-provincial-historic-park • 306-694-3229	6, 15
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umbletown Distilling (Saskatoon) - stumbletown.ca - 306-952-0691	41
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W. Sask. OldTimer's Museum & Archive (Maple Creek) • facebook.com/OldtimersMuseum • 306-662-2474	16
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rex Discovery Centre (Eastend) • royalsaskmuseum.ca/trex • 306-295-4009	16, 28
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he Lakeview Hotel (Prince Albert National Park) • lakeviewhotel.com • 306-663-5311 he Little Glass Hut (Lebret) • thelittleglasshut.com • 306-332-3737	
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