

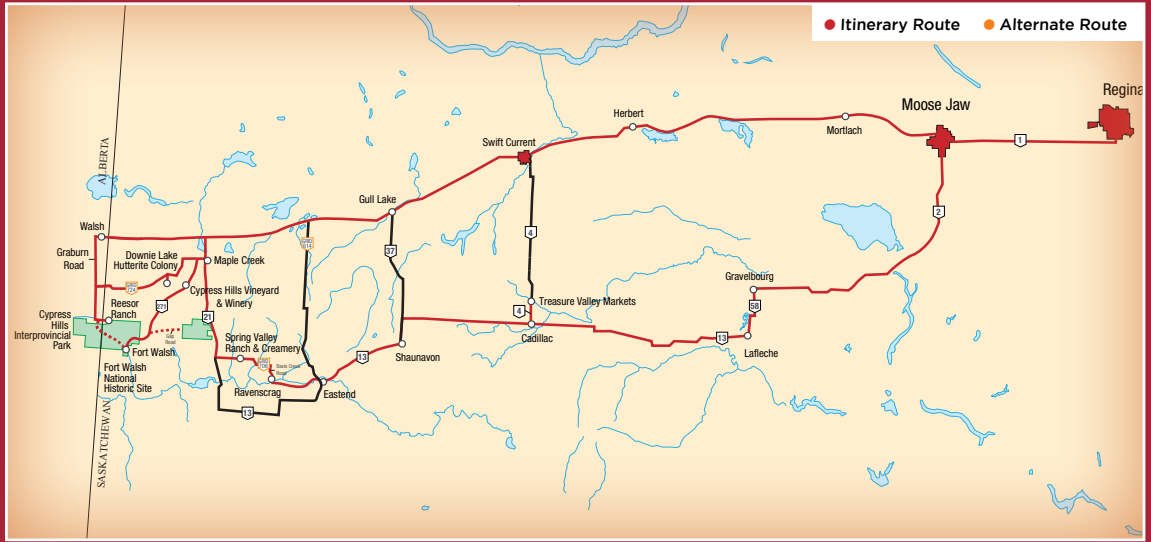


To access online maps of Saskatchewan or to request a **Saskatchewan Discovery Guide** and **Official Highway Map**, visit: www.sasktourism.com/travel-information/travel-guides-and-maps

TRIP LENGTH
3 days
920 km

FROM FIELD TO FORK

A Culinary Tour of Southwest Saskatchewan



Does the idea of rural Saskatchewan conjure up images of grain elevators and vast fields of wheat? Think again!

You're about to savour a whole new side of country life. From wine and cheese, to cherries and chickpeas, in southwest Saskatchewan you'll find a country welcome with a twist.

DAY ONE Gravelbourg, Cadillac, Maple Creek

Whether you set off from Regina or Moose Jaw, your first stop is Paris - the "Paris of the Prairies" as the folks of Gravelbourg christened their town. It's also known as the Mustard Capital of Canada. At the height of summer you'll spy bright yellow fields of mustard seed, much of it destined for world markets. Pick up a jar of locally-made Gravelbourg Mustard and relax for a meal in a European-style setting at the Café Paris on Main Street where Gravelbourg's francophone heritage is front and centre. From Regina travel west on Hwy 1 for 71 km, then take Hwy 2 south of Moose Jaw and travel 77 km to Gravelbourg.

The next stop on your culinary journey is Treasure Valley Markets near the town of Cadillac. From Gravelbourg, travel 20 km south on Hwy 58, then 88 km west on Hwy 13 (Red Coat Trail) and 13 km north of Cadillac on Hwy 4. In season, Treasure Valley offers fresh vegetables and U-pick fruit (apples, cherries, pears, Saskatoon berries and more) with picnic tables, playground, farm petting zoo and ice cream stand. Learn about the essential work of bees and visit the honey hut. Please call ahead if you wish to pick fruit or to book a group tour.

From Cadillac, continue 92 km west on Hwy 13 to Eastend, home of the T. rex Discovery Centre. Since we're following our taste buds, our journey continues northwest toward Ravenscrag and the Spring Valley Ranch and Creamery, home of artisanal Chapel Cheese. From Eastend take Grid 614 north for 2 km and turn west onto Ravenscrag Road, following it for 20 km until you reach a T-intersection. At the intersection, turn right (bypassing Ravenscrag) and follow the grid up a long hill for 6.7 km, then turn left onto Davis Creek Road/Grid 706



Café Paris, Gravelbourg. Tourism Saskatchewan/Eric Lindberg

and follow for 7.6 km. Finally, take a second left onto Davis Creek Road and follow for 1 km, and you will spot the ranch gate to your right. Commune with the herd of rare breed dairy cows and sample the delicious results: Chapel Cheddar, Grassland Gouda, Coulee Caerphilly and more. Please contact the ranch before visiting.

Finish day one in Maple Creek, often referred to by its “Old Cowtown” moniker. History and the present meet in this charming town with a vibrant legacy of ranching and rodeo. From Spring Valley Ranch, head west on Davis Creek Road/Grid 706 for 14 km, then travel north on Hwy 21 for 44 km to Maple Creek. This evening, dine in heritage elegance at THE STAR Café & Grill, enjoy some country cooking at the Rockin’ Horse Cookhouse, or savour an upscale meal at the elegantly restored Redmond House Bed & Breakfast and Dining Establishment. Maple Creek offers several fixed-roof accommodation options, full-service camping and a unique array of independently-owned shops.



Cypress Hills Vineyard & Winery. Tourism Saskatchewan/Paul Austring

DAY TWO Cypress Hills

If it happens to be a Friday from May to October, start your morning at the outdoor Maple Creek Farmers’ Market. If not, you’ll find a homemade breakfast and bottomless coffee pot at Howard’s Bakery. Head 20 km south from Maple Creek on Hwy 271 and you’ll see rolling pastures and the forested Cypress Hills rising to greet you. And what’s that – grape vines?

Your destination is the Cypress Hills Vineyard & Winery, one of the newest and most unique agricultural ventures on the landscape. Sample wine from their grape vines along with local cherry, black currant, saskatoon berry, rhubarb and honey wines. Take a self-guided tour through the vineyard, enjoy a fresh bistro-style lunch on the patio and purchase a Saskatchewan souvenir (bottled or otherwise!) from the gift shop. Guided tours for groups may be booked two weeks in advance. The winery is open May to October. Please call ahead for hours and food service availability.

You may be tempted to relax in the sunshine all afternoon, but there’s plenty more to discover in the Cypress Hills. Explore the trails and amenities of the nearby Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and overnight in one of the park’s fixed roof accommodations. Or, if you’re feeling adventurous, venture over to Historic Reesor Ranch, a working cattle ranch and bed and breakfast nestled in a scenic valley of the Cypress Hills. Take part in daily ranch activities, trek into the hills or learn horsemanship skills from the pros, and enjoy an evening of cowboy poetry around the campfire. Accommodations include the Reesor family ranchhouse dating to 1906, quiet cabins and a restored log barn. Meals are homemade ranch fare. Please call ahead to book your accommodation and ranch activities.

There are two driving options to Reesor Ranch from the Cypress Hills Vineyard and Winery (see map on the Reesor Ranch website). During the summer season, if weather permits, you can take the scenic drive to Reesor Ranch through the West Block Wilderness Area of Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. Travel 35 km south from the winery on Hwy 271 and up through the West Block to historic Fort Walsh, early home of the North West Mounted Police and the unique ecosystem of the forest (call the park for fees, opening hours and road conditions). From Fort Walsh, travel 27 km west on Battle Creek Road and follow signage to the ranch. In the off-season and after wet weather, you can reach the ranch by heading 17 km north of the winery on Hwy 271, then west on Grid 724 for 42 km (turns into 515 on the Alberta side of border) and then south on Graburn Road for 12 km to the ranch gate. From the gate, travel 3 km into the ranch.

If you choose to travel along Grid 724 you will pass by the Downie Lake Hutterite Colony where you can purchase farm produce, baking and homemade down bedding. Please call the Colony in advance so they’re expecting you.

DAY THREE **Swift Current, Mortlach, Moose Jaw**

Rise to the smell of hot coffee and fresh air, both in abundant supply at the Reesor Ranch. You're welcome to stay on much longer at the ranch, but if time is calling you back to the city, follow Graburn Road (Range Rd 12) 33 km north to Trans-Canada Hwy 1 and head 170 km east to Swift Current. There's plenty to see along the way.

At Gramma Bep's Guest House on the eastern edge of Swift Current, day-trippers are welcome to stop in to purchase pies, jams and jellies made with local fruit. Then on to Herbert, where it's time for faspas – a light meal traditionally served in Mennonite homes on Sunday when guests drop by unexpectedly, but available daily from June to September at the CPR Train Station Museum. Herbert is located 43 km east of Swift Current on Hwy 1.

Travel 86.5 km east of Herbert on Hwy 1 and you will reach the village of Mortlach. Pop into Hollyhock Market Natural Foods and urban "farm." Feed the hens, pet the goats and check out the heirloom tomatoes in the raised straw bale garden. Meals and camping can be pre-arranged. Take some time to browse the unique shops and galleries which dot the town. Mortlach is also home to an annual Saskatoon Berry Festival, attracting over 3,000 people for a one-day event each July for a "berry block party" with food and entertainment for the whole family.

From Mortlach, continue back to Moose Jaw located 43 km east on Hwy 1. Stop by the Tourist Information Centre at Moose Jaw, where you can stock up on culinary souvenirs like a bag of Gramma Lou's locally-grown lentils, chickpeas or flax seed. The nifty berry picking aprons are also a big hit! For an authentic taste of the Ukraine, venture down to Yesteryear's Ukrainian Borscht located in Moose Jaw's historic downtown at 34 River Street East. Local entrepreneurs Elsie Rollie and Neil Montgomery offer up delicious homemade Ukrainian borscht, cabbage rolls, perogies and more. Dine-in or buy some fare to take home with you.

After savouring the country flavours of southwest Saskatchewan, we're sure you'll want to come back for seconds!



The Star Café & Grill, Maple Creek. *Tourism Saskatchewan/Paul Austring*

SPECIAL EVENTS

Gravelbourg:

Southern Saskatchewan Summer Solstice d'ete Festival, June –
www.2sk.ca/9206

Maple Creek:

Maple Creek Farmer's Market, Fri 9am-12pm, May – Oct –
www.2sk.ca/com/1000555
Maple Creek Cowtown Rodeo, July –
www.2sk.ca/10167

Cypress Hills Destination Area:

Saskatchewan Summer Star Party, Aug –
www.2sk.ca/17082
South West Quest for Saskatchewan Art and History, July –
www.2sk.ca/18661

Swift Current:

SaskPower Windscape Kite Festival, June –
www.2sk.ca/13429
Mennonite Heritage Village Watermelon Festival, Aug –
www.2sk.ca/13089

Mortlach:

Mortlach Saskatoon Berry Festival, July –
www.2sk.ca/9666

Moose Jaw:

Saskatchewan Festival of Words, July –
www.2sk.ca/9581
Mae Wilson Theatre, selected dates, year-round –
www.2sk.ca/18075

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

Attractions and Services in Gravelbourg

Information on accommodations, attractions, shopping and dining

P: 306-648-3301

W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000350

Café de Paris

306 Main St, Gravelbourg

Open: year-round, closed Sundays

P: 306-648-2223

W: www.2sk.ca/20781

Treasure Valley Markets

Farm, 13 km N of Cadillac on Hwy 4

Open: Jun – Oct, 8am – dusk

P: 306-785-4602

W: www.treasurevalleymarkets.com

Spring Valley Ranch and Creamery

Farm, Ravenscrag

Open: May – Oct by appointment

P: 306-295-4124

W: www.springvalleyguestranch.com/chapelcheeses

Maple Creek Information Centre

114 Jasper St

Information on accommodations, attractions, shopping and dining

Open: year-round, call ahead for seasonal hours

P: 306-662-4005 / 306-662-2244

W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000555

THE STAR Café & Grill

32 Pacific Ave, Maple Creek

Open: year-round

P: 306-662-2202

W: www.2sk.ca/22413

Rockin' Horse Cookhouse & Bar

103 Maple St, Maple Creek

Open: year-round

P: 306-662-2430

W: www.2sk.ca/22183

Redmond House Bed & Breakfast and Dining Establishment

309 March Street, Maple Creek

Open: year-round, call ahead for dining room hours

P: 306-662-2717

W: www.redmondhouse.ca

Howard's Bakery

107 Maple St, Maple Creek

Open: year-round, Tues–Sat, 6am–6pm

P: 306-662-3811

Cypress Hills Vineyard & Winery

20 km SW of Maple Creek on Hwy 271

Open: May – Oct, call ahead for hours and food service availability

P: 306-662-4100

W: www.2sk.ca/21407

Fort Walsh National Historic Site

55 km SW of Maple Creek on Hwy 271

Open: May – Sep, call ahead for seasonal hours

P: 306-662-2645 / 306-662-3590

W: www.2sk.ca/14548

Downie Lake Hutterite Colony

P: 306-662-4571

W: www.hutterites.org

Cypress Hills Tourism Destination Area

W: www.cypresshills.ca

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park

Centre Block (full services), 27 km S of Maple Creek on Hwy 21

West Block Wilderness Area (limited services), 57 km SW of Maple Creek on Hwy 271

Open: year-round

P: 306-662-5411 **TF:** 1-800-205-7070

W: www.2sk.ca/11231

Cypress Park Resort Inn and

Ivan's Restaurant

30 km S of Maple Creek in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park

Hotel rooms, cabins and condominiums, licensed dining

Open: year-round

P: 306-662-12853

W: www.2sk.ca/12853

Historic Reesor Ranch

30 km S of Walsh, AB on Graburn Rd, 3 km E to ranch

Open: year-round, call ahead for reservations

P: 306-662-3498

W: www.2sk.ca/13987

Tourism Swift Current

In the Swift Current Museum, 44 Robert St W

Information on accommodations, attractions, shopping and dining

Open: year-round

P: 306-778-9174

W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000884

Gamma Bep's Guest House and B&B

35 Ponderosa Tr N, Hwy 1 E, Swift Current

Open: year-round

P: 306-773-7359 **TF:** 1-800-224-2236

W: www.2sk.ca/12777

Herbert

Information on accommodations, attractions, shopping and dining

P: 306-784-2400

W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000386

Herbert CPR Train Station Museum

625 Railway Ave, Herbert

Open: Jun – Sep, call ahead for seasonal hours

P: 306-784-3411 / 306-784-3391

W: www.2sk.ca/12769

Mortlach

Information on attractions, shopping and dining

P: 306-355-2554

W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000630

Hollyhock Market Natural Foods

17-2nd Ave E, Mortlach

Open: year-round, call ahead for seasonal hours

P: 306-355-2201

Moose Jaw Tourism Visitor Centre

Hwy 1 and Thatcher Dr E, Moose Jaw

Information on accommodations, attractions, shopping and dining

Open: year-round

P: 306-693-8097 **TF:** 1-866-693-8097

W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000621

Yesteryear's Ukrainian Borscht Corp.

34 River St E, Moose Jaw

Open: year-round, closed Sundays

P: 306-692-3454

W: www.2sk.ca/21966