

Overview of Saskatchewan

Boasting some of the most breathtaking scenery in Canada, Saskatchewan is a paradise for lovers of the great outdoors and eco-tourists. It features everything from world-class fishing, kayaking and hiking, to hunting, horseback riding and wildlife spotting in the wilderness.

Saskatchewan's capital and second largest city, Regina, is the original headquarters and birthplace of the famous Royal North-West Mounted Police, affectionately known as Mounties. Saskatchewan is made up of prairie in the south, while the north comprises boreal forest, rolling hills and the majority of the province's 100,000 lakes and rivers.

Europeans first reached the land in 1690, with the province now boasting a rich Scottish connection and even provincial tartan. Saskatchewan proudly educates visitors on its history, with its 250 or so museums covering the stories and cultures of indigenous tribes such as the Sioux, Saulteaux, Athabaskan and Cree. There are also cultural landmarks and plenty of other attractions in the city of Saskatoon, which is a centre of nearly 250,000 people. The site of the North-West Rebellion's Battle of Batoche remains a tourist favourite, as does the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.

Travellers must come prepared for the climate as Saskatchewan experiences both some of the highest and lowest recorded temperatures in Canada. Northern Saskatchewan has a subarctic climate. Temperatures range from highs of 79°F (26°C) in the summer to an average of 0°F (-18°C) in the winter.

While it's a treasure trove of cultural delights and historical intrigue, most visitors to Saskatchewan come to get away from it all and enjoy its wide, clear skies, wildlife and tranquillity.

Key Facts

Language:

The official languages are English and French (spoken predominantly in Quebec).

Passport/Visa:

All visitors must hold a valid passport, and it's recommended that passports always be valid for six months after the intended period of travel. Visitors are required to hold onward or return tickets, all documents needed for the next destination and sufficient funds to cover the period of intended stay. Travellers from most visa-exempt countries arriving in Canada by air need to fill in an Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) form online prior to visiting Canada. This requirement is applicable to all but U.S citizens and travellers with a valid Canadian visa. Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, and Canadian permanent residents cannot apply for an eTA. As part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), all travellers travelling between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean region are required to present a passport or other valid travel documents to enter or re-enter the United States. If departing from the USA a valid passport will be required by immigration authorities.

Currency:

The currency used is the Canadian dollar (CAD). Banks and bureaux de change will change cash, as will some hotels. Major credit cards are widely accepted and ATMs are widespread. US dollars are widely accepted.

Electricity:

Electrical current is 120 volts, 60Hz. American-style flat two-pin plugs and a plug with a third round grounding pin are standard.

Travel to Saskatchewan

Health Notes when travelling to Canada

Travellers should be up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines before traveling to Canada, and should consider taking routine vaccines as a standard precaution. Medical care is excellent but expensive, so medical insurance is advised.

Safety Notes when travelling to Canada

While most visits to Canada are trouble-free, the country does share the common international risk of terrorism. The crime rate is low but travellers are advised to take sensible precautions to safeguard their belongings, as they would anywhere. Parts of Canada are prone to tornadoes between May and September.

Customs in Canada

Rowdiness and loud speech are inappropriate except under special circumstances or in places such as bars, as Canadians tend to be soft spoken, patient and almost apologetic in their public behaviour. They are generally tolerant of the complex network of cultural differences in public behaviour, particularly in cities where such diversity is more common place. Recreational cannabis is legally available throughout Canada, though local laws can vary depending on the province or territory travellers are visiting.

Duty Free in Canada

Travellers to Canada are allowed to enter the country with the following items without incurring custom duties: gifts to the value of C\$60 per recipient (excluding advertising material, tobacco and alcoholic beverages); 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or cigarillos and 200g of tobacco or 200 tobacco sticks; 1.14 litres of liquor or wine or 24 x 355ml bottles or cans of beer or ale. There are strict regulations governing the import of the following: explosives, endangered animal and plant species, items of heritage, fresh foodstuffs and weapons.

Doing Business in Canada

Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary, and Montreal are the main business centres, and English is the language of business except in French-speaking Quebec, where all written material and business cards should be in French. Business cards are not traditionally exchanged during an initial meeting, but at some appropriate time thereafter; it is best to wait for the host to offer theirs first.

A firm handshake is used by way of greeting and punctuality should be taken seriously for meetings. Canadians dress conservatively and smartly for business and suits are the norm. Gifts can be given in conclusion to celebrate a deal, but should be understated; taking someone out for a meal is a popular way to conclude business dealings.

Canadians are reserved and frown on emotional outbursts. Business is based on facts and figures rather than relationships, so it is best to be as prepared as possible for meetings. Hours of business are usually 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Communication in Canada

The international access code for Canada is +1. The outgoing code is 011 followed by the relevant country code. The outgoing code is not necessary for calls to the US and the Caribbean. Hotels, cafes and restaurants offering free WiFi are widely available. As international roaming costs can be high, purchasing a local prepaid SIM card can be a cheaper option.

Tipping in Canada

A tip of around 15 percent is standard in restaurants, and hairdressers and taxi drivers are usually tipped at the same rate. Bellhops, doormen, porters, and similar service providers at hotels, airports, and stations are generally paid at the customer's discretion.

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Airports in Saskatchewan

Regina International Airport (YQR)

Regina International Airport

www.yqr.ca

Location: Regina The airport is located two miles (3km) from Regina city centre.

Time: Local time is GMT -6.

Getting to the city: The city centre is five minutes away from the airport. Taxis, shuttles, and car rentals are available from the airport to the city centre.

Car rental: Car rental companies represented at the airport include Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National, and Thrifty.

Airport Taxis: Taxi services to and from the airport are provided by Capital Cabs. Taxis are available right outside the terminal doors.

Facilities: Airport facilities include a restaurant, cafe, lounge, fast food outlets, shopping, ATM, and currency exchange.

Parking: The airport provides both short and long-term parking options. Short-term parking has 110 stalls located immediately in front of the terminal building. Long-term parking can accommodate 1,100 vehicles.

Saskatoon International Airport (YXE)

Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport

www.yxe.ca

Location: Saskatoon The airport is located four miles (7km) from the city centre.

Time: GMT -6

Getting to the city: Taxis, limos, shuttles, and car rental services are available at the airport. Saskatoon Transit has two bus lines that service the airport and run to the city centre.

Car rental: Car companies represented at the airport include Avis, Alamo, Budget, Enterprise, and National.

Airport Taxis: Captain Taxi, YXE City Cabs and Hey Taxi are licensed to operate taxi services from the designated pick-up and drop-off area located along the terminal curbside. Metered fares apply. A taxi coordinator is on duty from 7.30am to the last arrival of the day to assist travellers.

Facilities: Airport facilities include ATMs, currency exchange, WiFi, an information booth, shopping (including duty-free), restaurants, and an art display.

Parking: The airport parking lot has more than 1,100 parking stalls, conveniently located just outside the terminal building. The public parking lot's front two rows are designated for short-term parking. Visitors can pay in the terminal at the exit kiosk (cash, debit and credit card) or at the exit lane (credit card only).

Regina

Regina is the capital city, and cultural and commercial hub of Saskatchewan, the Canadian province bordering the US states of Montana and North Dakota. While not a celebrated tourist destination in itself, the city is the region's main transport hub and a common stop for travellers. Visitors spending a day or two in town will find a few interesting museums, good shopping opportunities and a few vast green spaces scattered throughout.

In fact, Regina may have more open space per person than any other Canadian city, making it a popular choice for outdoor enthusiasts interested in biking, cross-country skiing and long walks. The Wascana Lake occupies the centre and is perfect for boating in summer and skating in winter.

The city is also known for its famed Wascana Centre, a park built around Wascana Lake. It's home to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, the Regina Conservatory of Music and an art gallery, as well as the Saskatchewan Centre of Arts. The Cathedral Village has cafes, bookshops and a few good restaurants. Visitors should also be sure to check out the local dance, music and theatre scenes.

Getting around in Regina

Although public transport is not extensive, getting around Regina is relatively easy. Buses operate seven days a week along routes from the city centre to most areas of the city. A number of taxi companies also operate across Regina and can either be hailed off the street or ordered in advance via telephone. Car hire is available and the city is quite easy to navigate, with roads structured on a grid system.

Climate in Regina

Regina has a continental climate with warm summers and cold, dry winters. The city is one of the sunniest capitals in Canada, and has many days of sunshine throughout the year. The best time to visit Regina is during the warmer months of May to September, when temperatures reach up to average highs of 80°F (27°C). Winter lasts from about mid-November to early March, with average low temperatures dropping to -8°F (-22°C). January is usually the coldest month of the year.

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Exchange rate for 1 CAD - Canadian Dollar

0.00 BMD Bermudan Dollar	0.68 EUR Euro	0.73 USD U.S. Dollar	0.58 GBP U.K. Pound Sterling	111.95 JPY Japanese Yen	0.66 CHF Swiss Franc
1.11 AUD Australian Dollar	28.83 UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia	324.82 KZT Kazakhstani Tenge	68,104.49 LBP Lebanese Pound	3.55 LYD Libyan Dinar	5.02 BOB Bolivian Boliviano
0.00 NPR Nepalese Rupee	0.00 OMR Omani Rial	0.00 QAR Qatari Rial	0.99 SGD Singapore Dollar	7.92 SEK Swedish Krona	0.00 TTD Trinidad Tobago Dollar
0.00 VEF Venezuelan Bolivar	42.52 DOP Dominican Peso	0.00 HRK Croatian Kuna	12.41 MXN Mexican Peso	446.74 XOF West African CFA Franc	0.00 PGK Papua New Guinean kina
0.00 BSD Bahamian Dollar	0.00 FJD Fiji Dollar	0.00 HNL Honduran Lempira	97.95 DZD Algerian Dinar	0.00 MMK Myanma Kyat	0.00 BWP Botswana Pula
2.72 PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol	686.67 CLP Chilean Peso	283.06 AMD Armenia Dram	17.04 CZK Czech Koruna	12.90 MDL Moldova Lei	102.36 ISK Icelandic Krona
9,206.75 UZS Uzbekistan Sum	2.72 ILS Israeli New Sheqel	0.52 JOD Jordanian Dinar	0.00 KWD Kuwaiti Dinar	27.92 UYU Uruguayan Peso	0.00 MUR Mauritian Rupee
0.00 NIO Nicaraguan Córdoba	7.96 NOK Norwegian Krone	2.95 PLN Polish Zloty	2.74 SAR Saudi Riyal	0.00 LKR Sri Lanka Rupee	26.92 THB Thai Baht
2.68 AED U.A.E Dirham	3.73 BRL Brazilian Real	3.39 RON Romanian New Leu	5.72 HKD Hong Kong Dollar	446.74 XAF Central African CFA Franc	18,589.76 VND Vietnamese Dong
642.71 ARS Argentine Peso	0.00 XCD East Caribbean Dollar	0.00 GTQ Guatemalan Quetzal	7.36 MAD Moroccan Dirham	0.00 BHD Bahrain Dinar	0.73 PAB Panamanian Balboa
1.24 AZN Azerbaijan Manat	2,868.33 COP Colombian Peso	64.70 KGS Kyrgyzstan Som	264.88 HUF Hungarian Forint	7.97 TJS Tajikistan Ruble	11,761.39 IDR Indonesian Rupiah
35.09 EGP Egyptian Pound	994.29 KRW South Korean Won	5,456.06 PYG Paraguayan Guaraní	3.47 MYR Malaysian Ringgit	371.94 CRC Costa Rican Colón	1.22 NZD New Zealand Dollar
203.32 PKR Pakistani Rupee	66.87 RUB Russian Rouble	13.54 ZAR South African Rand	2.29 TND Tunisian Dinar	0.00 BBD Barbadian Dollar	1.33 BGN Bulgarian Lev
23.66 TRY Turkish Lira	41.92 PHP Philippine Peso	23.64 TWD New Taiwan Dollar	852.33 NGN Nigerian Naira	0.00 XPF CFP Franc	0.00 GHS Ghanaian Cedi
0.00 JMD Jamaican Dollar	0.00 ANG Neth. Antillean Guilder	0.00 BND Brunei Dollar	79.69 RSD Serbian Dinar	5.30 CNY Chinese Yuan	5.08 DKK Danish Krone
2.55 TMT New Turkmenistan Manat	61.04 INR Indian Rupee				