

## Gardens, Parks and the Arts

Welcome to the Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands self-directed tours. These itineraries guide you through the history and geography of this beautiful and interesting landscape. Several different tours, featuring driving, cycling and walking, lead you on an exploration of four historical and cultural themes: Agriculture, Settlement, First Nations, Métis and the Fur Trade; and Arts and Nature.

*The purpose of this route description is to provide information on a self-guided drive and walk. The walking described includes public and private lands and trails. While enjoying yourself, please drive and walk carefully as you are responsible to ensure your own safety and that any activity is within your abilities. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate and up-to-date. However, we are unable to accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained as a result of anyone relying upon this information.*

Walk among award winning gardens as you travel through towns well known for their Community in Bloom spirit. Stop to smell the flowers at the Frank Skinner Arboretum and explore plants from around the world as well as Dr. Skinner's own creations. Hike an Ancient Valley Trail as you trace the glacial processes that carved the magnificent valleys you are passing through. Admire the work of local artists and savour the local cuisine as you experience a taste of what the Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands has to offer.

Today's tour takes you from Birtle, Manitoba to Saltcoats, Saskatchewan and requires at least one full day. Those looking for a leisurely tour may want to plan on two days to fully experience the route, including the numerous walks and hikes. Shorter options are possible by selecting sections of this tour. Make the experience your own and customize it to match your interests.

There are restaurants, cafes and stores in Birtle, Russell, Langenburg, Churchbridge and Saltcoats along the way. There are also numerous picturesque stops to have a picnic. If you plan on making this a multi-day trip, there are many hotels, bed and breakfast and campground options for you. Visit [www.valleylands.ca](http://www.valleylands.ca) for listings. Keep in mind the time difference between Saskatchewan and Manitoba from mid-March until the beginning of November, when Manitoba is one hour ahead of Saskatchewan.

### On Today's Trip You Will Visit the Following

Sites:

#### **Birtle Tourist Information Centre at Riverside Park**

Located off of Hwy 83 on the west side of Birtle  
**Phone:** (204) 842-3854  
Open from May until September long weekend daily from 11:00 – 3:00 & 4:00 – 8:00

#### **Asessippi Provincial Park**

Located northwest of Russell, MB off Hwy 83  
For information visit the Manitoba Conservation website at:  
[http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/popular\\_parks/asessippi/](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/popular_parks/asessippi/)

### **Birdtail Country Museum**

Located at 783 Main Street, Birtle, MB  
**Phone:** (204) 842-3363 (June – September)  
Open July and August  
Monday – Friday 1:00 – 5:00  
Also open by appointment  
Donations graciously accepted

Call (204) 842-5350 or (204) 842-5342 for appointments during off-season

### **Heart of the Prairies Crafts**

Located on Hwy 16 in Langenburg, SK at 323 Kaiser William Avenue E  
**Phone:** (306) 743-5189  
Open daily 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

### **Heart of the Prairies Art Gallery**

Located on Hwy 16 in Langenburg, SK at 335 Kaiser William Avenue E  
**Phone:** (306) 743-5180  
Open daily 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

### **Conversations Café**

Located at 212 Carl Ave. E. in Langenburg, SK  
**Phone:** (306) 743-5111  
Open by reservation only  
**Please call ahead**

### **Save Room for Dessert**

Located on Hwy 16 in Langenburg, SK at 215 Kaiser William Avenue E  
**Phone:** (306) 743-2880  
Open Tuesday to Friday 10:30 – 4:30 and Saturday 10:30 – 4:30

### **Trappers Trading Post**

Located at 209 High Street in Saltcoats, SK  
**Phone:** (306) 744-2222  
**Email:** [dw.liepert@sasktel.net](mailto:dw.liepert@sasktel.net)

### **The Prairie Cricket Antique Shop**

Located at 202 Commercial Street in Saltcoats, SK  
**Contact:** Manny Silveira  
**Phone:** (306) 744-2983

### **Saltcoats Museum**

Located at 105 Allan Avenue in Saltcoats, SK  
**Contact:** Sandra Kerr  
**Phone:** (306) 744-2977  
Donations graciously accepted  
**Open by appointment only**

### **Val's Garden**

Located 7 km north of Birtle, MB off of Hwy 83  
**Contact:** Val Thomson  
**Phone:** (204) 842-3660  
Open from June – August

**Please call ahead**

### **Frank Skinner Arboretum**

Located off of Hwy 83, 23 km south of Roblin  
**Phone:** 1-866-552-5496 for information  
Trail is set up for self-guided use  
Maps available on site  
Donations graciously accepted

### **Petals Plus Art & Crafts**

Located on Hwy 16 in Langenburg, SK at 227 Kaiser William Avenue E  
**Phone:** (306) 743-5511  
Open Tuesday to Friday 9:00 – 5:30 and Saturday 9:00 – 5:00

### **Sagebrush Studios**

Located at 110 Rankin Road, Churchbridge, SK  
**Phone:** (306) 896-2744  
Open Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 – 6:00  
**Call ahead to confirm**

### **Kadaizy Floral & Gifts**

Located on Hwy 16 in Langenburg, SK at 127 Kaiser William Avenue West  
**Phone:** (306) 743-5007  
Open Monday to Saturday 9:00 – 5:00

### **Wallin's Bakery and Coffee Shop**

Located at 119 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South in Langenburg, SK  
**Phone:** (306) 743-2454  
Open Monday – Saturday 6:00 – 4:00

### **Helena's Schnitzel Haus**

Located at 101 Commercial Street, Saltcoats, SK  
**Phone:** (306) 744-2310  
Open Monday to Saturday 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
Sunday smorg from 10:00 – 2:00  
[www.helenasbandb.ca](http://www.helenasbandb.ca)

Your excursion begins in beautiful Birtle, Manitoba. Birtle is well known for its gardens and parks, and is a fierce competitor in the national Communities in Bloom competition. This annual summer event is not just about flowers though. Competitors are judged based on several categories including tidiness, community involvement, floral displays, and natural and cultural heritage conservation. As you walk and drive around the town, you will see evidence of the pride and dedication that the community has taken to create a beautiful and welcoming environment. These efforts have propelled Birtle to the national title not once but twice.

On your tour through Birtle, watch for their town flower – the *Dropmore nepeta* or Dropmore Catmint. This stunning purple flower is used often for borders and you are likely to see it several times throughout the day. It is one of several plants developed by Dr. Frank Skinner, whose arboretum and nursery you will be visiting later today.

km to next location	Directions	Total km
0.0	Start from the junction of Highways 83 and 42 on the east side of Birtle. Head west on Highways 83 and 42, down the hill into the town of Birtle.	0.0
0.2	Turn right at the first intersection onto 11 <sup>th</sup> Street.	0.2
0.1	Turn left onto St. Clare Street.	0.3

You can park your car here and walk some or all of the next few kilometres. As you travel down St. Clare Street, watch the buildings that you pass by. There are several examples of houses that are over or near a century old. Many of these houses remain in excellent condition. You will see examples of Queen Anne Victorian style, craftsman style and old stone homes along this street.

Along St. Clare, stop at the small park behind the white picket fence just after you pass by 8<sup>th</sup> Street. In the park you'll find an old stone stairway that leads down the riverbank to a fresh water spring. Until recently this spring was a source of water for the town of Birtle and in the fur trade era was a common stop for people travelling west along the Carlton trail.

0.6	Turn right at the T-junction onto Centre Street.	0.9
0.2	Turn right onto the first road after crossing the bridge over Birdtail Creek.	1.1
0.1	Park off the road at the Birtle Arboretum marked by the green sign that reads "Birtle Community in Bloom Urban Forestry Project".	1.2

In front of you is the Birtle Arboretum. Take a stroll through the many varieties of trees and shrubs, which are conveniently labelled with names for easy identification. Here you will see many of Manitoba’s native tree species as well as a few exotic examples. The site is a reclaimed site that has been developed steadily since 2002.

Leave your car behind and take a walk along the attractive Birdtail River. If you head back towards the Centre Street bridge that you just crossed you will find two storyboards – one on either side of the road at the foot of the bridge. These storyboards tell the story of the former saw mill and the first gristmill that formerly occupied the banks of the Birdtail River. You will have to read the storyboard to find out what a gristmill is!

After figuring out what a gristmill is, you can walk along the River Walkway. Continue walking north on Centre Street until you come to Kent Street. Turn left (west) on Kent and walk until you come to the RV disposal station on your left side. Just past the station, where the willows grow close to the road, you will find a sign to enter onto the River Walkway. This leisurely path will take you along the Birdtail River to Birtle’s limekilns. Of course these limekilns are no longer used, but back in Birtle’s building boom in the 1880s, lime was an essential ingredient for mortar used in stone foundations and in plaster for the interior walls of homes. A nearby storyboard will provide you with more information.

Head back along the River Walkway to the arboretum and your vehicle. If you’ve been walking the whole tour so far, you can exit the River Walkway onto 4<sup>th</sup> Street, turn left and continue until Main Street. After you cross Main Street, you can re-enter the River Walkway, which will take you along the river to our next stop at Birtle Riverside Park.

<b>0.1</b>	Return to Centre Street and turn right.	<b>1.3</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Turn left onto Kent Street.	<b>1.4</b>
<b>0.4</b>	Turn left onto 4 <sup>th</sup> Street.	<b>1.8</b>
<b>0.3</b>	Turn right at stop sign onto Main Street.	<b>2.1</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Turn left at sign pointing for campground.	<b>2.2</b>
<b>0.2</b>	Turn left at “Riverside Park” sign and pass under archway.	<b>2.4</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Come to parking lot for Birtle Riverside Park.	<b>2.5</b>

Stop in at Birtle Beach and take a dip in the man-made, sand-lined and chlorinated swimming hole. You will find many trails here to hike or bike near the campground. Check out the Birtle Dam and nearby fish ladder.

<b>0.3</b>	Retrace your path back to Main Street and turn right at the stop sign.	<b>2.8</b>
<b>0.5</b>	Look to your left as you come into downtown Birtle for a large mural on the side of the Birtle Drop In.	<b>3.3</b>

The mural depicts what you would have seen coming into Birtle in 1895. It is historically accurate as the artists used photographs taken from the town's museum from that time period.

<b>0.1</b>	Park your car near the intersection of Main Street and 7 <sup>th</sup> Street.	<b>3.4</b>
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Within a block radius of this intersection you will find several storyboards depicting the history of Birtle. Much of this history includes the historical architecture of the buildings lining Main Street. The "Stone Building" at this intersection is a prime example at over 120 years old! In the Pocket Garden across the street you will find a storyboard on the "Stone Bridge". Nearby you can also see the historic town bell.

If you have time, you may want to stop in at the Birdtail Country Museum, which is a half block up the road from this intersection.

<b>0.4</b>	Continue down Main Street to 11 <sup>th</sup> Street and turn right.	<b>3.8</b>
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As you continue up Main Street, you will see many more examples of the historical architecture that you have already admired in Birtle including Eaton's catalogue style homes.

If you decided to walk everywhere so far, you may want to pick up your car from where you left it near the start of the tour and continue with the directions below.

<b>0.1</b>	Turn right onto Vine Street at the yield sign.	<b>3.9</b>
<b>0.4</b>	On your left is the United Church.	<b>4.3</b>

Check out the storyboard here for the interesting story of this historic church.

<b>0.6</b>	Continue on Vine Street until you reach St. George's Anglican Church.	<b>4.9</b>
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You'll find another informative storyboard here on the history of this striking church.

<b>0.1</b>	Head back the way you came on Vine Street to Centre Street. Turn left onto Centre Street.	<b>5.0</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Turn left onto Main Street, which is also Highways 42 and 83. Stay on Hwy 83 heading north when Hwy 42 splits away to the west.	<b>5.1</b>
<b>7.4</b>	Turn left onto an unmarked lane where there is a utility pole with a blue sign with a yellow flower on it. This road is 0.8 km after you pass Road 100 North.	<b>12.5</b>
<b>0.9</b>	Arrive at Val's Garden.	<b>13.4</b>

Val Thomson's garden is well known throughout the district for its extensive display of sturdy, drought-resistant perennial plants. Her garden has been featured in magazines including Gardening Life, Gardens West and the Manitoba Gardener. Depending on the time of year, you can see spectacular examples of irises (May-June), peonies (June-July) or lilies (July-August). Over the past 20 years, Val has transformed what was once an abandoned homestead into a 12-acre paradise complete with a sunken rose garden, herb garden and orchard. Feel free to wonder among the lindens and poplars between the many gardens where there is always something in bloom any time of the year. Please remember to look but not touch and to call ahead to let Val know you are stopping by.

<b>0.9</b>	Return to Hwy 83 and turn left.	<b>14.3</b>
<b>4.0</b>	Turn left onto Hwy 16 at the stop sign.	<b>18.3</b>
<b>6.5</b>	Turn left onto PR 475 at the green sign for Road 160 West and head into the town of Foxwarren.	<b>24.8</b>
<b>0.5</b>	Turn left onto Railway Avenue where you see Foxwarren Memorial Park.	<b>25.3</b>

Stop for a breather and enjoy this gorgeous park that occupies a former business block of this quiet country town. Plaques dot the path through the garden describing the former buildings that once occupied the space.

<b>0.5</b>	Return to Hwy 16 and turn left.	<b>25.8</b>
<b>32.0</b>	Turn right at the Petro-Canada onto Main Street of Russell.	<b>57.8</b>
<b>0.7</b>	On your right is the Russell Civic Centre.	<b>58.5</b>

As you drive down Main Street, you can't help but notice the large arches at each intersection. These massive structures are a testament to reusing and recycling. They

are the former supports of the old Dauphin Arena. During deconstruction of the arena, a photo was brought forward showing the arches arriving by train in Dauphin with the stamp of a former Russell business on them. The town decided to rescue the arches from their fate in a landfill and use them to create the stunning sight along Main Street that is unrolling before you. Since the arches were produced in Russell, their return has been heralded as a homecoming.

In front of the Civic Centre you will see a large mural depicting Russell back in 1885. You can see that Russell was founded on a strong base of agriculture. If you are interested in learning more about the agricultural history of the area, try the Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands "Potash, Pioneers and the Prairie Giants" self-guided tour.

<b>0.7</b>	Continue down Main Street to a T-junction at Manitoba Avenue. Turn right at the stop sign.	<b>59.2</b>
<b>0.2</b>	Turn right onto Memorial Avenue.	<b>59.4</b>
<b>0.6</b>	In the intersection of Assiniboine Avenue and Memorial Avenue you'll see a memorial cenotaph with a statue of John McRae.	<b>60.0</b>

The monument was erected in the memory of those from the Town of Russell, Village of Binscarth, and the Rural Municipalities of Boulton, Russell, Silver Creek and Shellmouth who laid down their lives in the Great War (1914-1918). It is believed that this is the only statue of John McCrae, who wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields," which is still read every November 11.

<b>0.2</b>	Continue straight down Memorial Avenue. Turn right onto Russell Street.	<b>60.2</b>
<b>0.2</b>	Continue straight after the stop sign at Main Street.	<b>60.4</b>
<b>0.2</b>	Arrive at Millennium Park. Turn right onto Ellice Avenue.	<b>60.6</b>

Millennium Park offers you a pleasant walk to stretch your legs. You can take either a quick stroll along the newly constructed paths near the Community Centre or a longer 4 km walk around the perimeter of town. For the longer walk, head northwest on the former rail line roadbed to where it meets the former CN roadbed. Turn right onto this former rail line roadbed and follow it as it winds around the northeast side of town. Turn right onto Russell Street and follow it back to the park.

<b>0.5</b>	Continue on Ellice Avenue. Turn left at T-junction onto Augusta Street.	<b>61.1</b>
<b>0.4</b>	Turn left at T-junction onto unmarked road.	<b>61.5</b>

<b>0.4</b>	Turn right at stop sign onto Hwy 83 North.	<b>61.9</b>
<b>29.4</b>	Turn right at sign for Skinner's Arboretum.	<b>91.3</b>
<b>1.2</b>	Turn left onto a gravel road after you see a plaque on your left. There is a sign for this turn posted during the summer.	<b>92.5</b>
<b>0.3</b>	Park near the picnic shelter off of the road.	<b>92.8</b>

Dr. Frank Skinner was one of Canada's most respected and innovative horticulturalists and plant propagators. He was self-taught and acquired the majority of his knowledge while observing the local flora while tending to his cattle on his farm near Dropmore, Manitoba. You may notice that the village of Dropmore is on the other side of Lake of the Prairies from where you are right now, but that was not the case at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Read on to find out how this lake came about in the last century.

Dr. Skinner's gardens and nursery began as a hobby but with the encouragement of friends and neighbours became his livelihood as well as his passion. He traded seeds with colleagues around the world and created several hybrid species with traits to survive the cold prairie winters. Dr. Skinner was celebrated for developing many species including a large variety of lilies and roses. He was perhaps most famous for his lilacs and honeysuckles. The next time you are at a plant nursery, watch for varieties of plants created by Dr. Skinner – many of them are named for his home region "Dropmore".

The commercial nursery at this site opened in 1925 and is unique to Western Canada. While no longer a commercial nursery, several trails allow you to walk among plants originating from central Europe, China, mid-United States, native prairie and boreal plains, and those species developed by Dr. Skinner for the cold prairie region. You can see several examples of plants, especially trees that you will not find anywhere else in Manitoba or Saskatchewan. You may also wander through a garden displaying plants developed and introduced by Dr. Skinner. Allow a minimum of one to two hours to wander the trails and admire the flowers.

<b>1.5</b>	Return to Hwy 83 and turn left (south).	<b>94.3</b>
<b>13.3</b>	Turn right onto PR 482 North following the signs for Asessippi Winter Park.	<b>107.6</b>
<b>11.0</b>	Turn left following PR 482.	<b>118.6</b>

#### **Optional Extension – Asessippi Provincial Park**

<b>0.1</b>	Arrive at Park gate.	<b>0.1</b>
<b>3.0</b>	Follow signs for parking areas, swimming beach, campground and picnic sites.	<b>3.1</b>

Assessippi Park, established in 1964 around Lake of the Prairies, offers camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, boat launches and picnic areas. For hikers looking for a moderately difficult journey, try out the Ancient Valley Self-guiding Trail. You will explore glacial features that are over 8,500 years old while hiking some steep inclines. Wind through wooded slopes to open prairie featuring numerous wildflowers. Be on the lookout for wildlife including moose, deer and coyotes. Please note that hikers on this trail are advised to be in good physical condition and should wear sturdy footwear and long pants to avoid poison ivy. Return distance is 3 kilometres and takes approximately one and a half hours. Manitoba Park Passes are required for entry into the park. Return to the park entrance and turn right onto PR 482 to continue with the tour.

**End of Optional Extension – Assessippi Provincial Park**

	Continue on PR 482 over the Shellmouth Dam and through all the bends and turns.	
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The Shellmouth Dam was completed in 1970, impounding the Assiniboine River and creating the 56 kilometre long Lake of the Prairies. The dam was built as a flood protection measure for the Assiniboine River. Lake of the Prairies has become well known for its sport fishing, especially walleye.

As you drive over the Shellmouth Dam, you will be given an impressive view of the width of the Assiniboine River Valley. Carved from the meltwater runoff from the departing glaciers during the last ice age, the current Assiniboine River is a small stream when compared to its former self. The other river valleys in this region were formed from similar glacial meltwaters that drained into the Assiniboine River, which led to the formation of glacial Lake Agassiz.

<b>17.4</b>	Turn left onto PR 547 West following the green signs pointing for MacNutt.	<b>136.0</b>
<b>4.0</b>	Cross the border into Saskatchewan. PR 547 becomes PR 381 and a gravel road. Remember the time change!	<b>140.0</b>
<b>8.2</b>	Turn left at stop sign onto Hwy 8. Remain on Hwy 8 through all bends and turns.	<b>148.2</b>
<b>14.8</b>	Turn right at the T-junction, staying on Hwy 8.	<b>163.0</b>
<b>6.1</b>	Turn left, staying on Hwy 8.	<b>169.1</b>
<b>11.8</b>	Turn right onto Hwy 16 East.	<b>180.9</b>
<b>0.4</b>	Turn right into the Langenburg Rest Area Parking Lot.	<b>181.3</b>

Within a short walking distance of the rest area, numerous art treasures await your discovery. Near where you are parked you will notice several large pillar tile mosaics. These mosaics reflect aspects of Langenburg’s history, agriculture, business and

culture. You can't miss Goliath in the park right in front of you either. Goliath boasts the title as the world's largest swing. It is over 10 metres high and when swung, can propel riders over seven metres into the air.

Across the highway you will find several arts and craft stores packed with Saskatchewan and Manitoban artisans works. Walk over to Petals Plus Arts and Crafts, Heart of the Prairies Crafts and Heart of the Prairies Art Gallery for a taste of the local culture including Aboriginal artwork as well as numerous unique pieces that you may only see here. If you liked the large mosaics in the park then head into Save Room for Dessert to check out their unique mosaic tables. Up the street you will also find Kadaizy Floral & Gifts.

Depending on the time of year, you may catch the annual Langenburg Art Show. Exhibitors from the province showcase their work. The adjudicator picks two exhibitors to move on to the provincial level. From the provincial level, the works of two or three exhibitors are chosen to tour the province for two years. At the next intersection, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, is Wallin's Bakery and Coffee Shop, whose interior walls are lined with local art.

	Leave the parking lot and turn right heading west on Hwy 16. Follow all the bends and curves in the road.	
<b>15.0</b>	Turn left onto Hwy 80 at the sign pointing for Esterhazy. Turn right immediately onto the service road that runs parallel to Hwy 16.	<b>196.3</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Stop in front of the World's Largest Loonie.	<b>196.4</b>

As you enter the town of Churchbridge, you may notice that there are not many prominent bridges and just a few churches scattered throughout the town, which may leave you wondering how this town got its name. The Anglican Colonization Society founded the town in 1887 and combined the word "church" from their society name with "bridge" in recognition of Reverend Robert Bridge, one of the society's prominent directors to create "Churchbridge".

In front of you is a monument of a Canadian dollar coin, erected by the town to commemorate Rita Swanson, a local artist. Her design for the "loonie" was chosen to mark Canada's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1992. The loonie in front of you is 1.8 metres in diameter, making it the largest loonie that you may ever see, and depicts her winning design.

<b>0.1</b>	Return to the junction of Hwy 16 and Hwy 80. Travel across Hwy 16 on Hwy 80.	<b>196.5</b>
<b>0.2</b>	Turn left onto Vincent Avenue.	<b>196.7</b>

The next 1.5 kilometres can be taken either by car or as a leisurely walk to stretch your legs. You'll be meandering through the streets of Churchbridge passing by 60 murals on numerous buildings. Keep a sharp eye to spot all of the different murals by local artists

– including Rita Swanson – that vary from prairie scenery to more whimsical themes, such as laundry lines. The town has developed a reputation for the unique artwork covering several downtown buildings. Themes include early agricultural practices, first settlers and memorials to the Canadian armed forces. You may catch a Lorch Snow Plane in one of the murals if you watch closely. This curious contraption was invented by a local Saskatchewanian and is discussed in the Assiniboine-Qu’Appelle Valleylands, “Potash, Pioneers and the Prairie Giants” self-guided tour itinerary.

On your right, this garden celebrates Saskatchewan’s centennial. Be sure to check out the murals here depicting the growth of the local region over the past 100 years.

<b>0.1</b>	Turn right onto Wowk Street.	<b>196.8</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Turn right onto Prothero Avenue.	<b>196.9</b>

On your left is the Churchbridge Cultural Centre. The Cultural Centre is used by numerous community groups including the local Art Club. It is also home to the local Historical Photo Gallery and Archives.

<b>0.1</b>	Continue down Prothero Avenue. Turn right onto Rankin Road.	<b>197.0</b>
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On your left is Sagebrush Studios, which boasts that they are “for the person with style, a unique, personal, exclusive, hand picked selection of giftware and home décor”. This unique business is housed in Churchbridge’s first post office, built in the late 1800s. You’ll also find the Churchbridge Café nearby for a chance to sample some local cuisine.

<b>0.1</b>	Turn left onto Vincent Street.	<b>197.1</b>
<b>0.4</b>	Make a U-turn when you reach Lovel Street and return the way you came down Vincent Street. Pick up your car where you left it.	<b>197.5</b>
<b>0.7</b>	Turn left onto Paikes Street, and then turn immediately to the right back onto Hwy 16 West.	<b>198.2</b>
<b>25.6</b>	Turn right following the signs for Saltcoats Regional Park and the LeFlay Trail.	<b>223.8</b>
<b>0.5</b>	Arrive at Saltcoats Regional Park, park in the parking lot.	<b>224.3</b>

The Saltcoats Regional Park is the trailhead for the LeFlay Nature Trail. This two kilometre trail is well known for its birding and is one of the trails of the Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association, based out of Saltcoats. More information on the association can be found at [www.yfbta.com](http://www.yfbta.com). Be sure to bring your binoculars and enjoy

this gentle trail, which winds through aspen groves and grassy meadows alongside Anderson Lake.

<b>0.5</b>	Return to Hwy 16 and turn right.	<b>224.8</b>
<b>0.5</b>	Turn right at the Esso gas station with the large SOS on the roof. You are on Crescent Lake Road.	<b>225.3</b>
<b>0.4</b>	Turn left onto Allan Avenue.	<b>225.7</b>

The town of Saltcoats was originally named Stirling. When the first settlers arrived to the region in 1882, they changed the name to Saltcoats after Allen Steamship Line's homeport in Scotland, which brought many of the immigrants to Canada from the British Isles. Saltcoats was the first village incorporated in what was then the Northwest Territories in 1894, and later became a town in 1910.

On your right is the Saltcoats Museum housed in a former Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1890. Tours are available by appointment only.

<b>0.1</b>	Return to Crescent Lake Road and turn left.	<b>225.8</b>
<b>0.5</b>	On your right is Gunn Park.	<b>226.3</b>

A captured German gun helps mark a monument to honour the soldiers of World Wars I and II.

<b>0.3</b>	Continue along Crescent Lake Road. Turn left onto York Street.	<b>226.6</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Turn left down back lane before reaching Montreal Street.	<b>226.7</b>
<b>0.1</b>	On your left is Legion Park and Arboretum.	<b>226.8</b>

The trees and shrubs in the memorial arboretum here are labelled so you can brush up on your identification that you have been practicing through the different adventures today.

<b>0.1</b>	Return to York Street and turn left so that Saltcoats Elementary School is on your right.	<b>226.9</b>
<b>0.3</b>	Turn left at T-junction onto unmarked road, which is eventually called High Street.	<b>227.2</b>
<b>0.3</b>	On your left is a local antique store.	<b>227.5</b>

Stop in for a visit at Trappers Trading Post to browse some local historical items. You can park your car nearby and walk the rest of the tour.

Across the street is the Saltcoats Century Garden, built in 2005 to commemorate Saskatchewan's centennial.

<b>0.5</b>	Turn left and head for a walk down Commercial Street.	<b>228.0</b>
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As you walk down Commercial Street, you'll pass the Stone Shed and an interesting mural on the side of the post office building on your right. The mural is called "I Heard it at the Post Office" and celebrates community communications through the years. Across the street is Helena's Schnitzel Haus offering up authentic German cuisine.

Further down the street you'll come across another local antique shop – The Prairie Cricket Antique Shop. Stop in to browse some lost treasures as well as get in touch with local history.

Towards the end of the street you'll reach the local Anglican Church established in 1891. Take a moment to admire the historical architecture of this beautiful old church.

<b>0.5</b>	Return down Commercial Street back to your parked car.	<b>228.5</b>
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This is the end of today's tour. You can head back to Hwy 16 and turn right to continue on to Yorkton and eventually Saskatoon, Saskatchewan or turn left to return to Russell and eventually Winnipeg, Manitoba.

On this trip you had the opportunity to walk numerous nature trails and experience the varied flora and fauna that characterize the Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands. You were also able to enjoy numerous local artworks that together with the local gardens and parks have beautified the communities that you visited today. Hopefully you gained some knowledge of the local plants and an appreciation for the important work of historical people such as Dr. Frank Skinner. We hope that this tour has given you a taste of the wonderful adventures that await your exploration in the Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands.

**For information on other attractions found in the Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands as well as more self-guided tours please visit:**

[www.valleylands.ca](http://www.valleylands.ca)

Thank you for joining the Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands self-directed excursion exploring the agricultural heritage of the many river valleys that cut through this prairie landscape. We hope that you had an enjoyable trip, and we would love to have you discover more of the Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands on our other self-directed itineraries.

We greatly value your input and comments. If something was not clear, a road sign changed, or if you found a delightful picnic site or visit that you would like to share with future travellers, please let us know. The best way to communicate is to write the changes or new information directly onto the appropriate route description page, and mail it to the Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands office. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

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### The Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands – Bringing the Valleylands Experience to the World

The Assiniboine-Qu'Appelle Valleylands Inc. is a partnership of 30+ municipalities and First Nation communities near the Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle rivers.

The partnership, with support from regional economic development organizations spearheads a grassroots initiative involving business, tourism, conservation and community organizations to develop the scenic, tourism, recreation, historic and cultural resources of the area and to provide a premier travel destination for visitors to discover and explore.

#### Member Municipalities and First Nations

##### Manitoba

RM of Shell River  
RM of Hillsburg  
Town of Roblin  
RM of Shellmouth-Boulton  
RM of Russell  
Town of Russell  
Village of Binscarth  
Gambler First Nation  
RM of Silver Creek  
Waywayseecappo First Nation  
RM of Ellice  
Village of St. Lazare  
RM of Birtle  
Town of Birtle  
Birdtail Sioux First Nation  
RM of Rosburn  
Town of Rosburn

##### Saskatchewan

RM of Langenburg  
Town of Langenburg  
RM of Churchbridge  
Town of Churchbridge  
RM of Spy Hill  
Village of Spy Hill  
RM of Saltcoats  
Town of Saltcoats  
Village of MacNutt  
Village of Gerald  
RM of Fertile Belt  
Resort Village of Birds Point  
Town of Bredenbury  
Town of Kamsack  
Town of Esterhazy