



© Treopis Adventure Parks

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.



© Four Wills Natural Heritage Site

8 | SASKATCHEWAN TRAVEL GUIDE 2024

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.

Ziplining

For those feeling adventurous, one of the popular attractions in the park allows you to experience its beauty (and the forest canopy) by zipline. **Treesix 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.



Fort Walsh National Historic Site

History

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 West Mounted Police (NWMP) post established in 1875 and played a key role in bringing Canadian law to the West. Hear stories of the Cypress Hills Massacre and its 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.



Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park

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 fly-fishers.

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

flaunt their spawning colours. The astute brown trout is revered for the challenge they present to anglers in coaxing 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.

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 present.

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



Battle Creek

Cypress Hills- The highest point in SK

- 1) What is a hill? _____
- 2) Where are these hills? (pg.8) _____
- 3) What activities can you enjoy at this place? (pg.9) _____
- 4) **Copy** from the Camping paragraph-start at: "After a full day...."
- 5) One interesting thing about this place for you is _____