

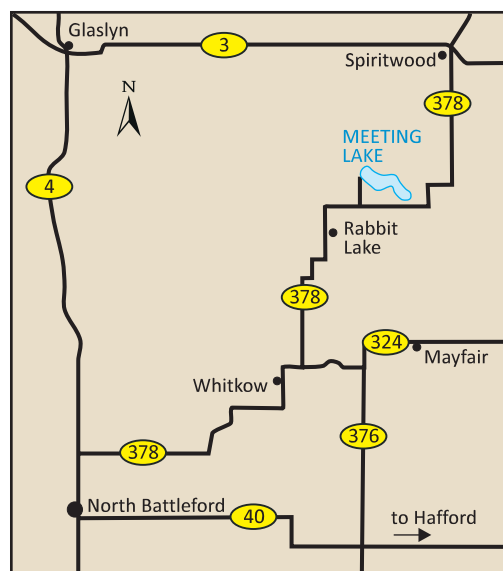
HIDDEN HILLS AND LOVELY LAKES

The Battlefords to Meadow Lake via Chitek Lake

The usual way to go from The Battlefords to Meadow Lake is to head straight north along Hwy #4. It's a nice enough route as you travel through the hills around Jackfish Lake, and with access to Turtle Lake a little farther north. A U-shaped route slightly to the east opens up even more possibilities, passing through parts of the scenic Thickwood Hills, a series of lakes, and some lightly travelled backroads. The route is mostly paved as far as Leoville with fairly good gravel roads after that. Access roads to some lakes may be rough and a problem in wet conditions.

The Battlefords to Spiritwood

Starting from North Battleford, head north on Hwy #4 for about 8 km, then turn east on Hwy #378. To begin with, the highway passes through fairly level farm land, then right after it makes a sharp turn to the north, it winds through gently rolling hills dotted with farms, wetlands, and patches of aspen forest. At one corner signs point the way to Blue Mountain Adventure Park, higher into the hills, which has accommodation and camping. Some activities include ziplines and wall climbing, and ski trails in winter.



The highway then passes through the tiny community of Whitkow situated in a picturesque valley (N 52.94007 W 107.86637). An onion-domed Ukrainian church (no longer used) stands right beside the road, and there's an old-style Saskatchewan Wheat Pool grain elevator.

Opposite: Hwy #378 northeast of The Battlefords.



Old Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevator in Whitkow.

Just past Whitkow, the highway turns east and 3 km farther it branches, with Hwy #378 running north to Rabbit Lake, and Hwy #324 heading east to Mayfair (N 52.96072 W 107.81821). The stretch of #378 between here and Rabbit Lake is one of the best parts of the drive; the highway climbs the edge of an escarpment, providing excellent views. You pass St. Michael's Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church which looks over the rolling landscape. This route is even more surprising travelling north to south, as the relatively level terrain south of Rabbit Lake suddenly opens into a wide valley with tremendous views to the west and south.

North of Rabbit Lake, Hwy #378 turns east where there are access roads to Meeting Lake Regional Park. Meeting Lake is the largest lake in the area and is especially popular for fishing. The highway then turns north towards Spiritwood, with more broad views across the countryside as the road descends the hills towards the town and Witchekean Lake just beyond.

