Discover Saskatchewan

Have you ever wanted to become an explorer in your own province? Even your own town or city? Join along and discover special spots in Saskatchewan that satisfy your tourist urges.

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Idyllic Lumsden

– Peaceful, scenic and a close drive in from the city

If an October getaway is in order, a stop in the town of Lumsden should be a definite destination to consider. Not only are the colours of the valley during the fall season exceptional, the town is perfectly poised for the end of the harvest season.

Make your way down the big hill and you will find the gem known as Lumsden nestled within the Qu'Appelle Valley in the south central part of the province. Surrounded by acreages, a vibrant farming community and quick access to lakes, the area is a stunning example of surprise hilly scenery that makes you feel temporarily displaced from the 'seemingly endless flat' prairie setting.

The town offers up diversity, which can be rare in small towns. Between attractions, close by destinations and activities, there is truly a lot to choose from.

A visit to Lumsden a good idea any time of the year. But, October is truly a special time as the town is particularly festive. Even though you have missed the beloved Annual Duck Derby (which takes place in early September) there is still a bunch of fun things to do.

Indulge in Organic

Numerous gardens are scattered along Highway 20 between Lumsden and Craven that offer locally produced fruits and vegetables, jams and more.

Family owned and operated, Lincoln Gardens is one such treasure. A perfect place for: wannabe (or real for that matter) chefs who aim to make food to table meals; families who cannot resist taking pictures of their kids in the endless sea of pumpkins (15 varieties of pumpkins!); or, for those are who are scouring Saskatchewan for imported Mexican wares (yep they have that too).

The Lincoln Gardens season lasts from May 1 until Oct 31 starting out with bedding plants and perennials, and filling in with fresh produce normally after July 1.
Lincoln Gardens – Highway #20 between Lumsden & Craven

And while, sadly, the Over the Hills storefront has closed down in Lumsden, their delectable Prairie Cherry products and other organic goods can be found at Lincoln Gardens (and other fine establishments such as ACORN eco-boutique). Even better, take a short drive and visit the nearby orchard as they offer tours.
Over the Hill Orchards – visit site for directions www.overthehillorchards.ca.

Ditch Your Wheels

An easy place to trade in your car for your walking shoes, Lumsden is very walkable. Besides, exploring a town you don't know can be a lot of fun; you never know what you will find. How about trees so big, they make you stop and stare in awe? Take a couple turns from James Street (main street) and you are destined to run into these woody giants that have a couple of years on us. They are truly something to be seen.

A walk will also allow you to take in the landscape. Enjoy the surrounding hills while you cross over the bridge covering the Qu'Appelle River en route to the boutique shops. You won't regret taking this scenery in on foot.

Take Home a Little Something

Lumsden's boutique shops offer a hip, friendly, and urban appeal. Conveniently housed together in the same building - Three, ACORN eco-boutique and Haven are definitely worth your time if you are itching to shop. *Three/ACORN eco-boutique/Haven – 215 James Street North*

Refill, Recharge, Refuel

If hunger strikes, you are in luck. Known for its good coffee, delicious snacks and more, the Brickhouse Bistro is a good choice. Visit the walk-up counter to get something great to go, or sit in and enjoy the cozy surroundings and tasty meals. This restaurant has quite the following and is known as a favourite haunt for locals and visitors alike. *Brickhouse Bistro – 235 James Street North*

Get Your Play On

A visit to Pumpkin Hollow is highly suggested as it is a treat for children of any age. How can you go wrong with a corn maze, a giant pillow trampoline, kiddie corral, hay jumps, pony rides and more? In fact, if any warning should be applied, you will likely spend a large chunk of your day here and you may just face some opposition upon trying to leave. Envision a small child (or two) wrapped around your leg(s).

It is truly an enjoyable place for the big kid in all of us. Besides being draped within lovely hillsides all around, the corn maze is fun and challenging (even more so) for adults.
Pumpkin Hollow –Off of Highway 11. Visit www.pumpkinhollow.ca for specific directions.

These are certainly just a few stops to be made if you visit the area, but if you have more time to spend be sure to check out these other close by destinations!

Cottage Communities - Buffalo Pound, Kannata, Sask Beach and Grandview Beach are mere minutes from the valley. You can find many excellent areas for beach and water activities, fishing, spotting wildlife, birding, walking and hiking trails, and more.

Beaver Creek Ranch & Horse Centre – If you ever wanted to be a cowboy or at least pretend, this is the place to do it. Ride a horse or take in the view as this working cattle ranch is spread over 200 acres of rolling hills in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Try the "cowboy sampler" barbeque and or a horse drawn hay ride through the valley (sleigh rides available in the winter).

Deer Valley – Golf anyone? If some swing suits your style, make your way through the 18-hole championship course. Situated along Wascana Creek and measuring almost 6800 yards from the back tees, it is a stellar location to take in the sport.

Craven – If you happen to be in the area during summer makes plans that include attending the annual (and legendarily muddy, but fun) Craven Country Jamboree. This premier musical festival is only a five minute drive from Lumsden.

About the writer: Jenn Smith Nelson is a freelance travel writer/blogger/photographer who is a sky lovin', prairie wonderer at heart. With enthusiasm she seeks to explore, capture and promote the beauty of our province and share it with those who are curious to learn more. You can read more about her travel experiences and life in Saskatchewan at www.travellinlady.com.