Saskatoon

WELCOMES ICABR GUESTS

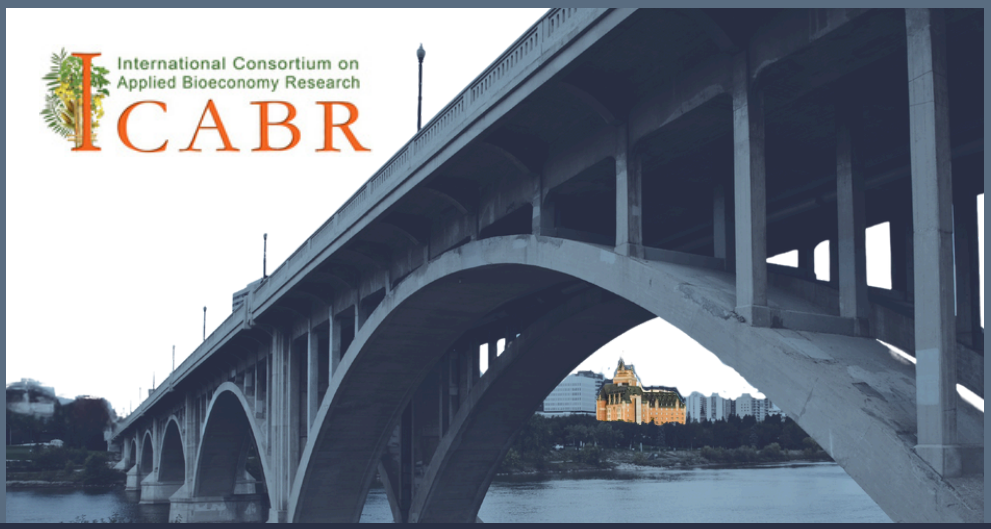
JULY 8–11, 2025

29th International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research

CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY & SYSTEMS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Saskatoon- ICABR Guide

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE COMING



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From the Local Committee

Thank you to the attendees of the 29th ICABR International Conference. While we are not the Amalfi Coast, Saskatoon is the "Paris of the Prairies", and we hope your travels to join us will be a good one. We are excited to host and share our beautiful city with you all.

Also know as Canada's "Hub City" for agriculture, biotechnology, and innovation, Saskatoon is a leader in crop science, livestock management, and sustainable farming. Home to the University of Saskatchewan, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), Innovation Place, and the Canadian Light Source, our city drives breakthroughs in genomics, bioinformatics, and global food security.

A thriving hub where agriculture meets cutting-edge biotech, Saskatoon is the perfect setting for ICABR 2025—showcasing our city, province, and industry to the world.

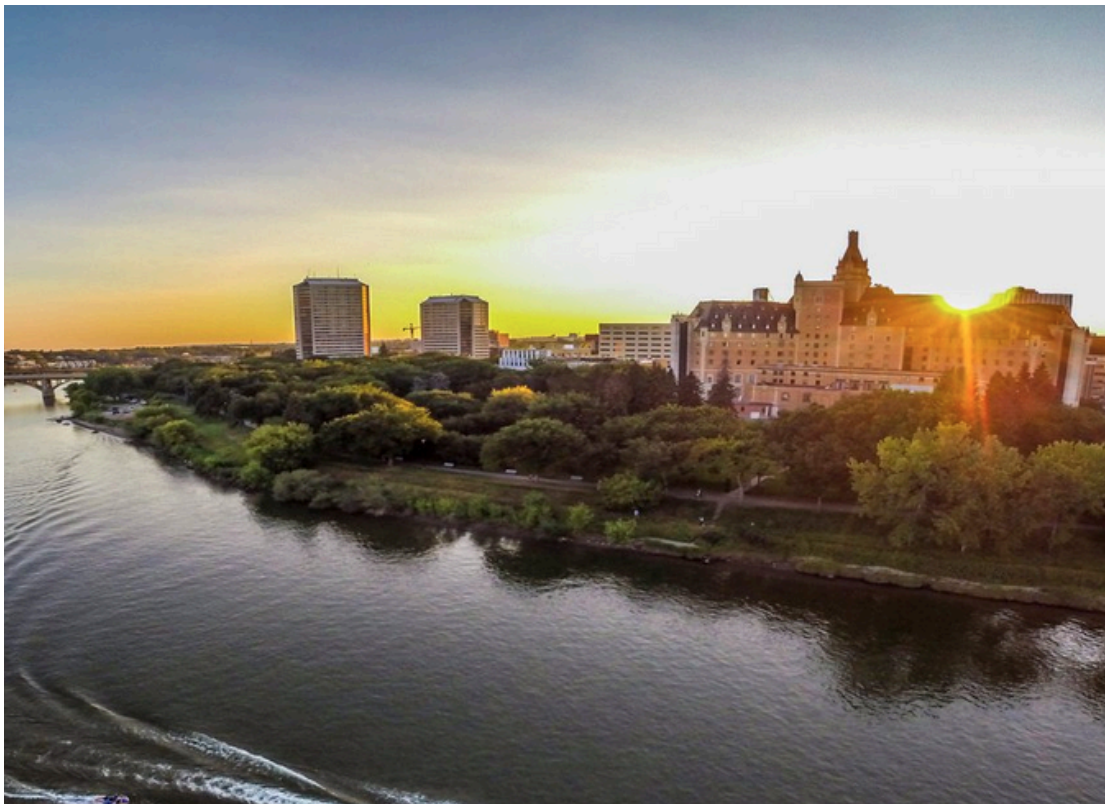
Saskatoon and the province of Saskatchewan have so much to offer visitors, from breathtaking natural landscapes to a rich cultural heritage. Known as the "Land of the Living Skies," Saskatchewan boasts stunning sunsets, rolling prairies, and river valleys that showcase nature's beauty year-round. The land holds deep Indigenous history, with places just north of Saskatoon like Wanuskewin Heritage Park which offers a glimpse into the traditions and stories of the First Peoples. Saskatoon itself blends small-city charm with big ideas, offering a vibrant arts scene, farm-to-table dining, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Whether exploring the Meewasin Valley trails, learning about Indigenous culture, or simply enjoying the friendly Prairie hospitality, visitors will find an unforgettable experience waiting in Saskatoon and beyond, and I hope while you are attending ICABR 2025, you experience Saskatoon charm.

Savannah Gleim

Savannah Gleim,
Chair of Local
ICABR Committee

Savannah's 1st ICABR
2015
Ravello, Italy

Saskatoon



We are thrilled to welcome you to Saskatoon, Canada, for the 29th ICABR Conference this summer! Nestled in the heart of the Canadian Prairies, Saskatoon is a city rich in innovation, culture, and natural beauty—the perfect setting to discuss the future of the bioeconomy.

ICABR 2025 will be hosted at the historic Delta Marriott Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon's most beloved landmark. Overlooking the South Saskatchewan River, this "Castle on the River" combines timeless elegance with modern comfort, placing attendees at the center of both the conference and the city's charm.

We are hoping to have an unforgettable Gala at Remai Modern. We will be hosting our gala at the Remai Modern Museum, a world-class contemporary art gallery on the riverfront. The conference gala dinner will be catered by Hearth, one of Saskatoon's top restaurants, known for its creative approach to local, seasonal ingredients. Before that, we have arranged to take in Saskatoon's stunning scenery with a relaxing afternoon cruise on the Prairie Lily River Cruise, gliding along the riverbanks while networking with fellow attendees and enjoying panoramic city views.

Beyond the conference, Saskatoon offers a vibrant mix of research excellence, Indigenous heritage, culinary delights, and outdoor adventure. Stroll along the Meewasin Trail, explore the city's thriving arts scene, or visit the nearby Wanuskewin Heritage Park to experience the deep-rooted Indigenous history of the region.

We can't wait to welcome you to Saskatoon and ICABR 2025—a conference filled with groundbreaking discussions, unforgettable experiences, and the warm hospitality of the Canadian Prairies!

The 'Bess'

DELTA BESSBOROUGH HOTEL
601 SPADINA CRESCENT E, SASKATOON, SK S7K 4H9

Standard Queen Rome

The Bessborough Hotel, often referred to as “The Bess,” (pronounced as beh-Z), will play host to the ICABR attendees as both the conference and hotel venue. This historic landmark hotel is located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Built in 1935, this grand hotel is a prime example of the Châteauesque architectural style, with its steeply pitched roof, stone façade, and turrets, giving it the appearance of a European castle. Situated on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, the Bessborough offers breathtaking views of the river and nearby parks, and is a vital landmark of Saskatoon’s downtown.

Inside, the hotel combines classic elegance with modern amenities, featuring spacious guest rooms, a luxurious spa, fine dining options, and event spaces ideal for conferences. The hotel’s central location provides easy access to Saskatoon’s downtown attractions, shopping, and cultural sites. Known for its charm, history, and excellent service, the Bessborough remains one of Saskatoon’s most iconic buildings, blending the old-world grandeur with contemporary comfort.

We strongly recommend you book your stay at the Bessborough. They have been kind enough to offer us a favourable group rate. The ICABR has a block of rooms from July 7-12, 2025. If you book through the **Hotel Link**, the average rate is **$179 CAD/night** (Queen city view), compared to the current rate of $276/night. Our group rate is less than the nearest hotel, the Sheraton which is $216/night across the road.

You can find the link also through https://icabr.net/accommodations-2025/

Saskatoon is very spread out, so while you may find a hotel cheaper elsewhere in the city, please consider the travel that is needed to get to and from the Bessborough, as it is the Conference Venue.

July 10th Events

Prairie Lily

On the Thursday afternoon, we have planned to break up the schedule by booking out the Prairie Lily River Cruise, which will take us along the South Saskatchewan River. During this time we will take in the beautiful riverbanks, and will have the opportunity to step away from the conference and visit with one another. If you would like, the Cruise also sells snacks and refreshments.

Boarding of the Prairie Lily is at 1:30 PM on Thursday, July 10th and we will cruise along the river from 2 to 3 PM. Tickets for the cruise are included in all full and student registration packages, as well as the accompanying persons registration.

Remai Modern

102 SPADINA CRESCENT E, SASKATOON, SK S7K 0L3

The Remai Modern will play host to the ICABR Gala, on Thursday, July 10th.

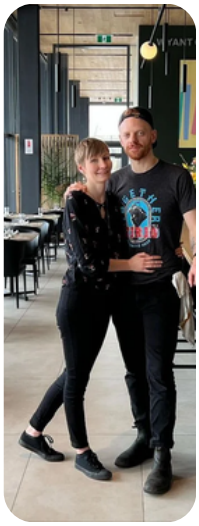
The Remai Modern is a contemporary art museum renowned for its striking modernist design and world-class exhibitions. Opened in 2017 along the South Saskatchewan River, it houses over 8,000 works, including the largest collection of Picasso linocuts. The museum showcases both local and international art, with dynamic exhibitions and community-focused programs. As a cultural hub, Remai Modern fosters creativity, engages with Indigenous art, and has quickly become a key destination for art lovers in Canada.

The Gala starts at 6:00 PM, however, ICABR guests are welcome to go over to the Remai Modern earlier to take in the galleries. Galleries close at 9 PM.

Hearth

Hearth Restaurant, located inside Saskatoon's Remai Modern, offers a cozy yet refined dining experience that emphasizes locally-sourced, seasonal ingredients. Known for its warm, inviting atmosphere and commitment to showcasing the flavours of the Canadian prairies, Hearth blends rustic comfort with contemporary culinary techniques. The menu features a mix of creative dishes that highlight regional produce, game, and wild ingredients, celebrating the rich bounty of Saskatchewan. The ICABR Gala will be catered by Hearth and their wonderful staff.

Led by chefs Beth Rogers and Thayne Robstad, Hearth's cuisine balances tradition with innovation, offering a fresh take on prairie-inspired cooking. With its thoughtful approach to food, intimate setting, and connection to the arts, Hearth provides an exceptional dining experience that complements the cultural richness of Remai Modern.



3 Course Plated Diner

STARTER

Wedge salad with iceberg lettuce, bacon, pickled egg, tomato, blue cheese, pickled red onion, green onion, toasted bread crumb, and smoked ranch dressing

MAIN

Chicken breast with pomme puree, garden peas, roasted mushrooms, chicken jus

DESSERT

Chocolate and coffee panna cotta topped with chantily cream and cocoa nibs

Getting to Saskatoon

Saskatoon is located in the centre of the province of Saskatchewan which is in the middle of the Canadian Prairies. While your final destination is Saskatoon (airport code YXE), it's unlikely you can fly directly to our airport. Depending on your departure location, there are three airports you will typically land in: Vancouver, BC, Calgary, AB, and Toronto, ON.

Saskatoon is serviced by an international airport (https://skyxe.ca). From the airport, you can easily catch a Taxi cab or Uber to your hotel (Delta Bessborough is our recommended hotel and is our venue for the week) for around $25 Canadian. For more on getting to Saskatoon and getting around during your stay: https://www.discoversaskatoon.com/plan-your-trip/directions-getting-around

Visa Requirements

Most foreign nationals need a temporary resident visa (TRV) or an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to travel to Canada.

If you are traveling to Canada on United States of America Passport, you will not require these. Otherwise, those not holding a Canadian or USA passport, please apply for the eTA to fly into Canada. It costs $7 CAN. You can find out more information regarding eTA at **https://www.ircc.canada.ca/english/visit/visas.asp**

The ICABR conference has a Special Event Code for those applying for a TRV when "attending a meeting, conference, or trade show". This code has been granted by the IRCC, and if you require this code, please contact Savannah Gleim (savannah.gleim@usask.ca). More info on Visa's through Canada's Immigration go to **https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/account.html**.

BY SHAWN GARCIA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HÉLÈNE FAQUET

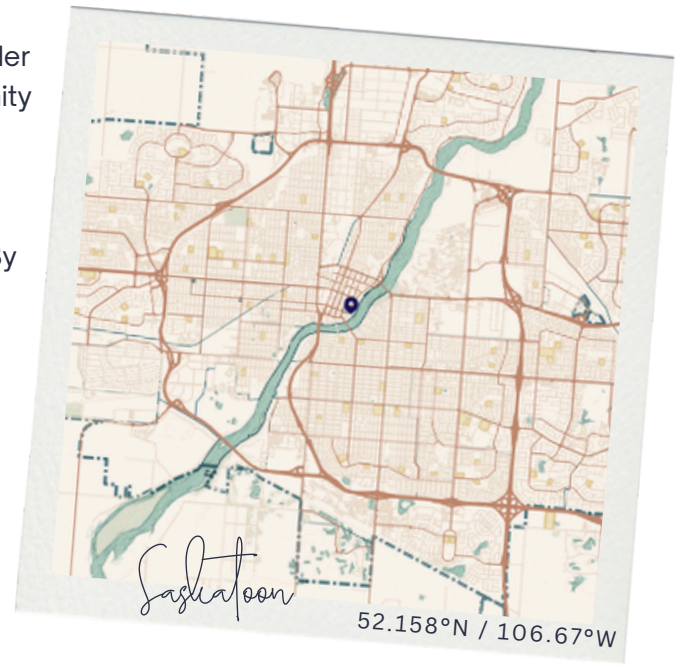
Saskatoon

(sa·skuh·TOON)

Nestled in the heart of the Canadian prairies, Saskatoon is renowned for its warm hospitality and vibrant spirit. This dynamic city seamlessly blends cultural diversity with natural beauty, offering a wealth of attractions and activities to explore.

About the City

The area has been inhabited dating past 6000 BC, by the First Nations people. In 1880s, the first European settlers arrived to the area. Shortly before this, Chief White Cap, leader of the First Nations Dakota, had set up a community on the South Saskatchewan River, known as Saskatoon today. Under the advice of the Chief, the settlers built their temperance colony on the east side of the river, which they named Nutana. By 1906, Nutana and other small 'towns' amalgamated into the town Saskatoon. The area has been inhabited dating past 6000 BC, by the First Nations people. In 1880s, the first European settlers arrived to the area, shortly before this, Chief White Cap of leader of the First Nations Dakota had set up a community on the South Saskatchewan River, known as Saskatoon today. Under the advice of the Chief, the settler built their temperance colony on the east side of the river, which the named Nutana. By 1906, Nutana and other small 'smalls' amalgamated into the town Saskatoon.



Today, the city covers 226 square km and has a population of just over 266,000, the largest city in the province (1.23 million). The city is fortunate to continue to grow and see diversity, thanks to its University and industry. In 2021, 20% of the population were reported as immigrants. While Saskatoon quickly grew in size from the settlement of Europeans, today's population is much more diverse, and European descendants make up 64% (German, English, Scottish, Ukrainian, and Irish). Roughly 11.5% of the population is of First Nations or Metis decent, and the city has seen an increase in population from South & Southeast Asian (7.2% and 6.8%) in the past decade.

In fact the province of Saskatchewan, is a fairly flat region. The Laurentide Ice Sheet advanced and retreated across the prairies multiple times 2.58 million years ago, during the Wisconsin glacial episode. The final retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet occurred between 8,000-12,000 years ago, leaving behind a glacial deposit of sand, silt, and gravel, along with numerous minerals such as potash (potassium mined for fertilizer). It also plowed the landscape flat and carved the path of the South Saskatchewan River. We joke in the province that you can see your dog run away for days, as we are such a flat landscape.

The city is intersected by the South Saskatchewan River, which flows from Alberta's Rocky Mountains and drains into Cedar Lake in Manitoba. Like Saskatoon," Saskatchewan" comes from the name of the Cree name for the Saskatchewan River, "Kisiskatchewanisipi" or "swift-flowing river." This river is 1,392 km long, has a mean flow of 280 m^3/s, and is used as a source of drinking water, irrigation, industry and power for multiple municipalities, including Saskatoon. The river used to be a major travel corridor for First Nations and was vital in the days of fur trading and exploration by the European Settlers.

Saskatoon lives in the extremes. In the winters, we see temperatures around -30C and summers can see July highs in the +30C. It may seem like a drastic change, but the low humidity and sunnier days make the cold not too cold most days, and the breezy days help cut the heat in the summer.

Since the conference is taking place in early July, the average temperature ranges from 12-25C. So don't pack expecting to see snow. During the week of July 7th, the sun will rise just before 5 AM and set just before 9:30 PM. Which will give you ample time to take it our beautiful sunsets.

When packing for Saskatoon, while we will be indoors in air conditioning during the day, we recommend packing layers for outside, as mornings and evenings may feel a bit brisk. Also, if you are going outdoors, especially at dawn or dusk, or walking along the river, be prepared for mosquitoes. Our recommendation for those not accustomed to mosquito bites, it helps to have a light layer to cover your skin or bug repellent, and sunscreen cannot hurt either.

In addition, we will be taking a short river boat tour on the Thursday, in which case we might encounter bugs and are hoping to be cruising on a sunny day. In this case, it would be great to have a hat or sunglasses, and clothes appropriate for the warm weather.

Saskatoon Berries

The name Saskatoon comes from the Cree word Misâskwatôminihk. The city took its name from a sweet, purple berry which still grows in the area. While you are in the city, you will surely notice that we love our saskatoon berries, and take great pride in the fruit.

We hope that you get your fill of it while you're here. If you are a fan, then be sure to take home saskatoon jams, jellies, teas, dried, candied, or even get yourself a saskatoon beer, wine, or t-shirt.

Treaty 6 Territory

We want to acknowledge that in Saskatchewan, we are on treaty land.

These treaties serve to govern our relationships with Indigenous people. As we come together for ICABR 2025 in Saskatoon, SK, we will be coming together on Treaty 6 territory, which is the traditional territory of the Indigenous people of Canada and Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another. As our guests of the ICABR, we ask you to recognize and respect the histories, languages, and cultures of these peoples.

Canada 101

PAYING WITH CASH

A Canadian $1 coin is a Loonie (because it has a loon on it), and our $2 coin is called a toonie (we are a literal and simple folk). Canada no longer has a penny, so we round up and down to the nearest nickel if you are paying with cash. Paying with cash may feel more like pretend here for you, as our bills are beautifully coloured and made of plastic.

If you are purchasing something, just remember that the taxes have not been added yet to the bill. So expect to pay an additional 6% for provincial taxes (PST) and 5% for goods and services tax (GST).

TIM HORTONS

Our caffeine addiction is driven by our love for Tim Hortons, a formerly Canadian owned coffee franchise and named after former hockey player Tim Horton.

A tip to those new to “Timmies” or “Tim’s” that you must state 'black', if you don’t want anything added to your coffee. Otherwise they may cream and sugar to your coffee. A 'Double-double' is two cream and two sugars. ‘Timbits’ here donut holes (sour cream flavour are the best). Lastly, their coffee may not be the best, but it's ours, so don't talk bad about Tim's with a local.

TIPPING

While it isn't necessary, tipping your server is the polite thing to do, and we are a nation who tries to be polite. On that note of politeness, we strongly believe in standing in lines and ques, and always save “sorry”.

MAPLE SYRUP

Maple syrup is beloved, but we don't all drink or smother our food in the golden syrup. This food product is an important part of Canadian history, being an essential component to the Canadian Indigenous communities for thousands of years. Todays production is carried out mostly in Eastern Canada.

CANADIAN TUXEDO

Denim on Demin, also known as the unofficial “Canadian Tuxedo”.

What's Happening

For those coming in before the conference, there is plenty to do within Saskatoon, or even throughout the country wherever you first land. A week before ICABR is our National Holiday, **Canada Day**, which takes place on July 1st. This July our nation will be 158 years old since our Confederation.

From July 3 - 12th, Saskatoon is hosting "**The Saskatchewan Jazz Fest**", an annual musical festival which takes part primarily in Saskatoon's downtown area.

You can find out more information about the lineup, tickets and free stages at https://www.saskjazz.com/.

Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan is a summer Shakespeare theatre company in Saskatoon that produces adaptations of the Bard on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River each July and August. Play dates, times and tickets will be posted on https://shakespearesask.com/ in early spring of 2025

Saskatoon Sports Teams

BASEBALL

The Saskatoon Berries will be playing games in Saskatoon on July 5, 7, and 8th. You can find the schedule and ticket info at: https://www.saskatoonberriesbaseballclub.ca/

BASKETBALL

Saskatchewan Rattlers are a Canadian professional basketball team based in Saskatoon who play in the CEBL. They have a home game on July 11th against the Winnipeg Sea Bears. https://www.therattlers.ca/

Ag in Motion 2025

Ag in Motion 2025 is Western Canada's largest outdoor farm expo, which will take place from July 15–17, 2025. The event will be held at Discovery Farm Langham, northwest of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. For those able to stay longer, we highly recommend attending Ag in Motion, as it showcase are large scale equipment with demos, crop plots, as well playing host to farmers, industry leaders, agricultural experts, and researchers. https://aginmotion.ca/

Places to go

Western Development Museum

2610 LORNE AVE, SASKATOON, SK

Step into the past and explore Saskatchewan's rich history at the Saskatoon Western Development Museum—where heritage comes to life! At WDM Saskatoon, you can explore "Boomtown 1910," a full-scale replica of a prairie town that brings Saskatchewan's early 20th-century history to life. Some highlights include a historic Main St., vintage vehicles and farm equipment, and the history of about settlement, innovation, and industry in Saskatchewan.

HTTPS://WDM.CA/

Midtwon Mall

201 1 AVE S, SASKATOON, SK

Located in downtown Saskatoon, you will find the Midtown Mall if you are requiring to pick up a few things while you are in the city. In the Midtown you will find a pharmacy, Shoppers Drug Mart, Hudson's Bay, an iconic Canadian Department store, as well as numerous other shops and a fast food court.

Saskatoon Attractions

Saskatoon has a mix of historical, cultural, and natural attractions that make it a great city to explore. Already mentioned in this guide is Remai Modern, WDM, and the Prairie Lily Cruise. Here are some must-see places in Saskatoon:

- **Gather Local Market -** indoor market & food hall Tuesday - Sunday, outdoor market Thursday & Saturday.
- **River Landing -** pathway along the riverfront.
- **Meewasin Valley Trail -** walking & biking trail along South Saskatchewan River.
- **Ukrainian Museum of Canada** - Discover the rich cultural heritage of Ukrainian Canadians.
- **University of Saskatchewan -** One of Canada's most picturesque university campuses, featuring historic stone buildings and beautiful green spaces.
- **Broadway Avenue -** A trendy area with boutique shops, cozy cafés, live theatre, and a vibrant nightlife scene.

Breweries

Saskatoon's craft beer scene has flourished in recent years, offering a diverse array of breweries that cater to both traditional tastes and adventurous palates. Here's a selection of notable breweries in the city:

- **9 Mile Legacy Brewing** — 402 21 St W, Saskatoon
- **High Key Brewing** — 102 23 St E, Saskatoon
- **Prairie Sun Brewery** — 650 Broadway Ave, Saskatoon
- **Shelter Brewing Company** — 255 2 Ave S, Saskatoon

Beyond Saskatoon

If you're looking to explore beyond Saskatoon, here are some must-see places outside the city that offer stunning nature, history, and adventure:

Wanuskewin Heritage Park *15 minutes North of the city* RR 4, PENNER ROAD
A National Historic Site showcasing Indigenous culture, history, and archaeology, with beautiful trails and bison herds. https://wanuskewin.com/

The Berry Barn *20 min South of Saskatoon* 830 VALLEY ROAD
A charming countryside getaway along the South Saskatchewan River, famous for its homemade saskatoon berry pie and hearty country meals. Stroll through the beautiful flower gardens, pick fresh berries in season, or browse the cozy gift shop. A perfect stop for a relaxing afternoon with scenic river views. https://www.berrybarn.ca/

Black Fox Farm & Distillery *15 min South of Saskatoon* 245 VALLEY ROAD
A unique farm-to-bottle experience where award-winning gin, whisky, and liqueurs are crafted using locally grown ingredients. Wander through the flower fields, pick your own pumpkins in the fall, and enjoy a tasting of their handcrafted award winning single origin spirits.
A must-visit for those who love local flavors and breathtaking prairie scenery.
https://www.blackfoxfarmanddistillery.com/

Outside of Saskatchewan

For those flying into Saskatoon, while we hope you have the time to travel around our great city and province, we also know when in Western Canada there is so much to see. If you would like any suggestions please ask, but for now here are just a few of the places you may wish to put on your travel list this summer.

Vancouver & Stanley Park BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
A world-class city surrounded by ocean and mountains. Visit Stanley Park, Granville Island, and Capilano Suspension Bridge for incredible views.

Vancouver Island & Tofino BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
Explore Victoria's historic sites, visit Butchart Gardens, or head to Tofino for world-class surfing and rugged coastal beauty.

Banff National Park & Lake Louise ALBERTA, CANADA
A must-see with breathtaking mountain scenery, hiking trails, and wildlife. Take a canoe on Lake Louise, soak in the Banff Hot Springs, or ride the Banff Gondola.

Jasper National Park ALBERTA, CANADA
A quieter, equally stunning alternative to Banff, featuring Maligne Lake, the Columbia Icefield, and incredible stargazing in Canada's largest dark sky preserve.

Where to Eat

Saskatoon offers a vibrant culinary scene with diverse dining options to suit every taste. From cozy bistros and cafes to upscale restaurants, the city's food scene highlights fresh, locally sourced ingredients and global influences. Whether you're craving Italian, Asian, or farm-to-table dishes, Saskatoon has something for everyone, served in welcoming atmospheres that reflect the friendly spirit of the city. Below is a list of great places to check out around the conference venue. Lunch will be provided Wednesday-Friday and you can find locations at the ICABR Map https://shorturl.at/Ay8cs

Garden Court Cafe *Casual dining with light, fresh, and flavorful dishes* **$$**

Hometown Diner *Comfort food, breakfast, and lunch classics* **$$**

OEB Breakfast Co. *Breakfast and brunch classics with a creative twist* **$$-$$$**

Metric Garden Lounge *Elevated casual dining with a focus on fresh ingredients and innovative cocktails* **$$-$$$**

Stovin's Lounge *Comfort food with an upscale twist* **$$-$$$**

The Odd Couple *Asian fusion with a focus on Japanese, Korean, & other Asian influences* **$$-$$$**

Congress Beer House *Pub food with craft beer pairings* **$$**

Picaro *Spanish tapas and small plates* **$$-$$$**

Red Pepper Vietnamese and Asian fusion **$**

Hearth Restaurant *Prairie-inspired dishes using locally sourced ingredients* **$$$**

Taverna Italian Kitchen *Classic Italian dishes, fresh pasta, and Italian wines* **$$-$$$**

St. Tropez Bistro *French-inspired bistro fare with an emphasis on fresh, high-quality ingredients* **$$-$$$**

Yard & Flagon *Pub food with a modern twist & a rooftop bar* **$$**

Una Pizza + Wine *Italian pizza and small plates* **$$**

Pique *Modern Canadian cuisine with an emphasis on local ingredients* **$$-$$$**

Cathedral Social Hall *Comfort food, pub classics, and small plates* **$$**

Primal *Nose-to-tail dining with a focus on meats and handmade pastas* **$$-$$$**

Thirteen Pies *Local Pizza Bar* **$$**

Odla *Modern Canadian cuisine with an emphasis on local ingredients* **$$-$$$**

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Discover Saskatoon

City of Saskatoon

Sask Wheat DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

UPL

#ICABR2025

https://icabr.net/