

BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: BATTLE LAKE

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

Why Go?

Battle Lake and its surrounding landscape are the headwaters of the Battle River. It offers a beautiful micro climate and is home to unique animal and plant life due to the higher elevation and increased moisture. The County of Wetaskiwin has encouraged preservation of the natural forest and shoreline, so you will see few signs of disturbance and lots of animal life.



Know Before You Go

There is no significant movement of water in the lake and the river downstream only has a strong current during spring runoff. Powerboats are allowed on the lake but are limited to 12km/h, minimizing their disturbance, but wind can also cause substantial waves and whitecaps on the open water. In the Battle River, there are several beaver dams as well as shallow spots depending on the time of year, so only paddle downstream if you are able and willing to lift your boat over obstacles. After crossing Highway 13, the river becomes even more shallow and difficult to navigate. It is not recommended to paddle except during spring runoff. During mid-summer, watch for blue-green algae advisories from Alberta Health Services.



Plant and Animal Life

Large flocks of Franklin's gulls enjoy the fish in Battle Lake, but you might also see pelicans and loons on the water's surface. Fish species in the lake include yellow perch, northern pike, white sucker, lake whitefish, and burbot. Plant highlights include water lilies, ferns, and a greater diversity of tree species such as yellow birch and hazelnut than you generally find in other parts of the watershed.



Local Attractions

Fern Glade

The 4-H Center's 7 km of walking trails pass through Alberta's largest natural fern glade, where ostrich ferns can grow over 1m tall. Numerous springs and streams provide the perfect habitat for these ancient plants. Access is limited when kids are at camp- call ahead.

Mount Butte

Mount Butte is on the north-west corner of the lake. Though it is hardly a mountain, it is actually one of the highest elevation areas in the entire Battle River Watershed! There is a steep trail up the south side, accessible from the shore. To approach the mountain by car, drive 5 minutes past the campground until you come across a gate leading to a meadow and oil lease. You can leave your car parked at the gate while exploring! A trail there will take you past the meadow, across a small stream, and up the mountain. The trail gets moderately steep in some places. At a leisurely pace, it should take approximately one hour to summit.

Please use discretion when choosing a paddling route. You are expected to follow all traffic and boating laws, be aware of weather, respect private property, and assess hazards before going out. Prepare to be out longer than expected- bring extra food, water, and lights. The Battle River Watershed Alliance holds no responsibility for injuries or damage sustained on your paddle.



WATERSHED ALLIANCE

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