

BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: DRIED MEAT LAKE

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

Why Go?

Dried Meat Lake is only about 20 minutes south-east of Camrose. Dried Meat Lake is a naturally wide section of the Battle River. The Edberg Weir was built in 1975 (then heightened in 2010) to dam the waters as a drinking source for the City of Camrose. The dam has also created stable water levels, ideal for paddling. The maximum depth of the lake is 3.7 meters so you won't have to maneuver your canoe over beaver dams or shallows even late into summer. It's an ideal spot for novice paddlers or if you don't want to shuttle a vehicle.

Know Before You Go

This lake is a major recreational hub; be wary of waves made by passing power boats. Prepare for these waves by turning into the wave, instead of letting it splash the side of your boat which is far less stable. Strong winds can also create waves and increase your traveling time if blowing the wrong direction. The lake is naturally nutrient rich and gets additional nutrient loads so algae blooms are common in the summer. Some types, such as blue-green algae are dangerous if ingested and should be avoided. Please see the Alberta Health Services Water Advisory page for updates.



Plant and Animal Life

The lake is an important staging ground for migratory birds such as snow geese and swans. These birds are protected by the Restricted Wildlife Area designation on the lake until November 1st each year. In the summer months, massive pelicans swoop overhead in flocks of up to 50. Bald eagles are a common sight around the lake, feeding on northern pike and other fish that are also the target of people fishing. Aberhart bridge (1) and the Edberg weir (2) are especially popular spots for anglers to catch pike and the occasional walleye. The weir was built with an eight-bay step-pool fish ladder to allow fish into the lake from downstream.

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Local Attractions

Beesley's Spring

Just north of Tillicum Beach, a small side road off of Paradise Drive leads to this natural freshwater spring (3). It flows year-round



thanks to the surrounding rock formations, and it is tested regularly for bacteria. Stop by to fill

Tillicum Beach Park

This small park on the north shore of the lake contains a small campground operated by Camrose County. There you can access first-come first served camp sites, fire pits, washrooms, playground and the boat launch. Maybe make your trip an overnight expedition!

Dried Meat Hill

The name dried meat comes from First Nation's who would combine dry bison meat with berries to make pemmican. Local sources say, Saskatoon bushes still grow in abundance here. However, the hill has been impacted by a gravel mine.

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.

BATTLE RIVER

WATERSHED ALLIANCE

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