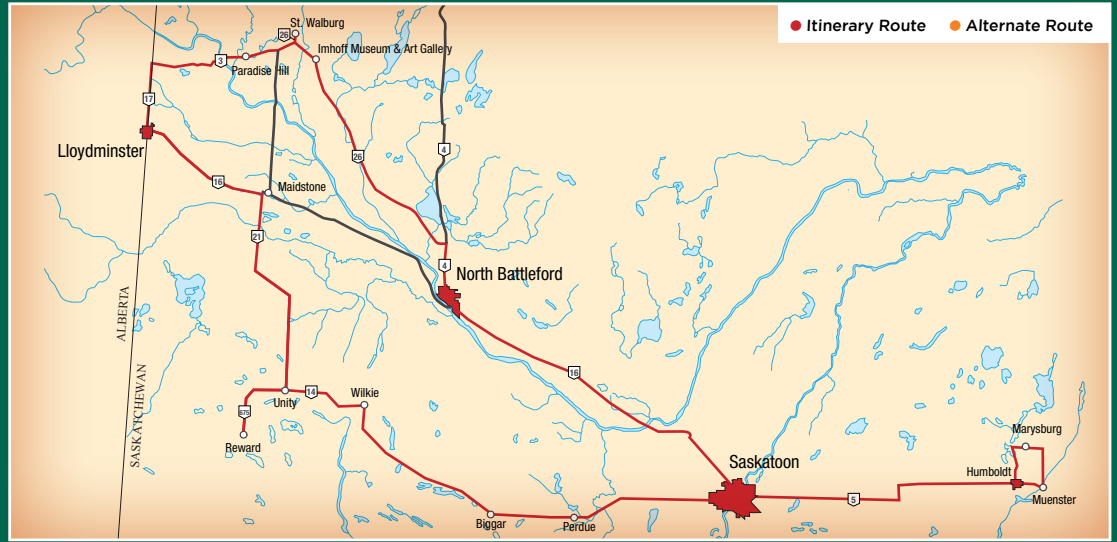




To access online maps of Saskatchewan or to request a **Saskatchewan Discovery Guide** and **Official Highway Map**, visit: www.sasktourism.com/travel-information/travel-guides-and-maps

TRIP LENGTH
3 days
1048 km

A DRIVE THROUGH THE COUNT'S COUNTRY



Walking into some Saskatchewan country churches is like being magically transported to a 15th century European cathedral, where larger-than-life Renaissance-style art brings biblical stories to life. The intricate, bold and colourful paintings are the work of a German-born count who found a beautiful part of northwest Saskatchewan to be the perfect place to pursue his art.

Count Berthold Von Imhoff decorated churches throughout the province and beyond, and left Saskatchewan with a fascinating artistic legacy. This three-day driving tour originates out of Saskatoon, and takes you to the most prominent sites associated with this famous artist in Saskatchewan.

DAY ONE Saskatoon, St. Walburg, Lloydminster

Begin your day by heading northwest to St. Walburg, Imhoff's home town. From Saskatoon, travel 138 km west on Hwy 16 to the Battlefords, drive north on Hwy 4 for 20.6 km, turn west on Hwy 26 and continue 103 km to St. Walburg. Driving in from the south, you are greeted by a life-size statue of the count astride his horse, a bronze crafted by noted local artist Susan Velder. While in town, be sure to visit the St. Walburg & District Historical Museum housed in the former Roman Catholic Church, where Imhoff paintings decorating the walls are among the extensive exhibits. St. Walburg's charming Farm House Inn features family dining, a bakery and local art and antiques.



Imhoff Museum & Art Gallery, near St. Walburg. *Tourism Saskatchewan/Eric Lindberg*

To really get in touch with the life of the artist, drive approximately 8 km south of town on Hwy 26 and follow the signs to the Imhoff Museum & Art Gallery on the original homestead. Born into German nobility in 1868, Imhoff became an artist at an early age. Tiring of the pressures of rapid industrialization, he moved to the United States where he became a well-respected artist in Reading, Pennsylvania. His life took another turn in 1910 when he went on a hunting trip to Saskatchewan. He was taken with the game-rich countryside around St. Walburg, located on the edge of wilderness. Imhoff moved his family to this remote farm, though he continued to supply paintings to churches in Pennsylvania. He then turned his attention to more local projects and painted in Saskatchewan until his death in 1939.

A guided tour takes you through the artist's home, as well as the original gallery built in 1920, where you see the tools he used and learn about techniques such as applying gold leaf. Imhoff's paintings are in the Nazarene style, a revival of Christian art from the Italian Renaissance which was in vogue at the Academy of Art in Dusseldorf where he studied. While most famous for religious subjects, Imhoff also painted still life, portraits and famous historic figures. Curiously, he never sold a painting other than the ones specifically commissioned for church projects, and even then, he often charged very little or even donated the paintings. In recognition of his prolific work and generosity, he was knighted by the pope in 1937.

One outstanding Imhoff church is located in Paradise Hill, just a short drive 19 km west on Hwy 3. Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church has several Imhoff paintings, with the ornate ceiling almost completely covered. Most impressive is the large painting of the Crucifixion in the centre of the ceiling. A variety of biblical scenes are portrayed, such as the flight into Egypt and St. Peter becoming the first pope. The large inscription in French over the sanctuary is the biblical quotation, "Thou art Peter and on this rock I will build my Church." As you walk through the church, watch the eyes in the paintings; they seem to follow you wherever you go.

DAY TWO **Lloydminster, Reward**

A Lloydminster highlight is the Barr Colony Heritage Cultural Centre, located along Hwy 16 on the Saskatchewan side of the border. Named after the Barr Colonists who founded the community in 1903, the centre houses an impressive art gallery, museum and interpretive centre. The Imhoff gallery is a major permanent exhibit with one of the largest collections of the artist's works. The oldest piece, titled *The Glory of Emperor Frederick William*, was painted in 1884 when Imhoff was only 16. It portrays the Angel of Death removing the crown from the emperor's head, and earned Imhoff the Art Academy Award of Berlin. The *Crucifixion* is his most magnificent and largest painting, measuring 19 by 14 feet (5.8 by 4.3 m).

Drive east of Lloydminster on Hwy 16, then south on Hwy 21 to Unity for a total of 139 km. From Unity turn west onto Hwy 14 and continue 16 km, turn south on Grid 675 and continue approximately 12 km to Reward. About 12 km south of Reward, right beside the road, stands the imposing Church of the Holy Rosary.

Part of St. Joseph's Colony, a pioneer settlement of primarily German Catholics, the Church of the Holy Rosary was built in 1918, and has undergone extensive restoration over the years. In 1920, Imhoff did 15 paintings, all representing *The Mysteries of the Rosary*, considered some of his most expressive works. Signs describe each large painting - *The Agony in the Garden*, *The Scourging at the Pillar*, *The Ascension*, among others. The shrine on the beautifully kept church grounds has long been a place of pilgrimage, a tradition which still continues.

Return to Hwy 14 and travel 210 km back to Saskatoon where you will overnight. If time permits, break up your trip to Saskatoon with a stop at the Biggar Museum & Gallery, or call ahead for a tour of the Living Sky Winery at Perdue and pick up a bottle of Saskatchewan-grown goodness to savour later.



Barr Colony Heritage Cultural Centre, Lloydminster. *Tourism Saskatchewan/Eric Lindberg*



St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster. Robin Karpan Photo

DAY THREE Humboldt, Muenster, Marysburg

From Saskatoon, travel 112 km east on Hwy 5 to Humboldt, and continue just over 9 km east to Muenster. The small town of Muenster is home to St. Peter's Abbey, the oldest Benedictine Abbey in Canada founded in 1903. Just north of the highway stands majestic St. Peter's Cathedral, with two 60-foot (18 m) towers built between 1908 and 1910. Imhoff decorated the entire interior in 1919. The sanctuary alone has 80 life-size figures, and was a gift from Imhoff to his friend Abbot Bruno Doerfler. Various saints are portrayed using the faces of some of the monks at the Abbey. For St. Paul, Imhoff chose the face of Abbot Bruno. Unfortunately, the Abbot died the very week the paintings were finished.

From Muenster, drive 14 km north on Hwy 368, then 6.5 km west on Grid 756 to Marysburg. You'll see the imposing Our Lady of the Assumption Church, with its 71-foot (22 m) high twin towers, rising

above the horizon long before you arrive in this tiny community. Built in 1921, the magnificent brick church has a 36-foot (11 m) high ceiling supported by Corinthian columns, and a seating capacity of 500. Decorations were added over the years, with the 32 large Imhoff paintings added in 1948. Here Imhoff concentrated on portraits of saints and angels. The church completed extensive restoration work in recent years. The paintings have been cleaned and remounted and look as vibrant as ever. On selected dates during the summer months, the church is the host venue for the Marysburg Summer Festival of the Arts, where you can enjoy the church's superb acoustics, talented musical acts and delicious community suppers.

From Marysburg, continue a short distance west on Grid 756, then south on Hwy 20 to Humboldt and return to Saskatoon via Hwy 5.

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

Tourism Saskatoon

Information on accommodations, attractions, shopping and dining
101-202 4th Ave N, Saskatoon
P: 306-242-1206 **TF:** 1-800-567-2444
W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000795

Battlefords Tourism & Convention Association

Information on accommodations, attractions, shopping and dining
Suite 502-1101-101 Main St, North Battleford
Open: year-round, Mon - Fri
P: 306-445-2000 **TF:** 1-800-243-0394
W: www.2sk.ca/com/1002271

Battlefords Tourism Visitor Information Centre

Junction of Hwys 16 & 40 E, North Battleford
Open: year-round, call ahead for seasonal hours
P: 306-445-6226

Attractions and Services in St. Walburg

Information on accommodations, attractions and dining
P: 306-248-3232
W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000856

St. Walburg & District Historical Museum

Main St and 2nd Ave, St. Walburg
Open: End of Jun-Sep, call ahead for seasonal hours
P: 306-248-3848 / 306-248-3631
W: www.2sk.ca/13584

Farm House Inn Inc

Accommodations and dining
Hwy 26 S, St. Walburg
Open: year-round
P: 306-248-3688
W: www.2sk.ca/12897

Imhoff Museum & Art Gallery

8 km S of St. Walburg on Hwy 26
Open: Jun-Sep, call ahead for seasonal hours
P: 306-248-3812
W: www.2sk.ca/12972

Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church

1st Ave, Paradise Hill
Open: year-round, call ahead to arrange viewing
P: 306-344-2099

Lloydminster Tourism

Information on accommodations, attractions, shopping and dining
5420-50 Ave, Lloydminster
P: 780-871-8333 **TF:** 1-800-825-6180
W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000521

Tourism Saskatchewan Visitor

Reception Centre
Hwy 16 near Alberta border, Lloydminster
Open: May-Sep, call ahead for seasonal hours
P: 306-825-8690
W: www.2sk.ca

Barr Colony Heritage Cultural Centre

4420-50th Ave, Hwy 16 E and 45th Ave, Lloydminster
Open: year-round, call ahead for seasonal hours
P: 306-825-5655
W: www.2sk.ca/13515

Church of the Holy Rosary

12 km S of Reward on Grid 675
Open: mid-May to mid-Sep, 9 am-9 pm
P: 306-372-4783 (Tim and Mary Wagner, caretakers)

Biggar Museum & Gallery

105-3rd Ave W, Biggar
P: 306-948-3451
W: www.2sk.ca/12292

Living Sky Winery

Perdue
P: 306-290-1693
W: www.livingskywinery.com

Attractions and Services in Humboldt

Information on accommodations, attractions and dining
P: 306-682-3444 / 306-682-4990
TF: 1-877-277-6748
W: www.2sk.ca/com/1000402

Humboldt Tourist Information Centre

Hwy 5 E, 8th Ave and 2nd St, Humboldt
Open: year-round, call ahead for seasonal hours
P: 306-682-4990
W: www.humboldt tourism.com

St. Peter's Cathedral

Off Hwy 5, 0.8 km NE of Muenster, watch for twin towers.
Open: April-Dec, call ahead for seasonal hours
P: 306-682-1789 / 306-682-1777
W: www.2sk.ca/14661

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

13 km N of Humboldt on Hwy 20, 3 km E on Grid 756, Marysburg
Open: 9am-9pm Jun-Sep, other times by appointment
P: 306-682-3515 / 306-231-8134

SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Walburg:

St. Walburg Wild Blueberry Festival, Aug - www.2sk.ca/18454

Lloydminster:

Lloydminster Colonial Days Fair, July - www.2sk.ca/14255

Reward:

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary, July - www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Marysburg:

Marysburg Summer Festival of the Arts, selected dates, May to July - <http://www.sasktourism.com/travel-information/product-detail&listing=3&opid=80567>