

# Archaeological Heritage

## Sites of Special Nature

All archaeological heritage Sites of Special Nature in Saskatchewan are afforded explicit protection under s.64 of [The Heritage Property Act](#).



Bison Effigy, Swift Current Petroglyph

“Sites of Special Nature” are defined in Saskatchewan’s [Heritage Property Act](#) as petroglyphs, rock paintings, pictograph (rock carvings), medicine wheels, boulder effigies, human skeletal material, and burial places, mounds and objects.

These fragile and unique sites are a reflection of First Nations’ past, and a vital link to the continuing spirituality, cultural traditions, and heritage of First Nations today.

Any person who destroys, desecrates or defaces Sites of a Special Nature is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine and/or imprisonment.

All violations should be reported to the local RCMP detachment and the provincial Heritage office at 1-306-787-2817 or [arms@gov.sk.ca](mailto:arms@gov.sk.ca)

*Many of these sacred places are still used for ceremonial, religious and other traditional purposes. They also have exceptional educational and scientific value – a rich cultural legacy of the past to be preserved and protected for the benefit of all peoples.*

*Often, these sites are prominent, well-known landmarks and receive frequent local visitation. Some have even gained international recognition and attention. It is imperative, therefore, that all visits to these culturally sensitive locations be conducted with care and respect for First Nations culture and tradition.*



Pictograph Churchill River

The Province and the First Nations of Saskatchewan request that those visiting Sites of Special Nature follow these protocols:

- Regardless of your cultural or religious affiliation, approach sacred First Nations heritage sites with a spirit of humility and prayer. Conduct yourself in the same respectful manner as you would in any place of worship.
- Respect the cultures and customs of the First Nations of Saskatchewan.
- It is customary to leave an offering of loose tobacco. Tobacco is a sacred plant, given to First Nations by the Creator, and widely used in prayer to the Creator, the ancestors, the earth and the universe. This offering is best left at the periphery of the site.
- All visitors must be alcohol and drug free when entering sacred sites.
- To First Nations, women are held in high regard for bringing life into the world. A common custom among First Nations is that women in their menses cycle do not enter sacred sites. First Nations believe that the female body undergoes a natural purification at this time, whereas males have to attend other ceremonials such as the sweat lodge in order to attain similar purification.
- Visitors must keep the site area clean. Other than tobacco offerings, no waste or other materials should be left behind.
- Visitors must not walk on or deface any rock feature, displace stones, damage local vegetation, or otherwise disturb the ground surface.
- Visitors must not pick up or remove artifacts, human remains, or any other objects.

For Further Information:

Heritage Conservation Branch

2nd Floor – 3211 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6

[historicplaces@gov.sk.ca](mailto:historicplaces@gov.sk.ca)