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AN  TOURING GUIDE



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AN  TOURING GUIDE

 Hwy 17 view over Montreal River Hills - Destination Northern Ontario



RV Travel in Ontario.

Version 8.0 / Revised May 2026

Ontario is Canada's second largest province, spanning three thousand kilometers across, and great distances from the Great Lakes to Hudson Bay. The scenery abounds with endless forests, rivers, lakes and escarpments. Communities range in size from mining camps and historic sites to towns and charming villages in scenic locations dotted across the province. Toronto is the largest metropolitan city in the province. Ottawa is Canada's capital city.

Fifteen million provincial residents reflect the diversity of its peoples from around the world.

Ontario contains more of the Great Lakes and the immense Canadian Shield than any other province. Natural resources, auto manufacturing, shipping on the waterways, miles of steel rails across the north, endow prosperity to the economic engine of Canada. RV touring is the way to explore this vast land.

Ontario Travel Information Centres

There are three Ontario Travel Information Centres located at the interprovincial border of Quebec, and at the USA border crossings in Sault Ste. Marie and Pigeon River (seasonal) that provide travel information for the entire province including:

- Knowledgeable Travel Counsellors
- Assistance with itinerary development
- Brochures available by travel area
- At some centres – free WIFI; attraction ticket sales; fishing and hunting license sales
- Free Ontario Road Maps
- Souvenirs available for purchase
- Campground information

The Ontario Travel Information Services Team can assist in planning your Ontario vacation. Assistance is available by phone, email, video conference or in person at the Ontario Travel Information Centres. Find out locations and how to connect at: destinationontario.com/en-ca/contact-us

Additional regional Travel Information Centres are located throughout northern Ontario, for details visit: northernontario.travel/about/northern-ontario-travel-information-centres



Produced by Destination Northern Ontario in co-operation with Destination Ontario | Ontario Parks | Camping in Ontario



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Planning RV Travel

Campground reservations are strongly recommended during the summer season, May to September, and especially on weekends. Tour through Ontario with a recommended minimum time of two weeks, or extend your holiday to include a trip across the country. It is approximately 2,000 Kilometres of winding highway from Toronto to the Manitoba border. Add another 300 km or so for getting into campgrounds, shopping, sightseeing and of course, back tracking to investigate wildlife sightings and attractions along the road. Stock up on essentials at a big-box store or supermarket. We recommend purchasing a small barbeque for outdoor dinners along the way.

RV Rental Stations

Rental stations in the Toronto area offer special one-way rates to relocate new motorhomes to Calgary and Vancouver during April and May. **Be sure to book early.**

RV Rental Stations in Ontario

Canadream 33 West Drive, Brampton, ON

Cruise Canada 12275 Highway 50, Bolton ON

Fraserway RV 5362 County Road 27 N, Cookstown, ON

Owasco RV Rentals 570 Rundle Road, Clarington, ON

 **From the south.**

RV rental stations near Pearson International Airport offer an ideal starting point to begin your trip through Ontario.

 **From the west.**

RV rental stations in Vancouver and Calgary are connected by Trans Canada Hwy#1 to Hwy#17 at the Manitoba / Ontario border, just east of Winnipeg. One-way fees may apply.

Returning to RV rental stations. It is best to stay reasonably close to the RV rental stations on your last night. Refuel, pack up and empty holding tank before drop-off. Be ready to vacate the vehicle upon arrival at the station.

Ontario Parks & Campgrounds



Ontario Parks

There are numerous Provincial Parks throughout Ontario. Most of these parks open in late May and close in September. A park pass is required and must be displayed on the dash of a vehicle at all times. Electricity, fresh water and sani-dumps are available in all Provincial Parks that accommodate RV camping. *Provincial Parks are popular tourism destinations. Please be sure to book park reservations well in advance.*

Campsite reservations at Ontario Provincial Parks:

1-888-668-7275 | www.ontarioparks.com



Parks Canada

The federal government is guardian of National Parks and National Historic Sites throughout Ontario. National Parks and Historic sites are marked with an (*) throughout this guide. Park passes are required in National Parks. *National Parks are popular tourism destinations. Please be sure to book park reservations well in advance.*

Contact: 1-888-773-8888 | www.pc.gc.ca



Ontario Private Campgrounds Operators Association

Over 420 private campgrounds and RV parks throughout Ontario. Participating campgrounds in Ontario's Private Campground Operating Association are listed in the *Camping in Ontario* Directory.

More information: www.campinginontario.ca



Parks of the St. Lawrence

Parks of the St. Lawrence on the Long Sault Parkway is one of the largest tourism destinations in Eastern Ontario, with ten campgrounds and several day-use areas, including Ivy Lea Campground and Brown's Bay Campground alongside the St. Lawrence River. A new self-serve reservation system has been introduced to speed-up the booking process. Campgrounds operate from mid-May until mid-October. Refer to page 26 for details.

DISCLAIMER: Tourism associations, as well as their partners, members, advertisers and any other businesses, individuals, agencies and associations listed in this guide assume no liability for any damages or injuries received during the use of the information, paddle routes, waterways and portages, trails, roadways and facilities listed in this guide. Destination Northern Ontario and Recess RV Management Ltd. accept no responsibility and liability for damages or injuries along any part of the routes.



ONTARIO RV TOURING ROUTES

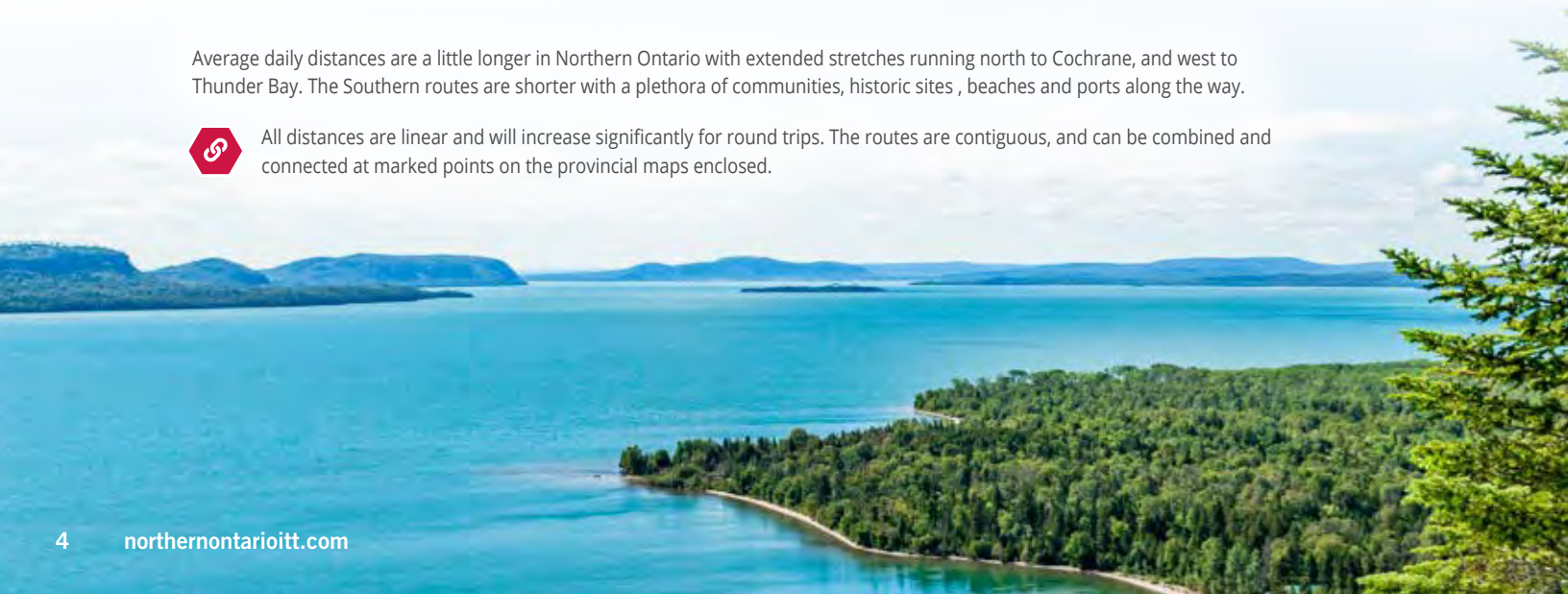
RV TOURING ROUTES ENCOMPASS ALL OF ONTARIO.

Southern Ontario Routes	# DAYS	DISTANCE (KM)	DAILY TRAVEL (KM)	PAGE #
<u>Southern Ontario overview</u>				<u>08</u>
<u>The Waterway Route</u>	11 days	1900 km	250 km / day	<u>10</u>
<u>Ports & Forts Route</u>	11 days	1300 km	250 km / day	<u>36</u>
<u>The Bluewater Route</u>	9 days	1300 km	150 km / day	<u>58</u>
<u>Huntsville to North Bay (alternative route)</u>	4 days	700 km	300 km / day	<u>134</u>
<u>Port Severn to London (alternative route)</u>	4 days	400 km	50-100 km / day	<u>140</u>
Northern Ontario Routes				
<u>Northern Ontario overview</u>				<u>80</u>
<u>The Fur Trade Route</u>	9 days	1900 km	210 km / day	<u>84</u>
<u>Thunder Bay to Manitoba (alternative route)</u>	4 days	1200 km	300 km / day	<u>106</u>
<u>The Prospector Route</u>	7 days	1800 km	250 km / day	<u>112</u>
<u>Cochrane to Nipigon (alternative route)</u>	2 days	700 km	300 km / day	<u>130</u>

Average daily distances are a little longer in Northern Ontario with extended stretches running north to Cochrane, and west to Thunder Bay. The Southern routes are shorter with a plethora of communities, historic sites, beaches and ports along the way.



All distances are linear and will increase significantly for round trips. The routes are contiguous, and can be combined and connected at marked points on the provincial maps enclosed.



DISCOVER ONTARIO | YOUR GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE

THIS COMPREHENSIVE RV TOURING GUIDE ENCOMPASSES ALL AREAS OF ONTARIO.

From the rental hubs in the Toronto area to the waterways of the Trent, Rideau and St. Lawrence Seaway to the vast reaches of the northern Trans Canada Highway.

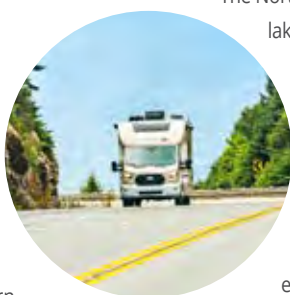
Choose from six modules. The Fur Trade and The Prospector Routes span the vast Canadian Shield in Northern Ontario.

Follow the Waterways, Ports & Forts, and the Blue Water Routes around four of the Great Lakes in Southern Ontario. Camp close to nature in national, provincial and private parks.

Our overseas guests spend an average of eighteen days on the road. They are the major contributors to off-season travel, starting their bookings earlier in the spring, while others extend their stays well into the colourful, warm days of October. They are on the move every one or two nights. The international RV market has doubled in the last ten years, mainly during the shoulder season.

WILDERNESS AWAITS

Cottage country is characterized by RV owners parking trailers for long stays in their favorite camping spots. Since COVID, the domestic rental market has enlarged the demand with locals finding the urge to explore their home turf. Pick up and go, with no need to park and store a rig all year.



The North is the land of rock, forests and lakes. The South has waterways, beaches and historic sites to explore. Places of interest are found at every turn. Find adventure and activities, cities and silos.

Ontario is the hallmark of ethnicity with peoples from around the world. It is not without its own military history found in the struggles between the British and French during the fur trade, the political division of Upper and Lower Canada, the Underground Railroad, and Canada's major victory during the War of 1812. Explore the string of forts lining the shores of the Great Lakes. Towns and villages take great pride in showcasing the history of characters and events with elaborate murals, extensive displays, museums, monuments and walking tours. Watch for festivals, pow wows and highland games.

EXPERIENCE CULTURE

Indigenous communities endorse friendly visits to showcase their arts, crafts and culture. Go find the famous landscape paintings of the Group of Seven artists displayed on wilderness easels in over twenty scenic locations in the North.

Grand stone heritage buildings, city halls, churches, mills and homes preserve the architectural styles brought by settlers to Southern Ontario. Explore the commercial harbors, marinas, port towns and canals on the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes. Farming communities share their harvest in the spirit of local markets. Wine regions produce some of Canada's best VQA vintages.

SO MUCH TO SEE...

Follow railroad history and rail-trails connecting settlements in the early days of steam. The final sections of the Trans Canada Highway were not blasted through barren rock until long after the auto industry was established in Ontario. Watch ocean freighters and ore carriers ease through canals on the St. Lawrence Seaway. Follow canoe routes discovered by voyageurs packing bales of beaver pelts and trading goods to remote posts.

The North is filled with boom and bust stories of mines and mills. Old growth white pine forests and numerous flora and fauna are preserved in conservancy areas throughout the province.



CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE and link the modules at connecting points to discover RV touring in Ontario.





NORTHERN ONTARIO

DID YOU KNOW?

Ontario occupies more than **one million** square kilometers which is three times the size of Germany.



CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE and link the modules at connecting points to discover RV touring in Ontario.













ONTARIO

RV RENTAL STATIONS

- Canadream 33 West Drive, Brampton, ON
- Cruise Canada 12275 Highway 50, Bolton ON
- Fraserway RV 5362 County Road 27 N, Cookstown, ON
- Owasco RV Rentals 570 Rundle Road, Clarington, ON

RV ROUTES

-  The Prospector Route
-  The Fur Trade Route
-  The Waterway Route
-  Ports & Forts Route
-  The Bluewater Route
-  Alternative Route (Cobden to Ottawa)
-  Alternative Route (Huntsville to North Bay)
-  Alternative Route (Port Severn to London)
-  Alternative Route (Cochrane to Nipigon)
-  Alternative Route (Thunder Bay to Manitoba Border)



SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Discover Southern Ontario.

SOUTHERN ONTARIO RV ROUTES



WATERWAY ROUTE

South Eastern Ontario

 11-DAY TOUR  1900 KM

Discover Ontario's great historic waterways, see the nation's capital and tour through the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River on this 11-day tour through South Eastern Ontario.



PORTS & FORTS ROUTE

South Western Ontario

 9-DAY TOUR  1300 KM

See the great historic ports and forts of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, learn about the significance of the shipping industry, relax in wine country and discover the great Niagara Falls on this 9-day tour through South Western Ontario.



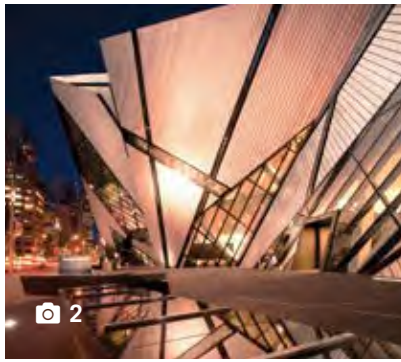
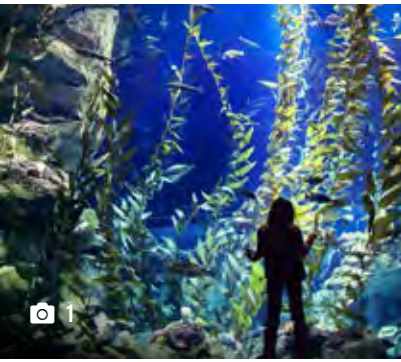
BLUEWATER ROUTE

South Central Ontario

 9-DAY TOUR  1300 KM

Travel the Bluewater Coast and discover the crystal clear waters and endless sand beaches on this 9-day tour along the shores of magnificent Lake Huron.





DISCOVER TORONTO

Ontario's cosmopolitan capital city on Lake Ontario, the Metro Toronto population of 7 million accounts for almost half of the people in the entire province.

RV RENTAL STATIONS

Pearson International Airport serves as the gateway to RV rental stations around Toronto. Overseas visitors are required to spend at least one night in a hotel upon arrival. Many visitors will spend several days sightseeing and shopping in the city after drop-off.

Round trips from Southern Ontario hubs may range from a few hundred to a few thousand kilometers. Nine RV touring routes encompass all the regions in the province.

One way rentals are offered between Toronto, Montreal, Halifax in the east, and Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Whitehorse in the west. Trip planning and early booking is recommended.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Union Pearson Express runs between Pearson International Airport and Union Station in downtown.

The GO Train regional transit service runs to suburban communities and cities in the Golden Horseshoe Region along the lakeshore as far west as Kitchener and Windsor, north to Barrie, and south to Niagara Falls.

Tour the city aboard the hop-on, hop-off bus service or street cars through the city centre.

ATTRACTIONS

Toronto is marked most noticeably by the iconic CN Tower with panoramic views all around.

Ontario Science Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, and Ripley's Aquarium are close to the Lake Ontario waterfront with casual walks and dinner cruises.

Historic sites include Fort York, Osgoode Hall and Casa Loma. The Royal Ontario Museum has forty galleries focusing on natural history and world culture.

The city is a mecca for shopping at Kensington and St. Lawrence Markets, Queen St. West, Bloor St., and the Toronto Distillery District. The city offers an extremely diverse food scene from casual to fine dining.

Queens' Park includes the Provincial Legislature Building and the old Toronto City Hall.

Toronto is the home of the world champions Raptors basketball and Blue Jays baseball. Argonauts play in the Canadian Football League. The NHL Hockey Hall of Fame is home to the Stanley Cup, one of the world's oldest sport trophies. League play for the Maple Leafs runs between September and April.

Vaughn hosts Canada's Wonderland that has the world's tallest, longest and fastest dive coaster.

IMAGES

1 Ripley's Aquarium of Canada Marine Exhibit / Destination Ontario

2 Royal Ontario Museum / Destination Canada

3 CN Tower / Destination Canada – Alan Brutenic

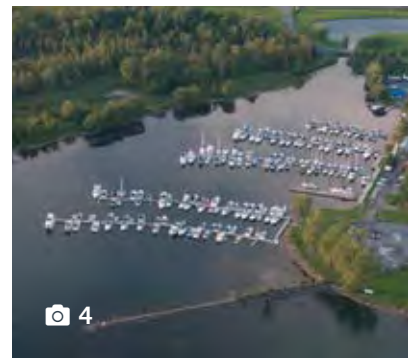
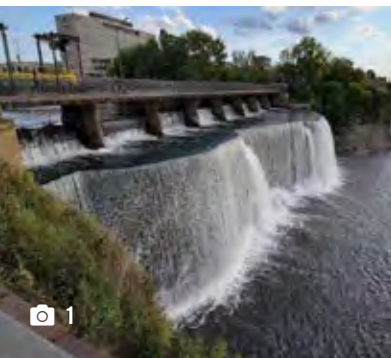
4 Downtown Toronto / Destination Canada – Alan Brutenic



WATERWAY
ROUTE

AN 11-DAY TOUR THROUGH SOUTH EASTERN ONTARIO

Discover Ontario's Great Waterways.



DISCOVER THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SOUTH EASTERN ONTARIO'S GREAT WATERWAYS.



11-DAY TOUR 1900 KM

This RV route runs eastward on Hwy#7 from Port Severn on Georgian Bay, through cottage country to Ottawa, down the Ottawa River Valley, back on Hwy#2 along the north shore of Lake Ontario to the intersection with Hwy#400 north of Toronto. There are many deviations and side trips to campgrounds and points of interest that intercept the Trent-Severn Waterway and Rideau Canal.

LOCKS, CANALS & WATERWAYS

These RV routes follow the waterways of South Eastern Ontario.

Waterway transport was essential to settlement and industrial development in Southern Ontario. The massive St. Lawrence Seaway Project opened the Great Lakes to ocean-going vessels and provided passage of lake freighters between mines and mills.

There are 13 Canadian locks, and 2 on the U.S. side. Each lock is 233 m long, 24 m wide and 9 m deep. A lock fills with 90 million liters in just ten minutes with ship transit through each lock in less than an hour.

The Trent-Severn Waterway between Port Severn on Georgian Bay and Trenton on Lake Superior runs through Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough. The Rideau Canal connects Kingston and Ottawa through a system of national historic sites beside numerous locks and canals.

IMAGES

- 1 Rideau Falls – Ottawa / Gord Rees
- 2 St. Lawrence River, Kingston / Destination Ontario
- 3 Upper Canada Village / Destination Ontario
- 4 Parks of St. Lawrence / Destination Ontario





WATERWAY ROUTE



ITINERARY

- 1 Port Severn to Kirkfield
- 2 Kirkfield to Peterborough
- 3 Peterborough to Smiths Falls
- 4 Smiths Falls to Ottawa
- 5 Gatineau to Hawkesbury
- 6 Hawkesbury to Cornwall
- 7 Cornwall to Prescott
- 8 Prescott to Kingston
- 9 Kingston to Belleville
- 10 Belleville to Oshawa
- 11 Oshawa to Guelph

EASTBOUND ROUTE

PORT SEVERN / OTTAWA / CORNWALL

Port Severn to Cornwall. Starting at Port Severn on Georgian Bay, the eastbound route cuts across cottage country and lake shores lined with vacation homes. Orillia, Lindsay, Peterborough and Perth located on the Trent Waterway, make up a string of historic towns on the fringe of the Canadian Shield. Continue to the nation's capital in Ottawa, and then southeastward along the Ottawa River through Franco-Canadian country on the Quebec border. The route intercepts the St. Lawrence River at Cornwall. Highlights include the Trent-Severn Waterway, the Rideau Canal and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

WESTBOUND ROUTE

CORNWALL / OSHAWA / GUELPH

Cornwall to Guelph. The westbound portion of the RV touring route between Cornwall and Oshawa features the lowlands along the St. Lawrence Seaway that run through Morrisburg, Iroquois, Prescott, Brockville, Gananoque and Kingston. Highlights include Parks of the St. Lawrence and Upper Canada Village.

The westbound route intercepts the Rideau Canal and the Trent Waterway at several points before heading north of Toronto to Guelph.

TOP 10 TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 01 Trent-Severn Waterway – Port Severn-Trenton.
- 02 Kirkfield / Peterborough Lift Locks – Trent Waterway.
- 03 Parliament Buildings – Ottawa.
- 04 Rideau Canal – Ottawa to Kingston.
- 05 Parks of the St. Lawrence – Cornwall.
- 06 Upper Canada Village – Morrisburg.
- 07 Long Sault Parkway – Long Sault.
- 08 Loyalist Parkway – Brockville to Kingston.
- 09 1000 Islands Parkway – Gananoque.
- 10 Lake Ontario – Joins the St. Lawrence River at Kingston.



OTHER SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

- 📍 Canadian Canoe Museum – Peterborough.
- 📍 Mammoth Cheese exhibit – Perth.
- 📍 National War Memorial – Changing of the Guard – Ottawa.
- 📍 Canadian Museum of History – Gatineau.
- 📍 Glengarry Pioneer Museum – Dunvegan.
- 📍 St. Lawrence Seaway Lock #34 – Iroquois.
- 📍 Fort Wellington – Prescott.
- 📍 Thousand Island National Park. Grenadier Island – Rockport.
- 📍 Thousand Islands National Park. Aubrey – Gananoque.
- 📍 UEL Monument and Heritage Centre – Adolphustown.
- 📍 Canadian Air Force Memorial Museum – Trenton.
- 📍 Fort Henry – Kingston.
- 📍 Kingston Penitentiary – Kingston.
- 📍 Canadian Automotive Museum – Oshawa.
- 📍 Canada's Wonderland Amusement Park – Toronto.

Regional Tourism Organizations in South Eastern Ontario:

Tourism Regions in South Eastern Ontario include: RTO#6 (YDH), RTO#8 (Kawartha and Northumberland), RTO#9 (South Eastern Ontario), RTO#10 (Ottawa & Countryside) and RTO#11 (Haliburton Highlands and the Ottawa Valley).



* National historic and Ontario heritage sites are marked with an asterisk [*] throughout this guide.

Day One

TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY / PORT SEVERN / ORILLIA / KIRKFIELD

 Georgian Bay Coast near Port Severn / Destination Ontario



 1



 2



 3

TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY*

This historic waterway traverses South Eastern Ontario's cottage country. The 400-km-long lake and canal system joins together the Trent River, Otonabee River and Kawartha Lakes, Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching between Port Severn on Georgian Bay and Trenton on the Bay of Quinte. The Trent-Severn is one of Ontario's major recreational waterways that contains 45 locks, 39 swing bridges, and 160 dams and control structures. Originally a commercial transportation system, the Trent-Severn Waterway is administered by Parks Canada.

The Waterway winds through towns, sleepy villages, and countless historic stops on the South Eastern segment of this touring route in Ontario. Canals and locks raise and lower water levels for the passage of vessels between the rugged Canadian Shield in the north and the lowlands lying north along the shores of Lake Ontario.

IMAGES

 1 Balsam Lake / Ontario Parks

 2 Leacock Museum National Historic site / Sandra Keele

 3 Kirkfield Lift Lock / Gord Rees



WATERWAY ROUTE

- 1 Kirkfield
- 2 Peterborough
- 3 Smiths Falls
- 4 Ottawa
- 5 Hawkesbury
- 6 Cornwall
- 7 Prescott
- 8 Kingston
- 9 Belleville
- 10 Oshawa
- 11 Guelph

Route – 150 km
 From Port Severn, head south on Hwy#400 and Hwy#12 to Orillia. From Orillia, continue down Hwy#12 to Hwy#48. Head east on Hwy#48 to Kirkfield.



1 DAY ONE

Port Severn to Fenelon Falls

- **Port Severn.** Big Chute Marine Railway* serves a steady stream of pleasure boats portaging the Trent-Severn Waterway. Designated as Lock 44, the large cradle-carriage, like a giant roller coaster, can lift a pleasure craft up to 30 m long and 7 m wide a height of 18 m over the dam. The locks are operated by Parks Canada with visitor centre and observation deck.
- **Orillia.** Known as “Mariposa” in Stephen Leacock’s 1912 fictional novel. Take a tour of Stephen Leacock’s home at the Leacock Museum National Historic site*. Hometown of singer Gordon Lightfoot who composed the tragic story of the sinking of the ore-carrier Edmund Fitzgerald during a fierce winter storm on Lake Superior. Couchiching Beach Park features a town dock and sandy beaches along the shores of Lake Couchiching. Located next to the park is French’s Hot Dog Stand, which opened in 1920 and still operates.
- **Kirkfield Lift Lock*** has a lift lock located at the highest elevation of the Trent waterway. The massive hydraulic lift Lock 36 is designated in the order of numbering of locks starting from Trenton on Lake Ontario. A self-guided tour explains the operations. It serves as a tourist attraction for its unusual engineering that allows boats to be lifted high into the air. Recreational boaters are the only users of the Trent waterway.



WHERE TO CAMP



Balsam Lake Provincial Park. Kirkfield. Trent-Severn Waterway. Large sandy beach. Easy day trip hiking trails. **Services:** Electric and non-electric sites. Sani-dump/fill stations. Flush toilets/showers. Park store. Laundromat. Canoe rentals. Boat Launch.



Sandy Beach Resort. Fenelon Falls. Balsam Lake on Trent-Severn Waterway. **Services:** 11 fully-serviced RV sites. Sani-dump. Toilets/showers. Boat launch. Sandy swimming area.




Port Severn and Orillia are connecting points to the [Fur Trade Route](#) and the [Prospector Route](#).



Mariposa Market on **Mississaga Street** in **Orillia** is where the old fashioned shopping emporium hosts a vintage **Sweet Shoppe** and old timers will still find Cracker Jack boxes on the shelves.

Day Two

KIRKFIELD / FENELON FALLS / PETERBOROUGH

 Kawartha Lakes / Destination Ontario

COTTAGE COUNTRY

Cottage Country is a general urbanite term for summer hot spots in the Muskokas' between the Kawartha Lakes to the Haliburton Highlands along the Trent Severn Waterway. Beach front cottages are being rebuilt into elaborate permanent homes, causing land values to soar.

Kawartha Lakes is a large area with many lakes strung out along the southern fringe of the rocky Canadian Shield. Charming towns and villages including Fenelon Falls, Kirkfield and Lindsay lie along parts of the Trans Canada Trail.

House boating is a favorite pastime. Egan Houseboat Rentals has the largest fleet in Ontario. Local farmer markets are held in Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Lindsay, Peterborough, Buckhorn and other small towns along the Trent-Severn Trail.

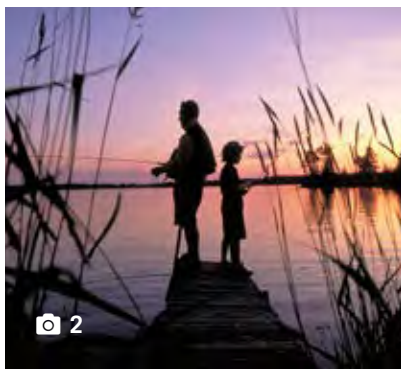


IMAGES

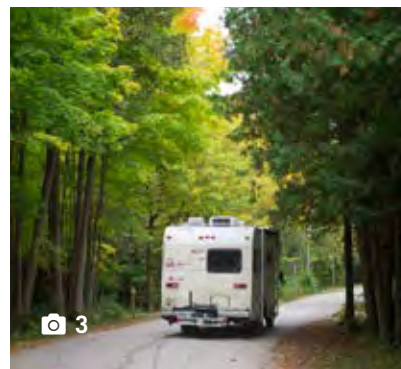
 1 Cox Terrace Housing / Gord Rees  2 Cottage Country / Destination Ontario  3 Emily Provincial Park / Ontario Parks  4 Peterborough Lift Lock / Gord Rees



 1



 2



 3



 4



WATERWAY ROUTE

Route – 120 km
 From Kirkfield, head south on Hwy#6 to Hwy#8. Follow Hwy#8 eastward to Fenelon Falls. Continue south on Hwy#121 and Hwy#35 to Lindsay (approximately 20 minutes). Another 40 minutes east along Hwy#7 and Hwy#3 will bring travellers to Peterborough.

- 1 Port Severn
- 2 Peterborough
- 3 Smiths Falls
- 4 Ottawa
- 5 Hawkesbury
- 6 Cornwall
- 7 Prescott
- 8 Kingston
- 9 Belleville
- 10 Oshawa
- 11 Guelph



2 DAY TWO

Travel from Kirkfield to Peterborough.

- **Fenelon Falls.** Lock 34 is surrounded by flower gardens provided by the Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society. **James Wallis' Maryboro Lodge*** commemorates extensive land settlement and the donation of his land for the community's first church in 1835.
- **Lindsay.** Olde Gaol Museum and Heritage Centre. Old Mill Park is located right next to Lock 33. The shining spire on St. Paul's Anglican Church stands in stark contrast to the barbed wire fence surrounding the nearby Central East Correctional Institute.
- **Peterborough** is the location of hydraulic **Lift Lock 21*** It is another masterpiece of engineering of hydraulic lift chambers on the Trent waterway built between 1896 and 1904. Peterborough Museum and Archives features early settlement and the manufacturing industries that include street cars made by Canadian General Electric in 1899. It was the first city to have electric street lights. Housing took on many forms including Cox Terrace row houses*, workers homes and so-called developer homes as examples of residential housing built during the Second Empire. Second Empire refers to a popular 1850s style of mansions, reflecting a French influence from the Napoleonic era and seen throughout Southern Ontario. The distinctive mansard roof and elaborate ornamentals would distinguish the political and economic stature of the owners.



- Explore the historic influence of canoe travel at the **Canadian Canoe Museum** in Peterborough, with canoes stemming from the fur trade used to carry 80lb bales of beaver pelts down the waterways to Montreal. Three "Royal Canoes" on display were offered as gifts to the Royal Family.

WHERE TO CAMP



Alpine RV Resort. Lindsay. Sturgeon Lake is part of the Trent canal system. 20 minutes south of Fenelon Falls. 40 minutes from Peterborough. **Services:** Fully serviced. Boat Launch. Hiking Trails.



Kawartha Trails Resort. Peterborough. Otonabee River on Trent-Severn Waterway. One hour southeast of Fenelon Falls. **Services:** Electrical and water hookups. Sani-dump. Toilets/showers. Boat launch. Wifi.



Emily Provincial Park. Situated on Pigeon Lake. Peterborough. **Services:** Hill and Circle Campgrounds. Electric and non-electric sites. Sani-dump/fill stations. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Canoe rentals.

Day Three

SHARBOT LAKE / PERTH / PORT ELMSLEY / SMITHS FALLS



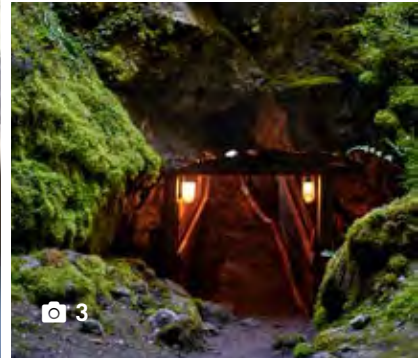
Owl Rafting – Ottawa River / Destination Ontario



1



2



3

3 DAY THREE

Travel from Peterborough to Smiths Falls.

Follow Hwy#7 through Perth, Smiths Falls towards Carleton Place and the outskirts of Ottawa.

- **Sharbot Lake.** A small lake front village with a notable rail history including a caboose and railroad signals.
- **Perth** was founded in 1816 on the Tay River as part of defense strategy which protected the passage way on the Rideau Canal between Ottawa and Fort Henry in Kingston.

The Tay Canal link to the Rideau Canal is connected by five wooden locks built by an enterprising group of private investors to ensure Perth's participation in the commercial trade in Upper Canada. Visit the Heritage Conservation District with streets lined with some of the finest, well-preserved stone buildings from the 1830-1850s. **McMartin House*** is a dedicated marker for the Loyalist elites.

The Tay Canal — Perth Ontario / Sandra Keele



IMAGES

- 1 Hiking at Sharbot Lake Provincial / Ontario Parks
- 2 Docks on Sharbot Lake Provincial Park / Ontario Parks
- 3 Silver Queen Mine, Murphys Point Provincial Park / Ontario Parks



WATERWAY
ROUTE







- 1 Port Severn
- 2 Peterborough
- 3 **Smiths Falls**
- 4 Ottawa
- 5 Hawkesbury
- 6 Cornwall
- 7 Prescott
- 8 Kingston
- 9 Belleville
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- 11 Guelph




- **The Mammoth Cheese exhibit** is a full-size replica of a 10,000 kg cheese block in downtown Perth that was made to promote Canadian cheese around the world. Twelve cheese makers from Lanark County donated a day's supply of milk from 10,000 cows to the project. The big cheese garnered extraordinary publicity at the Chicago world's fair when its weight caused it to crash through the floor of the exhibition hall.
- **Port Elmsley.** A rural village sits among many others on the Rideau waterway as it winds between Perth and Smiths Falls. The still functioning drive-in theatre is listed as a place of interest. The area typifies the granting of large blocks of crown land to Americans who defected north during the Revolutionary War. A driving tour provides a routing to notable mansions and landmarks.
- **Smiths Falls.** Rideau Canal Visitor Centre and Museum is located in a 19th Century stone mill building with an observation room on the top floor. The Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario is housed in the old CPR station. In 1964, the RCA Victor Plant pressed the first Beatle album in North America. The single span **Bascule Railway Bridge*** lifts by counter weights to allow clearance for boats to pass. It works on the same principle as the Tower of London draw bridge.




WHERE TO CAMP

-  **Sharbot Lake Provincial Park.** Sharbot Lake on Hwy#7. Mixed forest on edge of the Canadian Shield.  **Services:** Electric and non-electric sites. Sani-dump/fill stations. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park store. Canoe rentals.
-  **Murphys Point Provincial Park.** On Big Rideau Lake. Follow Hwy#1 between Perth and Smiths Falls, and then Hwy#21. Tours of Silver Queen Mine, an early 1900s mica mine.  **Services:** Electric and non-electric sites. Sani-dump/fill stations. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Canoe and kayak rentals. Boat launch.
-  **Rideau River Provincial Park.** Kemptville. Follow Hwy#43, Hwy#2 and Hwy#5 (30 minutes east of Smiths Falls). Located on historic Rideau Waterway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.  **Services:** Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park store. Canoe and kayak rentals. Boat launch.

 **TRAVEL TIPS**


 **Wheeler's Pancake House and Sugar Camp** is famous for fluffy pancakes and maple syrup flavored sausage. Located off Hwy#36 on Highland Line Road.

 **OWL Rafting** offers a legendary 12 km splash and roll ride through the white water rapids of the notorious Rocher Fendu. Six RV sites with hookups on site. Located off Hwy#17 at Cobden towards Arnprior.

Day Four

OTTAWA – DISCOVER THE NATION'S CAPITAL



 Parliament Hill – Ottawa / Destination Ontario

Rideau Canal Destination Ontario



RIDEAU CANAL*

Rideau Canal represents another historic chapter in preservation of Ontario's tourism sector. The entire 200 km long waterway is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** running the system of 46 locks between Kingston on Lake Ontario, and Ottawa on the Ottawa River. The best-preserved, slack-water canal system opened in 1832 to ensure safe passage on the waterway after threats of U.S. invasion across the nearby border at Kingston. Most locks are still hand-operated. Four uniquely designed block houses remain as national historic sites. The Commissariat Building on the canal in Ottawa now houses the Bytown Museum. The canal is now used by recreational boaters. The RV tour intersects the best viewpoints located between Ottawa, Smith Falls, Jones Falls and Kingston Mills.

 **IMAGES**  1 Parliament Hill  2 Canadian War Museum / Destination Canada  3 Capital Cruises, Parliament Hill  4 National Gallery of Canada



 1



 2



 3




 4



WATERWAY ROUTE

- 1 Port Severn
- 2 Peterborough
- 3 Smiths Falls
- 4 **Ottawa**
- 5 Hawkesbury
- 6 Cornwall
- 7 Prescott
- 8 Kingston
- 9 Belleville
- 10 Oshawa
- 11 Guelph

 **Route** - 120 km
 Head north on Hwy#15 to Carleton Place.
 Head northeast on Hwy#7, then connect to Hwy#417 east to Ottawa.



4 DAY FOUR

Travel from Smiths Falls to Ottawa.







Camp close to Ottawa to spend a minimum of 2 days in the nation's Capital.

- **Ottawa.** Parliament Hill is home to Canada's federal government. The city centre has many government and historic aspects including the Senate of Canada, Supreme Court of Canada, National Gallery of Canada, National Arts Centre, Bank of Canada Museum, and the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel. Nearby lie the Library & Archives of Canada and Canadian War Museum. The Changing of the Guard ceremony takes place in front of Parliament Hill. The Canadian Armed Forces posts sentries on-site at the National War Memorial daily from spring to fall. Stroll along Sparks Street with architecture that goes back to the 1840s.

Hand cranks operate the eight locks of the **Rideau Canal*** where it joins the Ottawa River. The canal offers recreational boaters 200 km of navigation on the waterway between Ottawa and Kingston on Lake Ontario.

Nepean Point offers views of the Ottawa skyline and Alexandra Bridge across the Ottawa River to Gatineau on the Quebec side. The Canada Aviation & Space Museum is located at the Rockcliffe Airport. The RCMP horse farm breeds the finest Hanoverian horses in Canada for the RCMP Musical Ride. Daily tours are available.

WHERE TO CAMP

-  **Wesley Clover Parks Campground.** Off Hwy#417, 15 minutes to downtown Ottawa.  **Services:** Electrical. Pull-thru sites. Sani-dump. Laundromat. Toilets/showers.
-  **Camp Hither Hills.** 25 minutes south of Ottawa on Hwy#31.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Sani-dump. Laundromat. Toilets/showers.
-  **Fitzroy Provincial Park.** Fitzroy Harbour. Hwy#5 northwest of Ottawa. The park features a boardwalk across the marsh.  **Services:** Flush toilets. Laundromat. Park Store. Hiking Trails. Canoe and kayak rentals. Beaches. Volleyball court. Playground. Small boat launch.



Note: Motorhomes are not allowed in city parking lots in downtown Ottawa. We recommend to use public transportation or a taxi from your campground to downtown.




Ottawa is a connecting point to the **Fur Trade Route** and **Prospector Route**.

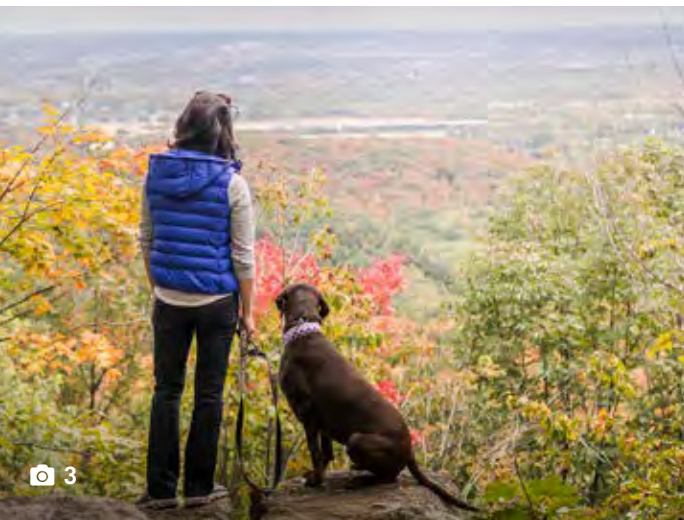
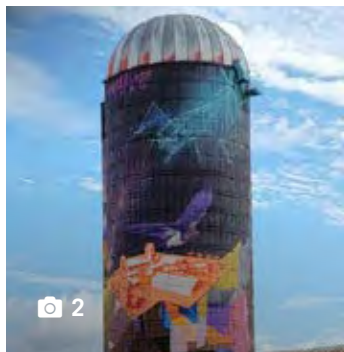


Visit **Tavern on the Falls**, featuring an outdoor patio overlooking east falls on Rideau River in Ottawa, close to the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Day Five

GATINEAU / PRESCOTT-RUSSELL / HAWKESBURY

 The Grand Hall Tour – Canadian Museum of History / Destination Canada



DAY FIVE

Spend an extra day in the nation's capital.

Spend an extra day to explore the art, architecture, history and heritage in the nation's capital and French culture in Gatineau, Quebec.

- **Gatineau.** Visit the Canadian Museum of History and Chaudiere Falls. There are 183 km of summer hiking trails in the Gatineau Hills located in the Outaouais Region of Quebec. Champlain Lookout is on a granite ridge at the top of Eardley Escarpment, 300 m above the Ottawa Valley.
- **Mackenzie King Estate (Gatineau Park).** Once the summer home of Canada's longest-serving prime minister, this 231-hectare (571 acre) property in Gatineau Park welcomes visitors to enjoy lunch, special activities, lush gardens and wooded trails. Explore the picturesque architectural ruins that King collected and reconstructed here.

IMAGES

 1 Gatineau / Destination Canada

 2 Popsilos / Gord Rees

 3 Gatineau Park / Ottawa Tourism



WATERWAY ROUTE

 Route - 150 km

After exploring Ottawa and Gatineau, follow Hwy#174 and connect to Hwy#17 E through Rockland and Alfred to Hawkesbury. Or take Hwy#417 through Casselman and Vankleek Hill to Hawkesbury.

- 1 Port Severn
- 2 Peterborough
- 3 Smiths Falls
- 4 Ottawa
- 5 Gatineau
- 6 Cornwall
- 7 Prescott
- 8 Kingston
- 9 Belleville
- 10 Oshawa
- 11 Guelph



PRESCOTT-RUSSELL COUNTY


Follow the Ottawa Valley through farmlands to the Franco-Ontarian region strong in language and culture along the Quebec border to the southeast. The Broue & Chew route heads from Rockland through Alfred, L'Original, Vankleek Hill, Hawkesbury and numerous quaint farming villages.

- **Prescott-Russell Villages.** Limoges has the Calypso Waterpark featuring the largest wave pool in Canada. The Bog Walk boardwalk in Alfred covers 180 km of trails.
- **Vankleek Hill** is a quaint village known as the "Gingerbread Capital of Ontario". The porches, windows and gables on over two hundred homes feature intricate gingerbread architectural designs. Millwork for the Victorian and Edwardian homes was ordered from catalogues. The South Eastern corner of Ontario features an unusual art exhibit on a self-guided driving tour. Some highly visible grain silos loom into view in the rural area on Hwy#417. Known as *Popsilos*, the farms display giant murals that average 65 ft high and cost \$40,000 each to paint.


- **Hawkesbury.** A largely French-speaking area alongside the Quebec border lying half-way between Ottawa and Montreal. This prominent agricultural area grows a large variety of vegetable and berry crops.

WHERE TO CAMP



Cedar Shade Campground. Alfred. Off Hwy#17 about 45 minutes east from Ottawa.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Restaurant. Store.



Voyageur Provincial Park. Off Hwy#4, 15 minutes east of Hawkesbury. The park features four beaches on the Ottawa River.  **Services:** Electric and non-electric sites. Sani-dump/fill stations. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park Store. Canoe and kayak rentals.



TRAVEL TIP



Lady Dive Bus Tours. Take a city tour on a classic hop on / hop off double decker bus or take a ride on an amphibious bus motoring on the Ottawa River.





Historic Jail, SDG Counties / SDG Tourism

6 DAY SIX

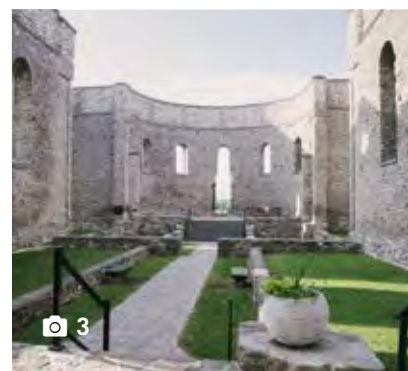
Travel from Hawkesbury to Cornwall.

Cornwall and the Counties includes the amalgamation of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, referred to as SDG.

- **Point-Fortune.** Macdonnell-Williamson House*, built in 1819, is located on the banks of the Ottawa River below the dam and power house at Carillon Rapids. It was designated a National Historic site by Parks Canada as the finest of several rubble-stone houses built in the area by retired North West Company fur trading partners.

IMAGES

- 1 Country Roads, SDG County / SDG Tourism
- 2 Waterfront Campsite on the St. Lawrence River / Gord Rees
- 3 Historic Ruins of St. Raphael Cathedral / SDG Tourism





WATERWAY
ROUTE

- 1 Port Severn
- 2 Peterborough
- 3 Smiths Falls
- 4 Ottawa
- 5 Gatineau
- 6 **Cornwall**
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≡ Route – 300 km

Follow County Road#17 east from Hawkesbury and connect to Hwy#417, then take exit 1 to Pointe Fortune. Back track to Hwy#417 and exit south onto Hwy#34 through Glengarry County to Lancaster. Begin travelling westward on Hwy#401, take exit 792 to Cornwall, or follow Hwy#2 south of Lancaster along the St. Lawrence River to Cornwall.



- **Glengarry County** stretching north of Hwy#401, is Ontario's Celtic Heartland. It has been asserted that Glengarry was its own nation with Gaelic the common language in the region. Immigration was originally made up of Scottish emigrants from the Scottish Highlands. Sixty points of interest are included in the North and South Glengarry circuits. Williamstown boasts of **St. Andrew's Church*** dating back to 1787, with the present church rebuilt in 1802. Be sure to visit the Vankleek Hill Museum and Glengarry Pioneer Museum on County Road#24 in Dunvegan.
- **Historic stone ruins of the St. Raphael Cathedral*** north of Williamstown looks more like it could be resurrected from Rome. It once served as the administrative centre for the Catholic Church in Upper Canada.
- **Cornwall**, Ontario's most easterly city was settled by an influx of Empire Loyalists from the Thirteen Colonies in 1784, combined with a mix of French Canadian and Acadian migrants. The town figured prominently as an industrial centre along the St. Lawrence River. The Historic SDG Jail was decommissioned in 2002, and now offers seasonal tours and paranormal experiences. A particular characteristic of Eastern Ontario was the work "bee" named as such for the communal efforts for collective projects, or for helping individual families.

WHERE TO CAMP



Maplewood Acres. Bainsville. Hwy#401 at exit 825 near Cornwall.

✓ **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.



Upper Canada Campground. Morrisburg. Hwy#401 exit 758 north. ✓ **Services:** Electrical. Sani-dump. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers.



Parks of the St. Lawrence. Eight campgrounds between Cornwall and Morrisburg. These campgrounds feature some premium waterfront sites along the St. Lawrence River.



TRAVEL TIP



Pull into road-side café **La Patate du Coin** in St. Eugene. Cheese curd is a delicacy in the Franco-Canadian region.

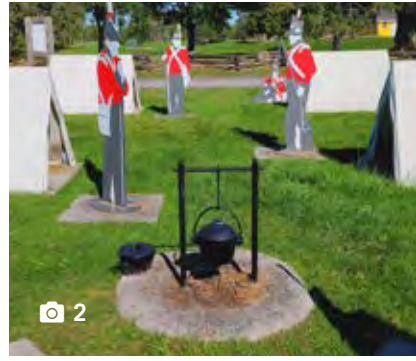
Preparing Fresh Cut Fries Destination Ontario



Day Seven

CORNWALL / LONG SAULT / IROQUOIS / PRESCOTT

Long Sault Parkway / SDG Tourism



ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY*

This portion of the RV touring route between Cornwall and Belleville features the great waterways of South Eastern Ontario which run through Morrisburg, Iroquois, Prescott, Brockville, Gananoque and Kingston.

Highlights include Parks of the St. Lawrence and Upper Canada Village.

7 DAY SEVEN

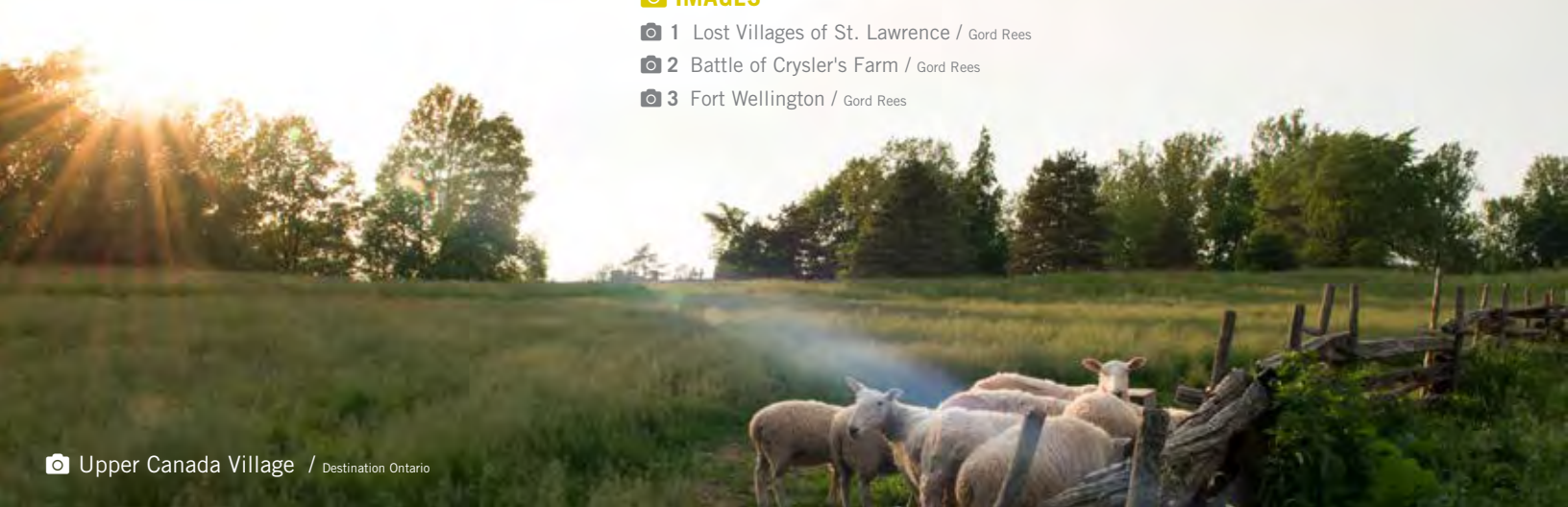
Travel from Cornwall to Prescott.

- **Parks of the St. Lawrence** includes three campgrounds on the islands and five more on the north shore of the St. Lawrence. Woodlands, Mille Roches and McLaren are connected by the Long Sault Parkway. Farran Point, Glengarry, Upper Canada, Riverside, Ivy Lea and Riverside-Cedar stretch along Hwy#401. Long Sault Campgrounds are operated by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. Numerous campgrounds make this area a very popular holiday destination mid-way between Montreal and Toronto.

IMAGES

- 📷 1 Lost Villages of St. Lawrence / Gord Rees
- 📷 2 Battle of Crysler's Farm / Gord Rees
- 📷 3 Fort Wellington / Gord Rees


Upper Canada Village / Destination Ontario



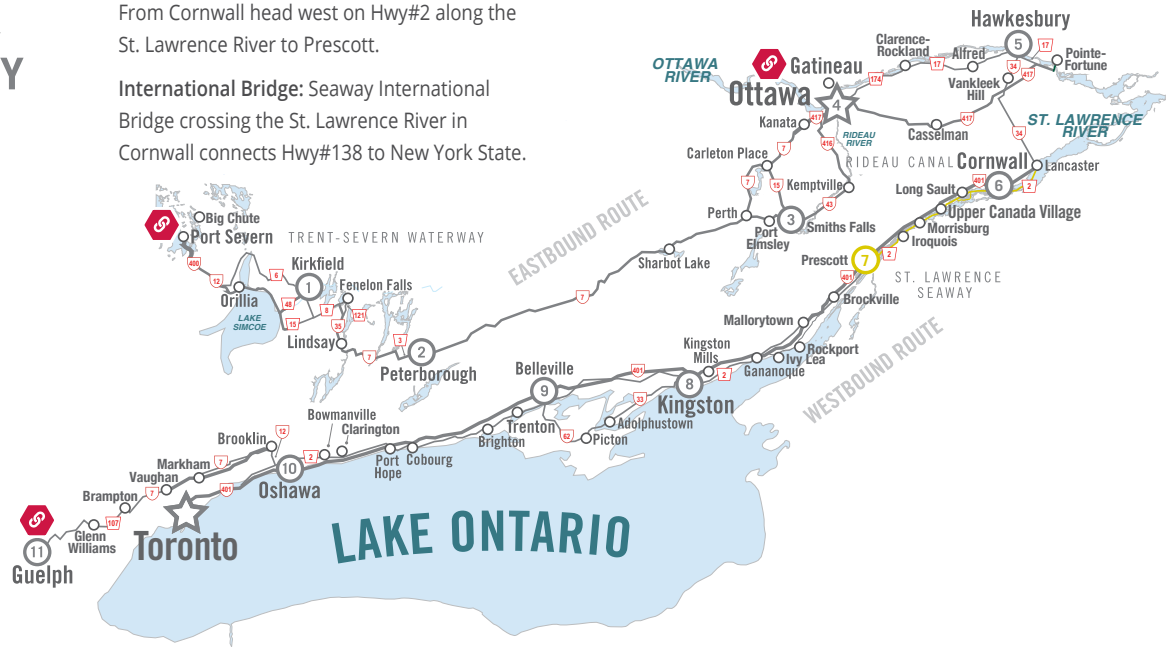


WATERWAY ROUTE

- 1 Port Severn
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- 11 Guelph

 Route – 120 km
From Cornwall head west on Hwy#2 along the St. Lawrence River to Prescott.

International Bridge: Seaway International Bridge crossing the St. Lawrence River in Cornwall connects Hwy#138 to New York State.




- **Long Sault Parkway** lying between Long Sault to the east, and Ingleside to the west, is a series of 11 scenic islands that stretch 10 kilometers between high points of land created by flooding of the St. Lawrence Seaway.
- **Upper Canada Village***. Go back in time to the 1860s by strolling with a guide through the largest living-history site in Canada. Explore authentic buildings that were relocated from nine Lost Villages during the permanent flooding of the St. Lawrence Seaway Project in 1958. The set replicates an English Canadian village with blacksmith, bakery, printing office, sawmill, and a hand-pumper fire engine. The assembly of homes with period furniture and antique wood stoves depict the lifestyle of a prosperous middle class merchant family, a farm house, and hired-hand's log cabin.


"Farran's Point" is typical of the small sunken villages of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The area was settled when large land grants were offered in payment for loyal service to the British Crown. United Empire Loyalists moved north after the American War of Independence in 1784. The living museum is located in Morrisburg, just east of Long Sault.

The Battle of Chrysler's Farm.* sits above the battleground near Upper Canada Village east of Morrisburg, where the British encampment marks one of the most decisive battles to defeat the American forces in the War of 1812. The site is marked by replica iron tents and soldiers with muskets in very noticeable red and white uniforms.

- **Iroquois.** One of the few close-up views of the locks to see lakers and ocean freighters transiting the bi-national St. Lawrence Seaway. Seven locks raise vessels 246 ft above sea level between the Atlantic Ocean and Lake Ontario. The 766-foot chamber on each lock fills 91 million liters in ten minutes which allows a ship passage through each lock in about 45 minutes.
- **Prescott.** Fort Wellington* represents one of the best preserved 19th century fortifications along the St. Lawrence River. It is famous for the nearby site of the **Battle of the Windmill*** in 1838 during the Upper Canada Rebellion where Loyalists defeated an invasion of insurgents from the States. Visit the Downtown historic area with wall plaques that explains the history and events during early settlement. The Prescott to Bytown railroad became part the CNR rail network in later years.

WHERE TO CAMP

 **Parks of the St. Lawrence.** Eight campgrounds between Cornwall and Morrisburg. Some premium waterfront sites along the river.

 **Happy Green Acres KOA.** Mallorytown. 25 minutes southwest of Prescott.

✓ **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.

 **Cardinal KOA.** 20 minutes southwest of Iroquois.

✓ **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.

Day Eight

PRESCOTT / THOUSAND ISLANDS / KINGSTON



 1000 Islands Rockport Boat Line / Destination Canada – Rockport Boat Line



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DAY EIGHT

Prescott to Kingston through the Thousand Islands.

The St. Lawrence River has long been a conduit for smuggling pirate loot, gold and alcohol between neighbouring countries.

- **Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge** is made up of six suspension bridge connections. It is also known as the St. Lawrence Bridge and the Seaway Skyway that crosses the St. Lawrence River on Hwy#416.
- **Brockville** is known as the City of the 1000 Islands. Stroll through the **1439-foot Railway Tunnel***, the first to be built in Canada and designed to provide railway access to the waterfront. This transformed pedestrian tunnel running underneath the city presents a brilliant display of rock cuts and stalactites illuminated by LED lighting. River boat tours are offered as a choice of high-speed adventure on the “Wildcat”, or the finely appointed “Lady of the Isles”. Choose from numerous 1 or 3 hour boat cruises, or a Sunset Dinner Cruise.

IMAGES

 1 Charleston Lake Provincial Park / Gord Rees

 2 The Neoclassical Court House and Gaol / Gord Rees

 3 Thousand Islands International Bridge / Destination Ontario



WATERWAY ROUTE

- 1 Port Severn
- 2 Peterborough
- 3 Smiths Falls
- 4 Ottawa
- 5 Gatineau
- 6 Cornwall
- 7 Prescott
- 8 Kingston
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- 10 Oshawa
- 11 Guelph

 Route – 130 km

Head west on Hwy#2 from Prescott to Brockville. Continue west on Hwy#2 from Brockville to the Thousand Island Parkway. Continue along the Parkway along the shores of the St. Lawrence River and merge back on Hwy#2 to Gananoque. Continue west on Hwy#2 to Kingston.











- **The neoclassical Court House and Gaol*** located in the Historic Area of Brockville has a 3.5 m statue of Sally Parker mounted on the pinnacle as an anonymous symbol of Justice and was one of the first law courts in Upper Canada. The gardens facing Court House Square provide a vista and a statue of Major General Sir Isaac Brock, a British officer who was celebrated for his military victory against American forces at Fort Detroit, and in the Niagara Peninsula where he was shot and killed during the early days of the border war.
- **Thousand Island Parkway** begins just west of Brockville, near Butternut Bay. It extends westerly for about 40 km to Gananoque.
- **Thousand Islands National Park.** A historic wilderness park featuring picturesque granite islands and windswept pine trees along the shores of the St. Lawrence River. Paddlers can explore secluded bays and channels of the Thousand Islands. Hiking trails offer the opportunity to observe rare species of turtles and birds.
- **Thousand Islands International Bridge** is a system of five arched bridges spanning the St. Lawrence River to New York State. It serves as an entry of American visitors arriving near Ivy Lea west of Rockport on Hwy#137 to #401. Built during the Great Depression, it stands as a symbol of lasting friendship and peace between two northern neighbors.
- **Mallorytown** was founded by the United Empire Loyalists in 1784. The village became the site of Canada's first glassworks factory. Thousand Island Boat Museum, London Bay lookout and interpretive centre are located in Mallory Landing.

- **Rockport.** Two prominent castles on the U.S. side are accessed by Rockport Cruises. Passports are required for landing. The Boldt Castle on Hearth Island belies the fate of a distressed owner whose wife died before completion. Singer Castle, known to have mysterious hidden doors and secret buttons concealing rooms and chambers, is a part time residence for the family of the sewing machine empire.
- **Gananoque** is a gateway to the 1000 Islands, with twenty islands concentrated along a stretch of the St. Lawrence River. The town, located at the western end of the Thousand Island Parkway, is the birthplace of *Thousand Island Dressing!*

The eastern extremity of Lake Ontario is packed by a chain of islands where the lake drains into the St. Lawrence River and hence gives rise to the elaborate lock system on the St. Lawrence Seaway. Vacation homes on many of the "1000 islands" are inhabited during the summer months.

WHERE TO CAMP

-  **Charleston Lake Provincial Park.** Inland off Hwy#3 between Brockville and Gananoque.  **Services:** Electric and non-electric sites. Sani-dump/fill stations. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Visitor centre. Park store. Canoe and kayak rentals.
-  **Sand Lake Campground.** Elgin. Hwy#32 about 50 km north of Gananoque.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Boat rentals. Canoe and kayak rentals.
-  **KOA 1000 Islands.** Kingston. Close to downtown.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.
-  **Rideau Acres Campground.** On Hwy#15 north of Hwy#401 about 8 km from Kingston.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store. Restaurant. Boat rentals.



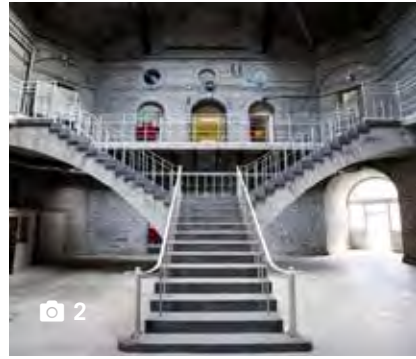
Day Nine

KINGSTON / PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY / BELLEVILLE

Grange of Prince Edward Vineyards & Estate Winerys / J.-F. Bergeron / ENVIRO FOTO



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2



3



Prince Edward County Coast Destination Ontario

BAY OF QUINTE

Bay of Quinte is just east of the head of the St. Lawrence River. Quinte is also a region situated along the Bay that encompasses Napanee, Belleville, Brighton and Trenton.

IMAGES

1 Sandbanks Provincial Park / Destination Ontario 2 Kingston Penitentiary / Destination Ontario 3 Fort Henry / Destination Canada

9 DAY NINE

Travel through Kingston to Belleville.

- Kingston.** One of Ontario's most eminent cities for early Canadian history. Kingston City Hall* commands the downtown waterfront. **Fort Henry*** is part of Ontario's UNESCO World Heritage Centre where there are four Martello Towers visible on the river islands. The distinctive design featured round walls that would deflect cannon balls when under attack.

Tourism attractions include the downtown waterfront, city hall, Queens' University, Bellevue House and a tour of the **Kingston "Pen"*** where notorious Canadian serial killers were housed behind concrete walls in maximum segregation units until its closure in 2013.

Sir John A. Macdonald was the chief architect of Confederation which led to the creation of the Dominion of Canada on July 1st, 1867. As the new country's first prime minister, his government completed the transcontinental railway and opened the West for development. He also created a national police force known as the North-West Mounted Police that later became the RCMP. He named **Bellevue*** as his country estate.




WATERWAY ROUTE

- 1 Port Severn
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- 6 Cornwall
- 7 Iroquois
- 8 Kingston
- 9 Belleville
- 10 Oshawa
- 11 Guelph

 Route - 130 km


Take Hwy#33 from Kingston to Adolphustown. A free ferry crossing departs every 15 minutes and links up to the Loyalists Parkway to Picton in Prince Edward County. Explore Prince Edward County and then head back north on Hwy#62 to Belleville.




- **Kingston Mills*** is the beginning of the 202 km Rideau waterway built 160 years ago to protect Canada's capital from American invasion. **The Rideau Canal Waterway*** became a UNESCO World Heritage site marking the 49 sets of locks on the route. The canal traces routes for exploration, defense, commerce and transportation that helped shape Canadian development. Stop at picnic areas to view yachts passing through the locks.
 - **Adolphustown** is located on one of the oldest colonial roads in Ontario. Eastern terminus of Glenora ferry, a free crossing that departs every 15 minutes, and links up with the Loyalist Parkway to Picton. UEL monument marks the spot of the first landing of the Loyalists in 1784.
 - **Prince Edward County.** Take the island route noted for wine, cheese and cider or beer tastings. The agricultural area has more than forty estate wineries. Pinot Noir and chardonnay are most common grape varieties. The county has a number of quaint loyalist towns such as Wellington and Bloomfield, with charming architecture, farm markets and antique stores.
-  **Sandbanks Provincial Park** is located near Picton and features the world's largest *freshwater* baymouth barrier dune formation. Lakeshore and Outlet Beaches have shallow waters and gentle drop-offs well suited to families. Day use permits need to be booked and reservations recommended for overnight sites.
- **Picton** and the surrounding area are known for strong Loyalist heritage. The Naval Marine Archives hold an extensive collection of mercantile marine, navies and displays of Great Lakes' history. It serves lakera as a deep water port.

- **Belleville**, located on the Bay of Quinte, hosts numerous distinctive historic stone buildings in various architectural styles from the 1850s including City Hall* representative of Victorian High Gothic style. Glanmore House*, built in 1883 by a wealthy banker, is an excellent example of the Second Empire style popular among the upper middle class. Grand Trunk Railway station * is the oldest continuously operating railway station in Canada and still serves the mainline between Toronto and Montreal. The Belleville Armory is listed on the Register of the Government of Canada Heritage Buildings. The town was the first location for Dixie Lee Fried Chicken fast food and became the fourth largest chicken franchise company in Canada.

WHERE TO CAMP

 **Presqu'île Provincial Park.** Near the town of Brighton. Lighthouse Centre and Nature Centre. Highly favoured camping area located on a peninsula extending out in Lake Ontario.

✔ **Services:** Electric and non-electric sites. Sani-dump/fill stations. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Visitor centre. Park store.

 **KOA. Brighton.** Hwy#401 between Belleville and Cobourg. ✔ **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Restaurant. Store.



TRAVEL TIP

Look for **Slickers** handmade ice cream in Bloomfield and Picton.



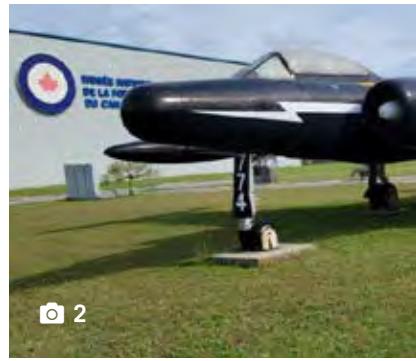
Day Ten

TRENTON / COBOURG / PORT HOPE / OSHAWA / YDH

📷 Rice Lake, Northumberland / Destination Ontario



📷 1



📷 2



📷 3

NORTHHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Northumberland County includes portions of the Trent-Severn waterway including Rice Lake, and shoreline communities like Brighton, Colborne, Cobourg and Port Hope. Enjoy wellness and spa life in Cobourg and Grafton. Ride the antique heritage carousel with 40 basswood horses for a timeless musical journey in Roseneath.

Presqu'île Lighthouse — Ontario Parks



10 DAY TEN

Travel from Belleville to Oshawa.

- **Trenton.** Gateway to the Trent waterway. National Air Force Museum of Canada hosts over 30 aircraft, including a Halifax NA337 bomber, Harvard Trainer, CF101-Voodoo fighter, Dakota freighter and a Russian MiG-21. A Lancaster bomber is being restored by volunteers at a cost of nearly a million dollars. Honors are paid to Colonel Chris Hatfield's career as the first Canadian astronaut to walk free in space and to command the International Space Station. Learn the amazing story of The Great Escape by Canadian airmen held Prisoners of War at Stalag Luft III during WWII. Note the memorabilia from RCAF-Flyers Olympic Champions in 1948. CFB Trenton manages the fleet of Canada's tactical transport and search and rescue aircraft.

📷 IMAGES

- 📷 1 Port Hope Countryside / Destination Ontario – photo by Macdougall
- 📷 2 National Airforce Museum of Canada / Sandra Keele
- 📷 3 Wine Sampling, York Durham Headwaters (YDH)



WATERWAY ROUTE

- 1 Port Severn
- 2 Peterborough
- 3 Smiths Falls
- 4 Ottawa
- 5 Gatineau
- 6 Cornwall
- 7 Prescott
- 8 Kingston
- 9 Belleville
- 10 Oshawa
- 11 Guelph

 Route – 150 km

Continue west on Hwy#401 from Belleville to Bowmanville. For a scenic route, follow Hwy#2 near the shores of Lake Ontario from Trenton to Port Hope.

Follow Hwy#2 west from Port Hope through Bowmanville to Oshawa.



- **Cobourg.** The **Victorian Town Hall*** is one of the finer public buildings from the 1850s. It reflects the prevalent economic optimism of the times.
- **Port Hope** was the first permanent settlement of Empire Loyalists from New York state that arrived in 1793. The port later provided waterfront access for **Eldorado*** at the Cameco refinery marking the development of nuclear energy from uranium ore where it extracted radium used in the early treatment of cancer. In 1942, soon after the atom was split for the first time, the Canadian government acquired Eldorado to refine uranium oxide. The only operation of its kind in North America, it supplied uranium for American nuclear research during WWII. Since 1995, the facility has processed uranium to fuel reactors throughout the world in production of electricity. The discovery of uranium in Elliot Lake is another example of Canada's rich endowment of natural resources.
- **Bowmanville.** Step back to different times with a visit to Clarington Museum, and Tyrone Mills. Since 1846 it has been a grist mill, bakery and apple cider producer. A group of stalag-like buildings was once a progressive boys school, and later used as an internment camp for **Prisoners of War*** during WWI. The buildings are abandoned and vandalized since being designated a controversial national historic site.
- **Oshawa.** Canadian Automotive Museum features Canadian built cars from 1900 to 1945 during a time when many small car companies operated in Ontario. A 46-hp 1929 Chev-6 on display sold originally for \$665. When Henry Ford heard of Chevrolets' success with increased cylinders, he rushed

to build the 8-cylinder engine. Ford introduced the V8 in 1932. It is the Canadian headquarters of GM Canada with auto assembly plants that encompass the city.

Robert McLoughlin Gallery pays tribute to the Group of Eleven, the first group of abstract Collective in Ontario.

The Ontario Regiment Museum has a hundred operational military vehicles that feature a "Battle Royale" on Saturdays where two WWII Leopard tanks go head-to head in the make-shift battlefield.

- **York Durham Headwaters** counties are referred to as YDH! Canada's Wonderland is the nation's premier amusement park with the longest and fastest dive coaster in the world. Families can easily spend a full day at Wonderland. Next door you will find one of Toronto's largest outlet malls Vaughan Mills. Numerous wineries offer wine tasting in the Holland Marsh area. Take a self-guided tour back through the prohibition era and the temperance movement in YDH.




TRAVEL TIP

Visit the **oldest historic lighthouse on Lake Ontario** in Brighton.

WHERE TO CAMP




Glen Rouge Campground. Just north of Hwy#401 near Pickering.  **Services:** Electrical. Pull-thru sites. Toilets/showers.

Day Eleven

OSHAWA / YORK DURHAM HEADWATERS / GUELPH



 Guelph Lake / Destination Ontario

DAY ELEVEN

Travel from Oshawa back to RV rental stations towards Toronto, or connect to the Ports & Forts Route in Southwestern Ontario.

Veer inland to farming country. Cross Hwy#400 north of Toronto to Kleinburg and Guelph.

- Kleinburg is home to the McMichael Art Collection. The Art Gallery features one of the finest collections of the “Group of Seven” artists and numerous works by Canada’s Aboriginal peoples. The historic town is nestled in the Humber Valley and ranks as one of Ontario’s “cutest” towns. Turn north on York Regional Rd#17 off Hwy#7 (15-minute drive).




The Waterway Route connects to the Ports & Forts Route in Guelph.

RV RENTAL STATIONS

- Canadream 33 West Drive, Brampton, ON
- Cruise Canada 12275 Highway 50, Bolton ON
- Fraserway RV 5362 County Road 27 N, Cookstown, ON
- Owasco RV Rentals 570 Rundle Road, Clarington, ON



WATERWAY ROUTE

 Route – 150 km

Continue west on Hwy#2 from Oshawa, then north on Hwy#12 to Brooklin.

Connect to Hwy#7 that skirts north of Downtown Toronto through Markham and Vaughan. Cross over #400 towards Brampton on Hwy#7 and Hwy#107 west to Guelph.

- 1 Port Severn
- 2 Peterborough
- 3 Smiths Falls
- 4 Ottawa
- 5 Gatineau
- 6 Cornwall
- 7 Prescott
- 8 Kingston
- 9 Belleville
- 10 Oshawa
- 11 Guelph



- Glenn Williams is a small quaint village in Halton Hills and often overrun by suburbanites from metro Toronto. It still retains its picturesque character with artists and glass blowing studios. Timothy Eaton first worked here for a short time in a haberdashery store before creating a cross-Canada retail empire that became famous for producing the mail-order catalogue. Visit the Beaumont Mill Antiques and Collectibles in search of household treasures.
- Guelph is in a central proximity to RV rental stations in Brampton, Bolton and Cookstown.

WHERE TO CAMP



Highland Pines Campground. 10 km east of Fergus.
 ✓ Services: Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundry. Toilets/showers. Store. Restaurant.



Toronto North/Cookstown KOA. Cookstown. Close to Fraserway RV. ✓ Services: Electrical. Laundry. Toilets/showers.



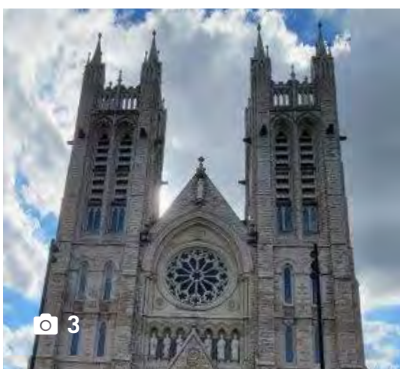
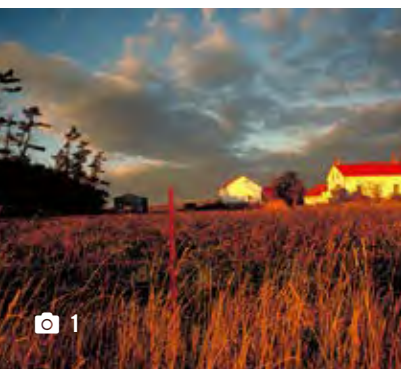
Indian Line Campground. Brampton. Wet'n' Wild Water Park next door. ✓ Services: Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundry. Toilets/showers. Store.

IMAGES

-  1 Farmland in Guelph / Destination Ontario
-  2 Farmers Market / Gord Rees
-  3 Lady of Immaculate Conception – Guelph / Gord Rees
-  4 Glenn Williams / Gord Rees



Copper Kettle Pub in the village of Glenn Williams is in a restored building and serves pub lunches on its outdoor patio.



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A 9-DAY TOUR THROUGH SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO



FORTS & PORTS
ROUTE

Discover Ontario's Ports & Forts



Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake / Destination Ontario

DISCOVER THE IMPORTANCE OF ONTARIO'S SHIPPING INDUSTRY IN SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO.

9-DAY TOUR 1300 KM

Southern Ontario differs from the North having a much larger and higher density population, a milder climate and a largely Anglophone culture. All of Ontario has large immigrant populations.

Visit the many attractions and historic sites in Southwestern Ontario. Niagara Falls is one of the most must-see iconic locations in all of Canada. Five stone forts were built along the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie to repel the U.S. incursions into Upper Canada during the War of 1812. The region's unique climate and soil conditions make it ideal for growing a variety of grapes, resulting in some of the finest wines in the world. Wind-swept Point Pelee National Park juts out into Lake Erie, and is the most southerly point in Canada with a diverse ecosystem.





GREAT LAKES PORTS HOST A RECREATIONAL PARADISE.

While commercial fishing is in decline, the string of small ports still serves the remaining fishery, and now tourism to a greater extent. Beaches and marinas are located end-to-end along the freshwater shoreline.

Ocean freighters are seen traversing the Welland Canada to by-pass Niagara Falls enroute to large grain elevators in Thunder Bay and Duluth on Lake Superior. Ore carriers make steady runs between mines and steel mills in Hamilton and Cleveland. The Great Lakes shipping season opens with the first bulk carriers arriving in April until the last runs before the treacherous gales of November, as written by Gordon Lightfoot in *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*.

Proximity to the U.S. border led to a massive amount of alcohol transit during Prohibition in U.S.A. Numerous Underground Railroad museums and markers are reminders to the abolition of slavery in the southern States

FORTS & HISTORIC SITES ARE MAJOR ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE ROUTE.

British forts were built at strategic points along the Niagara and Detroit Rivers to protect Canadian sovereignty from American takeover between 1810 and 1812. Fort Erie and Fort George host re-enactments of the musket battles fought by the British red coats and the U.S. forces. Fort Wellington and Fort Malden offer interpretive centers.

Large Freighter approaching Hamilton





PORTS & FORTS

ROUTE

Point Pelee National Park Destination Ontario



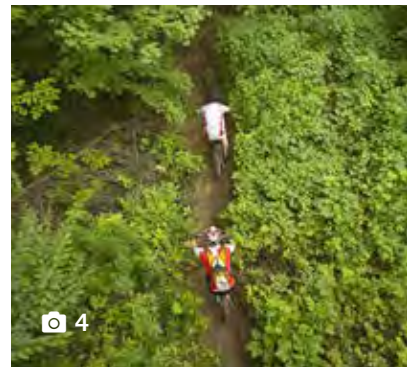
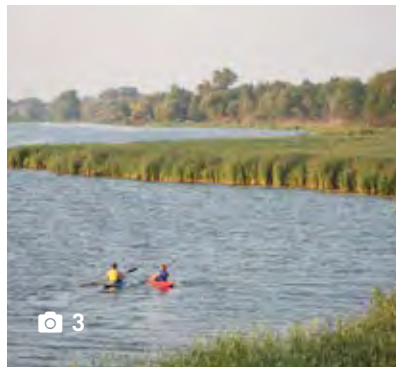
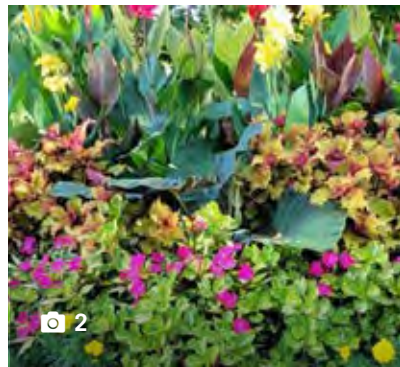
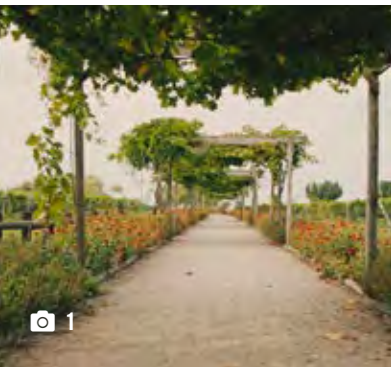
ITINERARY

- 1 Guelph to Stratford
- 2 Stratford to Hamilton
- 3 Hamilton to Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 4 Niagara-on-the-Lake to Niagara Falls
- 5 Niagara Falls to Nanticoke
- 6 Nanticoke to St. Thomas
- 7 St. Thomas to Amherstburg
- 8 Amherstburg to Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Amherstburg to Windsor



IMAGES

- 1 Wine Country – Essex County / Destination Ontario
- 2 Royal Botanical Gardens – Hamilton / Gord Rees
- 3 Rondeau Provincial Park / Ontario Parks
- 4 Cycling – Turkey Point / Ontario Parks



1

2

3

4



TOP 10 TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 01 Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Stratford.
- 02 Welland Ship Canal. Locks between Port Weller and Port Colborne.
- 03 Niagara Escarpment. Steep ridge between Hamilton and Niagara Falls.
- 04 Niagara-on-the Lake. Picturesque tourist town.
- 05 Horseshoe Falls. Skylon and aerial cable car. Niagara Falls.
- 06 Niagara Wine Region. Hamilton to Fort Erie.
- 07 Old Fort Erie*. Fort Erie.
- 08 Essex Pelee Island Coast. EPIC wine route.
- 09 Point Pelee National Park. Leamington.
- 10 Underground Railway. Amherstburg and Windsor.



OTHER SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception*. Guelph. 📍 African Lion Safari. Cambridge. 📍 Old Order Mennonite settlements. Waterloo Region. 📍 Beamers Memorial Conservation Area. Grimsby. 📍 Canada's Warplane Heritage Museum. Hamilton. 📍 St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canal Centre. St. Catharines. 📍 Fort George*. Niagara-on-the-Lake. 📍 Brock's Monument*. Queenston Heights. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 Norfolk Barn Quilt Trails. Norfolk County. 📍 Port Stanley Terminal Railway. Port Stanley. 📍 Port Dover Harbour Museum. Port Dover. 📍 North America Railway Hall of Fame. St. Thomas. 📍 Marsh Boardwalk. Pelee National Park. Leamington. 📍 Freedom Underground Railroad Museum. Amherstburg. 📍 Ambassador Bridge. Windsor. 📍 Fort Malden*. Windsor. |
|--|--|

Regional Tourism Organizations in South Western Ontario:

Tourism Regions in South Western Ontario include: RTO#2 (Niagara Falls and Wine Country), RTO#3 (Hamilton, Halton and Brant), and RTO#4 (Huron, Perth, Waterloo and Wellington).



**National historic and Ontario heritage sites are marked with an asterisk [*] throughout this guide.*



Day One

GUELPH / KITCHENER-WATERLOO / STRATFORD



📷 Mennonite Horse & Buggy – St. Jacobs / Jeff Speed



📷 1



📷 2



📷 3

WELLINGTON COUNTY

Head west through rural landscapes, historic towns and villages.

1 DAY ONE

Travel from Guelph to Stratford.

- **Guelph.** Basilica of our Lady of the Immaculate Conception* is a dominant landmark. Irish-born Joseph Connolly, the principle architect of Catholic churches in the late 19 century Ontario, was inspired by the design of the Cologne Cathedral with its characteristic style of twin towers.

Guelph City Hall* is a two-story limestone building built in the Renaissance Rival style and is representative of a multi-functional city hall which contained the fire hall, public market, jail and library.

MacCrae House*, is the birthplace of Lieutenant-Colonel John MacCrae, who authored one of Canada's best-known literary works, *In Flanders Fields*, while serving as a field doctor on the front during the First World War.

📷 IMAGES

- 📷 1 Bingeman's Camping Resort / Gord Rees
- 📷 2 West Montrose "Kissing Bridge" / Gord Rees
- 📷 3 Farmers Market / Gord Rees

- **West Montrose** near Woolwich is known locally as the "Kissing Bridge" where couples are engaged and marriage vows restated. It is one of the oldest enclosed bridges in Canada. It is located on the Grand River 15 km north of Waterloo.
- **St. Jacobs** is set in a charming location along the Conestoga River. The Mennonite Museum traces the Old Order Mennonite population from migration to the early settlements. The region has many unique shops featuring local crafts. Aberfoyle Model Railway Museum offers 3,000 sq ft of rail history. Waterloo Central Railway's vintage train rides runs both diesel and steam locomotives.

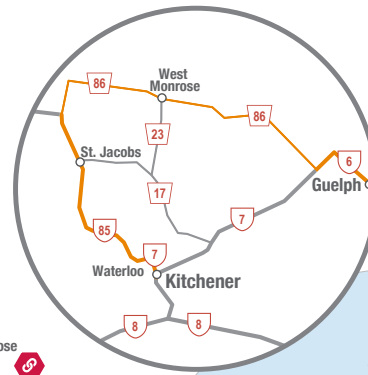


PORTS & FORTS

ROUTE

- 1 Stratford
- 2 Hamilton
- 3 Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 4 Niagara Falls
- 5 Nanticoke
- 6 St. Thomas
- 7 Amherstburg
- 8 Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Windsor

Route – 100 km
 Head west from Guelph on Hwy#6 and Hwy#86 to West Monrose. Continue west on Hwy#86 to Hwy#85. Head back south on Hwy#85 to St. Jacobs, Waterloo and Kitchener. Head west from Kitchener on Hwy#8 to Stratford. Head south on Hwy#7 and west on Hwy#9 for a side trip to Saint Mary's.



- **Waterloo** includes the three cities of Kitchener, Cambridge and Waterloo. Take the region's ION light rail transit for a hop-on/off tour through Kitchener-Windsor corridor which lays claim to a centre for e-commerce since the development of Blackberry wireless devices in 1990s. RIM enjoyed unprecedented growth until Apple iPhones hit the market in 2007.

 Doon Heritage Village sits on an open-air 60-acre living history museum with railway station, weavery, harness shop and saw mill powered by a steam engine. It serves as a case study of how museum interpretation has changed over the past fifty years when it was realized that urban sprawl was destroying rural life.
- **Kitchener** on the Grand River is the highest elevation for many miles around. John Schneider Heritage House* is a living history museum recreating life in the 19th century. German immigrants brought with them their language, religion and cultural traditions. The world's second largest Oktoberfest outside of Munich brings oompah brass bands and German beer to the annual Thanksgiving party. The vote to change the former name of Berlin to Kitchener won by a slim margin.

 Be prepared to encounter horse and buggies trotting down the shoulder of roads and highways. There are over a dozen Old Order Mennonite communities in the Waterloo Region and Norfolk County.
- **Stratford.** Best known for staging Shakespearean plays during the Stratford Festival. Multiple theatres around the city include the Festival Theatre, Avon Theatre and Tom Paterson Theatre. The City Hall* sits on a triangular town square of Victorian-period design which incorporates market stalls, a concert hall, police station, council chamber and fire hall. Stratford is the hometown of Justin Bieber, a modern music icon.







Close to the town centre is the administrative centre and receiving home for Immigrant Home Children* where possibly up to 100,000 children were brought from the UK to serve as domestic servants and farm labourers between 1869 and 1939. This period in history signifies a poignant chapter in Canadian immigration that is little known.

Stratford City Hall* is a monumental red brick building with a prominent clock tower built in 1889.

- **Saint Mary's** is known as "Stonetown" for the limestone blocks quarried near the banks of the Thames River. Green interpretive plaques on historic buildings explain the history of the old Opera House and concert hall, grist mill and old mill dam in the heritage conservation district. Saint Mary's Presbyterian Church is a landmark noticeable by its 40 m steeple. Junction Station* is an outstanding example of early railroad architecture set on the Grand Trunk line to Sarnia. Markers show the way to the railway historic bridge, water tower, museum and train station gallery.

 The period buildings and town layout in Paris, Ontario, is of a similar architectural style.

WHERE TO CAMP

-  **Green Acre Park.** Waterloo.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Store.
-  **Bingeman's Camping Resort.** Kitchener. Next to Big Splash Amusement Park.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Restaurant. Store.
-  **Windmill Family Resort.** Fullerton. 25 km due west of Stratford.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.

Day Two

STRATFORD / CAMBRIDGE / HAMILTON

The Devil's Punchbowl / Heart of Ontario

1

2

3

2 DAY TWO

Travel from Stratford to Hamilton.

Follow along the Niagara Escarpment towards Hamilton and the Niagara wine region.

- Cambridge/Galt** were amalgamated as part of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo. Old Order Mennonites from Pennsylvania and an influx of Germans have maintained a strong ethnic presence. City Hall was first to achieve the gold ranking from the Canadian Green Building Council. The Old Post Office* is now Canada's first all-digital library. The building style is a blend of architecture reflecting Gothic Revival and the Second Empire styles. Hi-tech light shows transform the façade into a dazzling evening attraction.

African Lion Safari is a drive-through game reserve to watch lions, baboons, rhino, giraffes and elephants.

Grand River and Halton Conservation areas are lands set aside protecting significant geographic and cultural history. These conservation areas include several parks that can be enjoyed with paid admission for recreational use. Reservations are required at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area.



IMAGES

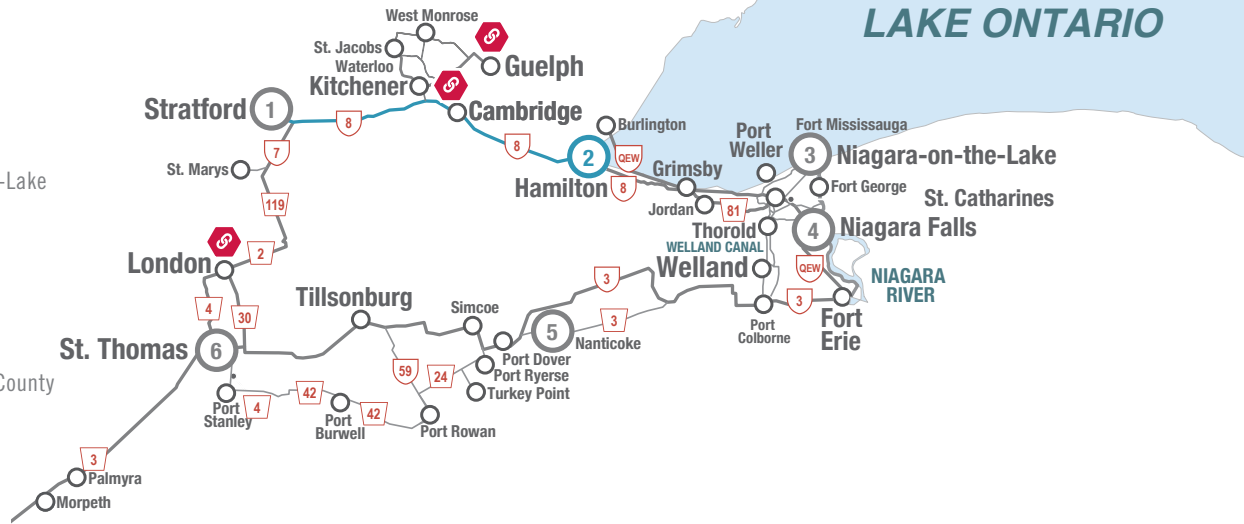
- 1** Peregrine Falcon / Destination Ontario – RTO#3 – Ben Hemmings
- 2** Cambridge City Hall / Gord Rees
- 3** Heritage Warplane – Hamilton / Destination Ontario

PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

- 1 Stratford
- 2 Hamilton
- 3 Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 4 Niagara Falls
- 5 Nanticoke
- 6 St. Thomas
- 7 Amherstburg
- 8 Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Windsor

+ Route – 150 km

Head back east towards Kitchener on Hwy#8, continue south on Hwy#8 through Cambridge to Hamilton.



- **Hamilton** abounds with national historic sites. Visit the 40-room Italian-styled villa Dundurn Castle*. The Hamilton Museum of Steam Technology demonstrates the oldest Canadian-built steam engine. Military history is preserved at Canada's Warplane Heritage Centre* and the Hamilton Military Museum*. Climb aboard the HMCS Haida* for a self-guided tour of the last of the 27 Tribal Class destroyers built in 1943, that saw heavy action in the English Channel during D-Day. She is the most celebrated of all Canadian warships. The ship is moored at Pier 9 near Bayfront Park.

Take the Lincoln Alexander Parkway to the **Devil's Punch Bowl** along the Ridge Road on Hwy#7. The erosion started at the end of the last ice age by huge melt-water rivers that plunged over the Stoney Creek Escarpment.

- **Beamer's Memorial Conservation Area.** Located in Grimsby, 30 minutes east of Hamilton. During migrations, thousands of raptors are seen surfing the onshore updraft winds towards the escarpment cliffs. The tally of hawks, falcons, eagles and vultures are counted by volunteer hawk watchers.

WHERE TO CAMP



Pine Valley Park. Belwood. Half hour from Guelph, Cambridge and Hamilton.

✓ **Services:** Electrical. Water. Sani-dump. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Store. Restaurant.



Jordan Valley Campground. Jordan. 45 minutes from Hamilton. QEW exit 57 at Vineland. 10 km south of St. Catharines.

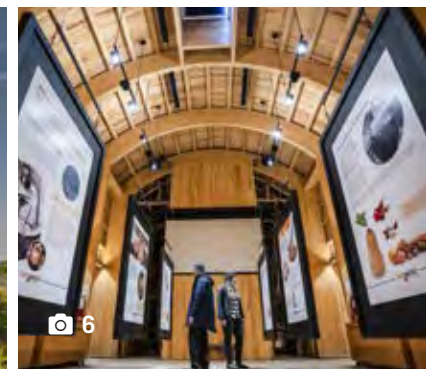
✓ **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Store.



Niagara Falls KOA Holiday. Niagara Falls. Hwy#20 west. ✓ **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.

IMAGES

4 HMCS Haida – Denley Photography on Unsplash 5 Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area 6 Crawford Lake Conservation Area / Destination Ontario – Ben Hemmings





Day Three

HAMILTON / LAKE ONTARIO / NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

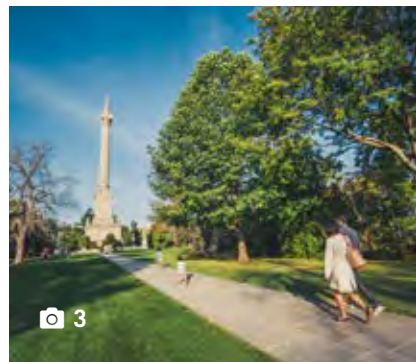
📷 Peller Estates Winery Vineyard – Niagara-on-the-Lake / Destination Ontario



📷 1



📷 2



📷 3

The Welland Ship Canal – Gord Rees



THE NIAGARA RIVER

The Niagara River connects Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The Welland Ship Canal by-passes the river to provide navigation for deep sea vessels between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Farther upstream the Detroit River provides a shipping channel that joins Lake Erie to Lake Huron as part of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

📷 IMAGES

📷 1 Queen's Royal Park Gazebo / Destination Ontario 📷 2 Fort George / Destination Ontario 📷 3 Queenston Heights – Brock Monument / Destination Ontario

3 DAY THREE

Travel from Hamilton to Niagara-on-the-Lake

Travel to points of interest around the Niagara Peninsula.


- **Port Weller.** Port of entry to the Welland Ship Canal and beginning of the Welland Canal Parkway. The canal waterway rises through a series of eight locks to gain 99.5 m over 46 km as a way past the Niagara Escarpment to Lake Erie. A ship takes about 11 hours to transit the Canal. Some 3,000 ships a year pass through.
- **Welland Canal.** A scenic drive parallels the canal through four cities from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, in order of St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland and Port Colborne with several viewing platforms at locks along the 27-mile route. Obtain a copy of the *Driver's Guide to the Welland Canal* at the Welland Canal Museum in St. Catharines.
- **Thorold** sits about mid-way along the Welland Canal. Historic attractions include Chestnut Hall, Keefer Mansion Inn and Beavercreeks Old Methodist Church. Thorold Tunnel runs .84 km under the canal on Hwy#58.



PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

- 1 Stratford
- 2 Hamilton
- 3 **Niagara-on-the-Lake**
- 4 Niagara Falls
- 5 Nanticoke
- 6 St. Thomas
- 7 Amherstburg
- 8 Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Windsor



 **Route - 100 km**
Head southeast along the shores of Lake Ontario on either Hwy# 8 and Hwy#81, or take Queen Elizabeth Way to St. Catharines. From St. Catharines, follow Hwy#55 northeast to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Alternatively take Hwy#87 from Hwy#81 along the coast of Lake Ontario to Niagara-on-the-Lake.



- **St. Catharines.** Known as the "Garden City", hosts the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canal Centre, including history exhibits and an observation area above Lock 3. Four locks are within the town borders. Remnants of the original canals are found in various locations as changes were made since its inauguration in 1828. A fourth version opened in 1932 with just eight locks operating the entire length of the canal. Garden City Skyway crosses the canal to allow vessels up to 35.5 metres high to pass beneath.
- **Fort Mississauga*.** The heritage value of this fort is an important example of military construction completed after the War of 1812. The star-shaped fort is located at the mouth of the Niagara River to protect the Canadian frontier directly opposite Fort Niagara on the American side. A boardwalk follows the shoreline trail along Lake Ontario.
- **Fort George* is** a reconstruction of the military fortification of the British army headquarters in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The fort is managed by Parks Canada as a living history site with staff in period costume, demonstrations and highly developed education programs.




- **Niagara-on-the-Lake** has ample reason to be nick-named the "Loveliest Town in Canada". Flower gardens and hanging baskets adorn the main street lined with quaint shops located in neo-classical buildings. Prince of Wales Hotel symbolizes the colonial style in the historic district since it became the first capital of Upper Canada from 1792 to 1796.

George Bernard Shaw, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Literature in 1925, is commemorated by the Shaw Festival when it hosts a series of annual theatre productions. Memorial Hall is Ontario's oldest museum building and houses a vast collection of War of 1812 artifacts. It provides driving routes to the location of major battles and national historic sites in the Niagara area.

- **Queenston Heights.** Brock's Monument* stands 65m in height and is the largest of its kind in Canada. It commemorates the heroism of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock on the site of the pivotal Battle of Queenston Heights when the Americans established a beachhead for invasion of Canada at the beginning of the War of 1812.

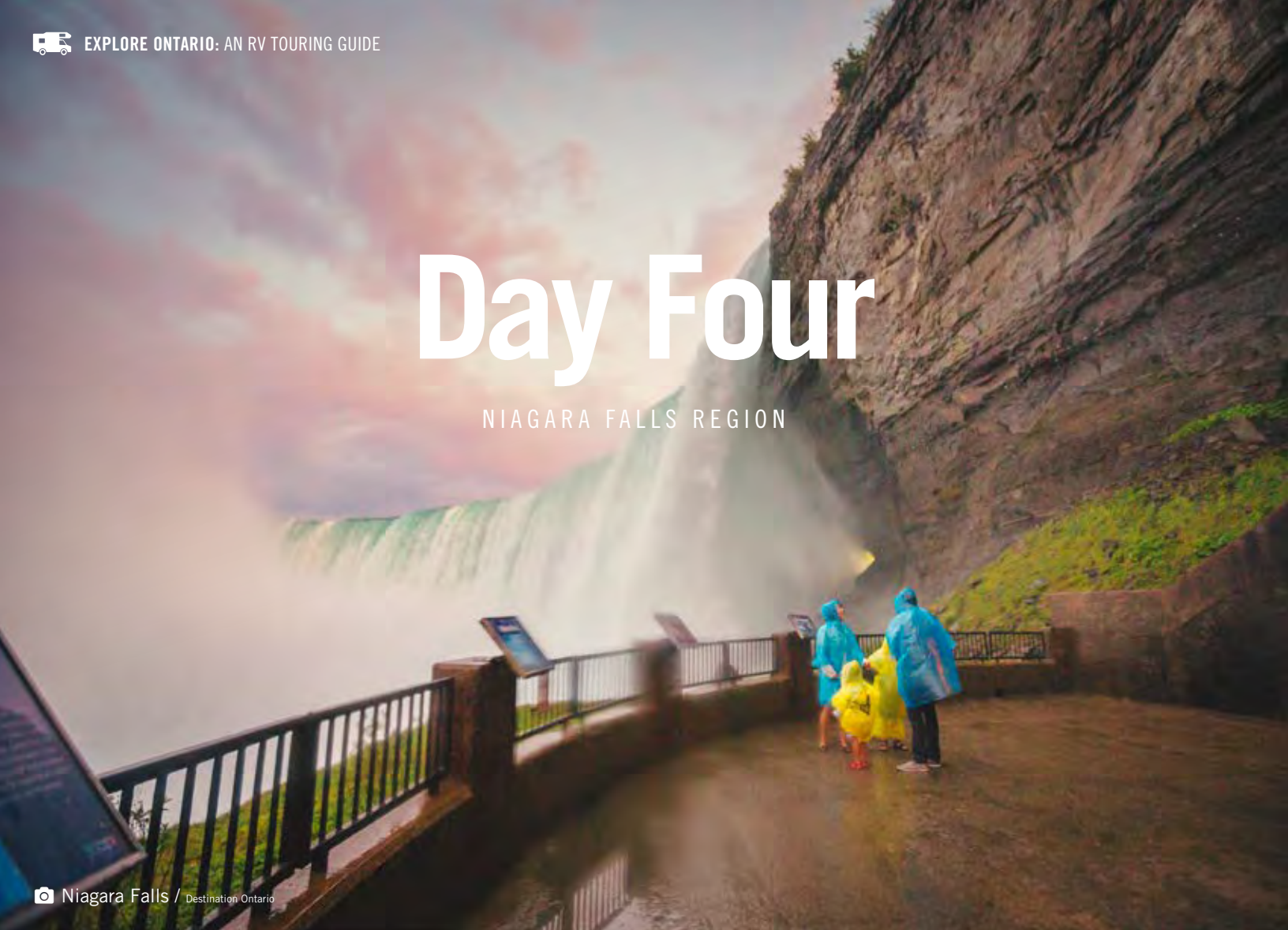
WHERE TO CAMP


Spend an extra day exploring the Niagara region.

-  **Niagara Falls KOA Holiday.** Niagara Falls. Hwy#20 west.
 - ✔ **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.
-  **Windmill Point Park & Campground.** Ridgeway. Hwy#1 east of Old Fort Erie.
 - ✔ **Services:** Electrical. Water. Pull-thru sites. Sani-dump. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store. Restaurant.
-  **Sherkston Shores Beach Resort.** On Lake Erie, 20 minutes west of Niagara Falls. Beautiful sand beach.
 - ✔ **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store. Restaurant.

Day Four

NIAGARA FALLS REGION



 Niagara Falls / Destination Ontario



Niagara Falls / Destination Ontario

NIAGARA PENINSULA

Niagara Peninsula Wine Region is the largest wine producing area in Canada. It stretches for roughly 55 km between Hamilton on the south shore of Lake Ontario to the north shore of Lake Erie. The VQA stands for Vintners Quality Alliance and ensures that wine is made from 100% Ontario-grown grapes.



 Niagara Gorge / Destination Ontario



PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

- 1 Stratford
- 2 Hamilton
- 3 Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 4 Niagara Falls**
- 5 Nanticoke
- 6 St. Thomas
- 7 Amherstburg
- 8 Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Windsor



4 DAY FOUR – NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TO NIAGARA FALLS



+ Route – 50 km
Spend an extra day exploring the Niagara Parkway along the Niagara River.

4 DAY FOUR


Spend an extra day in the Niagara Falls region.


Niagara Falls is one of North America's most famous geographic spectacles and is known as a romantic haven for honeymooners.


- **Niagara Falls.** Stroll between the best viewpoints of the famous Horseshoe Falls from alongside the river ledge in front of Queen Victoria Place. Highlights include Niagara City Cruise river tour below the falls, and the 160 m high Skylon Tower with observation deck overlooking the curving crest of the 180 m Horseshoe Falls and American Falls from the Canadian side of the Niagara River. The Table Rock Centre features a 4D simulation of the creation of the falls during the Ice Age. Descend an elevator to a 130-year-old tunnel leading to a viewing platform behind the thundering falls. Another 600 m tunnel runs underground from beneath the stately Niagara Falls Power Station. Redesign of the legacy building is symbolic of a wave of transforming majestic industrial structures into tourism attractions. The Aerial Cable Car spans 540 m over the Whirl Pool Rapids where the Niagara River rushes through the gorge at 2,800 cubic meters/sec. The Sir Adam Beck Generating Complex* landmark offers interactive displays to illustrate hydro power development at the first major power plant on the Canadian side of the Niagara River. Find deals with an *Attractions Pass*.

WHERE TO CAMP

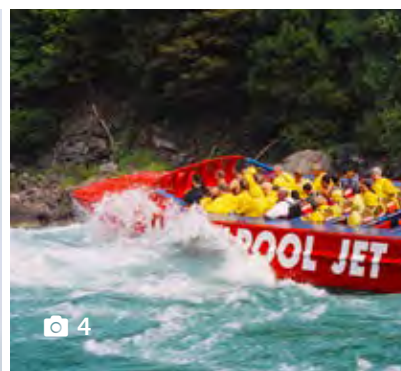
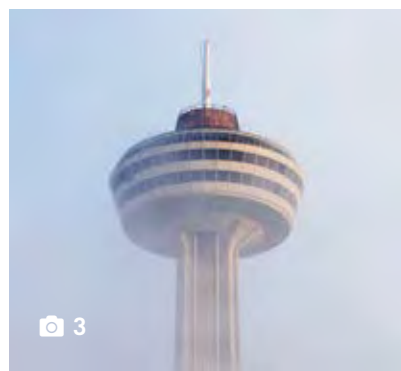
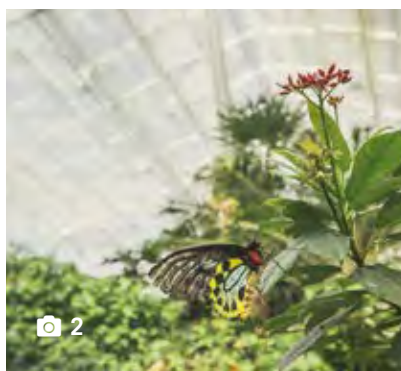
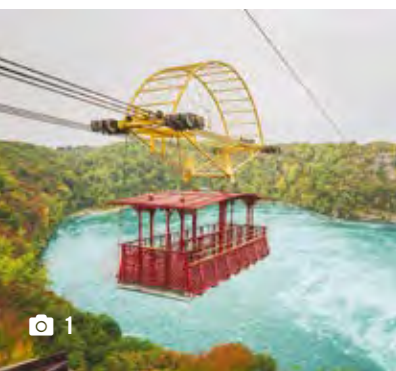
Book another night to spend an extra day exploring the Niagara region.

 **Niagara Falls KOA Holiday.** Niagara Falls. Hwy#20 west. **✓ Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.

 **Windmill Point Park & Campground.** Ridgeway. Hwy#1 east of Old Fort Erie. **✓ Services:** Electrical. Water. Pull-thru sites. Sani-dump. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store. Restaurant.

 **Sherkston Shores Beach Resort.** On Lake Erie, 20 minutes west of Niagara Falls. Beautiful sand beach. **✓ Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store. Restaurant.

IMAGES  1 The Aerial Cable Car  2 Butterfly Conservatory  3 Skylon Tower  4 Whirlpool Jet Tours





Day Five

NIAGARA FALLS / FORT ERIE / PORT COLBORNE / NANTICOKE

Wheeler's Marsh Boardwalk – Selkirk Provincial Park / Ontario Parks



1



2



3

5 DAY FIVE

Travel from Niagara Falls to Nanticoke.

Follow the Niagara Parkway from Niagara Falls to Fort Erie that weaves in and out along the Welland Canal. Turn west to visit numerous splendid beaches along the north shore of Lake Erie.

- **Fort Erie.** Old Fort Erie*, facing the Niagara River was once a garrison during the War of 1812. Now fully restored by the Niagara Parks Commission, it offers military re-enactments. Fort Erie Railway Museum features a steam locomotive and a station transformed into an exhibition space. Mather Arch overlooks the five-span Peace Bridge that connects to Buffalo, NY, at the mouth of the Niagara River. The triple arch stone monument with manicured gardens is a symbol of lasting friendship between Canada and the U.S.

Numerous hiking trails include the 56 km Niagara River Recreational Trail. Walk the miles of sandy beaches along the Lake Erie shores. Port Albino lighthouse* is a distinctive Greek Revival-style tower.

Rock Point Provincial Park – Ontario Parks



IMAGES

- 1 Fort Erie / Gord Rees
- 2 Rainbow International Bridge – Niagara Falls / Destination Ontario – Jeff Speed
- 3 Musket Salute – Fort Erie / Gord Rees

PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

Route – 180 km
Head south from Niagara Falls on Queen Elizabeth Way to Fort Erie. Take Hwy#3 west from Fort Erie along the shores of Lake Erie to Port Colborne and Nanticoke.

- 1 Stratford
- 2 Hamilton
- 3 Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 4 Niagara Falls
- 5 Nanticoke
- 6 St. Thomas
- 7 Amherstburg
- 8 Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Windsor



- Port Colborne serves as one of Canada's largest inland ports on Lake Erie's north coast at the southern terminus of the Welland Canal.



Rock Point and Selkirk Provincial Parks are located along shores of Lake Erie, and offer a range of outdoor experiences from hiking and cycling to swimming and canoeing.

- Nanticoke*. Once the location of several heavy industries, including a steel mill and oil refinery, the coal-fired generating station has been converted to a 44 MW solar farm. The city has been designated a national historic site with unidentified archaeological remains on the banks of Lake Erie.
- The Grand River, meanders for 275 km from its source near Fergus and Kitchener-Waterloo to enter Lake Erie at Port Maitland. It serves as a well known canoe route between Montrose and Paris that transits the Grand River Conservancy.



WHERE TO CAMP



Rock Point Provincial Park. Port Maitland, Hwy#3 to #49 west of Port Colborne. 1 km sand beach features ancient coral reef fossils. RV camping available in Kinsey and Niece campgrounds. Minor campground offers non-electrical RV sites. **Services:** Electrical. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park Store. Bike rentals. Barbecue rentals. Sani-dump.

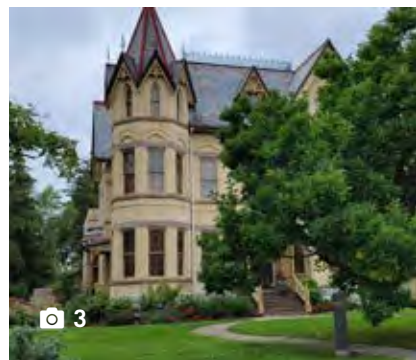


Selkirk Provincial Park. 15 minutes east of Port Dover. Wheeler's Walk Trail has a boardwalk across a marsh wetland. **Services:** Pull-thru sites. Most offer electrical. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park Store.

Day Six

NANTICOKE / NORFOLK COUNTY / TILLSONBURG / ST. THOMAS

Port Dover / Destination Ontario – Just Drew Productions



NORFOLK COUNTY

Ontario's Garden for farm fresh produce. Orchards produce apples and peaches. Field crops include grains, corn silage, barley, soybeans, sweet corn, peas, wax beans, pumpkins and squash. Dairy farms, cattle herds, pig farms, and thousands of chicken farms make Southern Ontario a vast agricultural domain. Self-guided tour weaves past scattered vineyards along the coast and inland on rural roads between Port Dover and St. Thomas. Norfolk County includes a series of lakeside towns strung out along the shore, including Port Dover, Turkey Point, Port Rowan and Long Point.

IMAGES

- 1 London & Port Stanley Railway / Gord Rees
- 2 Commercial Fish Boat – Harbour Museum / Gord Rees
- 3 Annandale – Tillsonburg / Gord Rees

6 DAY SIX

Travel from Nanticoke to St. Thomas.

Follow the sandy coastal route along the north shore of Lake Erie to explore ports that offer many different elements and stories. Norfolk County Barn Quilt Trail follows along the coastal roads.

- **Port Dover.** Visit the scenic wooden pier, and Harbour Museum partially housed in an original fisherman's net shanty. Exhibits showcase the days of commercial fishing, ship building and rum running. Fishermen soon switched to the profitability of hauling bootleg liquor to the States at record speed across the 30 km of open water.

Barns and other structures are located on private property painted with folk art designs to look like a quilt. While spread throughout southwestern Ontario, the RV touring route runs through a cluster of patterns with various themes in rural Norfolk County, from Port Dover to Port Rowan.

Cliff Site* cairn stands where two priests in 1670 laid claim to the north shore of Lake Erie in the name of France. It was a wintering site for the first Europeans known to have ascended the Great Lakes to Sault Ste. Marie.



PORTS & FORTS

ROUTE

- 1 Stratford
- 2 Hamilton
- 3 Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 4 Niagara Falls
- 5 Nanticoke
- 6 St. Thomas
- 7 Amherstburg
- 8 Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Windsor

Route – 160 km
 Head west from Nanticoke on Hwy#3, and Hwy#6 to Port Dover. From Port Dover head west on Hwy#6, and join Hwy#24. Side routes include Hwy#57 to Port Ryerse, Hwy#10 to Turkey Point, and Hwy#59 to Port Rowan. From Port Rowan, head north on Hwy#59 and Hwy#3 to Tillsonburg. Continue west on Hwy#3 to St. Thomas.



- **Port Ryerse** was founded by United Empire Loyalists in 1794 as a port for shipping lumber and grain.
- **Turkey Point.** Site of a military post during the War of 1812.
- **Port Rowan.** Big Creek winds through Carolinian forest towards Port Rowan on Lake Erie. It is part of the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve and Big Creek National Wildlife Area. Hahn Woods is an extensive woody swamp area that offers extensive waterfowl nesting and staging for over thirty bird species. Keep an eye out for an unusual activity with “punters on the marsh” that looks something like pushing paddle boards through shallow water. Visit Canada’s first forestry station interpretive centre with a giant old growth white pine log used to describe historic events by matching the annual growth rings over two hundred years.
- **Port Burwell.** HMCS Objibwa was Canada’s first Cold War submarine*. This small Ontario town has undertaken Project Ojibiwa with its determination to become the home of the stealth Oberon Class Sub at Canada’ Naval History Museum, located a thousand miles from the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Tillsonburg.** Travel north in Norfolk County. Annandale* is one of the few remaining Victorian-style mansions of the Aesthetic movement from the 1880s.

- **St. Thomas** is home to the North America Railway Hall of Fame. The Canada Southern Railway Station* served as one of the busiest in Canada when completed in 1873. The classical design made it unique within Canadian architectural history and stands as a symbol of intensive railway development in Ontario. The Michigan Central Railroad Bridge over Kettle Creek now serves as Canada’s first elevated rail-trail made up of 14 spans running 260 m / 855 feet. Box car murals are featured at Elgin County Railway Museum. Visit the Rolling Stock Gallery housing historic steam and diesel locomotives collected from Canada’s national railways.
- **Port Stanley** is famed for a short-line tourist train re-established on the road bed of the London & Port Stanley Railway. PSTR operates five diesel-electric locomotives from the 1940s along with nine colorful passenger cars during a one-hour train ride. It was one of the first railroads built in Ontario, starting in 1856.

WHERE TO CAMP



Port Burwell Provincial Park. Port Burwell. Hwy#43, 26 minutes south of Tillsonburg. Three campgrounds located near the lake. 2.5 km of sandy beach on Lake Erie.

✔ **Services:** Electrical. Sani-dump. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park Store. Visitor Centre.



Long Point Provincial Park. Port Rowan on Hwy#59. 1.5 km of sandy beach juts out into Lake Erie.

✔ **Services:** Electrical. Sani-dump. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Park Store.



TRAVEL TIP

Shaw’s famous ice cream dairy bar in Tillsonburg offers dozens of flavours of high-quality ice cream.

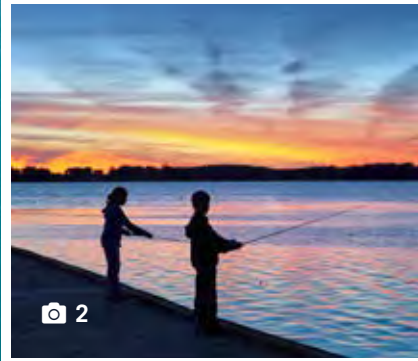
Day Seven

LEAMINGTON / PELEE ISLAND / WHEATLEY / AMHERSTBURG

Point Pelee National Park / Destination Ontario



1



2



3

POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK

Continue through Essex County towards the western end of Lake Erie at Amherstburg and the outlet of the Detroit River.

7 DAY SEVEN

Travel from St. Thomas to Amherstburg.

- **Leamington**, once famous for growing tobacco, is the “*Tomato Capital of Canada*” humorously portrayed by Canadian recording artist Stomp’n Tom Connors who recorded “*Ketchup Loves Potatoes*”. The surrounding area is known for large greenhouse operations. Marina features a promenade that extends to a historic dock and a port for ferry service to Pelee Island. Leamington Arts Centre showcases the art and history of Essex County.



Point Pelee National Park*, known as the “*100 Mile Peninsula*”, is the most southerly point in Canada at Latitude 41.68N. A shuttle runs from the Visitor Centre for 2 km out to the wind-swept tip. A boardwalk stretches across the marsh. Take a self-guided interpretative walk to the tip tower for viewing shorebird habitat and flyway during seasonal migration. **Note:** *There is no RV camping within the boundaries of Point Pelee National Park.*

IMAGES

- 1 Point Pelee Marsh Boardwalk / Destination Ontario
- 2 Fishing the shores of Lake Erie / Destination Ontario
- 3 The Town of Amherstburg / Gord Rees

- **Pelee Island** is served by a 90-minute ferry ride from Leamington on the *Pelee Islander*. The island features sand and pebble beaches. It sits on both the Atlantic Flyway and the Mississippi Flyway. A good place to bike. The remains of a lighthouse, built in 1834, stands at the tip of the spit. The tip is surrounded by dangerous currents and undertows.
- **Wheatley**. Fresh fish processing at the port. Lake Erie, with its numerous harbors has the most productive commercial fishery of all the Great Lakes. Look for fresh walleye in season.



TRAVEL TIP

Visit Crazy 8 Barn & Garden in Palmyra for some tasty eats and a garden workshop.

PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

- 1 Stratford
- 2 Hamilton
- 3 Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 4 Niagara Falls
- 5 Nanticoke
- 6 St. Thomas
- 7 Amherstburg
- 8 Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Windsor



Route - 100 km
Head west from St. Thomas on Hwy#3 to Morpeth. Continue west on Hwy#3 along the shores of Lake Erie through Wheatley to Leamington. From Leamington follow Hwy#20 westward through Kingsville to Amherstburg.







AMHERSTBURG HISTORIC FORTS

Fort George, Fort Mississauga and Fort Malden were fortifications and battlefronts during the War of 1812.

- **Amherstburg.** Visit the Freedom Museum and Nazrey African Methodist Episcopal Church*. Terminus of the Underground Railroad provided a way out from slavery in the 1770s when the U.S. Civil War began. Also known as the "North American Black History Museum", dedicated to preserving African-Canadian history of abolition of slavery. The Underground Railroad was a code name used to disguise the movement of slaves where they could be helped to escape along a series of secret routes. Black history is also told at the 20-acre John Freeman Walls* and Underground Railroad Museum located about forty km east of Windsor.


Park House* is considered one of the oldest houses in the region, built in 1796, and tells the story of the traders who populated the Windsor region. Fort Malden facing the Detroit River served as the frontier fortification against American incursions in the War of 1812. It was then re-established when troops were required to push back against rebels and their American sympathizers in the 1838 rebellion. It features interpretative displays, costumed guides and musket firings.

WHERE TO CAMP

-  **Rondeau Provincial Park.** Morpeth. Hwy#17. 11 km of sand beaches on Lake Erie. Old growth Carolinian forests. Extensive coastal wetlands. The Discovery Centre aquariums display several species of rescued, endangered turtles. **Services:** Electrical. Sani-dump. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park Store. Visitor Centre.
-  **Rondeau Shores Trailer Park.** Just south of Morpeth. 500' of waterfront on Lake Erie. **Services:** Full serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat.
-  **Wheatley Provincial Park.** Wheatley. Ontario's southernmost provincial park. Hwy#3, east of Leamington. **Services:** Electrical. Sani-dump. Flush toilets/showers. Park Store.
-  **Campers Cove Campground.** Wheatley. 45 minutes from Amherstburg. 1200 feet of beach on Lake Erie. **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Store. Restaurant.
-  **Erie Shores Campground.** Kingsville. Hwy#20. Located on the shores of Lake Erie. **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers.
-  **Sun Retreats Amherstburg.** Amherstburg. Formerly known as Willowood RV Resort & Campground. **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Store. Restaurant.

Day Eight

AMHERSTBURG / WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY

 Windsor-Essex Pelee Island Coast (EPIC) / Destination Ontario – J.-F. Bergeron / ENVIRO FOTO

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY

Windsor-Essex County and Pelee Island lies in the southern most region of all of Canada. The county stretches along the north shore of Lake Erie, through Leamington and Amherstburg to Windsor.




 **IMAGES** Essex Pelee Island Coast Wine Country / Destination Ontario



PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

- 1 Stratford
- 2 Hamilton
- 3 Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 4 Niagara Falls
- 5 Nanticoke
- 6 St. Thomas
- 7 Amherstburg
- 8 Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Windsor

 Route – 50 km
Spend an extra day exploring the wineries throughout the Essex-Pelee Island Coast.



8 DAY EIGHT

Spend an extra day exploring the Windsor-Essex County region.

- **Essex Pelee Island Coast (EPIC) Wine Country.** Dozens of wineries along the Lake Erie North Shore route make up the Essex Pelee Island Coast (EPIC) Wine Country, a region comparable in latitude to Northern California and Burgundy, France. Wine tasting tours are offered on the Wine Route between Leamington and Amherstburg.









EPIC Wineries include:

- Colio Estate Wines
- Cooper's Hawk Vineyards
- CREW - Colchester Ridge Estate Winery
- Dancing Swallows Vineyard
- Mastronardi Estate Winery
- Muscedere Vinyards
- North 42 Degrees Estate Winery
- Oxley Estate Winery
- Paglione Estate Winery
- Pelee Island Winery
- Sprucewood Shores Estate Winery
- Viewpointe Estate Winery
- VIN Winery
- Vivace Estate Winery

Greenway Trail – Essex County
Destination Ontario



WHERE TO CAMP

-  **Wheatley Provincial Park.** Wheatley. Hwy#3, east of Leamington.  **Services:** Electrical. Sani-dump. Flush toilets/showers. Park Store.
-  **Campers Cove Campground.** Wheatley. 45 minutes from Amherstburg. 1200 feet of beach on Lake Erie.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Store. Restaurant.
-  **Erie Shores Campground.** Kingsville. Hwy#20. Lake Erie.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers.
-  **Willowood RV Resort.** Amherstburg.  **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Store. Restaurant.



Day Nine

AMHERSTBURG / OLD SANDWICH TOWN / DETROIT RIVER / WINDSOR

📷 Battle of Lake Erie statues in Windsor / Gord Rees

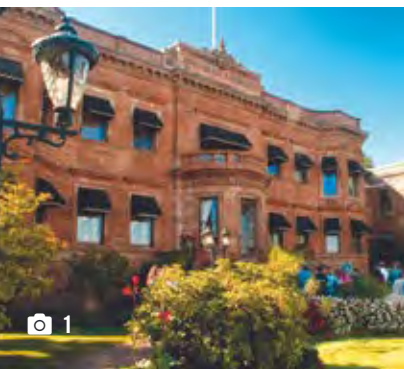
DETROIT RIVER

The Detroit River flows southerly for 51 km (26 miles) along the Canada/USA international border from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie. Explore five kms of waterfront green space established along the Detroit River in Windsor. The area from Amherstburg at the mouth to Windsor at the source offers a collection of national historic sites including Fort George, Fort Malden and Fort Mississauga that played important roles in settlement and the War of 1812.



📷 IMAGES

- 📷 1 Canada Club Whiskey Distillery – Windsor / Destination Ontario
- 📷 2 Historic Sandwich Town / Gord Rees
- 📷 3 Sandwich Town Mural / Gord Rees



📷 1




📷 2

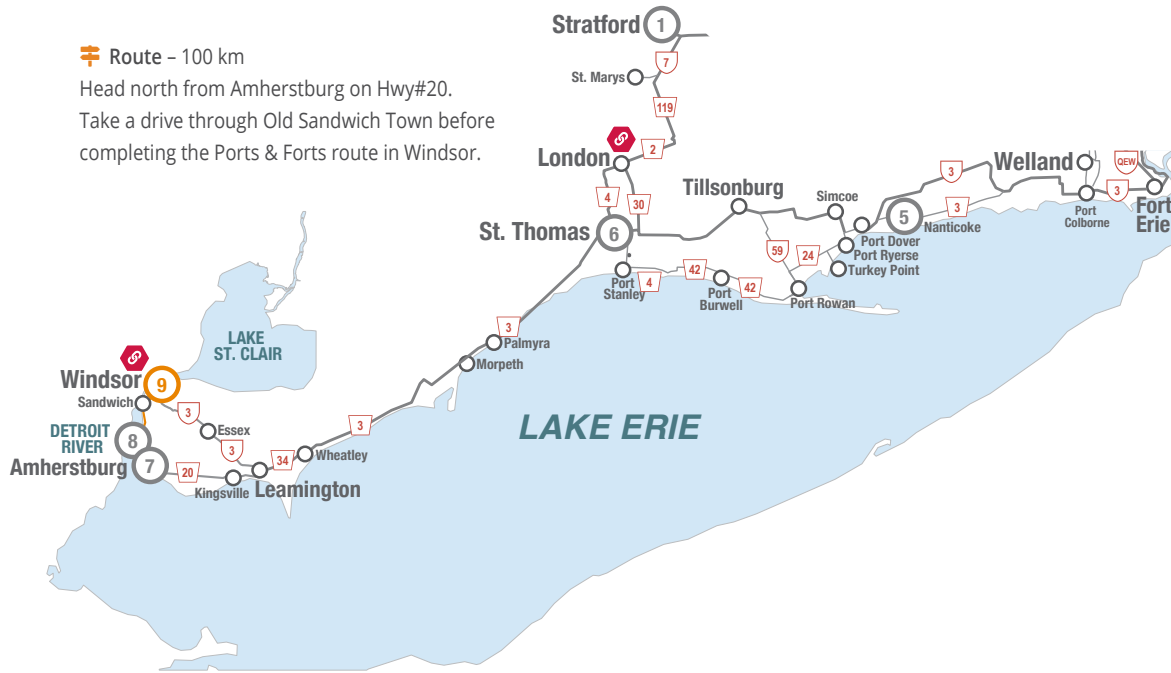


📷 3

PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

- 1 Stratford
- 2 Hamilton
- 3 Niagara-on-the-Lake
- 4 Niagara Falls
- 5 Nanticoke
- 6 St. Thomas
- 7 Amherstburg
- 8 Windsor-Essex County
- 9 Windsor

 Route – 100 km
Head north from Amherstburg on Hwy#20.
Take a drive through Old Sandwich Town before completing the Ports & Forts route in Windsor.



9 DAY NINE

Travel from Amherstburg to Windsor.

- **Old Sandwich Town**, located on the outskirts of Windsor tells the tales of settlement in the descriptive murals and plaques in a small park located at the Harbour Masters building. War veterans' are memorialized with true life stories, starting from the individual's hometown, enlistment, engagement and details of their death during battles in WWII.

Sandwich First Baptist Church* dating from 1851 is representative of churches from this period and built to accommodate the communities created by Underground Railroad refugees.
- A display at the Windsor Port Authority yard in Sandwich pays tribute the Battle of Lake Erie resulting in the British abandonment of Detroit. Take the self-guided Heritage Walking Tour to visit some thirty historic sites and buildings. Mackenzie Hall is the oldest building and served as the Essex County Court House for more than 160 years. The river crossing still serves as a conduit for smuggling contraband across the narrow stretch of river.
- **Windsor** is deemed the "Automotive Capital of Canada" and sits directly across the river from Detroit. Visit many historic attractions and watch the thriving river activity along the Detroit Heritage Parkway.

Civic Terrace was transformed from an abandoned rail yard to the permanent location of CNR 5588 steam locomotive* totally rebuilt by volunteers. Visit Windsor's Little Italy or "Via Italia" cuisine.

Detroit Windsor Tunnel is the only vehicular tunnel in the world that crosses international boundaries. Travel more than a kilometer and 25 meters below the surface of the Detroit River.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge construction project will connect an extension of Hwy#401 to Windsor and to the I-5 in Michigan which will eventually replace the Ambassador Bridge. The new six-lane, twin A-shaped towers will support the 2.5 km long bridge with the longest main span of any bridge in North America. The bridge is named after an iconic Canadian hockey player who played in the *Motor City* for the Detroit Red Wings.

Whiskey History. During the prohibition era, Canadian whiskey and rum provided most of the liquor that flowed to speakeasies across the Detroit River. Take a tasting tour of Hiram Walker and J.P. Wiser's Distillery and learn the history of the whiskey trade in Canada's largest distillery. The Rum Runners tour tells the story with costumed actors during the roaring 20's.


BLUEWATER
ROUTE



The **Ports & Forts Route** connects to the **Bluewater Route** at Sarnia, and north toward the eastern shores of Lake Huron. Continue up the Bruce Peninsula to Tobermory and Manitoulin Island. Connect to **The Fur Trade Route** cutting across Northern Ontario.



BLUEWATER ROUTE

A 9-DAY TOUR THROUGH SOUTH CENTRAL ONTARIO

Discover Ontario's Bluewater Coast.



 Flowerpot Island, Tobermory, Bruce Peninsula / Destination Ontario

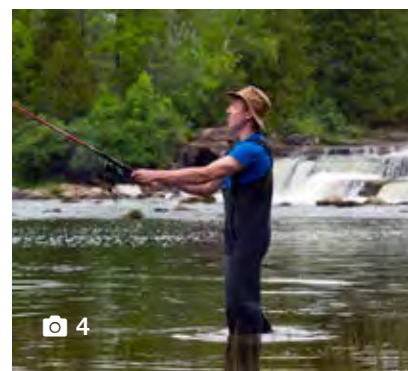
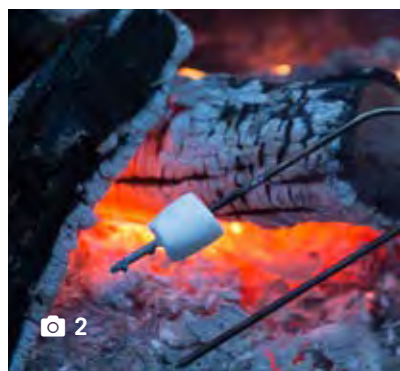
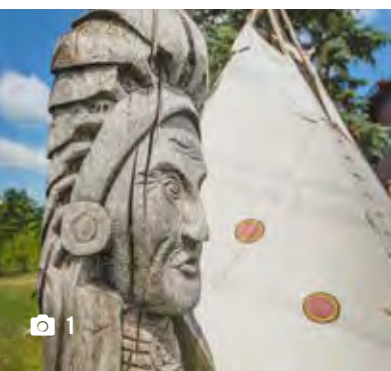
DISCOVER THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE WATERS OF LAKE HURON AND GEORGIAN BAY.

 9-DAY TOUR  1300 KM

This segment of the RV tour starts at Windsor and continues northward to Sarnia and along the Blue Coast Beaches on Lake Huron to the Bruce Peninsula. The route connects via Manitoulin Island to Hwy#17 at Mckerrrow, about halfway between Sudbury to the east, and Sault Ste. Marie to the west.

IMAGES

-  1 Indigenous Culture, Manitoulin Island
-  2 Campfire Marshmallows / Ontario Parks
-  3 Bruce County Museum – Southampton / BruceGreySimcoe
-  4 Sauble Falls Provincial Park / Ontario Parks





ENDLESS SANDY BEACHES DEFINE THE HURON COASTLINE.

The Bluewater Route stretches 300 km along the eastern shore of Lake Huron between Sarnia and Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. Bigger tourist towns like Grand Bend, Bayfield, Goderich, and Kindercardine are separated by beaches and sand dunes. Provincial parks including Pinery, Point Farms and Sauble Falls are ideal for swimming in the shallow waters.

Bruce Peninsula is famous for its power generation with windfarms and the site of a CANDU nuclear reactor and visitor center. It is the northern terminus of the Bruce Trail winding all the way for 850 km along the escarpment from Niagara Falls.

Scuba diving, caving, cycling, canoeing, wind surfing and paddle boards make for a wide range of activities for holiday makers.

DISCOVER MANITOULIN ISLAND, HOME TO INDIGENOUS CULTURE.

The 2-hour ferry crossing from Tobermory to South Baymouth makes the connection to the North.

Manitoulin Island is the world's largest fresh water island. Follow the trails to East Bluff Lookout and the vantage point on the Cup & Saucer Trail. Numerous lighthouses line the coast.





BLUEWATER ROUTE

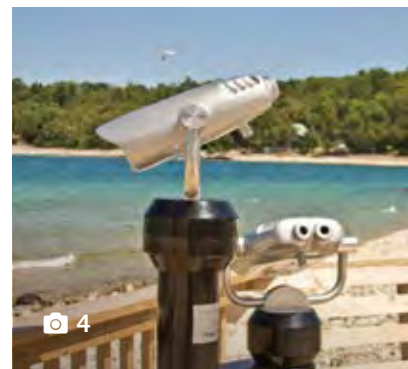
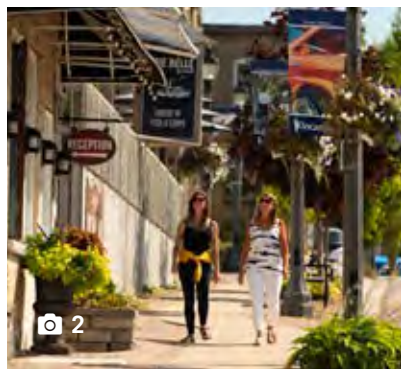


ITINERARY

- 1 Windsor to Sarnia
- 2 Sarnia to Grand Bend
- 3 Grand Bend to Southampton
- 4 Southampton to Owen Sound
- 5 Owen Sound to Sauble Beach
- 6 Sauble Beach to Tobermory
- 7 Tobermory to Meldrum Bay
- 8 Meldrum Bay to Little Current
- 9 Little Current to McKerrow

IMAGES

1 Little Current – Manitoulin Island 2 Downtown Kincardine / BruceGreySimcoe 3 Historic Lighthouses 4 Bruce Peninsula / Destination Ontario



TOP 10 TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 01 Blue Water Bridge. Sarnia.
- 02 St. Clair River Trail. Sarnia.
- 03 Fanshawe Conservation Area. London.
- 04 Pinery Provincial Park. Grand Bend.
- 05 Sand Dune Conservation. Central Coast.
- 06 Sauble Beach. South Bruce Peninsula.
- 07 Niagara Escarpment. Bruce Peninsula.
- 08 Bruce Peninsula National Park. Cliffs and caves.¹
- 09 MS Chi-Cheemaun ferry. Tobermory / South Baymouth.
- 10 Manitoulin Island. North Channel cruise.

Regional Tourism Organizations for South Central Ontario:

Tourism Regions along this route include: Manitoulin Island (RTO #13), Tourism regions along this route includes Southwestern Ontario (RTO #1), Huron, Perth, Waterloo and Wellington (RTO # 4), and BruceGreySimcoe Counties (RTO #7).

¹ Due to large demand in this area, strict reservation policies have to be adhered too, including day use passes.



National historic and Ontario heritage sites are marked with an asterisk [] throughout this guide.

BruceGreySimcoe — “Plan Ahead, Book Ahead”

Northern Bruce Peninsula (Tobermory, Flowerpot Island, Bruce Peninsula National Park, Lion’s Head) is one of the most popular areas of BruceGreySimcoe during July and August, when visitation is at capacity.

Visitation continues to increase and accommodations, including provincial and private campgrounds, book early and sell out. Visitors are encouraged to book during the shoulder seasons (spring/fall) when they can.

Beaches, trails and other natural attractions:

Visitors are encouraged to book during the week in the summer (rather than weekends) when possible.

OTHER SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

- 📍 Duc d’Orleans river cruise. St. Clair River.
- 📍 Chemical Valley. Sarnia.
- 📍 Oil Museum of Canada. Petrolia.
- 📍 Fanshawe Pioneer Village. London.
- 📍 Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site. Dresden.
- 📍 Huron County Gaol. Goderich.
- 📍 Lambton Heritage Museum. Grand Bend.
- 📍 Bruce County Museum. Southampton.
- 📍 Historic walking tours. Owen Sound.
- 📍 Warton Willie statue. Warton.
- 📍 Blue Heron Cruise Lines. Tobermory.
- 📍 Swing bridge. Little Current.

Parking reservations are required for the Grotto:

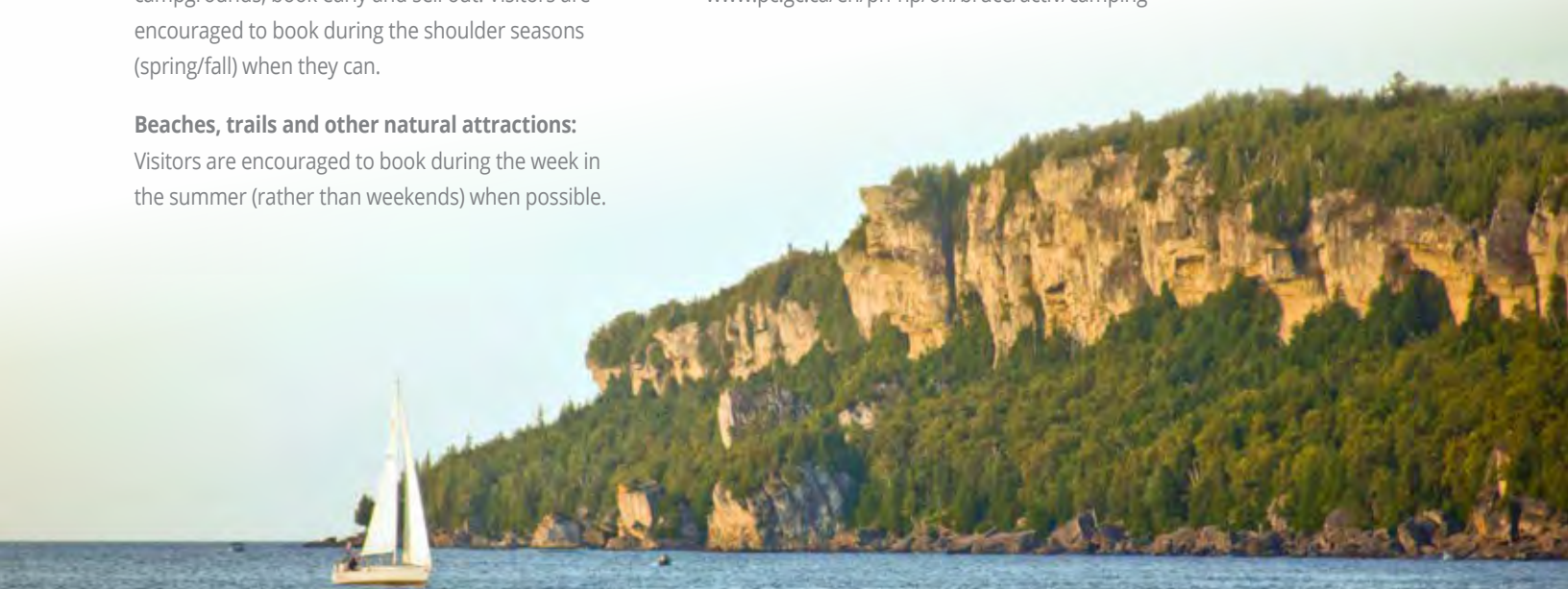
For more information visit:
www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/on/bruce/activ/emplacements-locations/parking

Parking reservations are required for Halfway Log Dump Access Point:

For more information visit:
www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/on/bruce/activ/emplacements-locations/parking

Reservations are required for Cyprus Lake Campground

www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/on/bruce/activ/camping



Day One

WINDSOR / CHATHAM-KENT / DRESDEN / PETROLIA / SARNIA



Windsor Skyline / Destination Ontario



1



2



3

CHATHAM-KENT COUNTY

This is a short drive around the east side of Lake St. Clair and inland on Hwy#2 and Hwy#36 to Chatham-Kent. Pickup Hwy#21 towards Dresden and Petrolia, and then northwest to Sarnia.

1 DAY ONE

Travel from Windsor to Sarnia.

Windsor area is the starting point for the Bluewater route. Refer to [Ports & Forts Route \(p.36\)](#) for more information on this city.

- **Lake St. Clair** is recognized as a Great Lake and officially part of the St. Lawrence Waterway. It extends 65 km from Lake Erie to Lake Huron. It is a very popular spot for leisure boaters. There are a number of lovely beaches and parks along the shorelines, including Fishers Bay or Bouvier (Munchies Bay) on the Canadian side.
- **Chatham** lies inland at the head of navigation on the Thames River where Chief Tecumseh was killed at the Battle of the Thames. The local museum offers a new exhibit *On our Doorstep: The War of 1812*. The town also served as the northern terminus of the code-named 'Underground Railroad' a network of safe-houses that helped escaped slaves from the USA.

IMAGES

- 1 Willistead Manor Garden / Destination Ontario
- 2 Blue Water Bridge – Sarnia & Port Huron USA / Gord Rees
- 3 Allsop Farms, Windsor / Destination Ontario

A Taste of Science is a Canada Agriculture & Food Museum that highlights the role science plays in delaying food decay and keeping it safe for human consumption. Learn food preservation techniques through interactive displays. It is part of a travelling road show that moves around Ontario.

- **Dresden.** The Dawn Settlement recognizes the efforts of Josiah Henson, a preacher and abolitionist who established himself as a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. Known as "Uncle Tom", he raised the awareness of Canada as a haven for refugees from slavery. The Josiah Henson Museum of African-Canadian History* sits on a 2 ha site with buildings housing an interpretive centre, Freedom Gallery and North Star Theatre. A sawmill and farm was set up to educate Black Pioneers. A national historic plaque marks the Henson Family Cemetery*.



- 1 Sarnia
- 2 Grand Bend
- 3 Southampton
- 4 Owen Sound
- 5 Sauble Beach
- 6 Tobermory
- 7 Meldrum Bay
- 8 Little Current
- 9 McKerrow



Route – 120 km

Head east on Hwy#22 from Windsor, and connect to Hwy#42. Continue northeast on Hwy#42 to Tillbury. Follow Hwy#2 eastward to Chatham-Kent. Continue northeast on Hwy#2 from Chatham-Kent to Thamesville. Head west on Hwy#21 to Dresden. Continue northeast on Hwy#21 to Oil Springs. Continue north on Hwy#21 through Petrolia. Connect with Hwy#22 to Sarnia.

Chatham Presbyterian Church | Gord Rees



- **Oil Springs** was the site of the first commercial oil wells in the world and the first gas gusher in Canada.
- **Petrolia**, known as “Canada’s Victorian Oil Town”, was once one of the wealthiest towns in North America after oil was discovered in 1858 which led to an oil boom. Visit the Petrolia Discovery Museum for a history of the oil patch. The clock tower* on the city hall symbolizes the prosperity of days gone by.

The Oil Museum of Canada* provides directions for a self-drive tour around the wells to observe the unique jerker line system that was invented to pump oil to the surface from multiple wells from a single engine. Tune into the Oil Heritage District FM radio driving tour.




Victoria Playhouse* conducts seasonal performances on centre stage in the historic Victorian Hall.

- **Sarnia** sits on the eastern bank at the source of the St. Clair River draining Lake Huron. A historical plaque is mounted under the Blue Water Bridge in commemoration of the voyage of French explorer Sieur de La Salle who was the first to propel his 45-ton barque against the powerful current of the St. Clair River. The port remains an important centre for lake freighters who service the three oil refineries. Crude oil arrives by a large pipeline from Alberta. It is no coincidence that the oil refineries in Sarnia are located only 27 km from the first discovery of oil in North America. Many “hardliners” from the oil patch set off around the world to help train workers expand oil production by sharing this new technology.

Climate change however forces new developments even here. A photovoltaic power station in “Chemical Valley” is a large solar generating facility producing 97 MW from an area that covers 450 hectares with 1.3 mm thin-film solar panels. The process converts electricity from sunlight but generates heat domes with negative effects on climate warming.

Cruise along the St. Clair River aboard the *Duc d’Orleans* for a close-up look at the bustling harbor, with lake freighters, luxurious yachts, and speedy runabouts. Walking trails circle the parks and marinas that stretch from downtown Sarnia to Point Edward. Another trail leads for 16 km from La Salle along the St. Clair River to Sarnia.

WHERE TO CAMP

-  **St. Clair Shores Campground.** Stoney Point. 20 minutes from Windsor. **Services:** Fully serviced. Toilets/showers. Boat rentals.
-  **Mitchell’s Bay Campground.** Mitchell’s Bay. 40 km north of Chatham-Kent on Hwy 42. **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers.
-  **Rock Glen Family Resort.** Arkona. 50 km west of Sarnia. Overlooking Rock Glenn Falls. **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.



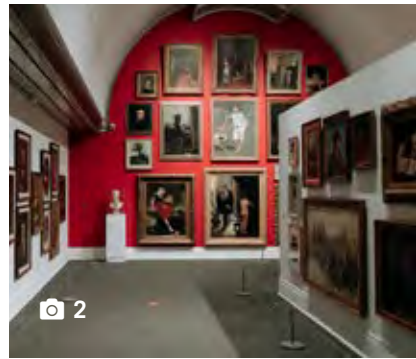
Day Two

SARNIA / LONDON / PORT FRANKS / GRAND BEND

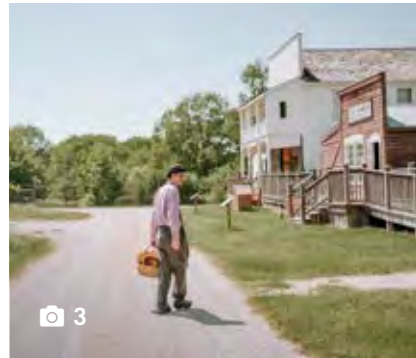
Forks of the Thames River / Tourism London Ontario



1



2



3

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Head inland to London and then back to the beaches stretching from Kettle Point in a straight line along Hwy#7 to Ipperwash Beach, Port Franks and Pinery Provincial Park. A series of lighthouses strung out along the coast are grim reminders of the perils of navigation on the Great Lakes.

2 DAY TWO

Travel from Sarnia to Grand Bend.

- **London side trip.** Situated on the Thames River inland about 60 km on Hwy#22, straight east of Sarnia. Banting House* is named in honor of Sir Frederick Banting co-discoverer of insulin. Numerous museums include Museum London, Spirit of Flight Aviation Museum, Canadian Medicine Hall of Fame and Royal Canadian Regiment Museum. Tour the historic Grand Theatre with two stages, and Labatt's Brewery named after one of Canada's pioneering brewing dynasties. The Factory is Canada's largest indoor adventure park.

The Fanshawe Conservation Area offers 24 km of walking trails and canoe rentals on the Upper Thames River. The Pioneer Village contains 30 heritage buildings.



Sunset on the Shores of Lake Huron — Gord Rees

IMAGES

- 1 Pinery Provincial Park Boardwalk / Ontario Parks
- 2 Museum London / Tourism London Ontario
- 3 Fanshawe Pioneer Village / Tourism London Ontario



London is a connecting point to the [Ports & Forts Route](#) and [Waterway Route](#). See page 140 for an alternative connecting route.

BLUEWATER
ROUTE

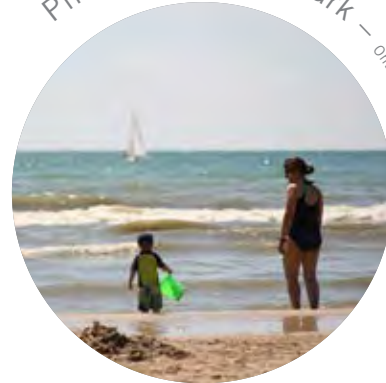
- ① Sarnia
- ② Grand Bend
- ③ Southampton
- ④ Owen Sound
- ⑤ Sauble Beach
- ⑥ Tobermory
- ⑦ Meldrum Bay
- ⑧ Little Current
- ⑨ McKerrow




Route – 220 km
Head east on Hwy#22 and then north on Hwy#21 to Kettle Point. Continue north on Hwy#21 along the shores of Lake Huron to Grand Bend.

Side trip to London: Follow Hwy#22 east from Sarnia to London.

Pinery Provincial Park – Ontario Parks




- Port Franks is located on Lake Huron. Protected beach is closed to the public. Large suburban development with more tourists in summer. Ipperwash Beach has a long sandy beach and sand dunes with public access.


 **Pinery Provincial Park** contains one of the largest remaining forested areas in Southern Ontario. Coastal dune fields feature several types of dunes that occur naturally to sustain wind-swept beaches. They continuously form as sand erodes from the shoreline bluffs to the north, and is deposited on the beaches between Grand Bend and Kettle Point to the south. A constant onshore breeze then deposits the sand from the storm beaches to locations further inland.


Discover a long uninterrupted sandy beach near Grand Bend. The beaches in the park do not have change facilities or buoyed areas. There are no lifeguards on the beaches.

- **Grand Bend** is one of the busiest towns on the coast where many recreational properties have made it a generational destination. It is still a scenic location at the beach front. Visit Lambton County Heritage Museum in Grand Bend. Huron beaches change constantly with the force of waves, wind and currents. A dune restoration project at Grand Bend is being undertaken with planting marram grasses and fence installation to protect the fragile dunes. The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation encourages land owners to become stewards of the dunes.

WHERE TO CAMP

 **Pinery Provincial Park.** Follow a long circuitous route through the park to Dunes, Burley and Riverside campgrounds. Visitor Centre with displays, amphitheatre, canoe and bicycle rentals. **Services:** Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Sani-dump. Visitor centre. Park store. Canoe rentals.

 **Fanshawe Conservation Area.** London. Minimum two-night stay on weekends and three nights on long weekends. **Services:** Electrical. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites.

 **Trout Haven Park.** Strathroy. Treed sites. Stocked rainbow fish pond. Exit 65 from Hwy#402. **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat.



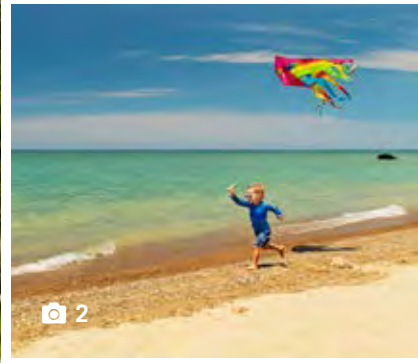
Day Three

GRAND BEND / HURON COUNTY / SOUTHAMPTON

📷 Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre – Southampton / BruceGreySimcoe



📷 1



📷 2



📷 3

SAUGEEN COUNTY

Lake Huron beaches stretch for miles all along Ontario's West Coast, with multiple points of access from the Bluewater Hwy. Hwy#21 parallels the coast from Grand Bend to Southampton. Hwy#23 is a coast road from Point Clark.

3 DAY THREE

Travel from Grand Bend to Southampton.

- Huron County** stretches 110 km from Clinton to Goderich on Ontario's West Coast. Villages are surrounded by a patchwork of mixed farming, grain and dairy farms. Bluewater Heritage Walking Tours are laid out on street maps with a description of manor houses in Bayfield and Zurich that feature historic buildings and architectural styles.
- Saint Joseph Historical Park** describes the French-Canadian communities who left Quebec to establish settlements along the "Bluewater Highway". Narcisse Cantin had a vision for a canal linking Lakes Huron and Erie and a broader concept of a deep-water canal through the Great Lakes that would eventually become the St. Lawrence Seaway.
- Bayfield.** A popular tourist destination. Designated a heritage conservation district with many well-preserved buildings. Beach life culture.

"The Kicker" is the main wakeboard feature at Windmill Lake Eco Park near Bayfield. It is the first bi-level wake park in Canada.
- Clinton.** Slightly inland past Bayfield on Hwy#8 sits an 80-foot long CNR School on Wheels*. Northern Ontario's unique railcar served as a rolling school for forty years, travelling 240 km between Capreol and Foley to bring education to remote northern families.

📷 IMAGES

📷 1 Camper Rental, Lake Huron Shore / Gord Rees 📷 2 Boiler Beach, Huron Kinloss / BruceGreySimcoe 📷 3 Southampton Townhall and Arts School / Gord Rees

LAKE HURON



- 1 Sarnia
- 2 Grand Bend
- 3 Southampton
- 4 Owen Sound
- 5 Sauble Beach
- 6 Tobermory
- 7 Meldrum Bay
- 8 Little Current
- 9 McKerrow



Route - 120 km
Continue north on Hwy#21 from Grand Bend along the shores of Lake Huron to Southampton.



- **Goderich.** Downtown has an unusual octagonal round-about known as “The Square” that radiates in all directions from Huron County Court House*. Huron County Gaol* is a walled prison in the panoptical design constructed in line with British prisons dating from the 1850s. It now hosts a museum. Surrounding farmland produces mostly wheat crops that feed large flour mills.
- **Point Clark Lighthouse*** stands as a safety beacon to mariners. The 87’ high cylindrical stone tower warns of an offshore shoal. The light keeper’s dwelling serves as a museum. Road access.
- **Kincardine** is a small tourist destination with cute local shops, and a lighthouse where the ‘Phantom Piper’ pipes down the sun every day in summer. As in keeping with its Scottish ancestry, the town declared itself “*Ontario’s Scottish Destination on Lake Huron*”. Interpretive signs along the beach boardwalk tell of local shipwrecks. It is also becoming known as a surfing centre. Huron Wind Farm operates over 400 windmills in Bruce County. The operation is Ontario’s first commercial wind farm producing enough electricity to power 3,000 homes. Bruce Power* was the first CANDU reactor, contributing to the success of larger nuclear reactors in Canada and abroad. The plant also recovers Cobalt-60 for use in cancer treatments. The Bruce Power Visitor Centre describes how nuclear power is generated.

- **Port Elgin.** Miles of white sand beaches. Port Elgin’s main beach has plenty of parking with washrooms, breakwater promenade, restaurants, and a waterfront hard surface trail that runs along the shoreline, harbour and through the park.
- **Southampton.** Discover a world of unique contraptions at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre. The displays include an extensive collection of marine history, shipwrecks and lighthouses on the Bruce Coast.


WHERE TO CAMP

- Paul Bunyon Lake Front Resort.** Bayfield. On shores of Lake Huron. **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Store.
- Point Farms Provincial Park.** Goderich. Close to Bogies Beach. **Services:** Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Sani-dump. Park Store.
- Fisherman’s Cove.** Kincardine. Located on a 200-acre spring-fed lake. **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park Store.
- Dreamaker Family Campground.** Southampton. **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat.

Day Four

SOUTHAMPTON / OWEN SOUND



 Wasaga Beach / Destination Ontario

SIMCOE COUNTY

Cut across the bottom of the Bruce Peninsula to Owen Sound on Georgian Bay. Extend the trip to Collingwood and the Blue Mountain resort area.

DAY FOUR

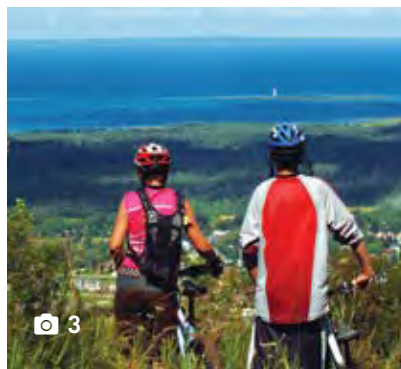
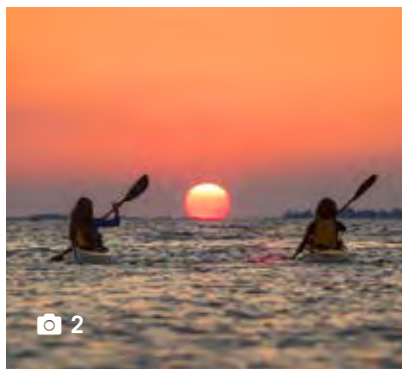
Travel from Southampton to Owen Sound.

- **Owen Sound.** The birthplace of prohibition and the last dry city in Canada led by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Four self-guided walking tours with plaques marking "Damnation Corner" and "Salvation Corner" to highlight the historic districts. Harrison Park is a beautiful green space near downtown Owen Sound that offers camping, trails, mini-putt, restaurant, canoe/kayak rentals.

Harrison Park – Owen Sound



 **IMAGES**  1 Downtown Owen Sound  2 Kayaking on Georgian Bay  3 Cycling in Collingwood  4 Scandinave Spa, Blue Mountain





- 1 Sarnia
- 2 Grand Bend
- 3 Southampton
- 4 Owen Sound
- 5 Sauble Beach
- 6 Tobermory
- 7 Meldrum Bay
- 8 Little Current
- 9 McKerrow

Route - 130 km
Continue east on Hwy#21 from Southampton to Owen Sound.

Side trip to Collingwood: Follow Hwy#26 east from Owen Sound to Collingwood on the shores of Georgian Bay (adds an additional 150 km to the route).



- **Collingwood.** Gateway to the Blue Mountains. The town center is marked by beaux arts-style Federal Building and the Collingwood Town Hall. Visit the museum to learn about the history of shipbuilding on the Great Lakes. Sunset Park offers waterfront trails. Collingwood is located two hours north of Toronto and referred to as Ontario's major ski resort on the Niagara Escarpment.

Blue Mountain Village is Ontario's only year-round mountain village resort and spa. The mile-long Ridge Runner Mountain Coaster reaches speeds up to 42 km/h. Blue Mountain pottery company is closed but a collector's club maintains the tradition of pottery made from red-brown clay and glazed to a mirror-like gloss.

Discover the Georgian Bay Basin, see page 140 for this alternative connecting route.

WHERE TO CAMP

- Rocksprings Family Camp & KOA.** Owen Sound. Hwy#6. **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat.
- Sauble Beach Resort Camp.** Sauble Beach. **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Heated pool.
- Sauble Falls Provincial Park.** Hwy#13 at Sauble Beach North. This historic waterfall used to power a timber mill and generating station. **Services:** Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Sani-dump.



Visit the **Northwinds Brewhouse & Kitchen** in Collingwood for a taste of globally inspired hand-crafted beer paired with a delicious locally sourced, seasonally focused menu.





📷 Sauble Beach / Destination Ontario

5 DAY FIVE Travel from Owen Sound to Sauble Beach.

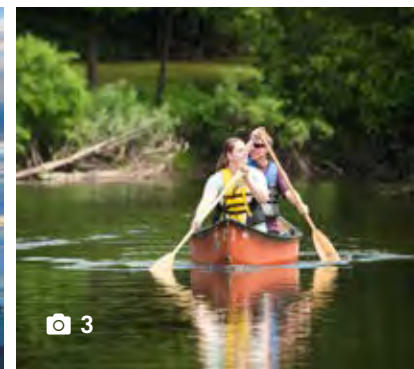
Angle northwest on Hwy#6 towards beautiful sand beaches and stunning dunes.

- **Sauble Beach.** Seven kilometers of pristine sandy beach makes it the second longest freshwater beach in the world. South Sauble Beach, Sauble Beach and North Sauble Beach are contiguous along the mid coast. Ascent Aerial Park is a family adventure park featuring obstacle courses, axe throwing and Canada's first ZIP Coaster. Earthbound Gardens in Red Bay features self-guided free garden tours, a gift shop and a nursery.



IMAGES

- 📷 1 Sauble Falls Provincial Park / Destination Ontario
- 📷 2 Sauble Beach / Gord Rees
- 📷 3 Sauble Falls Provincial Park / Ontario Parks



Day Six

SAUBLE BEACH / BRUCE PENINSULA / TOBERMORY



MS Chi-Cheemaun Ferry / Destination Northern Ontario



1



2



3

BRUCE PENINSULA

Wander around both sides of the Bruce Peninsula. Activities include hiking a portion of the Bruce Trail, bouldering, diving and snorkeling, and scenic cruises in crystal blue waters.

6 DAY SIX

Travel from Sauble Beach to Tobermory.

- **Bruce Peninsula** extends 100 km into Lake Huron where it sits at the northern fringe of Southern Ontario between Georgian Bay and the main basin of Lake Huron, and forms the northern extension of the Niagara Escarpment. The limestone cliffs tower 500 feet above the lake. Trails lead to the Grotto sea caves with its crystal blue water. Capacity limits are in place for the Grotto. Make sure to check with Parks Canada for day use reservations.

The Bruce Peninsula Artists' Co-op Gallery located in Lion's Head features a collection of original local artwork ranging from watercolours, to stained glass, pottery, jewelry and more.

IMAGES

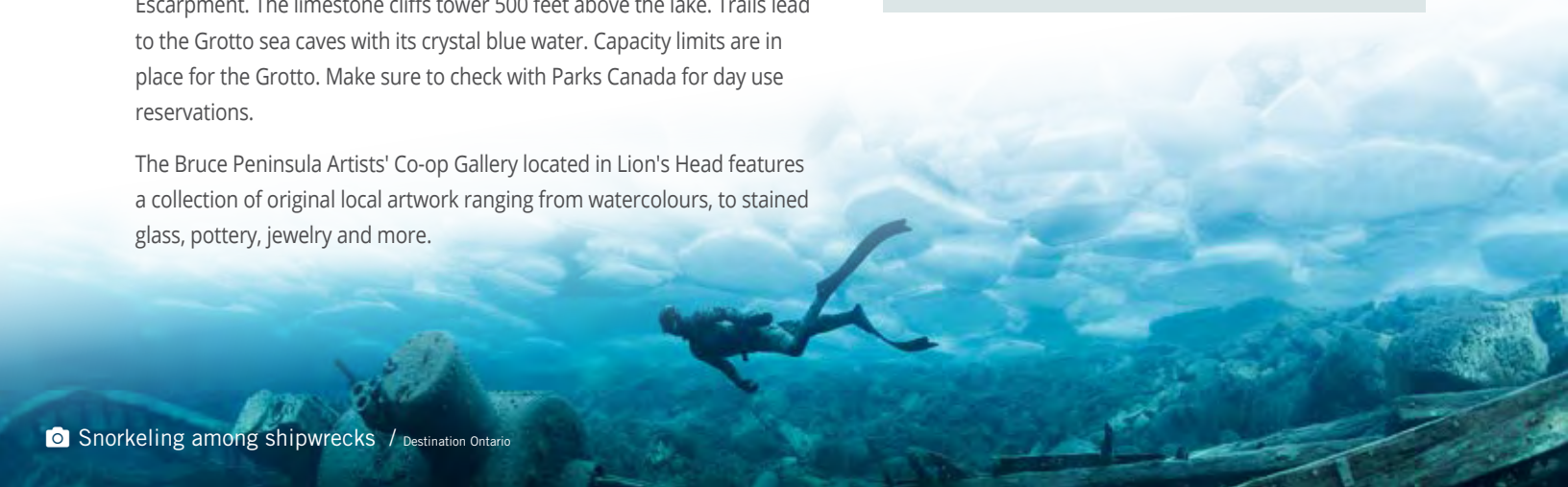
- 1 Exploring the Grotto / Destination Ontario
- 2 Crystal clear waters of Georgian Bay / Destination Ontario
- 3 Tobermory / Destination Ontario – Ethan Meleg

Parking Restrictions:



Visitors are advised to reserve day parking before arrival at National Parks in Northern Bruce Peninsula. [See p. 60 for details.](#)

Snorkeling among shipwrecks / Destination Ontario





- **Bruce Peninsula National Park*** protects 156 square miles of wilderness along the northern range of the Niagara Escarpment and named in honour of James Bruce, the 8th Earl of Elgin, who served as the Governor General of Canada, when Canada was just a province. The park is known for many species of wild orchids that flourish in the moderate climate. *Please see page 60 regarding parking and reservations.*
- **Tobermory.** The village hosts galleries, tourist shops and a historic lighthouse.

The Fathom Five National Marine Park* is known as the “freshwater SCUBA diving capital of the world” with 22 shipwrecks lying between 10 and 150 feet below the surface. Dive tags are required and available in Little Tub Harbour. Ship wrecks are also accessible with a glass bottom tour boat from Blue Heron Tours. Dive shops also offer snorkeling to explore the crystal blue water along the shoreline.

The St. Edmunds & Peninsula Museum reflects the life experience of the early settler families on the northern Bruce Peninsula. Tour a 19th century one-room school house museum and visit an 1875 cabin where Jacob and Agnes Belrose raised a family of eight children.

St. Edmunds & Peninsula Museum – Bruce Grey Simcoe



The Tobermory port is the south terminal for the MS Chi-Cheemaun car carrier to South Baymouth. Known as the “Big Canoe”, the passenger ferry has capacity for 600 passengers and up to 150 vehicles. The two-hour crossing allows sufficient time to enjoy a full-service cafeteria, floating art gallery, and the “Boatique” shopping for casual gear. Live performances are sometimes offered. The ship makes two or three round trips per day. Reservations are strongly recommended. In Tobermory. Try a delicious fried dough pastry known as a *Beavertail* – a tradition for many before boarding the ferry.



M.S. Chi-Cheemaun Toll Ferry:
visit www.ontarioferries.com for reservations, rates and schedules.



WHERE TO CAMP

Tobermory Village Campground. Tobermory. Close to ferry terminal. ☑ **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Flush toilets/showers. Boat rentals. Store.

Day Seven

TOBERMORY / SOUTH BAYMOUTH / MELDRUM BAY



South Baymouth / Destination Northern Ontario



1



2



3

MANITOULIN ISLAND

Manitoulin Island is a stronghold of native culture in Ontario. Wikwemikong Tours offers authentic indigenous tours, reflecting its Anishinaabe lifestyle and traditions. Visit the Ojibway Cultural Foundation in M'Chigeeng.

7 DAY SEVEN

Travel from Tobermory to Meldrum Bay.

- **Manitoulin Island** is a good place for a break to stock up on provisions. Head out for a grand tour of Manitoulin Island, the largest freshwater island in the world. Drive northward from the ferry dock and west toward Meldrum Bay. The rugged coastline with inland lakes, makes it ideal for hiking, a day at the beach, fishing, or strolling through the villages scattered along rural roads.

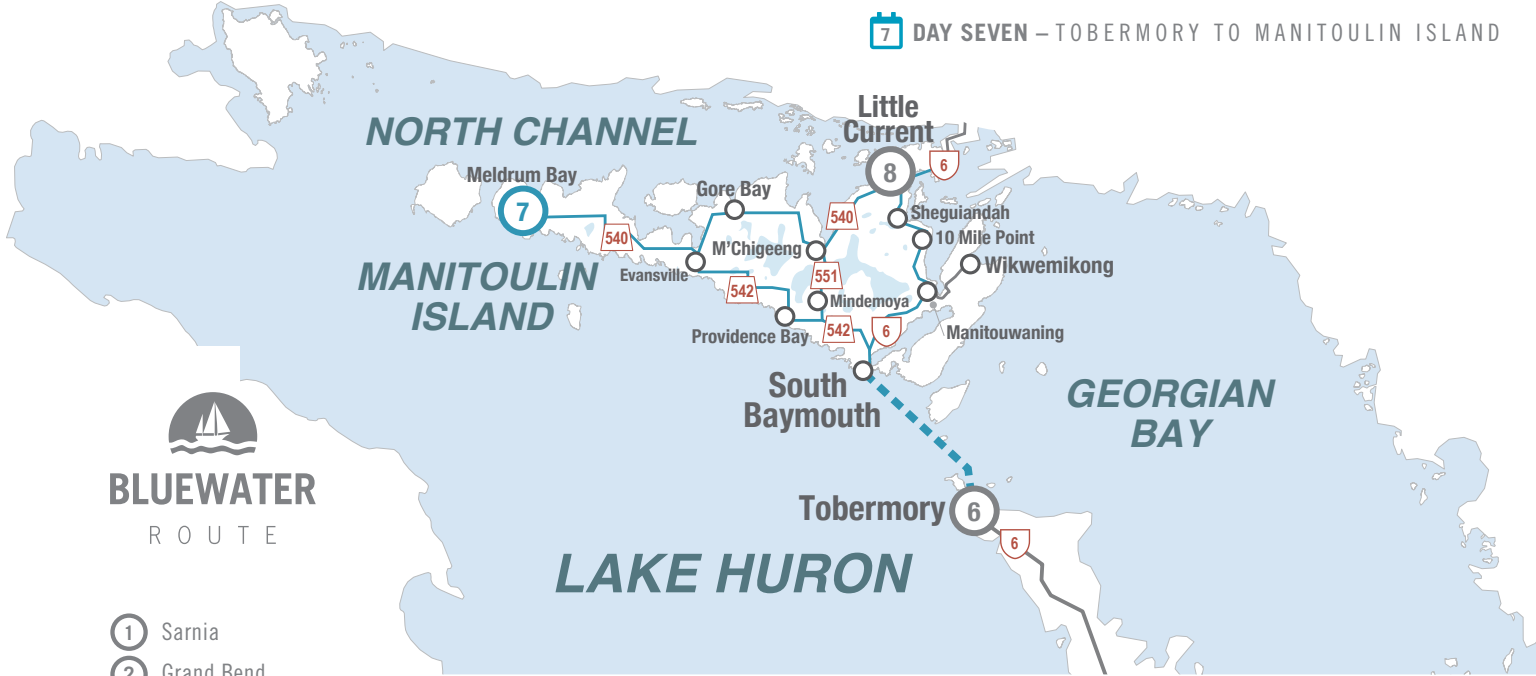


IMAGES

- 1 Meldrum Bay Inn
- 2 Fresh Hawberries
- 3 Missisagi Lighthouse, Meldrum Bay



For additional information visit a Travel Information Centre. Manitoulin Island's Travel Information Centres are located in **Little Current** and **South Baymouth**.



- 1 Sarnia
- 2 Grand Bend
- 3 Southampton
- 4 Owen Sound
- 5 Sauble Beach
- 6 Tobermory
- 7 Meldrum Bay
- 8 Little Current
- 9 McKerrrow

Route – 140 km

Board the MS Chi-Cheemaun from Tobermory to South Baymouth. There are a few route options available on travel on Manitoulin Island. Hwy#6 will bring visitors through Manitouwaning and Sheguiandah to Hwy#540 at Little Current. Hwy#542 will follow the southern portion of the island through Mindemoya to Gore Bay. Hwy#551 will cut across from Mindemoya and eventually connect to Hwy#540 at M'Chigeeng. Hwy#540 follows the north side of the island to Meldrum Bay.

Note: It takes just under 2 hours to travel across Manitoulin Island. *Be sure to check your fuel as services may be limited.*

- **Bowerman Trails** in South Baymouth provides access to the harbor entrance to watch the ferry movement and activities at the municipal marina. The Little Red School House Museum presents the history of the pioneering commercial fishing families.
- **Meldrum Bay.** Follow Hwy#540 to the end at Meldrum Bay to visit the lighthouse and fog horn station. Book a dinner reservation at the historic Meldrum Bay Inn for some delicious, local island cuisine.
- **Backtrack or explore a different route back to campgrounds.** Most campgrounds are concentrated around Lake Manitou, Mindemoya and Kagawong.

WHERE TO CAMP



Manitoulin Resort. Manitouwaning. On Lake Manitou. **Services:** Electrical. Water. Flush toilets/showers. Sani-dump. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Store. Boat Rentals.



Stanley Park. Mindemoya. **Services:** Electrical. Water. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Store.

MANITOULIN ISLAND – approximate travel distances

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	DURATION
Barrie	Tobermory	225 km	3 hr
Tobermory	South Baymouth	2 hrs (MS Chi-Cheemaun Ferry)	
South Baymouth	Little Current	65 km	50 min
South Baymouth	Meldrum Bay	125 km	1 h 40 min
Meldrum Bay	Little Current	130 km	1 h 30 min

Bridal Veil Falls, Kagawong – Destination Ontario



Day Eight

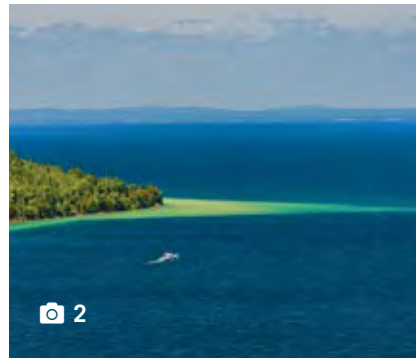
M'CHIGEENG / LITTLE CURRENT / SHEGUIANDAH



 Sunset over Little Current / Destination Northern Ontario



 1



 2



 3

8 DAY EIGHT

Spend an extra day exploring Manitoulin Island.

- **M'Chigeeng.** Lillian's Crafts and Museum features a collection of porcupine quill baskets, bead work and antler carvings. Ten Mile Point lookout on Hwy#6 offers Indigenous art, handcrafts and blankets. Manitoulin Island Cycling Advocates offers a new cycling map to follow along paved shoulders of numbered highways. You will find local farmers markets held in the towns on the Island. Canoe and kayak rentals are available at several locations.

The Cup and Saucer Hiking Trail leads off from Hwy#540 to a lookout on the cliffs with sweeping views of the North Channel.


IMAGES

 1 Split Rail Brewing Co., Gore Bay / Destination Northern Ontario

 2 North Channel, Gore Bay / Destination Northern Ontario

 3 Indigenous Culture and Crafts / Destination Northern Ontario




 Ten Mile Point Lookout / Destination Northern Ontario

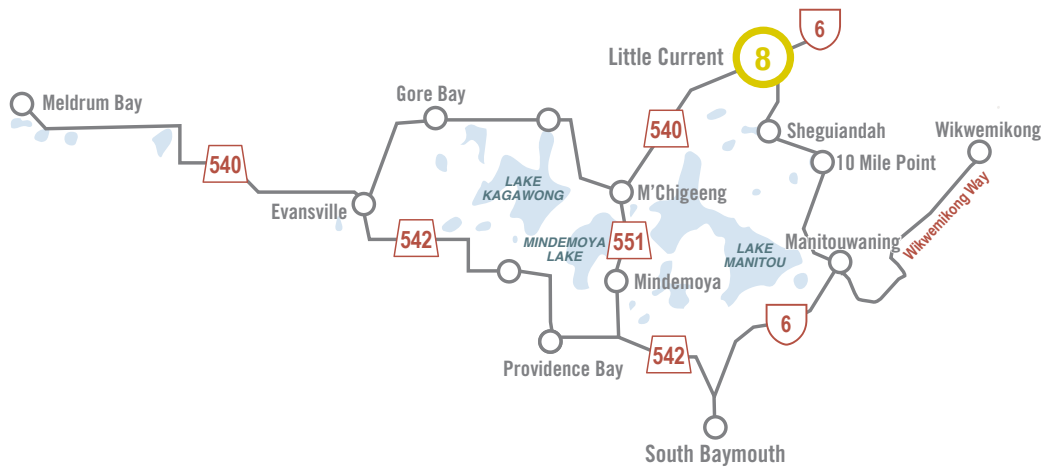


BLUEWATER
ROUTE

- ① Sarnia
- ② Grand Bend
- ③ Southampton
- ④ Owen Sound
- ⑤ Sauble Beach
- ⑥ Tobermory
- ⑦ Meldrum Bay
- ⑧ **Little Current**
- ⑨ McKerrow

 **Route** – 140 km
Spend an extra day exploring Manitoulin Island.

Note: It takes just under 2 hours to travel across Manitoulin Island. Be sure to check your fuel as services may be limited.



- **Sheguiandah.** Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah highlights a collection of settler tools and President Roosevelt's 1943 wartime visit to the area.

A roadside marker at 10 Mile Point explains the Jesuit history where a mission was established in 1648, and abandoned two years later after the defeat of the Hurons by the Iroquois.



The bedrock of the Canadian Shield has yielded a discovery at the Sheguiandah Archeological Site*. Aboriginal peoples quarried quartzite on a series of ancient beach terraces, leaving behind ancient artifacts. A boardwalk leads up a gentle hillside slope.

- **Little Current** is located on Mississagi Straits where it enters the North Channel. North Channel Cruise Line offers day trips around the islands from the downtown main dock. Little Current is a port of call and a spot to moor for several cruise lines operating on the Great Lakes.

The Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre in Little Current features natural elements of wood, stone and décor reflecting the First Nations traditions. Enjoy an authentic Indigenous dining experience with views of the LaCloche Mountain range and the North Channel on Lake Huron.

- **Manitouwaning.** Historic sites include Assiginack Museum, and St. Paul's Anglican Church next to the tapered wooden Manitouwaning light tower.*
- **Wikwemikong** organizes one of the largest, longest running Pow Wow's in Northeastern America the first week of August every year. Wikwemikong Tours (wikytours.com) also offers a wide range of daily guided cultural tours, daily from May to October.

 **WHERE TO CAMP**

-  **Batman's Campground.** Sheguiandah.
 - ✔ **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Store. Restaurant. Watercraft rentals.
-  **Green Acres Tent & Trailer Park.** Sheguiandah Bay.
 - ✔ **Services:** Beach front campsites. Electrical. Water. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Store. Restaurant.

 **TRAVEL TIP** 


Hike the **Cup & Saucer Trail** near M'Chigeeng. The trail climbs to the top of the Niagara Escarpment and offers some amazing views of the Island. The hike takes about 2 hours and can be physically demanding.





Day Nine

LITTLE CURRENT / WILLISVILLE / MCKERROW

 Fairbank Provincial Park / Ontario Parks






DAY NINE

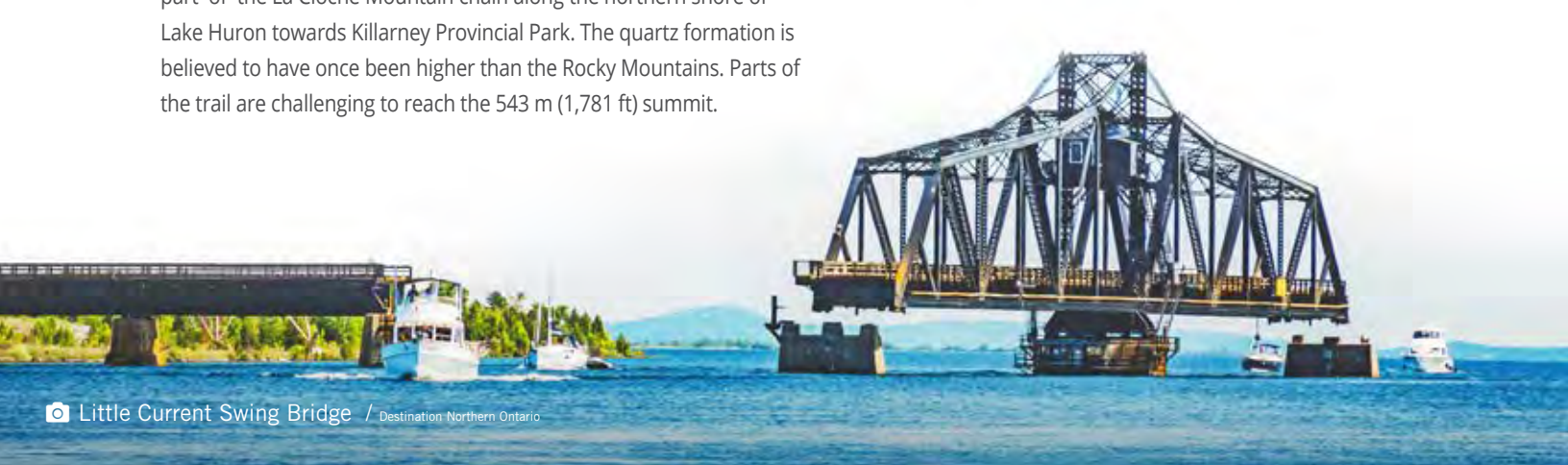
Travel from Little Current to McKerrow.


Cross the swing bridge over the narrow channel and head north on Hwy#6 to the junction with the Fur Trade Route on Hwy#17 at McKerrow.

- **Manitoulin Island.** Take some time to finish exploring near Little Current and nearby points of interest on Manitoulin Island.
- **Little Current Swing Bridge.** Vehicles on the one-lane 369-foot swing bridge* are controlled by the only traffic light on the island.
- **Willisville Mountain** in the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy forms part of the La Cloche Mountain chain along the northern shore of Lake Huron towards Killarney Provincial Park. The quartz formation is believed to have once been higher than the Rocky Mountains. Parts of the trail are challenging to reach the 543 m (1,781 ft) summit.

IMAGES

-  1 Serpent River / Destination Northern Ontario
-  2 Fairbank Provincial Park / Ontario Parks
-  3 Chutes Provincial Park / Ontario Parks



 Little Current Swing Bridge / Destination Northern Ontario



BLUEWATER
ROUTE

- 1 Sarnia
- 2 Grand Bend
- 3 Southampton
- 4 Owen Sound
- 5 Sauble Beach
- 6 Tobermory
- 7 Meldrum Bay
- 8 Little Current
- 9 **McKerrow**

Route – 80 km

Continue north on Hwy#6 across the Little Current Swing Bridge. Follow Hwy#6 to Hwy#17. From here travelers can head east to Sudbury to join the Prospector Route, or west on the Fur Trade Route to Sault St. Marie.

NORTHERN ONTARIO TOURING ROUTES

Head east towards Sudbury and North Bay to join the **Prospector Route**, or west on the **Fur Trade Route** towards Sault Ste. Marie.



SEE PAGE 80 FOR DETAILS

WHERE TO CAMP



Serpent River Campground. Located in Spragge on Hwy#17 alongside the Serpent River (halfway between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie).

✔ **Services:** Electrical. Showers/toilets. Convenience store offering fresh home-made pizza.



Chutes Provincial Park. Located in Massey, 20 minutes west of McKerrow. ✔ **Services:** RV camping available. Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Hiking trails. Canoe rentals available. Open mid-May to mid-October.



Fairbank Provincial Park. East on Hwy#17, and north on Hwy#4 from Spanish River. Located on crystal clear Fairbank Lake. ✔ **Services:** Some electrical sites available. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park Store. Canoe rentals.

LaCloche Mountains – Willisville



TRAVEL TIP



Take a side trip to the **village of Willisville**. A picturesque town nestled in the heart of the LaCloche Mountains. Several members of the Canadian Group of Seven Artists painted here.

Take the road less travelled.

NORTHERN ONTARIO RV ROUTES



The Fur Trade Route

Toronto to Kenora (Northwestern Ontario)

 9-DAY TOUR  1900 KM

The **Fur Trade Route** is one of Canada's most scenic drives. Travel from the shores of Georgian Bay to the rugged Canadian Shield along the shores of Lake Superior, and west through magnificent Lake of the Woods to Kenora. Learn about the Indigenous people and the fur trade that led to settlement with the exploration of canoe routes, railroads, and eventually highways that connected resource towns to the outside world.

[Route Itinerary - Page 84](#)



The Prospector Route

Toronto to Cochrane (Northeastern Ontario)

 7-DAY CIRCLE TOUR  1800 KM

The **Prospector Route** encapsulates the significance of hard rock mining and the tourism attractions that are lined up in a relatively small, easily accessible circuit through Northeastern Ontario. This seven-day circle tour covers a wilderness region with vast stands of stately red and white pine forests, where waterfalls and tumbling rapids connect lakes to resorts and campgrounds. For an extended trip, travelers have the option to connect to the Fur Trade Route along Hwy#11 from Cochrane to Nipigon.

[Route Itinerary - Page 112](#)



LAKE SUPERIOR (GITCHI-GAMI) Meaning "Big Sea" in Objibwe native language.

Hwy#17 weaves 700 km through massive rock cuts between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. Use the pull-offs to access stunning viewpoints. Stroll along miles of sandy shorelines and pebble beaches in several provincial parks. Explore the hiking trails to lookouts in Pukaskwa National Park. Spend at least two or three days on this rugged stretch along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Chippewa Falls | 5. Alona Bay Lookout | 9. Old Woman Bay | 13. Aguasabon Falls | 17. Kama Bay Lookout |
| 2. Batchawana Bay | 6. Agawa Bay Lookout | 10. Wawa | 14. Schreiber | 18. Nipigon |
| 3. Pancake Bay | 7. Sand River Falls | 11. Little Pic River | 15. Rosspoint | 19. Ouimet Canyon |
| 4. Sawpit Bay | 8. Katherine's Cove | 12. Terrace Bay | 16. Cavers Hill Lookout | 20. Terry Fox Lookout |



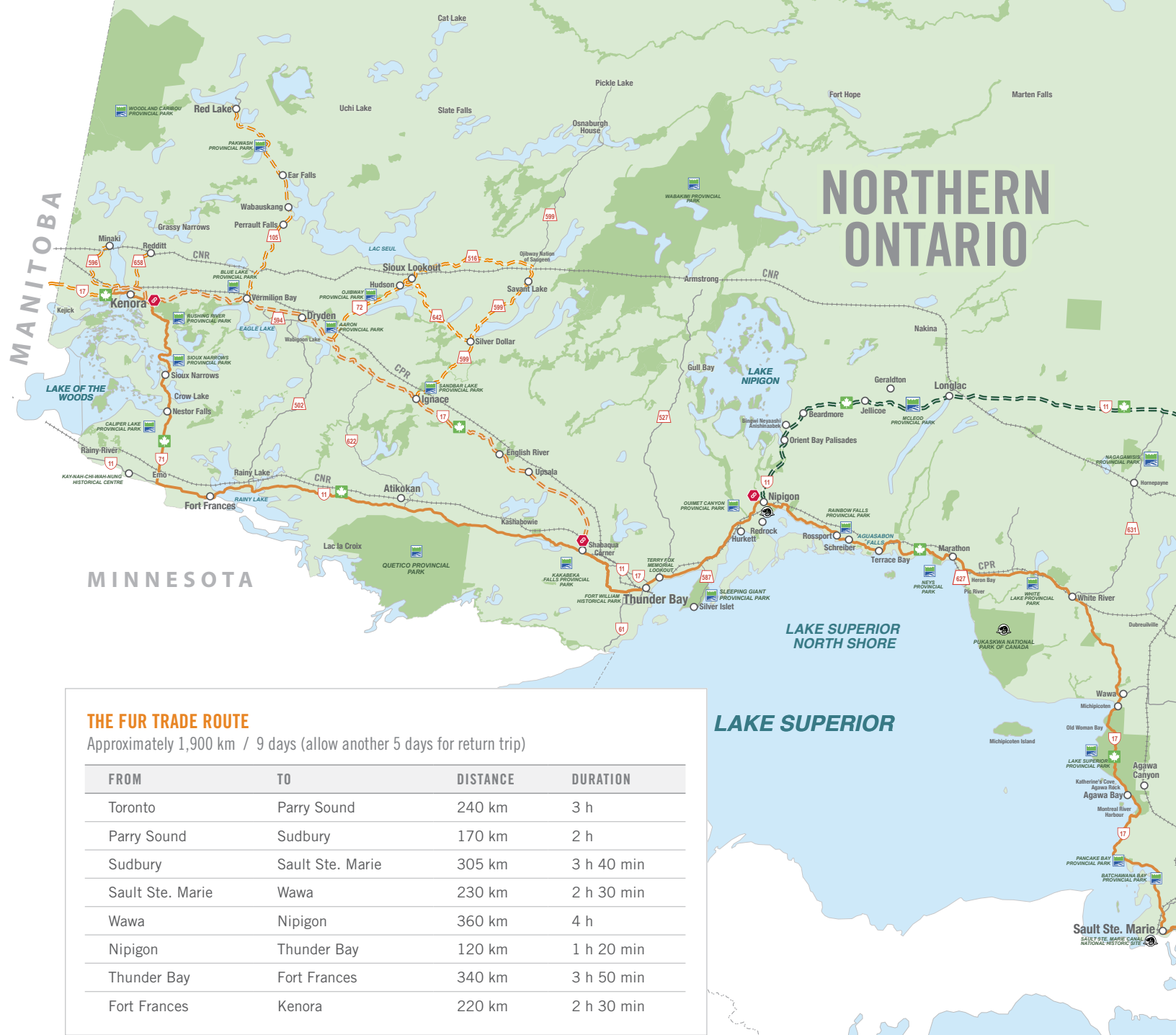
Lake Superior is powerful. The largest freshwater lake in the world evokes an ocean temperament that makes weather and water conditions change quickly and give rise to nightmarish storms. Pay close attention to warning signs about weather, waves and strong currents. The beauty of the extensive North Shore is viewed best from many beaches and viewpoints off the scenic drive on Hwy#17. Its size can be measured by a drop of water that takes 200 years to circulate before exiting the lake's only natural outlet, the St. Mary's River at Sault Ste. Marie.

The Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area is the largest freshwater protected area in the world extending over 10,000 sq km of lakebed and associated shoreline.



LAKE SUPERIOR

NORTHERN ONTARIO



THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

Approximately 1,900 km / 9 days (allow another 5 days for return trip)

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	DURATION
Toronto	Parry Sound	240 km	3 h
Parry Sound	Sudbury	170 km	2 h
Sudbury	Sault Ste. Marie	305 km	3 h 40 min
Sault Ste. Marie	Wawa	230 km	2 h 30 min
Wawa	Nipigon	360 km	4 h
Nipigon	Thunder Bay	120 km	1 h 20 min
Thunder Bay	Fort Frances	340 km	3 h 50 min
Fort Frances	Kenora	220 km	2 h 30 min

THE PROSPECTOR ROUTE

Approximately 1,900 km / 7 days for a round trip

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	DURATION
Toronto	Huntsville	390 km	3 h 20 min
Huntsville	Temagami	230 km	2 h 40 min
Temagami	Temiskaming Shores	60 km	45 min
Temiskaming Shores	Iroquois Falls	180 km	2 h
Iroquois Falls	Cochrane	50 km	40 min
Cochrane	Timmins	105 km	1 h 10 min
Timmins	Sudbury	300 km	3 h 25 min
Sudbury	Killarney	110 km	1 h 20 min
Killarney	Toronto	430 km	4 h 25 min

LAKE SUPERIOR

LAKE MICHIGAN












NORTHERN ONTARIO

RV RENTAL STATIONS

- Canadream 33 West Drive, Brampton, ON
- Cruise Canada 12275 Highway 50, Bolton ON
- Fraserway RV 5362 County Road 27 N, Cookstown, ON
- Owasco RV Rentals 570 Rundle Road, Clarington, ON

RV ROUTES

-  The Prospector Route
-  The Fur Trade Route
-  The Waterway Route
-  Ports & Forts Route
-  The Bluewater Route
-  Alternative Route (Foresters Falls to Ottawa)
-  Alternative Route (Huntsville to North Bay)
-  Alternative Route (Cochrane to Nipigon)
-  Alternative Route (Thunder Bay to Manitoba Border)





AN UNFORGETTABLE 9-DAY ADVENTURE

Follow the Fur Trade Route.



ONTARIO



ITINERARY

- DAY 1 Toronto to Parry Sound
- DAY 2 Parry Sound to Sudbury
- DAY 3 Sudbury to Spragge
- DAY 4 Spragge to Sault Ste. Marie
- DAY 5 Sault Ste. Marie to Wawa
- DAY 6 Wawa to Nipigon
- DAY 7 Nipigon to Thunder Bay
- DAY 8 Thunder Bay to Fort Frances
- DAY 9 Fort Frances to Kenora

*a, b, and c are alternate routes

Connect to the Prospector Route (see p. 130)

Alternative route from Thunder Bay to Manitoba (see p. 106)

TOP 10 TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 01 Island Queen cruise – on Georgian Bay / 30,000 Islands – Parry Sound
- 02 Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site – St. Joseph Island
- 03 Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site – canal tour – Sault Ste. Marie
- 04 Agawa Canyon Tour Train – Departs from Sault Ste. Marie
- 05 Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre – Sault Ste. Marie
- 06 Pukaskwa National Park – Heron Bay, Lake Superior
- 07 Lake Superior North Shore – Scenic viewpoints along Lake Superior
- 08 Fort William Historical Park – Thunder Bay
- 09 Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung National Historic Site – Fort Frances
- 10 MS Kenora – cruise on Lake of the Woods – Kenora



Weather Warnings

Remote sections on Hwy#17 / 11

Watch for sudden weather changes with heavy snow and wind on isolated stretches of highways with few or no services during April and early May, and late September–October in Fall along the north shore of Lake Superior. Gale-force winds can quickly develop over the north shore of Lake Superior. Keep an eye on your fuel and propane before heading north around the crest of Lake Superior where gas stations may close in the evening, and on Sundays.

Regional Tourism Organizations along this route include:

RTO#12 (Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park) and RTO#13 (a,b,c) (Northern Ontario).

OTHER SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

- 📍 The Group of Seven Touring Route. This region so inspired the founding members of Canada's internationally renowned Group of Seven that they made nine trips every fall between 1921 and 1928. The trail connects some of their painting sites that are found readily along the shores of Lake Superior. Find out more at momentsofalgoma.ca.
- 📍 The Terry Fox Memorial and historic markers showing prisoner of war camps of World War II in Neys Provincial Park and Red Rock.
- 📍 Heritage sites and museums include the French River Travel Information Centre, Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site, Wawa, White River, Nipigon, Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay, Atikokan, La Verendrye Parkway in Fort Frances, and Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora.



National historic and Ontario heritage sites are marked with an asterisk [] throughout this guide.

Day One

LAKE SIMCOE / ORILLIA / PARRY SOUND

📷 Island Queen Cruise – Georgian Bay / Destination Ontario

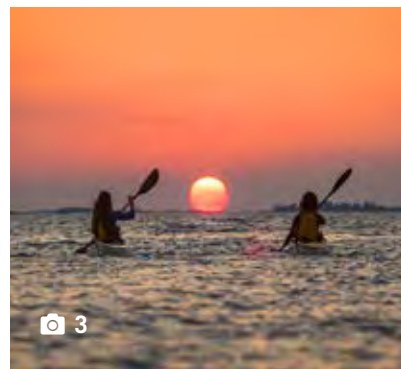
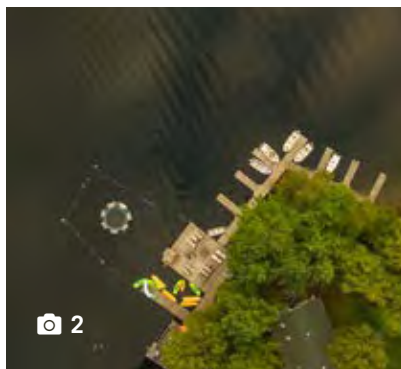


+ ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

Manitoulin Island. As an alternative route, visitors can take the MS Chi-Cheemaun, a passenger and vehicle Ferry, from Tobermory at the tip of Bruce Peninsula to South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island. *Over-size rates apply to vehicles greater than 20 feet.* Refer to the [Blue Water Route](#) for a detailed itinerary.

[See page 72-78 for details](#)

📷 **IMAGES** 📷 1 Fall colours in Parry Sound 📷 2 Muskoka Cottage Country 📷 3 Kayaking, Georgian Bay 📷 4 RV rental / Sandra Keele





- 1 Parry Sound
- 2 Sudbury
- 3 Spragge
- 4 Sault Ste. Marie
- 5 Wawa
- 6 Nipigon
- 7 Thunder Bay
- 8 Fort Frances
- 9 Kenora



- 🚛 Main Route – 250 km
Hwy#12 from Toronto to Coldwater. Hwy#400 from Coldwater to Parry Sound.
- 🚛 Alternate route (a)
from Toronto to Tobermory where the MS Chi-Cheemaun, Ferry brings visitors across Georgian Bay to Manitoulin Island.
- 🚛 Alternate route (b) from Orillia through Huntsville and North Bay to Sudbury.

1 DAY ONE

Travel from Toronto to Parry Sound.

- **Go north from Toronto RV rental stations.** There are numerous highways heading north from Metro Toronto. Take **Hwy#12** through farmland and horse ranches around Sandford and Brock Township with stone houses built in the 1890s.
- **Sharon.** Optional Side trip. The Sharon Temple* stands as an architectural testament to the faith of the Children of the Peace. The perfectly square neo-classical design with 12 lanterns represents the twelve disciples in support of the breakaway sect of Upper Canada Quakers' egalitarian beliefs.
- **Orillia.** A large Catholic church sits on a hill that dominates the approach to Orillia from the east side of Lake Simcoe and gives an insight to the early settlers whose headstones commemorate the area's Irish ancestors.
- **Parry Sound.** Climb the metal stairs to the platform at the top of the 85' Tower Hill Lookout for panoramic views overlooking the deep-water port, islands and the railway trestle crossing high above the Seguin River. The ice hockey super-star Bobby Orr Hall of Fame is located on the waterfront.
- **The Island Queen Cruise** operates from the pier in Parry Sound and cruises amongst the 30,000 islands lining the eastern shores of Georgian Bay.

🏠 WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Parry Sound / Manitoulin Island.

🚐 **KOA - Parry Sound.** Three hours north of Toronto. Located in Seguin, just 20 minutes to downtown Parry Sound.
 ✔️ **Services:** Electrical. Sani-station. Flush toilets/showers. Swimming pool.

🌲 **Horseshoe Lake Camp & Cottages.** Located in Seguin. The campground features mixed forest overlooking Horseshoe Lake.
 ✔️ **Services:** Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Beach. Canoes available.

🚐 **Providence Bay Trailer Park.** Manitoulin Island. ✔️ **Services:** Electrical and water hookups. Sani-dump.



TRAVEL TIP

We recommend purchase of a **small barbeque** and a **small gas canister** for outdoor dinners along the way.


Freshly caught trout fillets on the BBQ

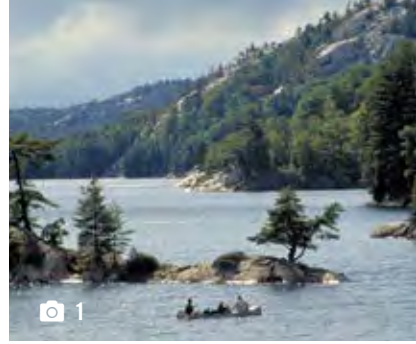




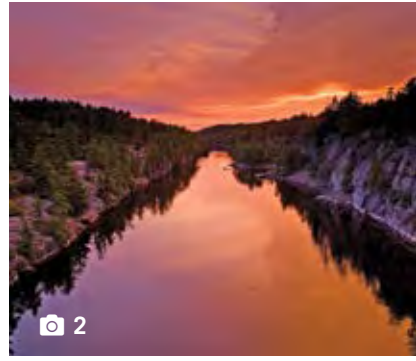
Day Two

PARRY SOUND / FRENCH RIVER / KILLARNEY / SUDBURY

 Killarney Provincial Park / Destination Ontario



 1



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GEORGIAN BAY

There is a noticeable change in landscape along Georgian Bay towards the Canadian Shield. The granite rock formations created by catastrophic events at the end of the ice age illustrate the direction and magnitude of the slow-moving glaciers more than a kilometre thick, almost 2 million years ago.

IMAGES

-  1 Killarney Provincial Park / Destination Ontario
-  2 French River Provincial Park / Destination Ontario
-  3 Hiking Georgian Bay Coast / Destination Ontario



 Killarney Provincial Park / Destination Canada | photo by Ben Jaworskyj



- 1 Parry Sound
- 2 Sudbury
- 3 Spragge
- 4 Sault Ste. Marie
- 5 Wawa
- 6 Nipigon
- 7 Thunder Bay
- 8 Fort Frances
- 9 Kenora



2 DAY TWO

Travel from Parry Sound to Sudbury.

- **Britt.** A historic railroad hub connected to shipping coal and timber on the Great Lakes. The old pier is a reminder of a company town gone bust.
- **Greater Sudbury.** Approaching Sudbury, you will soon see the 380-meter super stack on the horizon. The stack is now disabled as the community becomes more environmentally friendly.



French River Provincial Park. A Travel Information Centre and museum at the heritage site on the French River pays tribute to the Lake Nipissing Canoe Route. Voyageurs followed the river west to secure furs from the Objibwe on a voyage of trade and exploration leading north and west of Lake Superior as early as 1659. The French River, although relatively small, was most significant in providing access to westward travel. The Travel Information Center is open Thursday to Monday in spring and fall, and daily in the summer.

✓ **Services:** Backcountry camping only - **No RV camping available at this site.** Flush toilets. Park store (seasonal). Travel Information Centre. Hiking trails.



Killarney Provincial Park. Hwy#637 (125 km) return to Hwy#69. Dominated by La Cloche Mountains with pink granite and white quartzite hills overlooking the coastline of Georgian Bay. Killarney Provincial Park is recognized as a nationally certified **Dark Sky Preserve** by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

✓ **Services:** George Lake Campground is open for camping all year. Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Hiking trails. Park Store (seasonal) and Canoe Rentals nearby.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Sudbury.



Sportsman's Park. Located in Alban. 30 minutes south of Sudbury. ✓ **Services:** Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Sani-dump.



Carol's Campsite. Sudbury. ✓ **Services:** Electrical. Sani-dump. Laundry. Wifi.




There are numerous Provincial Parks along this route that have campsites available. Open seasonally.

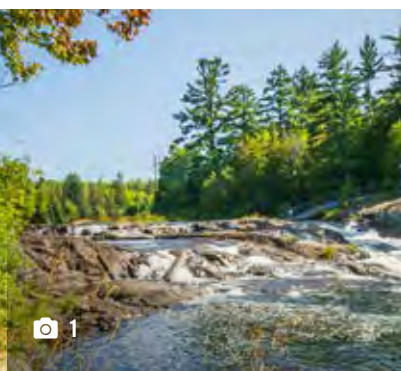


Day Three

SUDBURY / MASSEY / MANITOULIN ISLAND / SPRAGGE



 Dynamic Earth – Sudbury / Destination Ontario



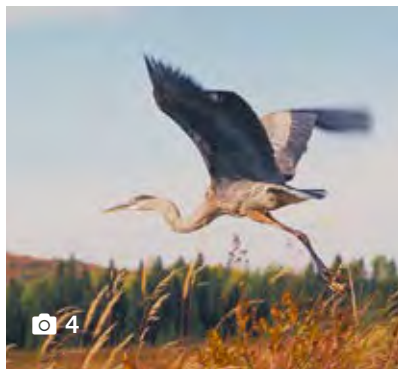
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 4

Little Current Swing Bridge – Manitoulin Island



IMAGES

-  1 Serpent River
-  2 The Big Nickel – Sudbury
-  3 Fire Tower Lookout – Elliot Lake
-  4 Great Blue Heron



- 1 Parry Sound
- 2 Sudbury
- 3 Spragge
- 4 Sault Ste. Marie
- 5 Wawa
- 6 Nipigon
- 7 Thunder Bay
- 8 Fort Frances
- 9 Kenora



- **Route** – 175 km
Head west on Hwy#17 to Spragge.
- **Side Route** – Turn left onto Hwy#6 to explore the majestic Manitoulin Island, or connect to the Bluewater Route.
- **Side Route** – Turn north on Hwy#108 for a short visit to the town of Elliot Lake.

3 DAY THREE

Travel from Sudbury to Spragge.

- **Sudbury.** The **Dynamic Earth** museum in Sudbury needs a full day to visit. Starting at the 12-sided *Big Nickel* on the hill, mining exhibits feature every kind of geology. A one-hour underground tour with exhibits show the history of mining technology in the Canadian north.
- Optional side route to **Manitoulin Island**. Turn left at McKerrrow on **Hwy#6** to Whitefish Falls, across Great La Cloche Island to Little Current where roads lead to villages and waterfront resorts. At least a full day is recommended to take in all the magical sights and experiences of Manitoulin Island (**see p. 72-78 for details**). McKerrrow is also a connecting point to the Bluewater Route.



Chutes Provincial Park in Massey. The park features a roaring waterfall on the Spanish River. Display boards record the river runs using a log chute to bypass the falls during the logging heydays.

- **The Spanish Marina and Four Seasons Waterfront Complex** is a bird watchers paradise. A lookout over Lake Huron and the “Provincially Significant Wetlands” allows visitors to observe waterfowl feeding on aquatic vegetation. Information plaques tell of the life in lumber camps and company towns in the 1800s.

- **Elliot Lake (short side-trip)** on Hwy#108 north from Serpent River, was known as the “*Uranium Capital of Canada*”. Once the US military stopped stockpiling yellow cake during the Cold War, the population dwindled from twenty thousand to six thousand as the boom turned to bust, and rebounded as a retirement community. The town features a Nuclear & Mining Museum, Canadian Mining Hall of Fame, and a Miners’ Memorial Park. The Fire Tower Lookout and Ranger’s Heritage Centre provides a commanding few over the landscape and lakes.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Spragge.



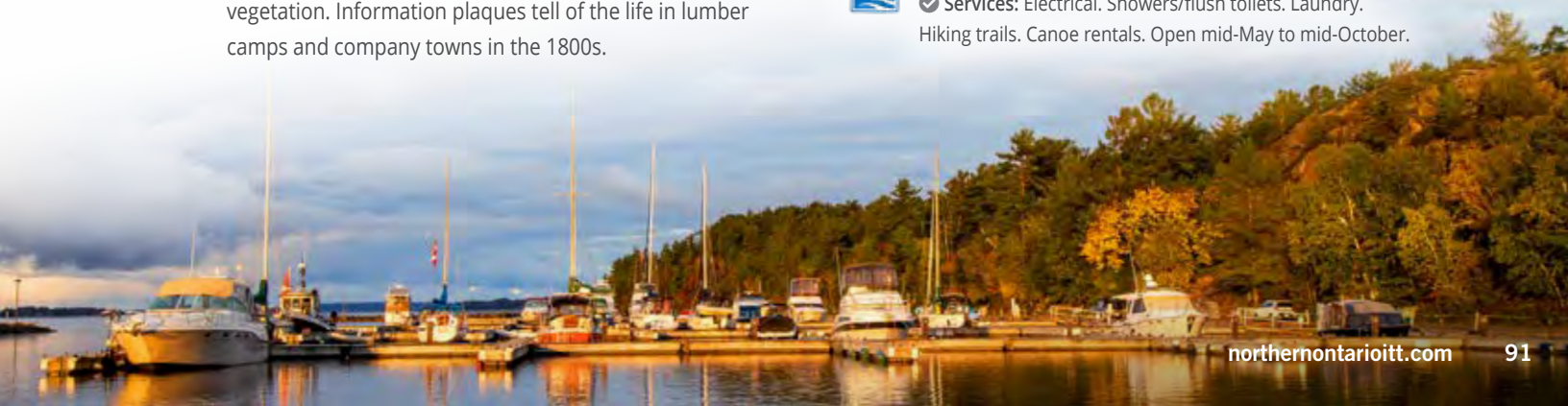
Brennan Harbour RV Park. Located in Spanish on Lake Huron at mouth of the Spanish River.
 ✓ **Services:** Sani-dump. Open mid-May to mid-October.



Serpent River Campground. Located in Spragge on Hwy#17 alongside the Serpent River (half way between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie). ✓ **Services:** Electrical. Showers/toilets. Convenience store offering fresh home-made pizza.




Chutes Provincial Park. Located in Massey.
 ✓ **Services:** Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Hiking trails. Canoe rentals. Open mid-May to mid-October.



Day Four

LAKE HURON NORTH SHORE / SAULT STE. MARIE



 Bridge to St. Joseph Island / Destination Northern Ontario



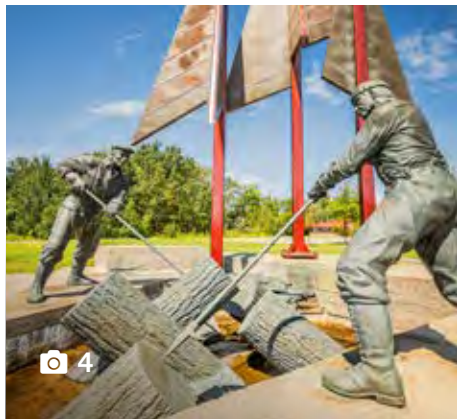
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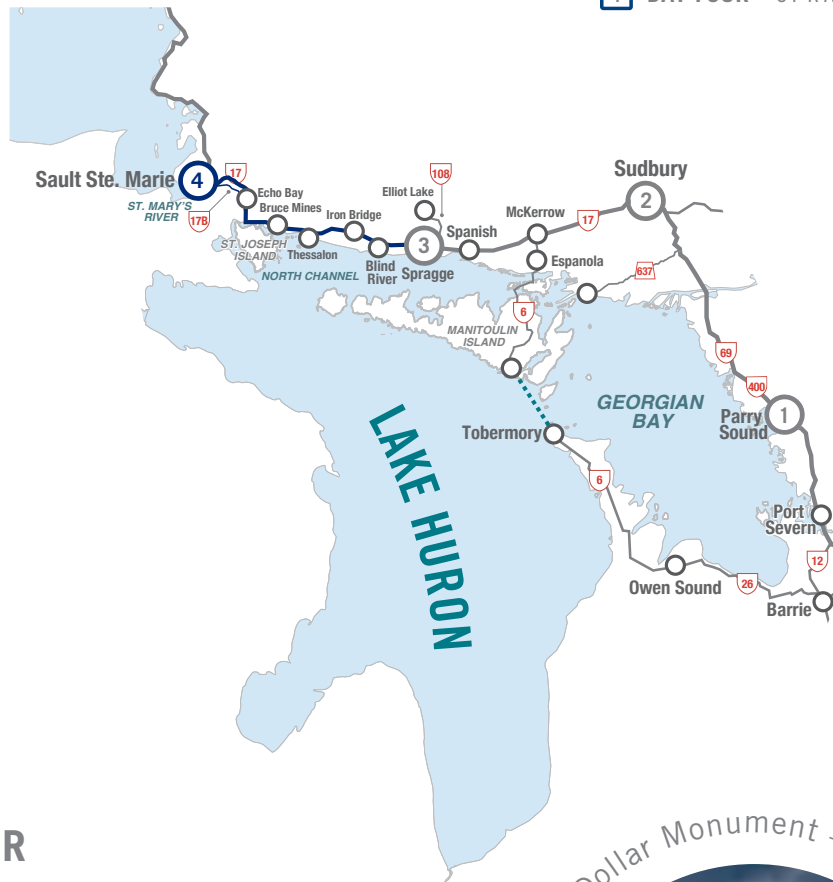


 4



IMAGES

-  1 Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site - St. Joseph Island
-  2 Bruce Mines Historic Copper Mine
-  3 Iron Bridge Historical Museum
-  4 Timber Village Museum - Blind River



- ① Parry Sound
- ② Sudbury
- ③ Spragge
- ④ Sault Ste. Marie
- ⑤ Wawa
- ⑥ Nipigon
- ⑦ Thunder Bay
- ⑧ Fort Frances
- ⑨ Kenora

- Route** – 170 km
Continue west on Hwy#17 to Sault Ste. Marie or stay overnight at a campground along the way.
- Side Route** – Exit at Hwy#548 to explore St. Joseph Island.


4 DAY FOUR

ALGOMA COUNTRY – LAKE HURON

Travel from Spragge to Sault Ste. Marie.

This route takes us along the north shore of Lake Huron.

- **Algoma Mills.** Discovery of uranium-rich rock in the area led to an economic boom during the 1950s. The Pronto Mine processed 2.1 million tons of uranium from veins of ore discovered in conglomerate. The mill was then converted to process copper ore until it was closed in 1970.
- **Blind River** hosts the Northern Ontario Logging Memorial of forest workers, and the Timber Village Museum showing life in the early lumber camps.
- **Iron Bridge.** The Tulloch and Carlyle houses are replicas of the first homesteads, located east of Iron Bridge. A Travel Information Centre is located at this site.
- **Bruce Mines** saw the discovery of copper in 1846, resulting in the first copper mine in North America. **Tom Thompson** of the Group of Seven painted “View over a Lake Shore with Houses” in 1912.


 **Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site***. Located on St. Joseph Island 56 km east of Sault Ste. Marie. The British chose the location for its proximity to the navigation routes controlling the fur trade and access to the Great Lakes. The fort served as a base for the first British military maneuvers against the Americans in the War of 1812.




- **Echo Bay.** The *Loon Dollar* monument was erected to honor wildlife artist Robert R. Carmichael, a resident of the village and artist responsible for the 1987 coin’s loon design.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Sault Ste. Marie.

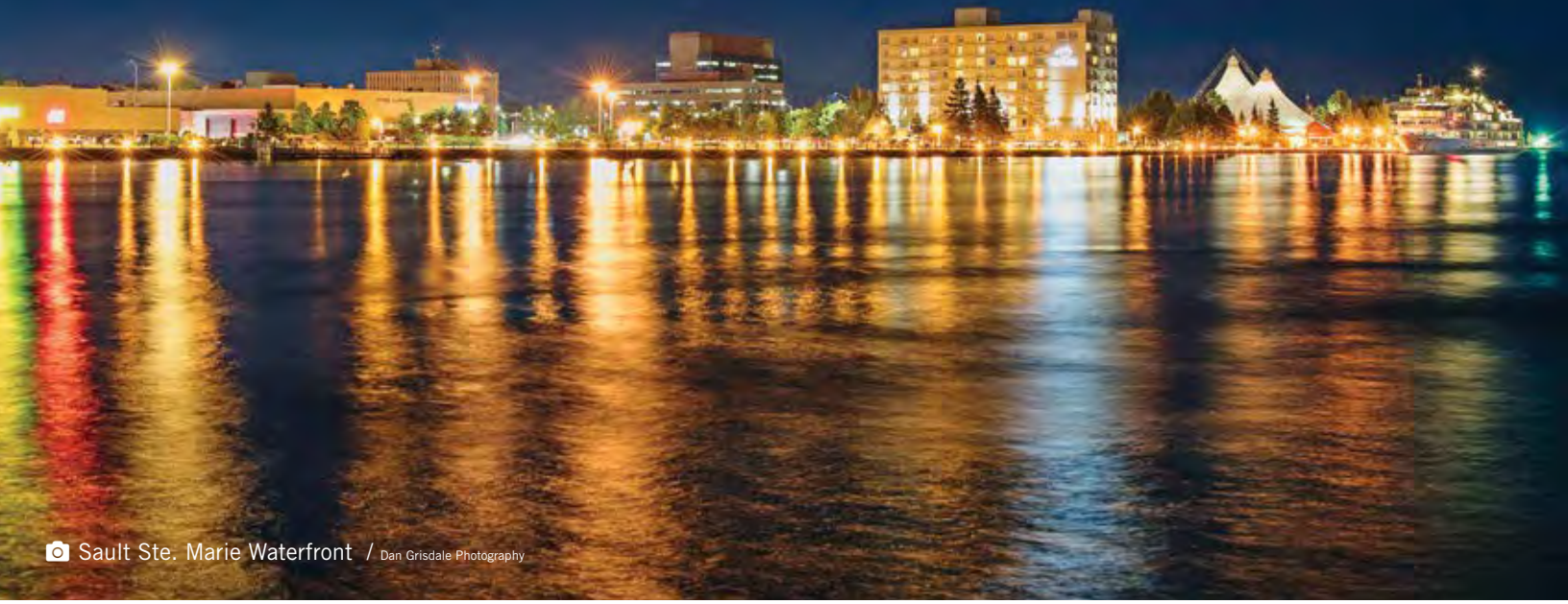
 **Objiway Park.** Located south of Sault Ste. Marie just outside Echo Bay on Hwy#17B after the Echo Bay Bridge. Beach front on sandy shores of Laying Water Beach. Operated by Garden River First Nation.


✔ **Services:** Electrical. Shower/flush toilets. Sani-dump. Pavilion rental.

 **Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday.** Located 10 minutes from downtown. ✔ **Services:** Electrical. Some cable TV hookups. Showers/toilets. Sani-dump. Laundry. High pressure RV wash. Gift and souvenir store.

Explore

SAULT STE. MARIE



 Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront / Dan Grisdale Photography



 1



 2



 3

OPTIONAL EXTRA DAY

Stay an extra day in Sault Ste. Marie.

Sault Ste. Marie. A major centre along the St. Mary's River and the shores of both Lake Huron and Lake Superior. City highlights include the **Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre** and the **Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site*** — reminders of northern settlement. Take a walk around town to visit numerous Heritage Properties, watch for 1923 Pilgrimage of History Plaques featuring buildings with historical and architectural significance. Pay tribute to Dr. Roberta Bondar, the first Canadian woman in space with numerous acknowledgments around the city.

- **Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre.** Check out the de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver, the classic Canadian single-engine bush plane with pontoon floats designed to land and take off at outposts on small lakes, or to drop firefighting crews off at forest fires. On display is CF-OBS, the second oldest Beaver that was built in 1948. It was operated by the Ontario Provincial Air Service throughout the northwest. See the history of forest fire suppression brought to life through a 20-minute movie.



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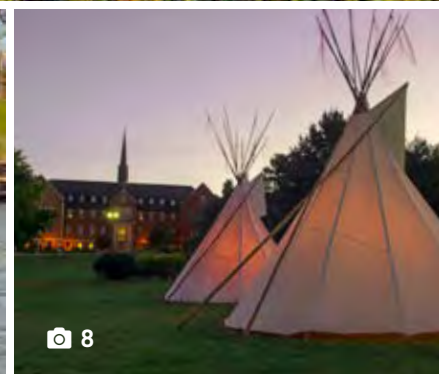


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 7

Photo©Gary McGuffin



 8




- **Agawa Canyon Tour Train.** The train departs from downtown Sault Ste. Marie on a one-day excursion into the heart of the Canadian wilderness. In 1912, the Group of Seven (G7) rented a box car along the rail line to house their studio in the bush. The 180-km rail journey follows the shores of lakes and rivers, and ends at the bottom of the Agawa Canyon. Climb 300 stairs to a panoramic lookout which sits 250ft above the canyon floor. A dining car serves hot and cold meals. This trip is magnificent in September and October for fall colour viewing, and always sells out early. The train operates daily from early June to October.








- **Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site*.** Sault Ste. Marie Canal was the first Bateau lock, just 38 feet long and 8 foot wide when built by the North West Company in 1768 as a means for voyageurs to by-pass the rapids on the St. Mary's River. Today's locks are one of the world's longest where pleasure craft can be seen in transit from South St. Mary's Island. Ocean freighters navigate the St. Lawrence Seaway from the Atlantic Ocean to Lake Superior where the locks rise 6.4 m between the water levels of Lakes Superior and Huron.

- **Métis Tours.** Embark on a water trail adventure with professional interpretive guides in a voyageur-style canoe. Paddle Sault Ste Marie's St. Marys River or explore Lake Superior's shores at the famous Agawa pictographs.
- **Miss Marie Sault Lock Tours.** This 2-hour day or evening Locks/ waterfront boat cruise operates along the Canadian waters of Lake Superior and the St. Marys River.
- **Shingwauk Kinoomage Gamig.** Learn about the legacy of the residential schools in Canada through historical tours and educational outreach programming on the former Shingwauk Residential Schools site.

 IMAGES

-  1 Miss Marie Sault Lock Tours / Colin Field
-  2 Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site
-  3 Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre

-  4 Bridal Veil Falls, Agawa Canyon
-  5 Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site
-  6 Agawa Canyon Tour Train

-  7 Canoes for Conservation / Gary McGuffin
-  8 Shingwauk Kinoomage Gamig / James Smedley

Day Five

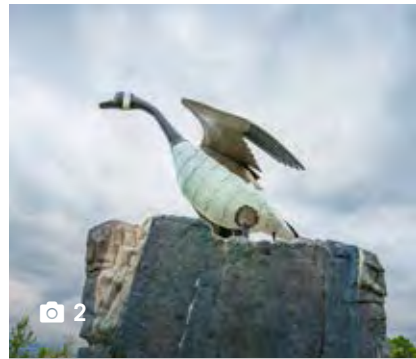
LAKE SUPERIOR PROVINCIAL PARK / WAWA



📷 Old Woman Bay Lookout – Nokomis Trail / Destination Ontario



📷 1



📷 2



📷 3



ALGOMA COUNTRY – LAKE SUPERIOR

Follow the rugged shores of Lake Superior, renowned as one of the greatest RV drives in the world.

5 DAY FIVE

Travel from Sault Ste. Marie to Wawa.

- **Chippewa Falls** drops 13 meters in two stages. There is a rest stop just to the side of the highway bridge. A plaque marks the half-way point on the Trans Canada Highway between St. John, Newfoundland, and Victoria, BC. Look for another G7 easel by Arthur Lismer entitled *"The Little Falls"*.

📷 IMAGES

- 📷 1 Agawa Rock Pictographs
- 📷 2 Wawa Goose Monument
- 📷 3 Fall colours in the Algoma

📌 Park permits are required in Lake Superior Provincial Park. Permits can be purchased at the Travel Information Centre at Agawa Bay.



📷 Hwy#17 along Lake Superior's North Shore / Destination Ontario



Route – 300 km
Head north on Hwy#17 from Sault Ste. Marie to Wawa.

- 1 Parry Sound
- 2 Sudbury
- 3 Spragge
- 4 Sault Ste. Marie
- 5 Wawa
- 6 Nipigon
- 7 Thunder Bay
- 8 Fort Frances
- 9 Kenora



Batchawana Bay Provincial Park features a beautiful beach with spectacular views of Lake Superior. Stop by the Voyageurs' Cookhouse filled with artifacts and large paintings of the Fur Trade Route. Ask for a copy of the visitor attractions that are listed on the way to Thunder Bay.

- **Agawa Crafts and The Canadian Carver** offer extensive native crafts, cottage-themed décor, wood carvings, animal sculptures, furs and moccasins. Ample RV parking is available at the highway rest stop.



Pancake Bay Provincial Park. Voyageurs preferred this wide sandy 3-km long beach for stopovers on the canoe route around the top of Lake Superior. Look for a display explaining weather patterns on the Great Lakes.

- **Edmund Fitzgerald Lookout.** Lake Superior's weather in November can be a violent tempest that challenges the strength of even the sturdiest ships". *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald* is immortalized in song composed and recorded by Gordon Lightfoot. The large ore carrier floundered off the coast at Pancake Bay. A few life vests washed up along the coast as an eerie testament to the burial grounds offshore.



Lake Superior Provincial Park is one of the larger parks on the eastern shore of Lake Superior. Displays illustrate the effect of "rebounding" on the Shield which is a term to describe how bed rock rises after removal of the massive weight of glaciers. Another G7 easel marks the area where J.E.H. MacDonald came to Algoma Country "to find gems of the Canadian landscape". A Travel Information Centre highlighting the park's cultural history, natural features and recreational opportunities is located at Agawa Bay. Lake Superior Provincial Park is recognized as a nationally certified **Dark Sky Preserve** by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

- **Agawa Rock.** 8 kms north of Agawa Bay within Lake Superior Provincial Park. See pictographs painted on sheer cliffs rising from Lake Superior. Red ochre figures are painted on a giant canvas of stone to record the stories of generations of the Objibwe. Proper footwear is recommended for access along a cobblestone path on the shoreline. Paintings can only be viewed when the lake is calm. **Warning signs advise visitors to use extreme caution on the rugged path down to the water's edge.** Open mid-May to mid-September. Park permit required.
- **Michipicoten.** Magpie River Valley features a scenic 75 ft high and 125 ft wide waterfall at the outflow of a reservoir.
- **Wawa.** A legendary town settled by pioneers located three hours north of Sault Ste. Marie. Follow the "Signs of History" around the town that explain the early beginnings. Look for a statue of early settlers. Take a picture with the famous *Land of the Big Goose* monument located next to the Travel Information Centre.

WHERE TO CAMP



Wild Rose RV Park. Located next to Voyageurs' Cookhouse in Batchawana Bay. Access to a beautiful sand beach. **Services:** Fully serviced.



Wawa RV Resort & Campground. Wawa. 1 mile north of town. Open early May to late October. **Services:** Electrical. Outdoor heated pool. Laundry. Wifi. Showers.



There are numerous Provincial Parks along this route that have campsites available. Open seasonally.

Day Six

WHITE RIVER / MARATHON / TERRACE BAY / NIPIGON



📷 Lake Superior Shoreline / Ontario Parks



📷 1



📷 2



📷 3

6 DAY SIX

SUPERIOR COUNTRY

Travel from Wawa to Nipigon.

- **White River.** Started as a railroad divisional point where large blocks of ice were cut from lakes in winter to refrigerate box cars filled with perishables being shipped across the long northern route. See the Historical Society Museum and historic markers. White River is famous for its Winnie-the-Pooh statue built to commemorate the black bear cub that became the mascot for Canadian troops serving overseas during WW II.



Pukaskwa National Park*, Heron Bay. Main entrance to camping and Travel Information Centre is 25 km east of Marathon on Hwy#627 at Hattie Cove. The park features a boardwalk over the sand dunes to the sandy beach on Horseshoe Bay. Interpretive walking trails share important teachings of Anishinaabe culture. Canoe rentals are recommended when the bay is calm. 🗳️ **Services:** Electrical sites 15 km in from Hwy#17. Showers/flush toilets. Travel Information Centre with displays. Hiking trails. Canoe rentals.

- **Marathon** was a staging area during construction of the CPR rail line through solid bedrock, mid-way between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. Visit Pebble Beach with polished stones along the shore of Lake Superior.



Neys Provincial Park. Neys Camp 100 was one of the first prisoner of war camps that housed German soldiers and enemy civilians during WW II. Prisoners were transported by ship from England, arriving in January, 1941, and held until fall 1943 when the camp was relocated. Prisoners were permitted to leave the confines of barbed wire to work in lumber camps and cut cord wood.

📷 IMAGES

- 📷 1 Anishinaabe Camp, Pukaskwa National Park
- 📷 2 Rye grass beach, Terrace Bay
- 📷 3 Hiking in Pukaskwa National Park



Route – 360 km
Continue north on Hwy#17
from Wawa to Nipigon.



- 1 Parry Sound
- 2 Sudbury
- 3 Spragge
- 4 Sault Ste. Marie
- 5 Wawa
- 6 Nipigon
- 7 Thunder Bay
- 8 Fort Frances
- 9 Kenora

- Terrace Bay.** Follow the Casque Isles hiking trail for 2 kms to Terrace Bay beach. Pre-arrange a boat tour to Slate Islands which shelters a large herd of Boreal Woodland Caribou. Enjoy views from a scenic lookout at the Patterson Lighthouse located behind the Travel Information Centre.
- Aguasabon Falls and Gorge** is just a half-mile off Hwy#17. Follow the boardwalk to the 100-foot waterfall and gorge. The best time to see this waterfall is in the spring.
- Schreiber.** The Discovery Centre & Railway Museum features the history of the Canadian Pacific Railway. A diesel yard-engine is housed under cover, along with a passenger coach transformed into a virtual theatre, and another box car houses artifacts, uniforms and travel posters. The line faced nearly insurmountable challenges during construction along the North Shore. CPR logos illustrate the history of corporate identity as a global multi-faceted brand, starting with the beaver gnawing on maple leaves, both of which have become iconic Canadian symbols. The last spike was driven nearby in 1885.
- The archipelago of Rossport Islands** provides one of the most varied wilderness paddling experiences on all of Lake Superior. The Lake Superior Water Trail offers canoeing and kayaking at many entry points. Pay close attention to warning signs about weather, waves and strong currents.
- Red Rock.** Located just southwest of Nipigon. The historic Red Rock Inn preserves history of the POW Camp R. Be prepared to cook your own meals in the shared kitchen and browse around the many relics in the common areas. Learn about Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area during a virtual underwater submarine ride and interactive displays. *“Living by the Whistle”* plague is a reminder of the past. Mill owners who ran company towns reminded townsfolk with blasts of the mill whistle at 8am, 12p, 5pm and 9pm to signal the shift start, lunch break, quitting time, and last call to bring home the kids.
- Nipigon.** The last G7 easel site on the route from Sault Ste. Marie. Climb the 20m Bridgeview Lookout Tower with a 360 degree view of the Nipigon River that once produced the largest brook trout for fly fishing in the world. Visit the Heritage Museum and take a self-guided walking tour to learn about the history of the town.



Rainbow Falls Provincial Park. Just west of Terrace Bay. The park has a beautiful sandy beach on Lake Superior. Hiking trails follow the cascading waters of Rainbow Falls, and lead to panoramic views of Whitesand Lake and Lake Superior.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Nipigon.



Stillwater Tent & RV Park. Nipigon.

Services: Electrical. Shower. Wifi. Gift Shop. Laundry. Sani-dump.




There are numerous Provincial Parks along this route that have campsites available. Open seasonally.



The **Fur Trade Route** connects to **The Prospector Route** at Nipigon. Follow the “Cross Roads of Canada”, linking Hwy#17 from the west, to Hwy#11 from the east. [See page 130](#) for more details on this route.

Day Seven

NIPIGON / THUNDER BAY

 Sleeping Giant Provincial Park / Destination Ontario



 1



 2



 3

DAY SEVEN

Travel from Nipigon to Thunder Bay.







Ouimet Canyon Provincial Park. Panoramic views of a 150-metre wide gorge and sheer cliffs that drop 100 metres straight down to the canyon floor. A trail and boardwalk connects two lookout platforms with spectacular views of the canyon.



Sleeping Giant Provincial Park offers spectacular views of the "Sleeping Giant" from the tip of Sibley Peninsula.

IMAGES

-  1 Fort William Historical Park
-  2 Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park
-  3 Terry Fox Memorial & Lookout

 Ouimet Canyon Provincial Park / Destination Ontario





Route – 290 km
Continue west on Hwy#17
from Nipigon to Thunder Bay.

- 1 Parry Sound
- 2 Sudbury
- 3 Spragge
- 4 Sault Ste. Marie
- 5 Wawa
- 6 Nipigon
- 7 Thunder Bay**
- 8 Fort Frances
- 9 Kenora



- **The Terry Fox Memorial and Scenic Lookout** has a 9-foot statue erected in memory of Terry Fox, the courageous one-legged runner who embarked on a 5,300 kilometre run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. His unique hop-and-skip style inspired Canadians to support his Marathon of Hope that has grown world-wide.

- **Thunder Bay** is named after a large bay at the head of Lake Superior. The bay's name refers to the legendary Thunderbird, a mythical giant bird of Ojibwe folklore. The city has grown into a major transportation hub with an inland port served by two transcontinental railroads delivering grain from the Prairies. Visit the developed harbour front for a choice of fine restaurants.

Navigate the vast universe of galaxies, star clusters and planets through a Corrected DALL-Kirkham Telescope at the David Thompson Astronomical Observatory. Named in honor of David Thompson who mapped over four million square kilometers of North America as a fur trader, surveyor and cartographer for the North West Company. Stay at the RV campground and partake in a Star Walk Experience and night sky navigation.

- **Fort William Historical Park***, the world's largest Fur Trade Post at its time. It is an exact replica of the North West Company's inland headquarters. Fur traders would bring their goods from the far west for trading, and the voyageurs would then haul bales of beaver pelts all the way to Montreal for shipment to Europe. Meet costumed Scottish fur traders, French voyageurs and the Ojibwe who toil at the fort.



Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park. A 40-meter waterfall that required a portage on the historic canoe route connecting Lake Superior with Lake of the Woods.

City of Thunder Bay Thunder Bay Tourism



WHERE TO CAMP



Wolf River Park. Dorion. 75 km east of Thunder Bay.

✔ **Services:** Electrical. Showers/out house. Sani-dump. Open May 18-October 8.



KOA Campground. Thunder Bay. On Hwy#11/17 just east of Thunder Bay.

✔ **Services:** Electrical. Convenience store. Firewood. Winner of KOA Campground of the Year award.



Happy Land Park. Kakabeka Falls. ✔ **Services:** Electrical.

Showers/sani-dump. Heated pool. Open all year.



Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. ✔ **Services:** Limited RV

camping available at Marie Louise Lake Campground. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Hiking trails. Open mid May to mid October.




Fort William Historical Park. ✔ **Services:** RV camping

available. Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Gift shop. Access to a grey and black water dump station. Picnic areas with tables and firepit rings.



Day Eight

ATIKOKAN / FORT FRANCES / LAKE OF THE WOODS

 Canoeing in Quetico Provincial Park / Destination Ontario



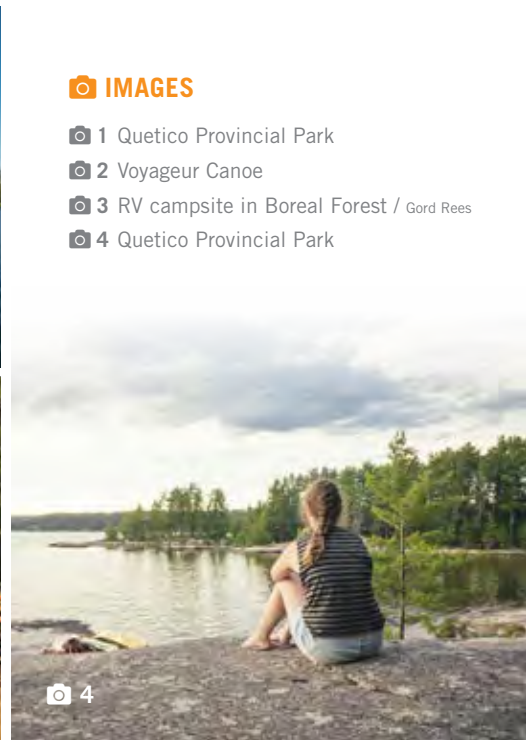
 1



 2



 3



 4

IMAGES

-  1 Quetico Provincial Park
-  2 Voyageur Canoe
-  3 RV campsite in Boreal Forest / Gord Rees
-  4 Quetico Provincial Park



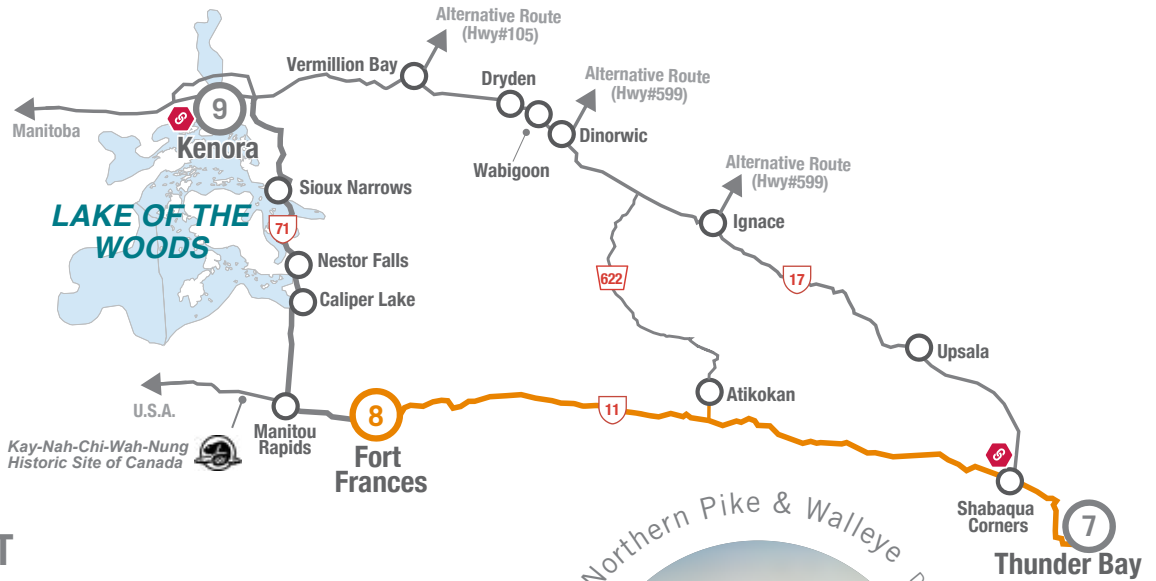
🚩 Main Route – 335 km

Depart west from Thunder Bay on Hwy#17. Turn left onto Hwy#11 to Fort Frances. This route through Quetico Provincial Park and Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre is the preferred route through Lake of the Woods.

🚩 Alternate Route

This alternative northern route on Hw#17 to Ignace, Dryden and Kenora that is slightly shorter. Various alternative routes exist along this corridor. See p. 106 for details.

- 1 Parry Sound
- 2 Sudbury
- 3 Spragge
- 4 Sault Ste. Marie
- 5 Wawa
- 6 Nipigon
- 7 Thunder Bay
- 8 Fort Frances**
- 9 Kenora



8 DAY EIGHT

Travel from Thunder Bay to Fort Frances.

Sunset Country. A vast area in Northwest Ontario with 150,000 lakes bound by the Boreal forest.



Quetico Provincial Park – Turn off on Hwy#11 (148 km west of Thunder Bay). A major wilderness park recognized as one of the world's premier paddling destinations. Park headquarters are located in the town of Atikokan.

- **Atikokan.** The Centennial Museum and Historic Park describes the Steep Rock mine discovery in 1938, its opening in 1944 to extract iron ore from a giant pit, and its ultimate demise in 1974. Four massive electric dredges were used to remove 270 million cubic yards of dirt from the lake to access the ore body. Iron pellets were shipped by ore carriers across the Great Lakes to steel mills in Hamilton and Pittsburgh.
- **Fort Frances.** A border town where the Rainy River bridge crosses the Canada/U.S. border to International Falls, Minnesota. Follow the La Verendrye Parkway along the shores of Rainy River as it flows 129 kms west out of Rainy Lake to Lake of the Woods. Historic plaques describe the *Voyageurs Highway* and the rivalry between the Hudson Bay and Northwest Trading Company for furs along the canoe route. A description at the base of a 100-foot forest fire lookout tells of the early-warning radar bases that dotted the north during the Cold War. A shuttered pulp mill on the Canadian side is a reminder of the boom and bust times in the region.



- **Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre*.** Continue along Hwy#11 past the junction with #71 to Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre, meaning the Place of Long Rapids. The site features the largest group of Indigenous burial mounds in Canada that reflect more than 8,000 years of reoccurring habitation. Some mounds are more than 7 meters in height. The Travel Information Centre has limited hours of operation.

🏠 WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Fort Frances.

🚐 Tomahawk Resort. Sioux Narrows. RV park with cabins available. **📍 Services:** Electrical. Showers/toilets. Laundry.

🏞️ Quetico Provincial Park – Dawson Trail Campground. RV camping limited to Dawson Trail Campground. **📍 Services:** Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Travel Information Centre. Hiking trails. Canoe rentals. Open seasonally.

Day Nine

LAKE OF THE WOODS / KENORA

📷 Starry Night at Rushing River Provincial Park / Ontario Parks



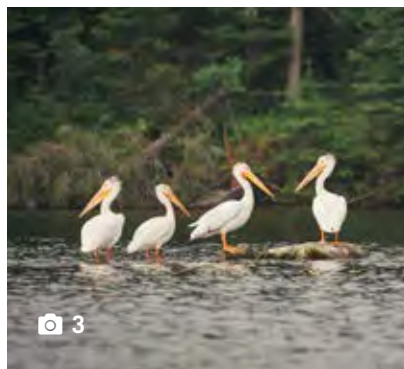
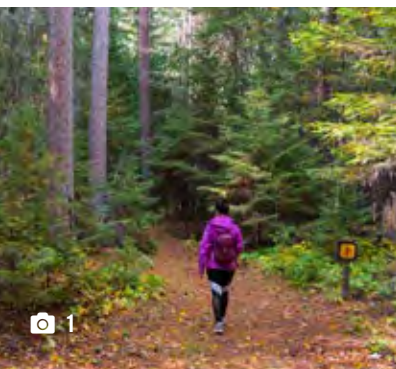
9 DAY NINE

Travel from Fort Frances to Kenora.

The southern route on Hwy#11 through Quetico Provincial Park and Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre is the preferred route to Lake of the Woods.

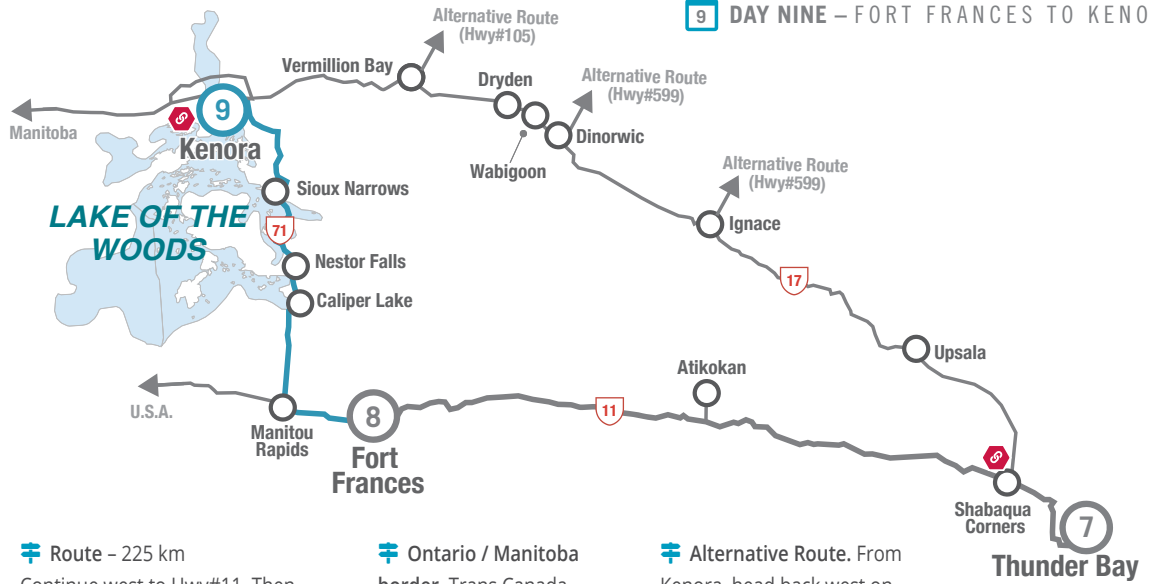
- **Lake of the Woods.** Once known as the King's Highway, Hwy#71 is one of the most spectacular 200 km stretches of remote highway in Ontario. Meander northward through Caliper Lake Provincial Park, Nestor Falls, Sioux Narrows and Rushing River Provincial Park located along the east shore of beautiful Lake of the Woods. Look for private campgrounds along the lake shore.

📷 IMAGES 📷 1 Caliper Lake Provincial Park 📷 2 M.S. Kenora Cruise 📷 3 White Pelicans at Nestor Falls 📷 4 Lake of the Woods





- 1 Parry Sound
- 2 Sudbury
- 3 Spragge
- 4 Sault Ste. Marie
- 5 Wawa
- 6 Nipigon
- 7 Thunder Bay
- 8 Fort Frances
- 9 Kenora



Route – 225 km

Continue west to Hwy#11. Then turn north onto Hwy#71 to Hwy#17. Follow Hwy#17 to downtown Kenora. Hwy#17A is a by-pass route on the Trans Canada Hwy.

Ontario / Manitoba border. Trans Canada Hwy#17 in Northern Ontario becomes #1 at the Manitoba border 42 km west of Kenora.

Alternative Route. From Kenora, head back west on Hwy#17 for an alternative route to Thunder Bay, or to explore the network of northern highways off of Hwy#17. See p. 106 for details.



Caliper Lake Provincial Park. Located one hour north of Fort Frances. A campground is situated on a bluff overlooking Caliper Lake from a stand of old growth red and white pine. The park features a large beach with a sectioned off swimming area. **Services:** Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Hiking trails. Canoe Rentals. Open seasonally.

- **Sioux Narrows / Nestor Falls.** The town of Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls often attracts flocks of Pelicans that feed on fish schooled at the base of the falls. The Northern Ontario Sport Fishing centre highlights the historical and biological perspectives of the world class fresh water fisheries on Lake of the Woods. The Sport Fishing Centre also serves as the hub for visitor information in Sioux Narrows.



Sioux Narrows Provincial Park. Located just off Hwy#71 on the shores of Lake of the Woods, this park offers recreation opportunities – boating, swimming, sailing and canoeing. **Services:** Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry.



Rushing River Provincial Park. Located 25 km south of Kenora. White water rapids give name to the river that drains Dogtooth Lake. **Services:** Electrical. Showers/toilets. Laundry. Kayak rentals. Hiking trails.

- **Kenora.** Once known as “Rat Portage” after trapping muskrats where the voyageur canoe route once bypassed the rapids at the outlet to the Winnipeg River. Visit the Lake of the Woods Museum nicely situated in downtown on the shores of Lake of the Woods.

The museum explains the fur trade, native culture, mining and railroad history. It contains a replica of a birch bark canoe used by Indigenous people to gather wild rice, and examples of beaded buck-skin jackets and moccasins made from animals trapped in the region. Enjoy a relaxing cruise around the Lake of the Woods on the *M.S. Kenora* to view multi-million-dollar homes and cottages owned by celebrities from around the world. Depart from the wharf at the Matuski Farmer’s Market. The **Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre** features an interpretive forest with different woods used by First Nations people.

WHERE TO CAMP



The Willows RV Park & Campground. Kenora.

Services: Electrical. Wifi. Showers/washrooms. Waste disposal. Hiking trails.



There are numerous Provincial Parks along this route that have campsites available. Open seasonally.




Capture

THE ESSENCE OF THE NORTH

Discover Ontario's Sunset Country



 Sunset Country / Destination Ontario

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

SUNSET COUNTRY

 4 DAYS  1200 KM

OPTIONAL ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

Four days of back country driving and explore the northern reaches of Ontario. The distant route averages 300 km/day.

A vast expanse of boreal forest stretches north of Hwy#17 from Thunder Bay to Manitoba. The region is peppered with thousands of lakes that straddle the height of land. Enjoy the fresh air, big skies, and plenty of sunshine with daylight hours stretching nearly to midnight during the summer months.

THUNDER BAY TO MANITOBA ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

 approximate travel distances

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	DURATION
Thunder Bay	Ignace	250 km	2 h 45 min
Ignace	Sioux Lookout	270 km	1 h 40 min
Sioux Lookout	Red Lake	300 km	3 h 35 min
Red Lake	Manitoba	360 km	3 h 45 min



Weather Warnings

Thunderstorms / Severe Weather

Environment Canada monitors weather at all times. A weather warning indicates a severe storm is either already occurring or is highly probably. When picnicking, take shelter in a vehicle or nearby building.

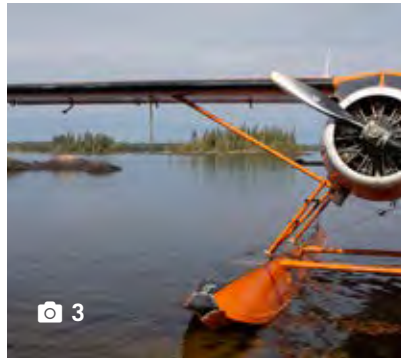
Head ashore when paddling or fishing, and get out of the water when swimming. Do not lie flat on the ground during a lightning storm.



📷 1



📷 2



📷 3



📷 4

IMAGES / Ontario Parks

📷 1 Northern Lights – Woodland Caribou Provincial Park 📷 2 Cow Moose 📷 3 Float Plane – Wabakimi Provincial Park 📷 4 Cycling – Aaron Provincial Park



Views from a Float Plane over Sioux Lookout – Destination Northern Ontario





- 1 Ignace
- 2 Sioux Lookout
- 3 Red Lake
- 4 Manitoba

Route – 250 km
Follow Hwy#17 west from Thunder Bay to Ignace.

1 DAY ONE

Travel from Thunder Bay to Ignace.



Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park. The “Mountain Portage”* around Kakabeka Falls was a link connecting Lake Superior to Lake of the Woods and the Winnipeg River. Follow the boardwalk along the riverside cliffs. The Interpretive Centre features a fur trade documentary “*Hinge of an Empire*”.

- **Central Standard Time Zone.** A marker at Latitude 90 near Raith commemorates Sir Standford Fleming and the adoption of standard time as a world-wide concept for reckoning uniform time.



Wabakimi Provincial Park*. Lies straight north of Thunder Bay towards Armstrong. The park is only accessible by plane, train or canoe. It is Ontario’s second largest provincial park, and one of the world’s largest boreal forest reserves. Guided eco-tours by canoe and float plane provide custom-planned insights into the landscape, geology, glacial history and woodland caribou habitat. VIA Rail skirts the south end of the Park. Purchase permits and licenses at the Wabakimi Provincial Park office in Thunder Bay. For more information on this park, visit ontarioparks.com/park/wabakimi.

- **Ignace.** The downtown travel Information centre and regional museum displays nine themes about development in the north. Panels explain the location of the town located in the transition zone between the southerly mixed Great Lakes Forest and the huge expanse of coniferous Boreal Forest. An outdoor display includes an historic 100 ft fire lookout tower, it was one of three hundred erected in the north as a means of early fire detection. It tells of the glory days of the towermen who were isolated for months during fire season at these commanding sentinels. Most of the towers were dismantled and replaced by aerial surveillance.

The Ignace area is being explored for finding a suitable deep geological repository for the long-term management of Canada’s nuclear fuel. Visit the Learn More Centre hosted by the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee. The sensitive issue has divided many communities throughout the North.

Embark on an adventurous day-trip by boat to explore the legend of White Otter Castle, where a lonesome logger single-handedly built a square-log homestead on a remote island in hopes he would attract a bride who never came.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Ignace.



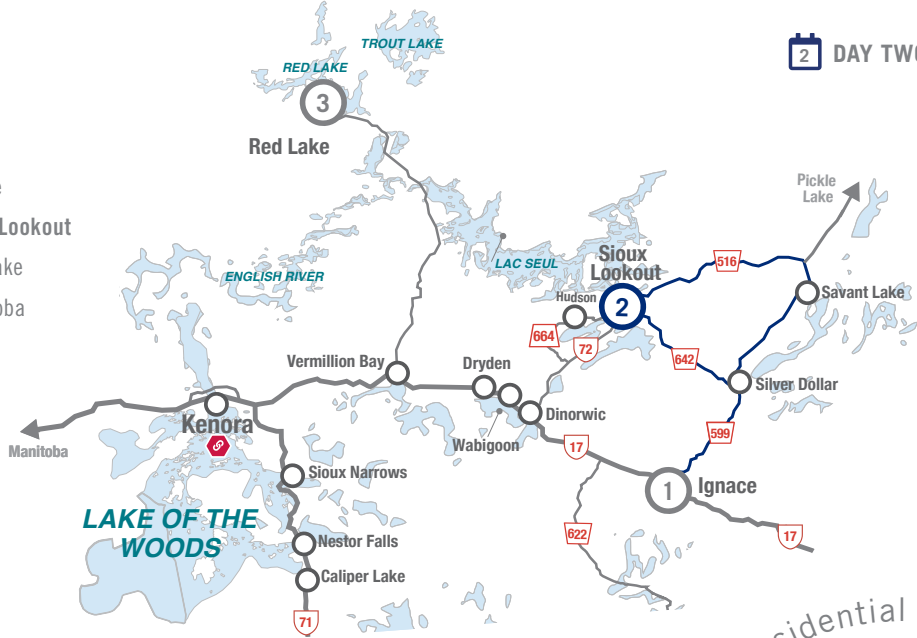
Sandbar Lake Provincial Park. Just north of Ignace off Hwy#599. Features a beautiful soft sand beach with shallow water. **Services:** Electrical. Showers.



Young Lake Lodge. 50 minutes north of Ignace off Hwy#599 just north of Silver Dollar. Limited space. Lake front parking. No RV services available.



- ① Ignace
- ② Sioux Lookout
- ③ Red Lake
- ④ Manitoba



Route – 270 km
 Follow Hwy#599 north from Ignace to Silver Dollar. Join Hwy#642, to Sioux Lookout, or continue north on Hwy#599 to Savant Lake, and take Hwy#516 to Sioux Lookout.

2 DAY TWO

Travel from Ignace to Sioux Lookout.




- **Silver Dollar.** An inspiring name for a hamlet with a gas station at the junction of Hwy#599 and #642. Hwy#599 continues 230 km north to "the official end of the road" at Pickle Lake, where the all-season pavement ends and the ice roads begin. It lays claim to be one of the busiest airports in Canada dedicated to serving 17 remote northern First Nations communities. An 1,800 km power transmission line delivers 230 kV to replace diesel generators. The second phase includes 2,100 steel towers to connect to the provincial power grid. The town was founded as a transportation hub during the gold rush.
- **Sioux Lookout.** The "Hub of the North" lies on the English River system that drains into the Winnipeg River. As a legend from the 1700s, the town's name originated when a glint of sunlight on a paddle seen from the lookout served as a warning of a Sioux war party approaching an Objibway encampment. The intruders were ambushed with bows and arrows and slaughtered in the surprise attack. The float plane base serves lodges and bush camps throughout the region.

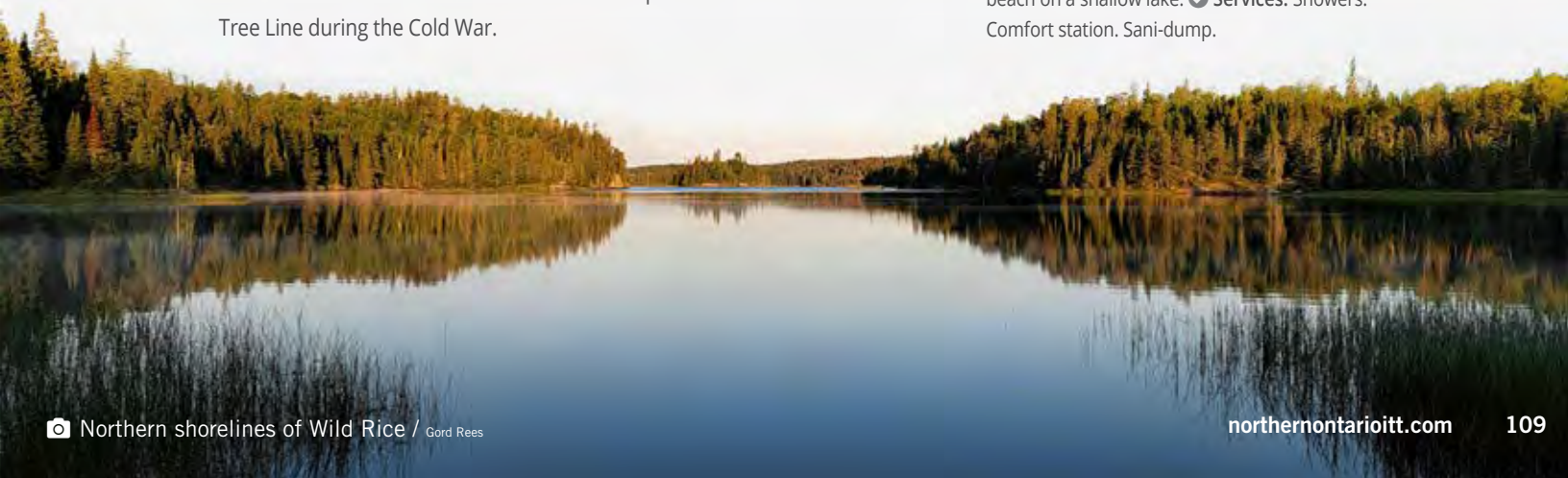
The town served as a railway divisional point for the CNR until diesel power replaced steam locomotives. Only the station remains, and now serves as the town museum. The airport is a major hub with scheduled flights to First Nation communities in the far north. An USAF radar base served as part of the Pine Tree Line during the Cold War.



WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Sioux Lookout.

-  **Abram Lake Resort & RV Park.** Sioux Lookout. 4 km from Sioux Lookout on Hwy#72. Waterfront. Sandy beach. **Services:** Pull-thru sites. Several electric/water sites. Laundromat. Boat rentals.
-  **Objibway Provincial Park.** 25 km south Sioux Lookout on Hwy#72, half way to Dinorwic on Hwy#17. Situated on Little Vermillion Lake. **Services:** Showers. Vault toilets. Sani dump.
-  **Aaron Provincial Park.** Hwy#17, east of Dryden. 80 km/1 hour drive from Sioux Lookout. Small beach on a shallow lake. **Services:** Showers. Comfort station. Sani-dump.



3 DAY THREE – SIOUX LOOKOUT TO RED LAKE



Route – 300 km
Take Hwy#664 for a scenic route through Hudson back to Hwy#72. Or follow Hwy#72 south from Sioux Lookout to Dinorwic on Hwy#17. Follow Hwy#17 west to Vermillion Bay. Connect to Hwy#105 north to Red Lake.

3 DAY THREE

Travel from Sioux Lookout to Red Lake.

Travel west from Sioux Lookout through Dryden to Vermillion Bay where the Hwy#105 Corridor takes off north to Red Lake.

- **Hudson** is a village on the shores of Lac Seul. It is an important float plane base to service fly-in fish camps. It is home port for a fleet of houseboats, otherwise called Lac Seul “floating lodges”.
- **Minnitaki**. Make a roadside stop at Egli’s Sheep Farm to purchase from a selection of woolen clothing. Ask for “Winnipeg garbage mitts” with extra liners.
- **Vermillion Bay**. Take-off point north to the Hwy#105 Corridor, referred to as the Red Lake Highway. The 175 km drive starts at Moose Creek Trading, which offers a large selection of local crafts and gifts. It is best to fuel up before heading north.
- **Perrault Falls**. Pull off the highway to see a series of waterfalls and rapids below the highway crossing over English River.
- **Ear Falls** is situated on the shores of Lac Seul with a hydro electric dam at the river outlet on the English and Winnipeg River systems. A historic roadside park displays a model of a NASA rocket used by scientists from around the world to conduct experiments from the Ear Falls launch site during a total eclipse of the sun. The next total eclipse of the sun in the area of the Arctic is not expected until around year 2339.

- **Red Lake**. Three head frames mark the distinct skyline of highly productive underground gold mines clustered throughout the Red Lake Mining District. Shafts are sunk extremely deep to 9,000 feet. Gold ore is converted to bullion at the processing facilities, with estimated reserves of 3 million ounces of gold. Active mines are also located nearby in Cochenour, Balmerstown and Madsen.


The Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre displays a lengthy timeline showing the important historic dates of the area. Fur trading, aviation and mining history are interwoven with major events occurring in a larger context of developments across Canada around the same times.


The Norseman Heritage Park, known as the “Norseman Capital of the World” displays the sturdy single-engine bush plane with a descriptive history of use in the north. An annual Norseman Days Festival draws a few of the last remaining operational aircraft from around the world

Thousands of European immigrants and displaced persons have found their way north to work in the mines.

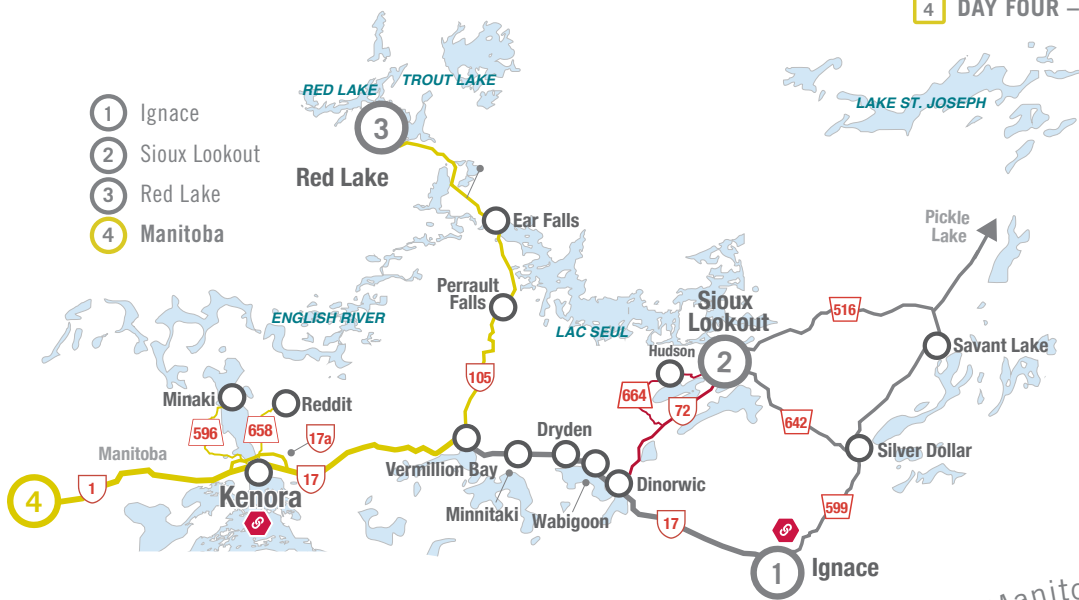
WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp on the Hwy#105 Corridor.

 **Pakwash Provincial Park**. Red Lake Shower/toilet. Electrical sites. 20 km south of Red Lake. Long sandy beach. **Services:** Showers. Toilets. Laundromat. Electrical. Picnic shelter. Sani-dump.

 **Blue Lake Provincial Park**. Vermillion Bay. Just off the Trans Canada Hwy. **Services:** Showers. Toilets. Laundromat. Electrical. Visitor Centre. Canoe rentals.






✚ Route – 360 km
 Head south on Hwy#105 from Red Lake back to Hwy#17. Follow Hwy#17 west to Kenora. Two side routes can be explored north of Kenora. Hwy#658 leads to Reddit, and Hwy#596 leads to Minaki. From Kenora, Hwy#17 continues west to the Manitoba border where Hwy#1 leads to West Hawk and Falcon Lakes.


4 DAY FOUR

Travel from Red Lake to the Manitoba border.

 **Woodland Caribou Provincial Park** is an inter-provincial wilderness park straddling the Ontario/Manitoba border. Hundreds of canoe routes interconnect lakes and are part of the Pimachiowis Aki UNESCO World Heritage Site. Fly-in to back country camps from Red Lake. The Bloodvein River is designated as a Canadian Heritage River that flows 300 km into Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba.

- **Reddit.** Located north of Kenora off Hwy#658. It marks the end of paved road where it crosses the CNR mainline.
- **Ontario to Manitoba.** The last stage to the Manitoba border cuts through a wiggly stretch of the Trans Canada Hwy#17 between Vermillion Bay and Kenora. Double lanes are being constructed through “Rock Cut Alley”. Provincial Visitor Centres are located on each side of the border.







Rest stops are well-marked between Thunder Bay and the Manitoba border. Take a break at West Hawk and Falcon Lakes beaches off Hwy#1 in the Whiteshell region before reaching the flat out prairies.

 **Route options:** Travellers can choose to loop back along the Fur Trade Route or the Prospector Route towards Southern Ontario, or continue westward to Manitoba.



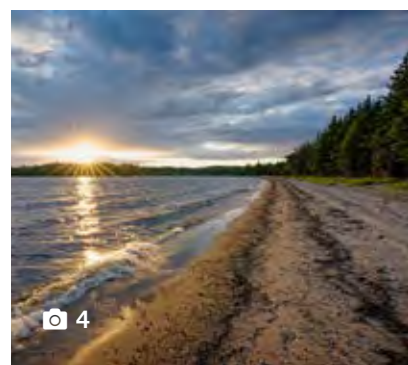
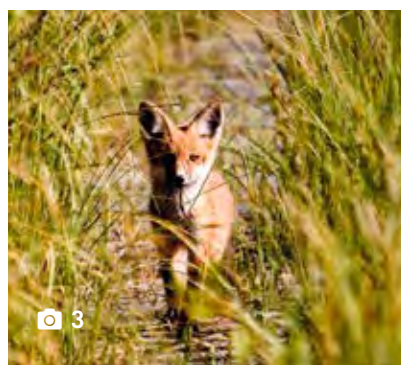
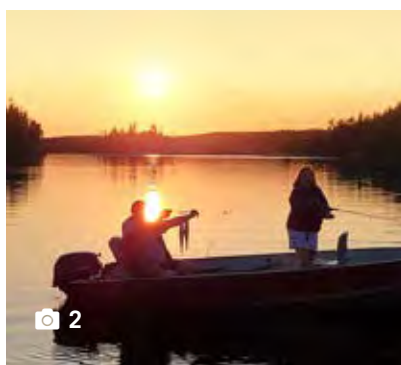
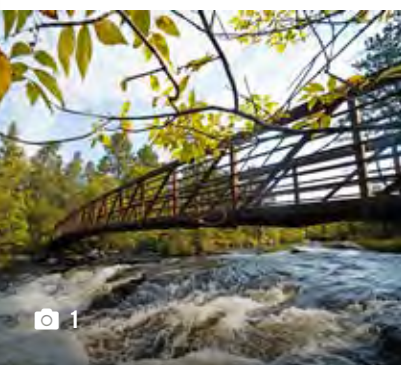
🏠 WHERE TO CAMP





Where to camp near Manitoba border.

-  **Redden's Camp & RV Park.** Kenora. Hwy#17. Small beach.  **Services:** Laundromat. Showers. Flush toilets. Sani-dump. Store. Boat and motor rentals.
-  **Rushing River Provincial Park.** Located on Hwy#71. 15 km south from Hwy#17. Refer to p. 105 for route details.  **Services:** Electrical. Showers. Toilets. Picnic shelter. Laundry. Visitor Centre. Canoe/kayak rentals.
-  **Whiteshell Provincial Park.** Hwy#1 Manitoba. Caddy Lake Campground. Self-guided hiking trails. Beach.  **Services:** Washrooms. Sani-dump. Canoe rentals.

📷 IMAGES

 **1** Rushing River Provincial Park / Gord Rees  **2** Guided Fishing Excursion / Gord Rees  **3** Young Red Fox / Ontario Parks  **4** Pakwash Provincial Park / Ontario Parks



 **1**  **2**  **3**  **4**



PROSPECTOR
ROUTE

Discover Ontario's Gold Rush.

A HISTORIC 7-DAY CIRCLE TOUR





PROSPECTOR ROUTE

ITINERARY

- DAY 1 Toronto to Huntsville
- DAY 2 Huntsville to Temagami
- DAY 3 Temagami to Temiskaming Shores
- DAY 4 Temiskaming Shores to Iroquois Falls
- DAY 5 Iroquois Falls to Timmins
- DAY 6 Timmins to Killarney
- DAY 7 Killarney to Toronto

Side trip to Moosonee aboard the Polar Bear Express ([see p. 124](#))
 Alternative route from Huntsville to North Bay ([see p. 134](#))
 Connect to the Fur Trade Route from Cochrane to Nipigon ([see p. 130](#))



TOP 10 TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 01 Chief Commanda - cruise on Lake Nipissing - North Bay
- 02 Glory Hole, Cobalt Mining District National Historic Site* - Cobalt
- 03 Harry Oakes Manor* - Kirkland Lake
- 04 Polar Bear Habitat - Cochrane
- 05 Hollinger Gold Mine - open pit mine - Timmins
- 06 The Polar Bear Express - train to James Bay - Cochrane to Moosonee
- 07 Dynamic Earth - underground mine tour - Sudbury
- 08 Killarney Provincial Park - Georgian Bay
- 09 French River Museum* - French River (first designated Canadian Heritage River)
- 10 Orient Bay Palisades - Lake Nipigon



Weather Warnings

Remote sections along the Prospector Route.

Watch for sudden weather changes with heavy snow and wind on isolated stretches of highways with few or no services during April and early May, and late September-October. Keep an eye on your fuel and propane before heading into remote areas where gas stations may close in the evening, and on Sundays.

Regional Tourism Organizations along this route include:

RTO#12 (Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park) and RTO#13 (Northern Ontario).



National historic and Ontario heritage sites are marked with an asterisk [] throughout this guide.





Day One

TORONTO / HUNTSVILLE / ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK

Huntsville / Destination Ontario



ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

Huntsville to Foresters Falls. As an alternative route, visitors can veer east along a network of lakes and rivers through Muskoka Cottage country, Algonquin Provincial Park, the Ottawa River Valley and Ontario's Highlands. This route offers some of the best canoeing and white waters in North America.

SEE PAGE 134-145 FOR DETAILS

TRAVEL TIPS

Start your RV experience with a stop at **Weber's charcoal burger diner** 15 km north of Orillia. Look for the iconic orange walking bridge crossing the divided highway. Outdoor seating available, or enjoy indoor dining in a classic railroad car.

Visit **Robinson's General Store** in Dorset. The store sells nearly everything. It is voted "Canada's Best Country Store" and offers a large selection of moccasins.

IMAGES

1 Algonquin Provincial Park / Destination Ontario


2 Algonquin Provincial Park / Destination Ontario

3 Algonquin Provincial Park / Destination Canada - Kevin Arnold

Day Two

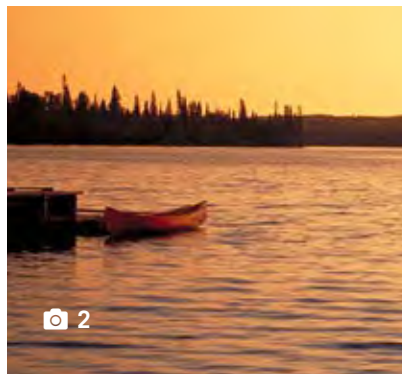
ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK / NORTH BAY / TEMAGAMI



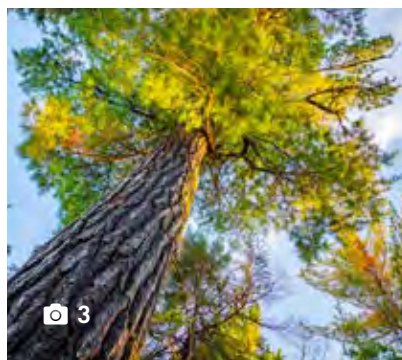
 Chief Commanda II – North Bay / Destination Ontario



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 2



 3

IMAGES

-  1 Finlayson Point Lookout
-  2 Lake Temagami
-  3 Ancient White Pines



PROSPECTOR ROUTE

- 1 Huntsville
- 2 North Bay / Temagami
- 3 Temiskaming Shores
- 4 Iroquois Falls
- 5 Timmins
- 6 Killarney
- 7 Toronto

2 DAY TWO

Travel from Huntsville to Temagami.

- **North Bay.** Visit the harbour front in North Bay, known as *"The Gateway to the North"*. Enjoy a five hour cruise aboard the Chief Commanda II from Lake Nipissing to French River. A vintage Wonderland Carousel and a miniature train are heritage features near the municipal marina. Observe a large switching yard for the Ottawa Valley Railroad.
- **The Temagami region** is famous for some of the finest protected old growth white pine forests in eastern Canada.



Marten River Provincial Park. See remnant stands of massive pines including a 350 year old White Pine as you walk the Transition Trail. A replica 19th century logging camp brings a bygone era to life. Relax at one of the park's three beaches.



Finlayson Point Provincial Park is a peninsula in the island-dotted waters of Lake Temagami, part of thousands of kilometres of ancient pine shoreline. Swim at sandy beaches and dive in the deep clear water of Lake Temagami. Hike to Caribou Mountain lookout and fire tower, with views over the White Bear Forest, Lake Temagami and the town of Temagami.



Route – 250 km
Continue north on Hwy#11 from Huntsville through North Bay to Temagami.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Temagami.



Marten River Provincial Park. Located in Marten River on Hwy#11 between North Bay and Temagami. RV camping available.

✔ **Services:** Many campsites offer electrical hook-up. Showers/flush toilets. Swimming. Hiking. Nature/Travel Information Centre.



Finlayson Point Provincial Park. Located southwest of Temagami. RV camping available.

✔ **Services:** Many campsites offer electrical hook-up. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Swimming. Hiking. Park store.



TRAVEL TIPS



Temagami was once home to internationally-renowned conservationist and author, **Grey Owl**. Take a picture of the plaque in Finlayson Point Provincial Park.




Temagami Shores Inn & Resort features a casual restaurant overlooking beautiful Lake Temagami. Outdoor seating available.

Day Three

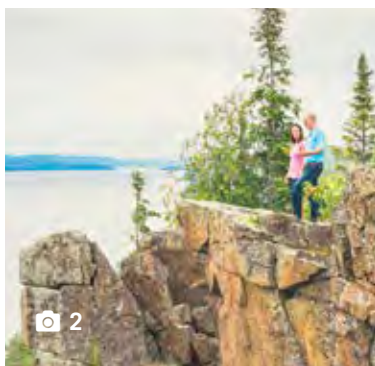
TEMAGAMI / COBALT / TEMISKAMING SHORES



 Heritage Silver Trail – Cobalt / Destination Ontario



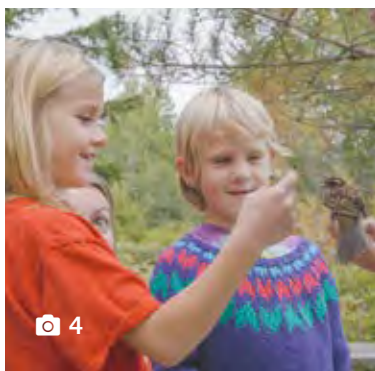
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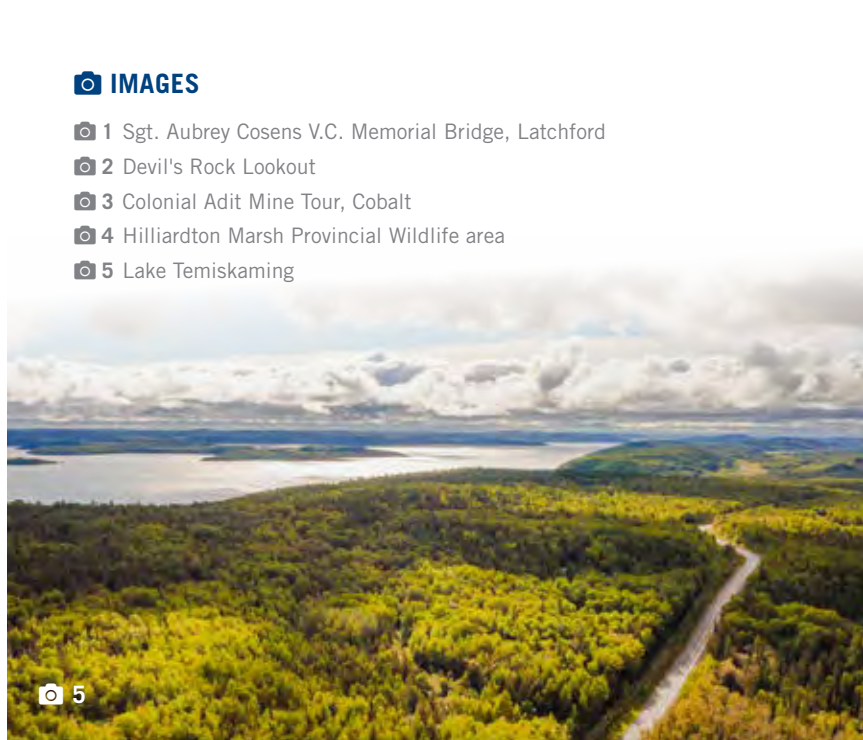
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 5

IMAGES

-  1 Sgt. Aubrey Cosens V.C. Memorial Bridge, Latchford
-  2 Devil's Rock Lookout
-  3 Colonial Adit Mine Tour, Cobalt
-  4 Hilliardton Marsh Provincial Wildlife area
-  5 Lake Temiskaming



PROSPECTOR ROUTE

- 1 Huntsville
- 2 North Bay / Temagami
- 3 Temiskaming Shores
- 4 Iroquois Falls
- 5 Timmins
- 6 Killarney
- 7 Toronto

3 DAY THREE

Travel from Temagami to Temiskaming Shores.

- **Latchford** is a small lumbering town on Bay Lake and is marked by a dam close to the highway bridge over the Montreal River. It is renowned for having the world's shortest covered bridge.



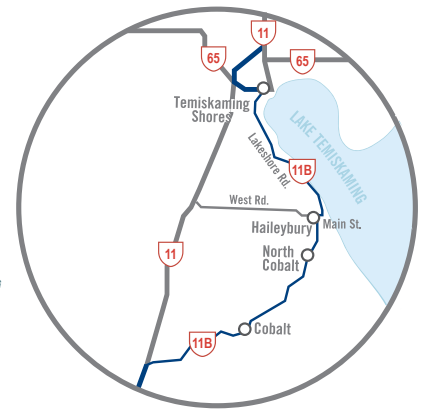
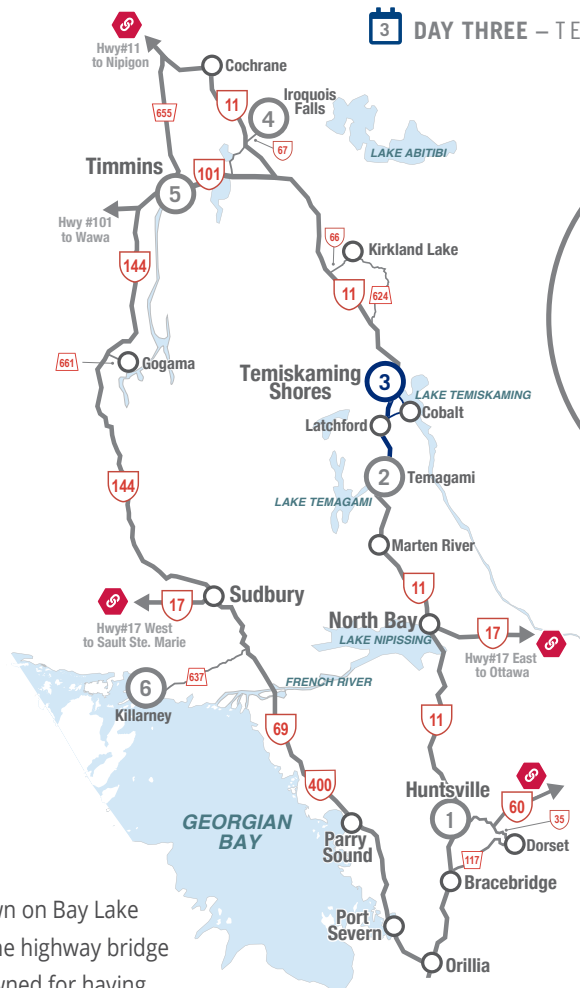
Cobalt. The entire town of Cobalt* is a national historic site paying tribute to the discovery of silver in 1903. Cobalt is the birthplace of hard rock mining in Canada, and known for the world's first mining camp. The region's rich veins triggered a mining boom which attracted international attention to Canada's emergence as the silver capital of the world. Open cuts carved from the rock by hand reflect the earliest surface mining operations. Mine shafts were sunk, and headframes were built above the ore body. Massive rock piles are remnants of ore processing on site. Visit the Cobalt Mining Museum and follow the Heritage Silver Trail, a self-guided driving tour through back roads of the Cobalt mine. The tour features 20 sites with interpretive plaques. Take the Colonial Adit Mine Tour to see hand carved tunnels from the early mining days.



➤ **L'Autochtone Taverne Americaine** is an innovative hybrid eatery and cultural hub blending foods and preparations from English, French, and First Nations culture with a focus on local and sustainable ingredients.

➤ **Hilliardton Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area**, located 27 km north of Temiskaming Shores, is a restored wetland for migrating birds on the James Bay flyway in the Little Clay Belt region.

3 DAY THREE – TEMAGAMI TO TEMISKAMING SHORES





Route - 140 km
Continue north on Hwy#11 to Latchford. Turn east onto Hwy#11B just north of Latchford to Cobalt. Loop back to Hwy#11 by following Hwy#11B through North Cobalt, Haileybury, and back towards New Liskeard along the shores of Lake Temiskaming.

- **Temiskaming Shores.** The resort community of Temiskaming Shores on the Wabi River where it enters Lake Temiskaming is an amalgamation of the three former municipalities of New Liskeard, Haileybury and rural area of Dymond.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Temiskaming Shores.

-  **Bucke Park Campground.** Located on the shores of Lake Temiskaming. Hike the trail to Devils Rock for spectacular views of Lake Temiskaming.
✓ **Services:** Fully serviced. Showers.
-  **Kap-Kig-Iwan Provincial Park.** Located 30 minutes north of Temiskaming Shores, just 2 km south of Englehart off Hwy#11. Spectacular lookout over the Englehart River that roars through whitewater rapids.
✓ **Services:** Electrical and non-electrical sites. Flush toilets. Hiking trails along a ridge to the falls.

Day Four

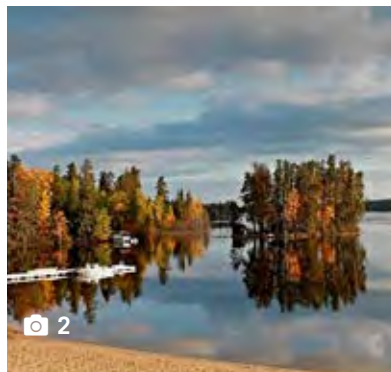
TEMISKAMING SHORES / KIRKLAND LAKE / IROQUOIS FALLS



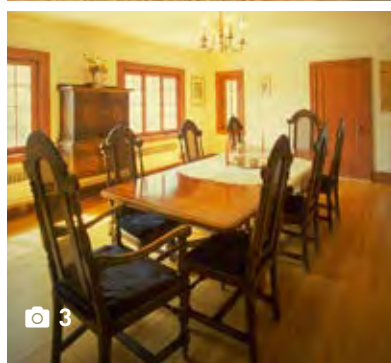
 Mine Headframe in Kirkland Lake / Destination Ontario



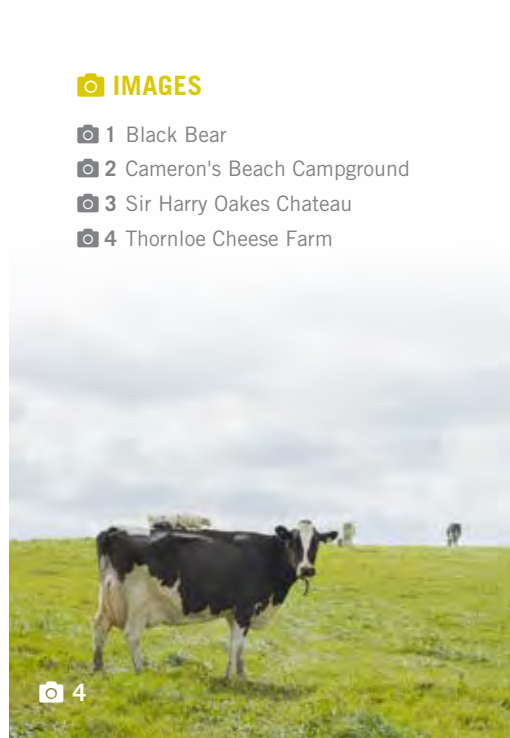
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IMAGES

-  1 Black Bear
-  2 Cameron's Beach Campground
-  3 Sir Harry Oakes Chateau
-  4 Thornloe Cheese Farm



Day Five

IROQUOIS FALLS / COCHRANE / TIMMINS

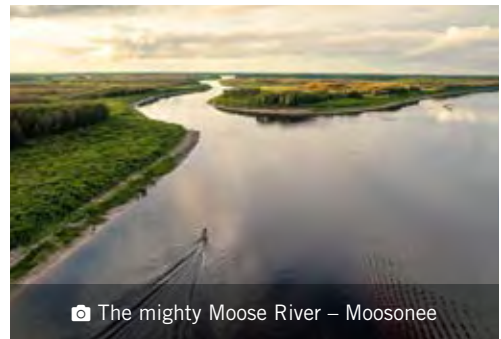
Glamping – WildExodus Adventures / Destination Ontario

Connect to The Fur Trade Route.

2 DAYS 700 KM

[See page 130 for details](#)

OPTIONAL CONNECTING ROUTE – COCHRANE TO NIPIGON

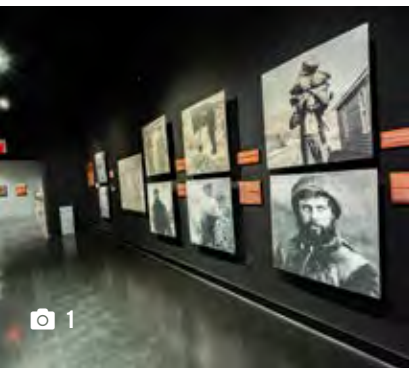


The mighty Moose River – Moosonee

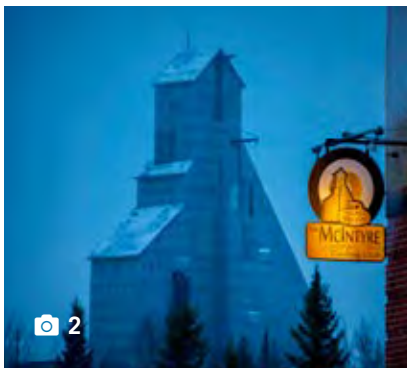
OPTIONAL SIDE TRIP

While in the North, be sure to book the **Polar Bear Express** from Cochrane for a trip to **Moosonee** and **Moose Factory** situated just south of **James Bay**, and known as *“the Gateway to the Arctic”*.

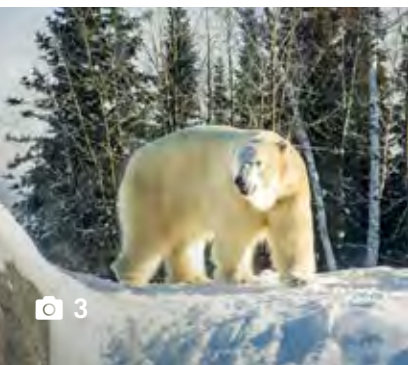
[See page 124 for details](#)



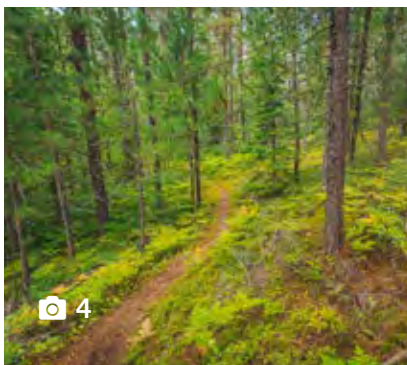
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IMAGES

- 1 Timmins Museum
- 2 McIntyre Headframe – Timmins
- 3 Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat - Cochrane
- 4 Kettle Lakes Provincial Park



PROSPECTOR ROUTE

- 1 Huntsville
- 2 North Bay / Temagami
- 3 Temiskaming Shores
- 4 Iroquois Falls
- 5 Timmins
- 6 Killarney
- 7 Toronto

5 DAY FIVE

Travel from Iroquois Falls to Timmins.

- Timmins.** The story of Timmins begins in 1909 with the Porcupine Gold Rush. By 2011, the Porcupine Camp had mined over 70 million ounces of gold, compared to the 12 million ounces produced during the well-known Klondike Gold Rush. From the discovery of gold and other precious metals such as nickel, copper, zinc, silver and diamonds, history seems to repeat itself and the city with a heart of gold continues to reap the benefits of this exploration fever. Mine artifacts, buildings and a collection of seven life sized statues depicting miners in various work related poses can be found throughout the city of Timmins.

Stop by the Timmins Museum National Exhibition Center for a glimpse into the past and discover the history behind how Timmins has received worldwide recognition as a major player in global mining. Take a tour of the Hollinger House and get a feel for what life was like in the 30s.

Directly across from the Timmins Museum is a lookout of a live operating open pit gold mine. Visitors can time their visit accordingly to safely experience the rumble of live blasting twice per day.

- Cochrane** can be said to be *Wonderfully Unexpected*. Visitors to the town are greeted by a large polar bear statue named Chimo, an Inuit greeting. Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat is a 24-acre research facility for rescued polar bears and includes a lake enclosure to replicate their natural surroundings. The Interpretive Centre explains the vast range and life cycle habits of these nomadic bears around the Polar Circle. Cochrane Heritage Village has multiple replica buildings, including a butcher shop, hardware store, school house and trapper's cabin.



Route – 170 km
Continue north on Hwy#11 to Cochrane. Continue west on Hwy#11 from Cochrane, then turn south on Hwy#655 to Timmins.

The Vintage Snowmobile Museum traces the development of snowmobiles used for industrial development and recreation throughout the North, including sledder clubs and protective clothing. The Tim Horton Museum pays tribute to their home town hockey hero who founded Tim's coffee and doughnut franchises.

The town serves as the southern terminus of the Polar Bear Express to Moosonee, with a vintage steam engine and passenger cars located beside the train station.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Timmins.



WildExodus - Wawaitin Holiday Park. Located 30 minutes south west of Timmins on Kenogamissi Lake. Adventure packages include glamping, guided canoeing, nature hikes are more. **Services:** RV sites available. Electrical. Sani-dump. Hiking. Canoe rentals. Travel packages.



Kettle Lakes Provincial Park. Located just off Hwy#101 west of Matheson. The park features 22 deep spring-fed kettle lakes created by glaciers. **Services:** Electrical. Laundry. Showers / flush toilets. Park store. Canoe rentals. Hiking and biking trails through jack pine forest. Interpretive programs.



The James Bay Coast

🗓️ ONE DAY RETURN TRIP / 2-DAY STAY / 3-DAY STAY
 🚆 COCHRANE TO MOOSONEE: 5 HOURS

Take the Polar Bear Express for a wilderness adventure to the far north.

Plan to take the Ontario Northland Railway from Cochrane located at the northern turning point on the TCH #11 about 800 km due north from Toronto, to the ONL terminus in Moosonee.

The Polar Bear Express passenger rail service runs five days per week during the summer season, so it takes some planning to make the journey work.

An extra day is needed to venture farther north to the mouth of James Bay, or cross to Moose Factory to visit national historic sites, depending on tides and weather conditions.

The train arrives in the afternoon with an evening departure. The journey takes five hours each way across the Canadian Shield and the Hudson Bay Lowlands.

Be aware that restaurants are virtually non-existent with reliance on B&Bs or the Super 8 Hotel in Moosonee. Travellers must depend on the microwave in the hotel room to whip up a wide selection of frozen meals from the National superstore nearby. Bananas can be purchased next to an all terrain bush buggy.

Cree Village Eco-Lodge offers simply furnished rooms on the riverfront in Moose Factory.

ONL provides free parking for RVs next to the rail station in Cochrane for up to four days. The station also offers accommodation and a cafe. There are no summer roads to James Bay.

Choose from several options for length of stay in Moosonee and Moose Factory.

🗓️ ONE DAY RETURN TRIP

The easiest choice is to make a one-day roundtrip from Cochrane to Moosonee, but doesn't provide enough time to see the sites. A taxi will bring visitors to the town wharf and a boat ride to the island, but that is about all in the five hour turnaround at the northern terminus.

🗓️ 2-DAY STAY

One night will allow enough time to either visit the outer reaches of the river mouth, or to visit the Hudson's Bay Company's Moose Factory buildings*. Winds and tide will determine whether there is enough time to visit James Bay.

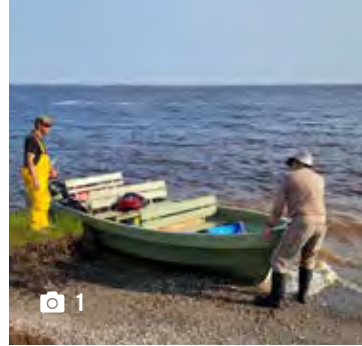
🗓️ 3-DAY STAY

The best option is to stay two nights to provide sufficient time to reach the Bay and visit the island. This must tie into the rail schedule. For example, depart Cochrane on a Monday and return on Wednesday. Travellers need to be flexible with the river tides to book an experienced river guide for the 20 km boat trip on the Moose River to the mouth of James Bay.





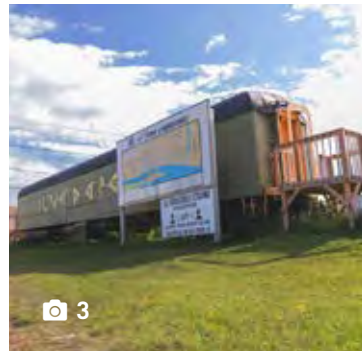
📷 Boating on the mighty Moose River / NeONT



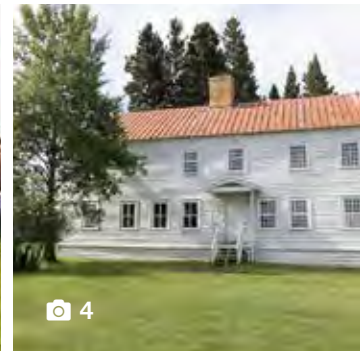
📷 1



📷 2



📷 3



📷 4

- **Cree Cultural Interpretive Centre** provides native teachings and a collection of traditional clothing, cradle boards, hunting tools and a gift store showcasing genuine locally made crafts and leather goods hand made from deer and moose hides.

As one of the HBCs first trading posts, brigantines would sail through Hudson Bay to James Bay and then anchor off the island shore for loading baled furs in exchange for utensils, ammunition and beads.

Fur prices were set in terms of the number of hides required for an item. A brass kettle was traded for one beaver pelt, and a blanket for six beaver. The length of a musket determined the number of beaver pelts in a bale for shipment to England.

- **Weeneebayko General Hospital**, located on the Moose Factory side, requires an ambulance boat to transport the needy arriving by air from northern communities. The hospital is affiliated with Queens University in Kingston. Land has been assembled to build a new state-of-the-art hospital on the mainland at Moosonee.
- **Moose Factory*** was founded in 1673 and is the second oldest HBC trading post. It later had ship building and a full time bishop. With decline of the fur trade, the town transformed from a company town to a permanent settlement serving the North.

St. Thomas Church* was built in 1864 under direction of the Hudson's Bay Company and has been restored through efforts of parishioners.

The Centennial Museum Park includes the Staff House and half-storied frame buildings and cemetery.

📷 IMAGES


- 📷 1 Guided tours on James Bay / Gord Rees
- 📷 2 The Hudson Bay Company Staff Cemetery / Gord Rees
- 📷 3 The Railcar Museum / NeONT
- 📷 4 The Old Hudson Bay Company Staff House / NeONT



Day Six

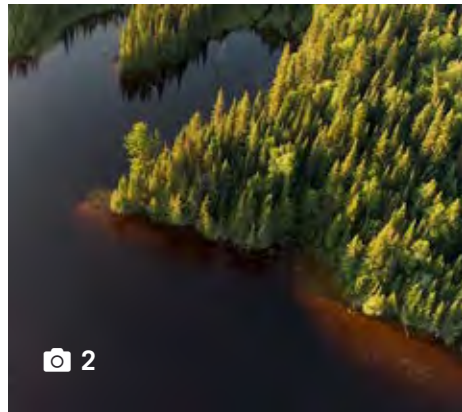
TIMMINS / GOGAMA / SUDBURY / KILLARNEY



 Killarney Provincial Park / Destination Canada – photo by Ben Jaworskyj



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IMAGES

-  1 Dynamic Earth Tour
-  2 Mattagami Lake, Gogama
-  3 Killarney Provincial Park
-  4 Cycling in Sudbury



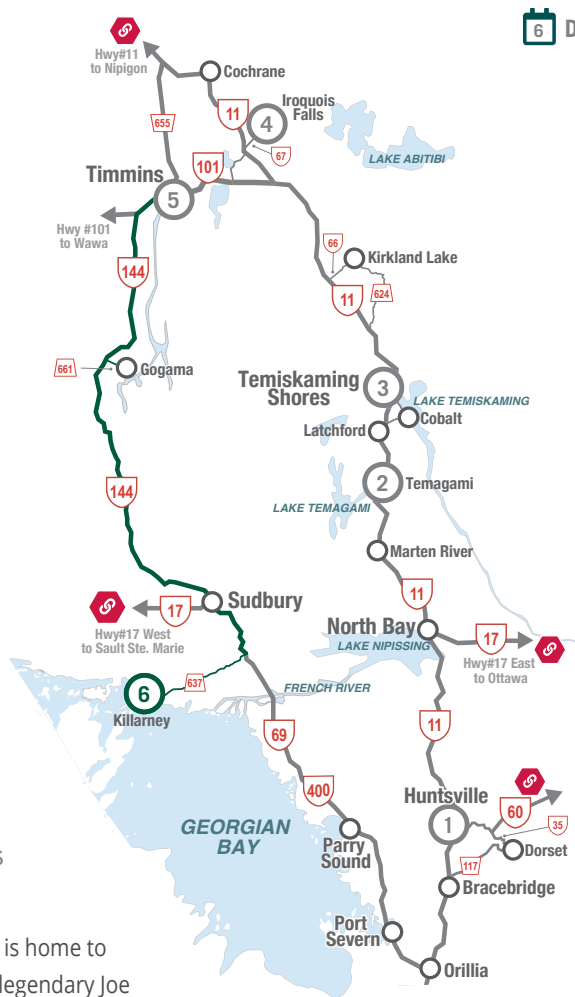
PROSPECTOR ROUTE

- 1 Huntsville
- 2 North Bay / Temagami
- 3 Temiskaming Shores
- 4 Iroquois Falls
- 5 Timmins
- 6 Killarney
- 7 Toronto

6 DAY SIX

Travel back south from Timmins to Killarney Provincial Park.

- **Gogama.** This small northern community is home to several great fishing lodges. Learn about legendary Joe LaFlamme who trained wolves to pull a dogsled in the wilds of Northern Ontario.
- **Sudbury** where the Super Stack looms on the horizon. Visit Dynamic Earth to experience the life of rock miners complete with the sounds of blasting and ore drills. Visit Science North, one of the largest science centres in all of Canada, featuring a fun, interactive approach to science education and an IMAX® theatre.
- **Killarney.** Head south on Hwy#69 through pink granite rock cuts to the junction of Hwy#637 where the highway dips down to the waterfront in Killarney. Take a short hike to the Killarney East Lighthouse. It was here when the first settlers arrived in 1820 to establish a fur trading post where two lighthouses were the first to operate after Confederation. The Village of Killarney provides services including a Laundromat, marina and museum.





Route – 485 km
Head west on Hwy#101. Turn south on Hwy#144. Take Hwy#661 for a stop in Gogama. Return to Hwy#144, and continue south to Sudbury. From Sudbury, head south on Hwy#69. Exit on Hwy#637 to Killarney.



Itinerary Extensions – see below for additional itinerary options.

 Killarney Provincial Park is classified as a wilderness park where rugged, white granite cliffs overlook Georgian Bay. Killarney Provincial Park is recognized as a nationally certified **Dark Sky Preserve** by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

WHERE TO CAMP


Where to camp near Killarney.


 Killarney Provincial Park – George Lake Campground is open for camping all year.  **Services:** Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Hiking trails. Park Store (seasonal) and canoe rentals nearby.

 Rocher Rouge Campground – downtown Killarney. Watch sunsets over beautiful Lacloche Mountains. Lake views. Swimming. Access provincial park trails.  **Services:** Pull-thru sites. No hookups. Pit toilets.



ITINERARY EXTENSIONS


 **The Fur Trade Route.** Head further west on Hwy#17 from Sudbury to connect with the Fur Trade Route to Sault Ste Marie and on toward the North Shore of Lake Superior (see page #84).

 **Manitoulin Island.** Circle back to Toronto with a stop on Manitoulin Island and make the crossing on the Main Channel between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay via the MS Chi-Cheemaun Ferry from South Baymouth to Tobermory on Bruce Peninsula (see page #72-78).

Day Seven

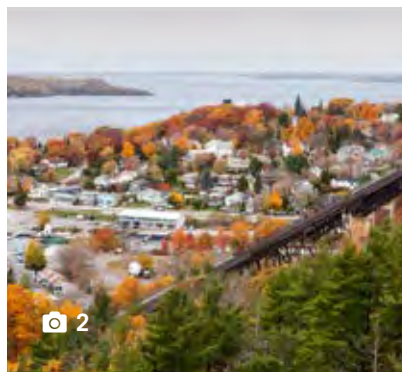
KILLARNEY / FRENCH RIVER / TORONTO



 Georgian Bay Coast / Destination Ontario



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IMAGES

-  1 French River Provincial Park
-  2 Lookout over Parry Sound
-  3 Clear waters of Georgian Bay

PROSPECTOR
ROUTE

- 1 Huntsville
- 2 North Bay / Temagami
- 3 Temiskaming Shores
- 4 Iroquois Falls
- 5 Timmins
- 6 Killarney
- 7 Toronto

7 DAY SEVEN

Killarney to Toronto.



French River Provincial Park*. A Travel Information Centre and museum at the National Historic Site on the French River pays tribute to the Lake Nipissing Canoe Route. Voyageurs followed the river west to secure furs from the Objibwe on a voyage of trade and exploration leading north and west of Lake Superior as early as 1659. The French River, although relatively small, was most significant in providing access to westward travel. The Travel Information Center is open Thursday to Monday in spring and fall, and daily in the summer.

✓ **Services:** Backcountry camping only – No RV camping available at this site. Flush toilets. Park Store (seasonal), Travel Information Centre. Hiking trails.

- **Parry Sound.** Make a short stop at the harbour front community of Parry Sound and nearby lookout tower on Georgian Bay. Visit the Interpretive Centre featuring the canoe route that served as a commercial waterway for 250 years.

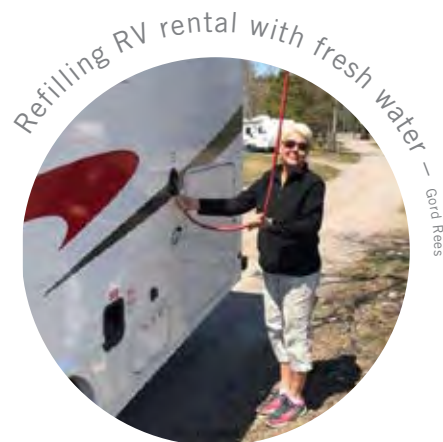


Port Severn is a connecting point to the [Bluewater Route](#) (see p. 140) and the [Waterway Route](#) (see p.10)



✚ **Route** – 300 km
Return to Hwy#69 via Hwy#637. Continue south on Hwy#69 to Parry Sound. Head south down Hwy69, and Hwy#400 towards Toronto.

📌 **Travel Tip:** It is best to camp reasonably close to an RV rental station on your last night.



WHERE TO CAMP



Returning to RV rental stations. It is best to stay reasonably close to the rental stations in the Toronto area on your last night. Clean-up, empty holding tanks, and refuel before drop-off. Be ready to vacate the vehicle upon arrival at the station.

Discover

ONTARIO'S FAR NORTH

Travel Ontario's Northernmost Highway



PROSPECTOR
ROUTE

Hwy#11 / Destination Northern Ontario

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

COCHRANE TO NIPIGON

2 DAYS 700 KM

OPTIONAL CONNECTING ROUTE.

Continue northwest from Cochrane to Nipigon to connect to [The Fur Trade Route](#).

Travel through remote northern wilderness along Hwy#11 where rivers and streams flow north into the frigid Arctic waters of Hudson's Bay.

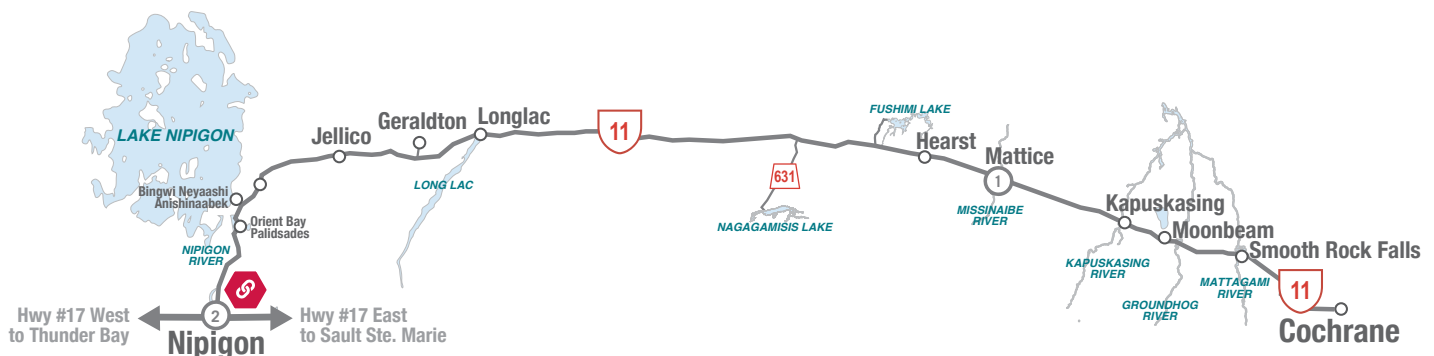
This extension of The Prospector Route runs 700 km along Ontario's most northerly Trans Canada highway between Cochrane and Nipigon. Miles of muskeg and black spruce are evidence of wilderness where moose abound. The history of the fur trade, lumbering, mining and railroads highlights the remoteness and ruggedness of survival in the Canadian north. Francophone communities are spread across the North as far as Hearst and throughout most of Algoma Country. Hwy#11 parallels the original route of the transcontinental railway between Longlac and Kapuskasing.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Cochrane to Mattice DAY 2 Mattice to Nipigon

COCHRANE TO NIPIGON – approximate travel distances

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	DURATION
Cochrane	Smooth Rock Falls	55 km	40 min
Smooth Rock Falls	Moonbeam	40 km	30 min
Moonbeam	Kapuskasing	20 km	20 min
Kapuskasing	Mattice	70 km	55 min
Mattice	Hearst	20 km	30 min
Hearst	Geraldton	300 km	3 h 30 min
Geraldton	Beardmore	85 km	1 h
Beardmore	Nipigon	80 km	1 h

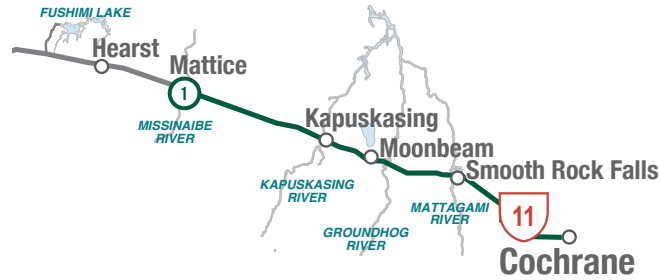




PROSPECTOR

R O U T E

- 1 Mattice
- 2 Nipigon



Route – 180 km
 Head west on Hwy#11 to Smooth Rock Falls. Exit north on Hwy#581 in Moonbeam to visit René Brunelle Provincial Park. Continue west on Hwy#11 from Moonbeam to Kapuskasing. Continue west on Hwy#11 to complete the day in Mattice.

1 DAY ONE

Travel from Cochrane to Mattice.

- **Smooth Rock Falls.** Another once-booming pulp mill town gone bust, its future is being rejuvenated by selling town lots and offering tax breaks on new construction. The town is situated on the shore of the Mattagami River.
- **Moonbeam.** Known for a replica of an unidentified flying object, the village has claimed the alien mascot in the form of a flying saucer situated along-side the highway. UFO sightings were common in the 1960's. Another myth suggests the name started when early pioneers allegedly reported pillars of light streaming from the sky, which could have been northern lights, or the headlamp of a steam locomotive pounding through the winter darkness. The town serves as an access point to René Brunelle Provincial Park.
- **Kapuskasing.** Ron Morel Memorial Museum & Gallery is housed in two heritage passenger day coaches next to the train station. The town is notorious for providing the largest POW camp in Canada during WWI. No one dared escape into isolated surroundings at 40 below zero. A pulp mill is the mainstay of the community. The town is featured in "Kapuskasing Coffee" by Canadian singer-songwriter Justin Rutlege.
- **Mattice.** Flowing from Mattice to Moosonee, the Missinaibi River drops 40 m where it crosses the divide between Precambrian bedrock and Hudson Bay Low Lands at Thunder Falls and Hells Gate Canyon. The Missinaibi is one of the longest free-flowing rivers in Ontario. Townsfolk provide canoes and supplies where paddlers can set off to explore the famous waterway to James Bay. A replica voyageur statue stands as a symbol to an extended wilderness canoe route to the North.



René Brunelle Provincial Park. Located just 15 minutes outside of Moonbeam on Hwy#581. The park features four beautiful sandy beaches on Remi Lake, which served as a float plane base for many years. The park offers two great hiking trails, one which tells of a 1922 bush pilot plane crash. Motorboat, canoe, kayak and bike rentals are available at this park. **Services:** Electrical. Laundry. Showers / flush toilets. Park store. Canoe rentals.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Mattice.

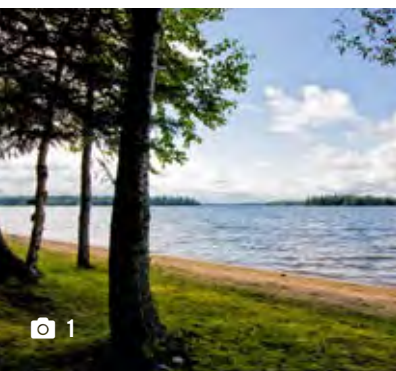
Twin Lakes Camping. Located off of Hwy 11 and just north of Moonbeam on Hwy 583. Water park on a sandy beach. **Services:** Full service sites with mobile sani.



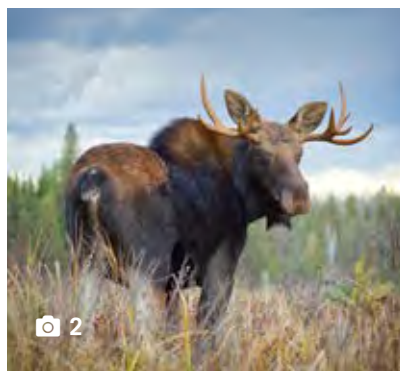
There are numerous Provincial Parks along this route that have campsites available. Open seasonally.

IMAGES

- 1 René Brunelle Provincial Park
- 2 Young Bull Moose
- 3 Missinaibi River
- 4 Moonbeam Travel Information Centre



1



2



3

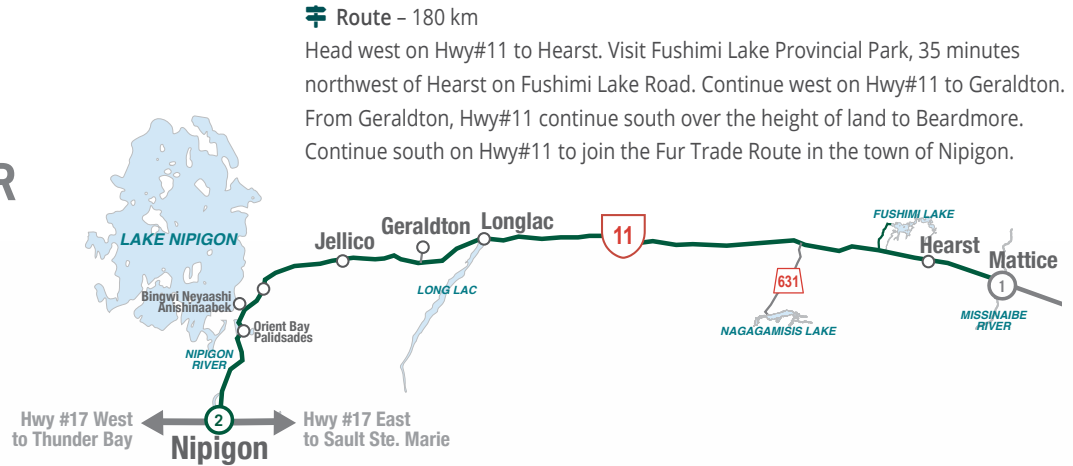


4



PROSPECTOR ROUTE

- 1 Mattice
- 2 Nipigon

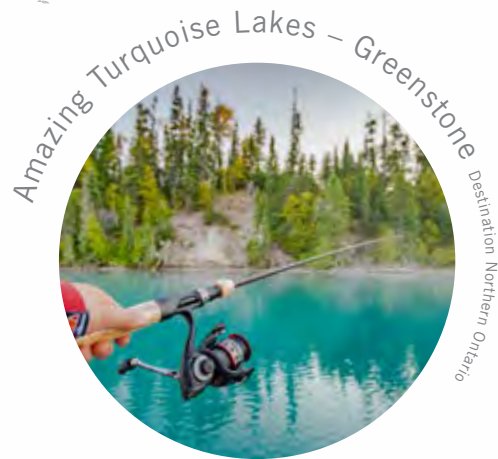


≡ Route – 180 km

Head west on Hwy#11 to Hearst. Visit Fushimi Lake Provincial Park, 35 minutes northwest of Hearst on Fushimi Lake Road. Continue west on Hwy#11 to Geraldton. From Geraldton, Hwy#11 continue south over the height of land to Beardmore. Continue south on Hwy#11 to join the Fur Trade Route in the town of Nipigon.

GREENSTONE [Ring of Fire]

is an amalgamation of remote mining and forestry towns including Longlac, Geraldton, Beardmore running along Hwy #11. The vast region, lying between the Canadian Shield and south of the James Bay Lowlands, has been dubbed The Ring of Fire in anticipation that the district will yield large deposits of precious metals. Hike the 8 km Lake Nipigon Shoreline Trail to two viewing platforms overlooking Lake Nipigon. Poplar Lodge Park is a full service municipal campground located off Hwy #580 on the lake.



2 DAY TWO

Travel from Hearst to Nipigon.

- **Hearst** is home to many settlers from Quebec who were encouraged by parish priests to emigrate west to Northern Ontario as an opportunity where large tracts of undeveloped land were still available. For the priests, it meant the spread of Catholicism to new frontiers. The town proclaims to be the "Moose Capital of Canada". The town's Visitor Centre features wildlife displays. The Heritage Sawmill Marketplace is a tribute to the hay day lumber industry.



Fushimi Lake Provincial Park. Located northwest of Hearst. This provincial park completely surrounds the shoreline of Fushimi Lake. Two great hiking trails; one trail leads to a fire tower. **Services:** Showers/flush toilets. Laundromat. Sani-dump. Park store. Hiking on the Archilles and Fire Tower Trails.

- **Longlac.** Named for a very long lake. Two historic tug boats sit alongside the Tourist Information Centre and describe the role of marine capability for towing log booms to sawmills on Lake Nipigon, reputed by local residents to be the fifth Great Lake. A canoe mounted on a pillar signifies the arrival of the *coureurs des bois* during the fur trade era.
- **Geraldton.** The Geraldton Interpretive Centre describes history of the fur trade and mining activity in the region. Close to MacLeod Provincial Park.



MacLeod Provincial Park. Off Hwy#11 and 10 km east of Geraldton. Named after an abandoned gold mine that sits on a peninsula jutting out into Kenogamisis Lake. The park offers excellent swimming and fishing for walleye and pike. **Services:** Electrical sites. Showers/flush toilets. Sani-dump.

- **Atlantic Watershed.** The “height of land” sign between Geraldton and Jellico states the elevation of the drainage boundary. The line follows an irregular course some 2,200 km north of Lakes Huron and Superior. The relevance extends to the boundary of Upper Canada, and was important to the fur trade in determination of routes and portages. A stop at any of these signs will have you wondering which way does the water flow when the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans are so far away.
- **Beardmore.** After making claim that it assumed the title of “*Snow Capital of the World*”, the sparsely populated mining and lumber town decided to celebrate its status by building a white wooden structure professing to be the world’s largest snowman. The 10 m statue is appropriately attired for the various seasons. The giant model of a Sasquatch at the Big Foot Motel leaves another lasting impression of the wilderness.
- **Bingwi Neyaashi Anishnaabek,** also known as BNA, was previously Sand Point First Nation. The fishing village sits a short distance off Hwy#11 on the south eastern shore of Lake Nipigon. Drive past an Indigenous burial ground with wildlife symbols as headstones. Watch for stunning views of knob hills and palisades east of Greenstone.
- **Orient Bay Palisades** features a 10 km hiking trail to one of the highest elevations in Ontario, with four lookouts spread out along the ridge of imposing cliffs over-looking Orient Bay at the southernmost point of Lake Nipigon. Steep rugged terrain makes this a challenging hike. There are no railings or barriers at any of the lookouts.
- **Pitawabik Palisades** are protected by Ontario’s Living Legend Project in the Nipigon Basin. The palisades are world-renowned as the one the top three ice-climbing destinations in North America with 110 waterfalls higher than 40 m and freezing up to 10 m thick.

- **Helen Lake.** St. Sylvester Mission Church just north of Helen Lake community, stands in memory of the Jesuits who established the mission in 1852. Located as a rest stop on the historic fur trade route.
- **Nipigon Canoe Route historic site*.** A scenic rest area alongside the lake describes a water route for travel between Lake Superior and James Bay. During the fur trade era, the Nipigon route became an area of intense rivalry between English traders on Hudson Bay, and French and Scottish traders based on the St. Lawrence River.



Join the Fur Trade Route at the bridge crossing of the Nipigon River, towards the Bridgeview Lookout Tower on the way into Nipigon ([see pages 98-99](#)).

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Nipigon.



Veilleux Camping. Take Hwy#583 south of Hearst on Pivabiska Lake. **Services:** Store and Laundromat. Fully serviced sites. Mobile sani.



Wild Goose Lake Resort. Natural setting on the lake. Hwy#11 about 19 km west of Geraldton. **Services:** Fully serviced sites. Showers and sani-dump. Laundromat.

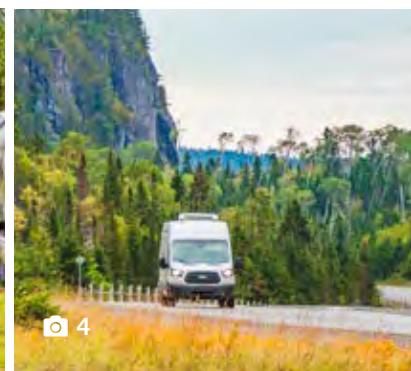
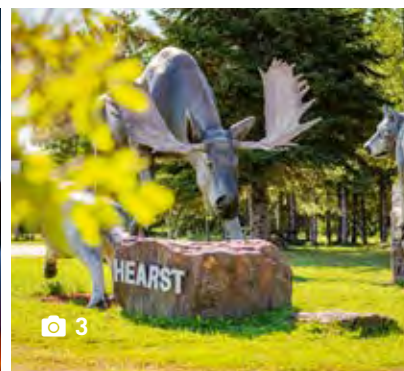
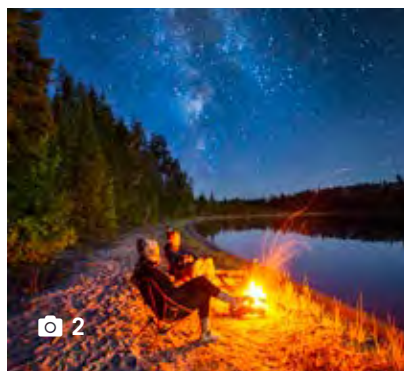
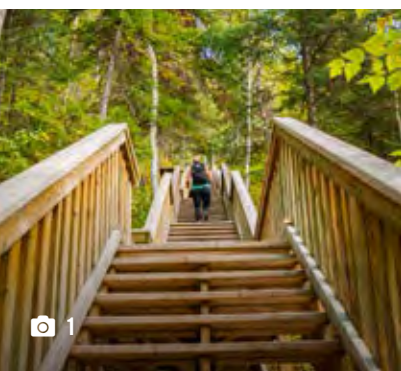


There are numerous Provincial Parks along this route that have campsites available. Open seasonally.



IMAGES


1 Stairs up the Orient Bay Palisades Trail 2 Camping beneath the stars 3 Hearst Wildlife display 4 Hwy#11 near Orient Bay



Some of the best canoeing and white waters in North America.

Discover

A PADDLER'S PARADISE

 Algonquin Provincial Park / Destination Canada

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS & OTTAWA VALLEY

 4 DAYS  480 KM

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

This route can be driven in two or three days. Take an extra day to enjoy the waterways.

A vast travel network of lakes and rivers were used by explorers, traders, missionaries, settlers, and now by recreational users as primary access to the back country. The Ottawa River is one of Canada's longest rivers fed by tributaries flowing from the Algonquin Highlands, and the Laurentian Mountains on the Quebec side. Foremost among them is the Madawaska River - with the middle section commonly referred to as the 'Middle Mad' between Bark and Kamanisseg Lakes - which drains 230 km from Algonquin Provincial Park into the Ottawa River.

ITINERARY

- DAY 1 Huntsville to Algonquin Provincial Park
- DAY 2 Algonquin Provincial Park to Barry's Bay
- DAY 3 Barry's Bay to Cobden
- DAY 4 Cobden to North Bay



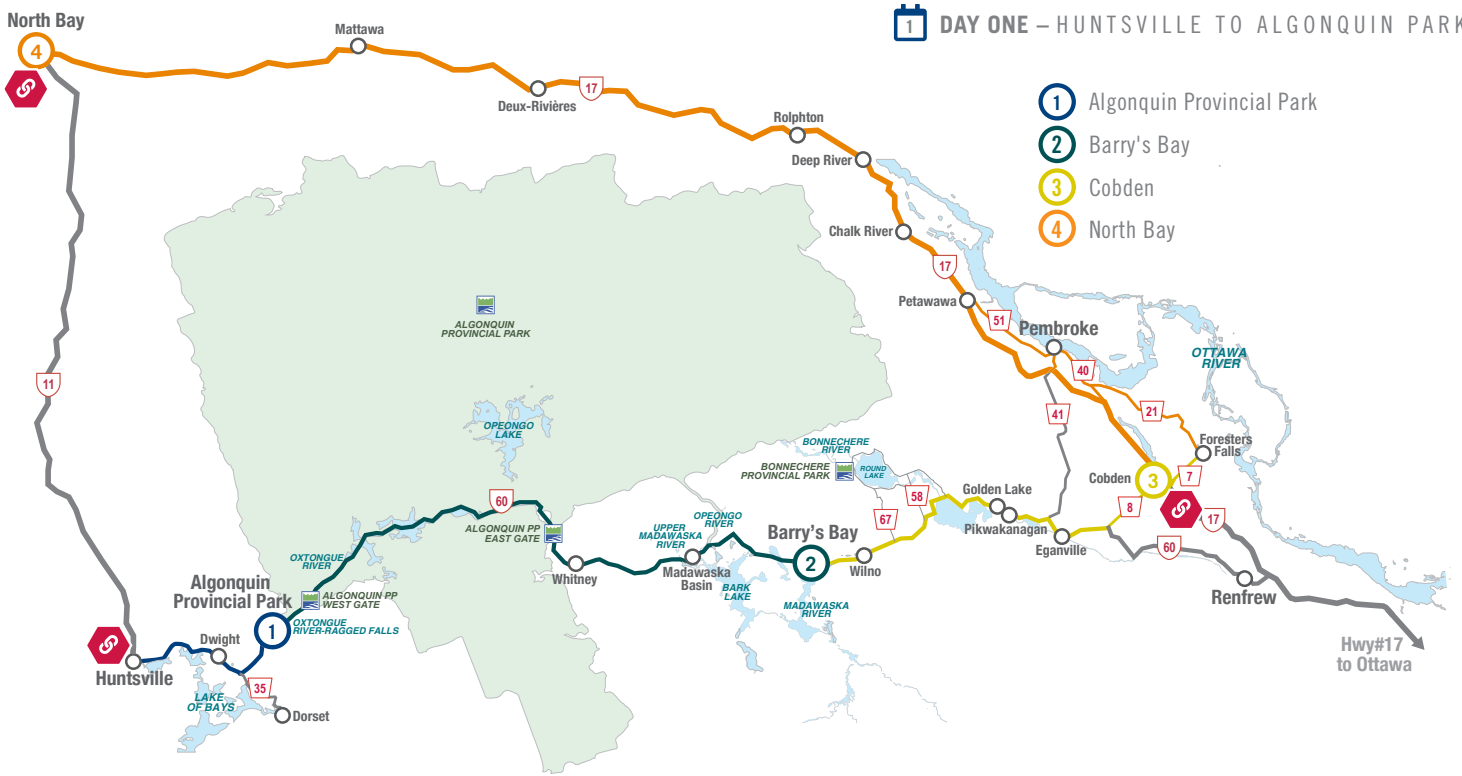
Safety considerations for the Ottawa River Canoe Routes

Refer to *Paddle Routes in the Ottawa Valley (2)* for further details. This route takes 3 days as part of a more extensive touring route. It provides contacts for whitewater rafting, kayaking and canoeing, with water safety foremost in mind.

The maze of rivers, channels and islands provide a huge playground for whitewater enthusiasts. Rapids are rated from 1-5, with easy to most difficult. Practice water safety. Rapids are for experienced paddlers only. Boating regulations require a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for each person, a throw rope and extra paddle on board.

HUNTSVILLE TO FORESTERS FALLS – approximate travel distances

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	DURATION
Huntsville	Algonquin Provincial Park	42 km	30 min
Whitney	Madawaska River	20 km	15 min
Madawaska River	Barry's Bay	30 km	20 min
Barry's Bay	Eganville	55 km	40 min
Eganville	Cobden	20 km	15 min
Cobden	North Bay	245 km	2 h 45 min



ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK

1 DAY ONE

Travel from Huntsville to Algonquin Provincial Park.

- Huntsville** is located in the heart of Muskoka's cottage country. The Muskoka Heritage Park offers a Pioneer Village with costumed interpreters going about their daily chores. Stop in at the Steam Museum to learn the history of steam transportation in the Muskokas and Algonquin. Climb aboard an open-air carriage pulled by the steam-driven *Portage Flyer*. A historic Swing Bridge is an iconic landmark at the entrance to downtown. Group of 7 murals adorn many buildings.

A short side-trip to Dorset takes in the 30m Scenic Lookout Tower with an observation deck spanning the surrounding view. A hill top museum contains a history of forest fire spotting in the boreal forest.



Algonquin Provincial Park is Ontario's oldest and most famous park, designated in 1893. Hwy#60 runs through Algonquin Provincial Park starting in the southwestern corner the West Gate near Dwight to the East Gate near Whitney. The 7,630 square km park is the headwaters of five major rivers that contribute to an extensive network of canoe routes. The Canoe Lake Store offers full and half-day guided canoe tours and an extensive collection of park merchandise. The Visitor Centre at km 43 has a viewing deck, exhibits, Nature Store and Bookshop, theatre and art room.

Route – 42 km

Travel east on Hwy#60 from Huntsville to the southern tip of Algonquin Provincial Park.

Side trip to Dorset: 15-minutes south of Dwight. Follow Hwy#35 just southeast of Dwight to Dorset.

The Logging Museum has an interpretive trail with a log dam and chute that once moved large white pine logs to mills down-stream. In the summer, the Discovery Program publishes the 'This Week in Algonquin' schedule that provides dates, times and locations of special events and interpretive activities. Look for it at gates, campground offices, museums and online. The best time to see moose is in the spring at the side of the highway at dawn or dusk, and to see beaver in fall when they repair dams and stock their winter food supply. Black bears are plentiful in the park, so remember to always keep a clean campsite.

The park offers plenty of trails, including the Old Railway Bike Trail, that follows an old railway bed along the Highway 60 Corridor. Railways were built in the 1890s to haul hardwood logs that could not be floated to sawmills. Other lines connected to haul lumber to markets through Renfrew and Ottawa.

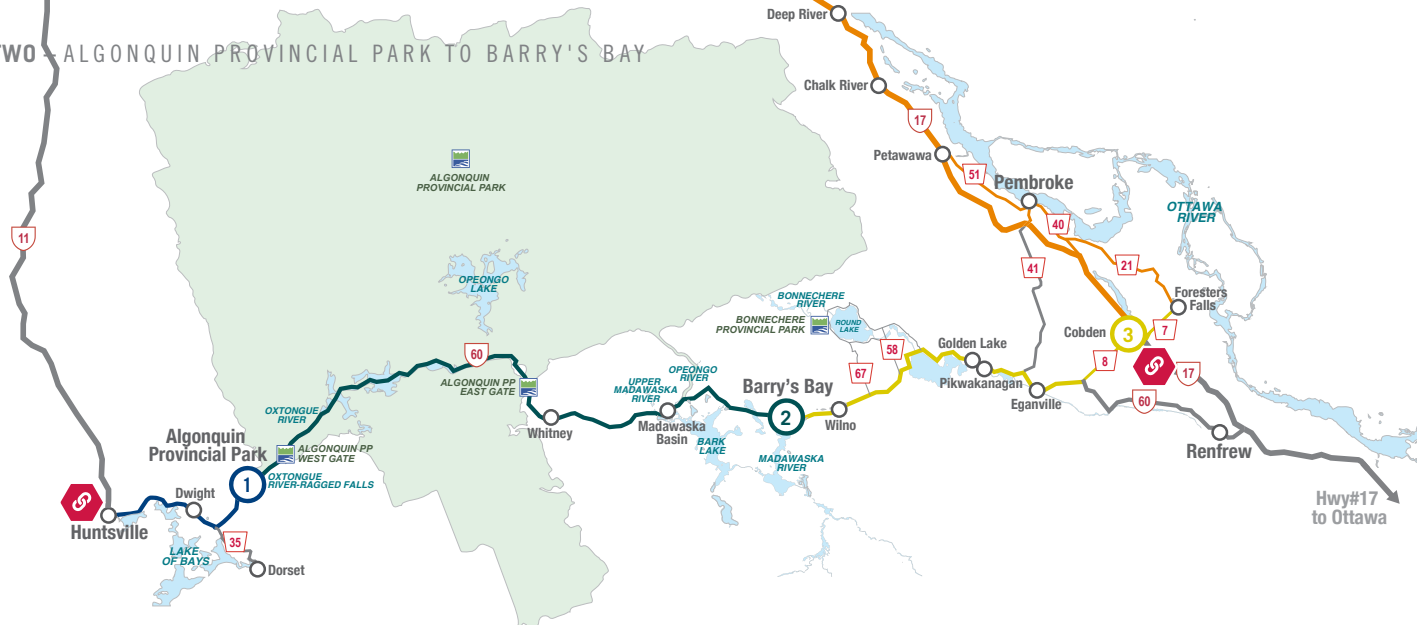
WHERE TO CAMP



Algonquin Provincial Park. Entry to southern section on Hwy#60 through West or East Gate. Numerous campgrounds with electric hookups.



DAY TWO ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK TO BARRY'S BAY



DAY TWO

Travel from Algonquin Provincial Park to Barry's Bay.

- **Whitney.** Located at an outflow on the Madawaska River just outside the park, and leads to a drop-in for kayaks to make a 22 km run on the Madawaska River.
- **Madawaska Basin.** The Upper Madawaska Basin, located 14 km west of Barry's Bay, is famous for a 50 km network of recreation trails around spectacular lakes. There is access from four trail heads to numerous viewpoints overlooking Bear Lake. Trail names are designated to reflect geologic features or animals observed along the route. Use trails at own risk.
- **Barry's Bay** is the center of the waterway route in the Madawaska Valley. *The Middle Mad* is famous for rafting, kayak and canoe programs, thanks to mid-week whitewater releases from the Bark Lake Dam.

A one quarter scale replica of the Canadian built CF 105 Avro Arrow is mounted in the community park to honor Jan Zurakowski, a local resident and the chief test pilot of the supersonic jet interceptor that was instrumental in the advancement of aviation technology during the late 1950s. A display explains the daring Zurabatic Cartwheel that he introduced to acrobatic flying. Warsaw Polish Monument, located between Barry's Bay and Combermere, was built by the Polish Canadian community in remembrance of 10,000 Polish scouts in the Underground Resistance who were killed during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944.

≡ Route - 90 km

Continue east on Hwy#60 from Barry's Bay to Eganville. Either follow Hwy#8 east to Cobden, or continue down Hwy#60 to intercept Hwy#17. **Side Trip:** Follow Hwy#7 for 10 km from Cobden to Foresters Falls.



WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Barry's Bay.



Sunny Hill Resort. Barry's Bay. Access to Bark Lake. Heated indoor pool. Fully-serviced. Boat and canoe rentals.



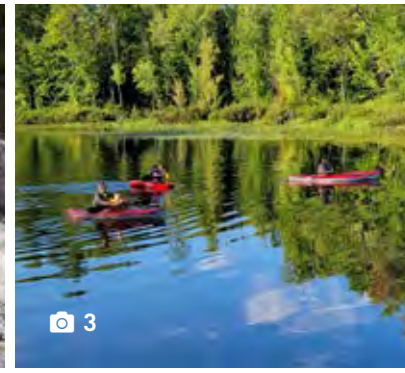
Bonnechere Provincial Park. Killaloe. East of Wilno on #67/58 to Round Lake. Showers. Electric sites.



1



2



3



4

3 DAY THREE

Travel from Barry's Bay to Cobden.

- **Wilno.** This tiny hamlet is Canada's first Polish settlement. Intricate folk art of Kashubian culture is showcased in the ceramics, along with embroidery and fabrics in the Polish Kashub Heritage Museum. Authentic Polish cuisine is served at the Wilno Tavern. Art and handcrafted products line the walls at the Wilno Craft Gallery.
- **Pikwakanagan.** The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation is a progressive community located on the shores of the Bonnechere River. Visitors are welcome at their annual Pow Wow event held the third weekend in August.
- **Golden Lake** is another paddler's paradise on a chain of lakes as part of Bonnechere River system.
- **Eganville,** known as the *Ordovician Capital of Canada*, is located on the Fourth Chute of the Bonnechere River. Guided tours in the Bonnechere Caves are held daily throughout the summer. Visit the Bonnechere Museum now housed in the post office building, dating from 1912. An ultra-modern sculpture identifies the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church by the *Trellis of Grace*.



Cobden. Hwy#60 Corridor intercepts Hwy#17 enroute to Foresters Falls. It was near here that Samuel de Champlain lost his astrolabe when forced to portage around rapids on the Ottawa River. It was found 254 years later by a farm boy clearing land, and is now placed in the Canadian Museum of History.

IMAGES

- 1 Swimming in the current / Madawaska Kanu Centre
- 2 Whitewater Kayaking / Madawaska Kanu Centre
- 3 Bonnechere River / Sandra Keele
- 4 Adventure rafting on the Ottawa River / Owl Rafting

Route – 30 km

Continue east on Hwy#60 from Barry's Bay to Eganville. Follow Hwy#8 east to Cobden where Hwy#8 intercepts Hwy#17. Follow Hwy#7 from Cobden to Foresters Falls (route map on p. 136).

- **Foresters Falls – Side Trip.** Continue on Hwy#7 to reach whitewater rafting operations on the Ottawa River and gateway to the Rocher Fendu rapids section on the Main Channel. Thundering rapids and waterfalls reach grade 3-4 rapids at *McCoys, Lorne*, and the *Carburetor* in low water, and the *Bus Eater* during rapid flow. Public access is provided courtesy of OWL Rafting and Whitewater Ontario. The lower section with class 2 rapids is suitable for beginners and families.

Ross Museum. Open seasonally between May and September, the Ross Museum tells the settlement story of the early 1800s. Tour the restored and replica buildings and enjoy time in the gardens.

A.Y. Jackson Trail. A.Y. Jackson, a member of the Group of Seven, painted a great many sketches in the Madawaska Hills. Follow the back roads between Barry's Bay and Eganville to see some of his popular painting sites and vistas.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Cobden.



OWL Rafting. Foresters Falls. Rafting packages with meals include RV sites with electrical hook up.



Visit the eclectic store '**Grumblin Granny's**' on Hwy#60 in Barry's Bay to find a special souvenir or just browse through their collections of jewelry, crystals, clothing and home décor.



4 DAY FOUR

Travel west from Cobden to North Bay.

This 250 km stretch on Hwy#17 connects the Prospector and Fur Trade Routes between Ottawa and North Bay. The Ottawa River Valley skirts the Quebec border accessible by several bridge crossings.



Cobden serves as a connecting point to Ottawa. Travel southeast on Hwy#17 through the Ottawa Valley along the Ottawa River to connect to the Waterway Route in Ottawa.

- **Pembroke.** Home to the Upper Ottawa Valley Heritage Centre and replica of Samuel de Champlain's astrolabe. The Pembroke Hydro Museum commemorates hydro electric development, and highlights the first street lighting in Pembroke. The annual Old Time Fiddling & Step Dancing Festival is held on Labor Day weekend.
- **Petawawa.** Garrison Petawawa hosts a display of armaments at Canada's largest tactical training base. Garrison Petawawa Military Museums illustrate the military life on base and Canada's military role in past conflicts. Barrack F-16 is designated a Federal Heritage Building due to its association with post War II. Houseboats cluster at the marina on the west bank of the Ottawa River. Close proximity to the east side of Algonquin Provincial Park.
- **Chalk River.** Home to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL). Until shutdown of its nuclear reactor in 2018, CNL produced a large share of the world's supply of medical radioisotopes. The Nuclear Powered Demonstration was the first Canadian nuclear-powered prototype reactor for the decommissioned CANDU reactor design located in nearby Rolphton.
- **Deep River** is so-named where the Ottawa River reaches the greatest depth at more than 400 feet. It is home to the Society for the Preservation of Canada's Nuclear Heritage, The Canadian Clock Museum, and is one of the smallest towns to have a symphony orchestra. Visit Lacroix Park where plaques explain how dams on the Upper Ottawa River have eliminated the hazardous rapids where many fur traders drowned.

Driftwood Provincial Park — Ontario Parks



Route – 250 km

Continue west on Hwy#17 and connect to the Prospector Route at North Bay. Or follow Hwy#17 eastward back to connect with the Waterway Route in Ottawa.

Side Route: Take Hwy#7 to Forester's Falls, and Hwy#21 and Hwy#40 to Pembroke.



- **Deux-Rivières.** Numbered posts designate the geological features along the Brent Crater Trail. The 2 km loop starts from an observation tower that overlooks the 4 km wide meteorite crater.

- **North Bay.** Connect to the Prospector Route at North bay located on the shores of Lake Nipissing (refer to p. 116).

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp between Pembroke and North Bay.

Tiny Village-Ottawa River. Next to Hwy #17 at Deep River. 1,000 feet of sandy beach on the Ottawa River. Glamping (tiny cottages and domes), RV and tent sites available. **Services:** Sewer and water.

Driftwood Provincial Park. Located on #17 north of Deep River. **Services:** Showers and flush toilets. Laundromat. Electrical sites in Brumm Campground. Canoe rentals to explore the shores of the Ottawa River.

Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park. A feature park located west of Mattawa on the famous voyageur route to Lake Nipissing. The Mattawa River Visitor Centre and Museum features the cultural history of the voyageur canoe route through the park and Mattawa River valley. **Services:** Jingwakoki and Babawasse Campgrounds provide electrical sites. Comfort stations with showers and flush toilets. Laundromat.



Meet Clermont Duval and his son Costel at his art gallery in Mattawa, featuring their acrylic and oil paintings with mystical illusions and symmetry portraying the natural beauty of Northern Ontario. The family pair also created a 5.8m wood carving of **Big Joe Mufferaw**, a legendary voyageur and logger who presided over the Ottawa River Valley during the 1800s.

DISCOVER THE GREAT BASIN OF

Georgian Bay

A tour through the transition of the Canadian Shield to fertile, rolling farmlands

Collingwood, Georgian Bay / Destination Ontario

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

HURONIA & MID-CENTRAL ONTARIO

4 DAYS 400 KM

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

This route can be driven in four days with various connecting points to other routes.

Georgian Bay is a huge basin of water attached to Lake Huron where thousands of islands cling to the eastern edge. The Bruce Peninsula's jagged limestone cliffs border the western shores.

This tourism region lies in the transition zone between the hard rocks of the Canadian Shield and the fertile farmlands to the south in Mid-Central Ontario. A cluster of national historic sites include Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons, Huronia Museum, the Martyrs' Shrine and Discovery Harbour, all in close proximity to the southern shores.

The circle Georgian Bay Coastal Route connects the Fur Trade Route at Barrie, and Bluewater Route along the Niagara Escarpment and beaches from Parry Sound, Midland, Collingwood to Owen Sound.

Several of the port cities are famous for offering daily sightseeing excursions to the 30,000 islands and serve as ports of call for ever-popular Great Lakes cruises.

Saint-Marie Among the Hurons — Destination Ontario



ITINERARY

- DAY 1** Port Severn to Midland
- DAY 2** Midland to Owen Sound
- DAY 3** Owen Sound to Fergus
- DAY 4** Fergus to London

PORT SEVERN TO LONDON — approximate travel distances

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	DURATION
Port Severn	Midland	28 km	23 min
Midland	Owen Sound	125 km	2 h
Owen Sound	Fergus	115 km	1 h 30 min
Fergus	St. Jacobs	30 km	30 min
St. Jacobs	Stratford	50 km	50min
Stratford	London	60 km	1 h



1 DAY ONE

Travel from Port Severn to Midland

- Midland.** A 250-foot long by an 80' high mural painted on the grain elevator celebrates the arrival of a dozen lakers annually carrying wheat from Western Canada for milling in the port. The historic mural depicting an Indigenous man and a white trapper is the largest in North America.

Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons* was a French Jesuit settlement in Huronia and now serves as a living museum. Nearby, the looming twin towers of the Martyrs' Shrine* was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1930 to honor the eight missionaries slaughtered during Iroquois attacks in the 1640s. The St. Jean de Brebeuf Event Centre pays homage to the Jesuit outpost.

Huronia/Wendat Village* is a recreation of a palisade which inside includes a sweat lodge, lookout tower, wigwam, long house, fish rack and a burial rack depicting a sophisticated society before arrival of the first Europeans in the late 1500s. The museum houses the history of shipping and cruising on Georgian Bay.

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre sits in a cattail marsh with areas of fen and clusters of coniferous swamp. Known to locals as the Home of the Trumpeter Swan. The park offers canoe rentals, guided canoe tours to the observation tower and waterfowl monitoring platform, and 30 km of hiking trails.

IMAGES / Destination Ontario

- 1 Costumed Interpreters – Saint-Marie Among the Hurons
- 2 Huronia Historical Parks – Penetanguishene
- 3 Weaving Baskets – Saint-Marie Among the Hurons

Route – 28 km

Head south from Port Severn via Hwy#400. Head west on Hwy#12 to Midland.

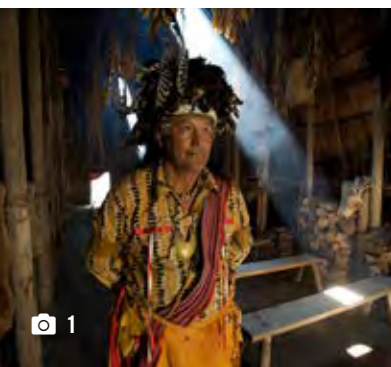
Side Trip: Follow Hwy#93 just 10 minutes northwest of Midland to Penetanguishene and Discovery Harbour.

- Penetanguishene.** One of the oldest bilingual towns west of Quebec City where Samuel de Champlain held the first mass in 1615. King's Wharf Theatre is located at the end of a boardwalk overlooking two replica tall ships from the War of 1812.
- Discovery Harbour** tells the story of the 200-year-old British Naval outpost during the War of 1812 with two famous tall ships moored in Penetanguishene Bay. Learn about 19th century naval life at the HMS Tecumseth Centre housed in a climate-controlled exhibition hall to protect the salvaged hull of the 124-foot topsail schooner.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Midland.

- Bayfort Camp.** Located on Georgian Bay in Midland. Overnight camping. Pull-thru sites. Sani-dump.
- Wasaga Dunes.** Wasaga Beach. Fully serviced. Heated pool. Store. Showers/Toilets.
- Gateway Camping.** Wasaga Beach. Pull-thru sites. Electrical. Laundry. Showers/Toilets. Sani-dump.
- Georgian Bay Park.** Located in Tiny. Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites available. Laundry. Snack bar. Viewing tower. Sani-dump.



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2



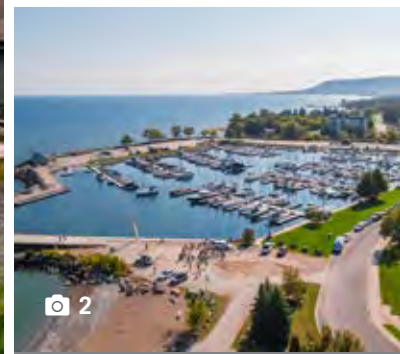
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1 Blue Mountain Village / Destination Ontario



1



2

BEAVER VALLEY

Follow the waterfall trail upstream on the Beaver River to small towns and big apple farms. The narrow valley produces Ambrosia, Gala, McIntosh, Spartan apples along with numerous other varieties. The apple growing regions in Ontario extend along the Ports & Forts Route and southern Georgian Bay that make ideal temperate conditions inland from the large deep lakes. Northern Spy apples are grown close to Heathcote Lookout.

A series of small waterfalls are features of the Niagara Escarpment in the region. It was expected that Eugenia Falls would yield great wealth when glittering rocks turned out to be fool's gold. Holstein Dam sits above a 5 m cascading falls on Norman Reeves Creek.



2 DAY TWO

Travel from Midland to Owen Sound.

- **Wasaga Beach.** A 14-km long stretch with eight main beach areas is administered by Ontario Parks that is busy with day-trippers. The HMS Nancy Island Museum* records seafaring defenses established during War of 1812 that helped determine the borders of Upper Canada.
- **Minesing Side Trip.** Take a walk down Main Street Barrie circa 1900s showing the finery of Victorian table settings and high fashion located in the Simcoe County Museum. A horse-drawn hearse even portrays the elegance of death. In contrast, a vast collection of heavy equipment assembled outdoors in partnership with the Historical Equipment Association of Canada includes road graders, earth movers and draglines. Some are operated in a gravel pit demonstration a couple times a year. Simcoe County was named after John Graves Simcoe, the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada.
- **Collingwood.** Millennium Overlook Park marks the place from here in 1873 that a fledgling detachment of North-West Mounted Police began their arduous journey by steamer across the Great Lakes. Their mission was to bring peace to the western frontier and quell the Red River uprising in Manitoba.

Simcoe County barn quilts adorn over 150 barns, each painted with a different pattern on 8x8' aluminum panels to reflect family traditions and local heritage in the heart of Georgian Bay.

IMAGES

- 1** Scenic Cave Adventures – Blue Mountain Village
- 2** Thornbury Waterfront / Destination Ontario



Route - 125 km

Take Hwy#93 south to Hwy#27. Head west on Hwy#27 to Hwy#92. Follow Hwy#92 to Wasaga Beach. From Wasaga Beach, continue west on Hwy#92 and connect to Hwy#26. Follow Hwy#26 west to Collingwood. Continue west on Hwy#26 through Blue Mountain Village, Thornbury and Meaford to Owen Sound.

Side Trip: Head south at the junction of Hwy#26 and Hwy#92 to Minesing (30 minutes / 20 km).

- Blue Mountain Village.** A pedestrian resort village with lots of activities on offer for the entire family. The mountain coaster ride, mini golf putting area, rope courses and an array of restaurants, pubs and shops are available. Free movie nights under the stars, live music performances, and festivals are held on weekends. Descend into crevasses to explore caves and caverns 70 feet below the surface. A nearby suspension footbridge spans 420 feet with panoramic views of Georgian Bay. Hiking trails are designated by length and degree of difficulty in reaching the lookout points. Or visit the resorts own beaches for a swim in the Bay. Le Scandinave Spa is open year-round for hot and cold water treatments and pools.
- Thornbury** on the Apple Pie Trail is known for producing apple cider, apple smoked cheddar, apple crumble and famous pies at Blackbird Pie Company. Be sure to taste the *Pie'rogies* and libations from several craft breweries.
- Meaford.** Starting point of the Apple Pie Trail. A localized micro-climate enables a large crop of McIntosh, Golden Delicious, Ambrosia, Honeycrisp apples to ripen in late summer amidst a flurry of harvest activity to produce famous pies, vinegar and apple sauce. *The Man with the Iron Hands* tells the story of Andrew Cawley who lost both hands in a sawmill accident and went on to invent a set of crude steel hands that could perform numerous tasks.
- Owen Sound** has arisen from its dodgy past as a port city that now features many aristocratic homes. Four self-guided walking tours with plaques marking "Damnation Corner" and "Salvation Corner" are reminders of historic district once laden with bars. Tom Thompson, Art Gallery presents exhibitions of the famous Group of Seven landscape artists. A Black History Cairn* stands in Harrison Park to celebrate the northern terminus of the Underground Railroad. Marine & Rail Museum is located with outdoor exhibits in the old train station near the Great Lakes Elevator in the port.

Connecting point to the Bluewater Route.
Connect to the Bluewater Route or Fur Trade Route at Owen Sound.

WHERE TO CAMP

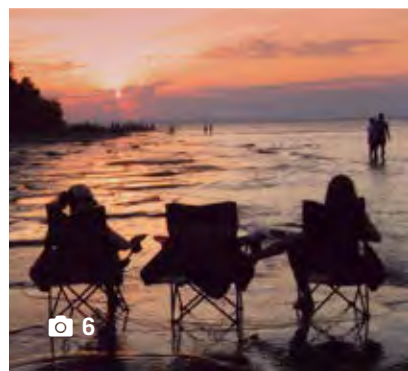
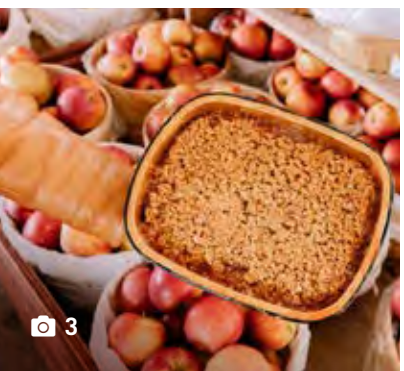
Where to camp near Owen Sound.

Craigleith Provincial Park. Craigleith. Foreshore shale beach on Georgian Bay. Shower/toilets. Sani-dump. Historical plaques. Please note, it is illegal to remove fossils from the park.

Rocksprings Family Camp & KOA. Owen Sound. Hwy#6. **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat.

IMAGES

- 3** Delicious baked goods on the Apple Pie Trail
- 4** Tom Thomson Art Gallery / The TOM
- 5** Historical Equipment at Simcoe Museum – Minesing / Gord Rees
- 6** Craigleith Provincial Park / Ontario Parks



3

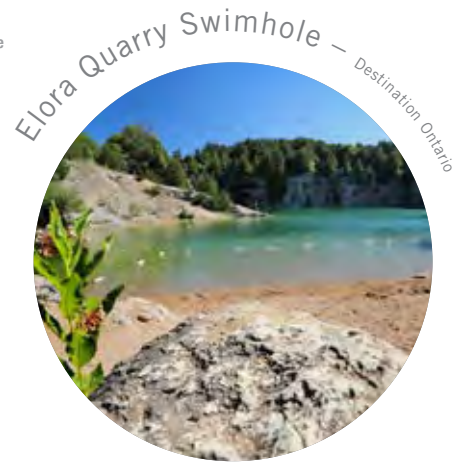
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6



➡ Route - 120 km
 From Owen Sound, head South on Hwy#6 to Fergus. Avoid Hwy 401. Take country roads through small towns like St. Jacobs, Harrington, Thorndale.



3 DAY THREE

Travel from Owen Sound to Fergus




ELORA GORGE

The grist mill* built in 1832 is the most notable 5-story landmark and luxury hotel and spa on the Grand River, and clearly visible from the historic Victoria Street Pedestrian Bridge. The Wellington County Museum* was formerly a Poorhouse, a term often referring to social housing for paupers in the old days, or for inmates requiring help for moral failings that could be erased through strict order and hard work. Explore the quaint Ontario town with its many restaurants and shops.



Elora Gorge on the Grand River is bound by high limestone cliffs. A quarry serves as the local swimming hole. Warning signs specify extremely dangerous cliffs outside the fences above the deep gorge. River tubing through Elora Rapids is a major attraction. Tube rentals on site.

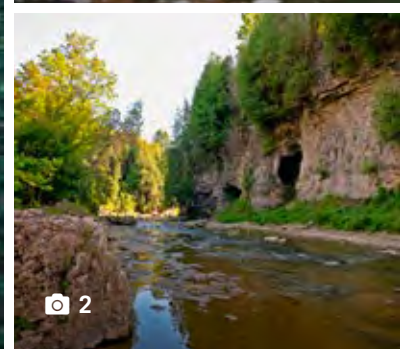
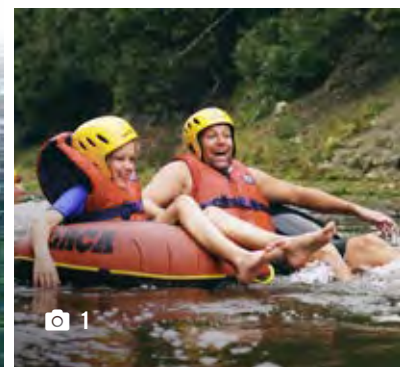
WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Fergus.

-  **Amazing Rocky Park Campground.** Durham. Fully serviced sites available. Electrical. Water. Store.
-  **Highland Pines Campground.** Belwood. Near Fergus and Elora. Large, wooded sites. Sandy beach. Fully serviced sites available. Electrical. Water. Sani-dump.
-  **Elora Conservation Area.** Electrical and full-service hookups.

IMAGES

-  **1** Tubing the Elora Gorge / Destination Ontario
-  **2** Elora Gorge / Destination Ontario





4 DAY FOUR

Travel from Fergus to London.

Connecting Point - St. Jacobs. St. Jacobs marks the start of the Ports & Forts Route (see page 36) Or follow Hwy#86 eastward through West Montrose to Guelph to connect to the Waterway Route (see page 10.)

- Stratford.** Best known for staging Shakespearean plays during the Stratford Festival from April to October. Multiple theatres around the city include the Festival Theatre, Avon Theatre and Tom Paterson Theatre. The City Hall* sits on a triangular town square of Victorian-period design which incorporates market stalls, a concert hall, police station, council chamber and fire hall. Stratford is also the hometown of Justin Bieber, a modern music icon.

Close to the town centre is the administrative centre and receiving home for Immigrant Home Children* where possibly up to 100,000 children were brought from the UK to serve as domestic servants and farm labourers between 1869 and 1939. This period in history signifies a poignant chapter in Canadian immigration that is little known.

Stratford City Hall* is a monumental red brick building with a prominent clock tower built in 1889.

- Saint Mary's** is known as "Stonetown" for the limestone blocks quarried near the banks of the Thames River. Green interpretive plaques on historic buildings explain the history of the old Opera House and concert hall, grist mill and old mill dam in the heritage conservation district. Saint Mary's Presbyterian Church is a landmark noticeable by its 40 m steeple. Junction Station* is an outstanding example of early railroad architecture set on the Grand Trunk line to Sarnia. Markers show the way to the railway historic bridge, water tower, museum and train station gallery.

The period buildings and town layout in Paris, Ontario, is of a similar architectural style.

Route - 155 km

From Fergus, take Hwy#6 north and connect to Hwy#18. Head south on Hwy#18, and connect to Hwy#17 at Conestogo. Follow Hwy#17 west to St. Jacobs. Take Hwy#85 and Hwy#7 south from to Kitchener. Head west on Hwy#8 from Kitchener to Stratford. Continue on Hwy#7 westward and connect to Hwy#4 at Elginfield. Continue south on Hwy#4 to London.

- Connecting Point - London.** From London, choose to a loop back towards Owen Sound on the Bluewater Route, or head south on the Bluewater Route and connect to the Ports & Forts Route at Windsor.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near London.

Our Ponderosa. Ipperwash Beach. (75 km west from London on Country Road 17). Full-service sites. Store. Laundry. Showers/Toilets. Sani-dump.

i For more campground options refer to the Bluewater Route or the Ports & Forts Route.




MANITOBA  ONTARIO



THE
OF HEART
CANADA
TOURING • ROUTE



DISCOVER

 Whiteshell Provincial Park / Travel Manitoba



THE HEART OF CANADA



SCAN to START PLANNING YOUR TRIP TODAY!



14 days



1818 km



42 stops



This touring route meanders through the longitudinal (east-west) center of Canada through Manitoba and Northwest Ontario. It roughly follows the shape of a figure 8 and can be driven in either direction starting from Winnipeg or Thunder Bay — intersecting near the town of Kenora on magnificent Lake of the Woods.

The route has a lot to offer the entire family with delicious local cuisine, charming northern communities and diverse landscapes ranging from the rugged Canadian Shield to the wide open Prairies. The region is known for its endless interconnected waterways that stretch between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Superior. It's the perfect opportunity for an RV trip to discover the great outdoors. Spend two or three nights at each campsite to really soak up the northern atmosphere. Expect to see a lot of wildlife and beautiful views. Time really slows down up here — no need to rush it!



- 📷 1 Falcon Lake – Whiteshell Provincial Park / Travel Manitoba
- 📷 2 Downtown Kenora / Destination Ontario
- 📷 3 Sioux Narrows Provincial Park / Destination Ontario
- 📷 4 The Royal Canadian Mint / Travel Manitoba
- 📷 5 Quetico Provincial Park / Destination Ontario
- 📷 6 Kakabeka Falls / Destination Ontario
- 📷 7 Quamajuq / Winnipeg Tourism
- 📷 8 Sleeping Glant Provincial Park / Destination Ontario
- 📷 9 Fort William Historical Park / Destination Ontario
- 📷 10 Aaron Provincial Park / Dryden Tourism
- 📷 11 The Leaf – Assiniboine Park Conservancy / Travel Manitoba
- 📷 12 The Forks / Travel Manitoba
- 📷 13 Lake of the Woods Brew Co. / Destination Ontario
- 📷 14 Gray Wolf / Dennis Fast – Travel Manitoba



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