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AN RV TOURING GUIDE

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Hwy 17 North (Sault Ste. Marie to Wawa)

RV Travel in Ontario.

Version 5.0 / Revised May 2022

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, farms, rivers, lakes and escarpments. Communities range in size from mining camps and historic resource to charming small towns in scenic locations dotted across the province to the largest metropolitan city in Canada, Toronto and Canada's capital Ottawa.

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

Ontario contains more of the Great Lakes and the vast 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 ten Ontario Travel Information Centres at interprovincial borders with Quebec, and at major USA border crossings in Niagara Falls, Sault Ste. Marie, Sarnia, Windsor and Pigeon River (seasonal) that provide travel information for the entire province, such as:

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

The Ontario Travel Information Services Team can assist you in planning your Ontario vacation. We are here for you by phone, email, video conference or visit us in person at one of our Travel Information Centres. Find out the location of our Ontario Travel Information Centres and how to connect with us at: **destinationontario.com/PlanYourTrip**.

DESTINATION NORTHERN ONTARIO

Produced by Destination Northern Ontario in co-operation with
Destination Ontario | Ontario Parks | Camping in Ontario | RV Rental Association of Canada

ONTARIO CANADA

ONTARIO PARKS

Camping In Ontario

RV Guide Development: Content by Gord Rees, RV Rental Association of Canada, and design by Destination Northern 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 2 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 for getting into campgrounds, shopping, sightseeing and of course, back tracking to investigate animals and attractions along the road.

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 in Toronto 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.

Returning to RV Rental Stations. It is best to stay reasonably close to the RV Rental Stations 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.

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, Brown's Bay Campground and Beach as well as campgrounds along the St. Lawrence River. A new self-serve reservation system has been introduced to speed-up the booking process. Campgrounds operate from May 20 until mid-October. Refer to page 26 for details.

COVID-19

Please note that ***COVI9-19 health and safety protocols may change***. Check with local Travel Information Centres in Ontario for travel restrictions, local insights and travel expertise. Indigenous communities may be restricted to residents.

DISCLAIMER: Use of this publication and all tourism guides are at your own risk. All information is provided without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied by Destination Northern Ontario, Ontario Provincial Parks, Camping in Ontario, and RTOs throughout the Province of Ontario. COVID related health restrictions are subject to change at any time.

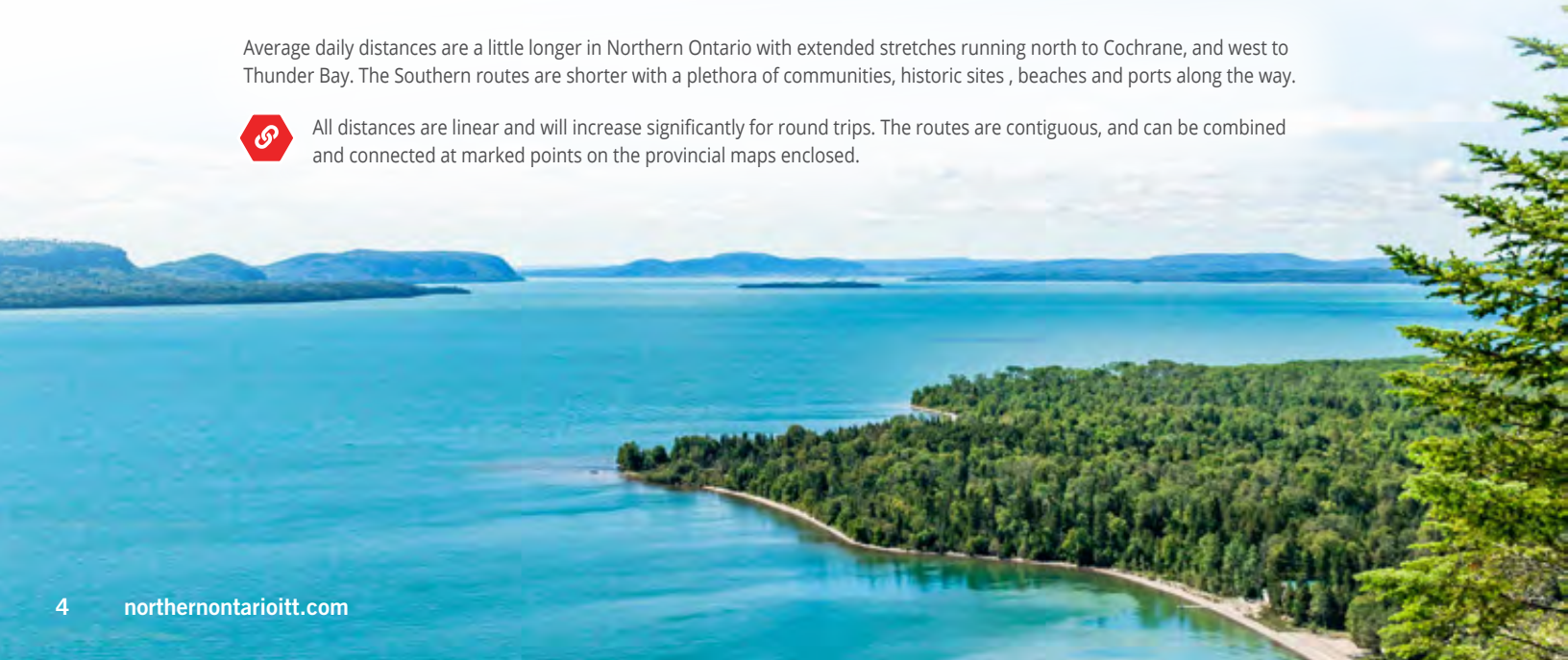
ONTARIO RV TOURING ROUTES

RV TOURING ROUTES ENCOMPASS ALL OF ONTARIO.

Southern Ontario Routes	# DAYS	DISTANCE (KM)	DAILY TRAVEL (KM)	PAGE #
Southern Ontario overview				08
The Waterway Route	11 days	1900 km	250 km / day	10
Ports & Forts Route	11 days	1300 km	250 km / day	36
The Bluewater Route	9 days	1300 km	150 km / day	58
Northern Ontario Routes				
Northern Ontario overview				80
The Fur Trade Route	9 days	1900 km	210 km / day	84
The Prospector Route	7 days	1800 km	250 km / day	106
Cochrane to Nipigon	2 days	700 km	300 km / day	122
The Heart of Canada Touring Route (coming soon)				126

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 five 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 known as Indian summer. They are on the move every one or two nights. The international RV market has doubled in the last ten years.

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. Pickup 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 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.

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

EXPERIENCE CULTURE

Indigenous communities endorse friendly visits to showcase their arts, crafts and culture.

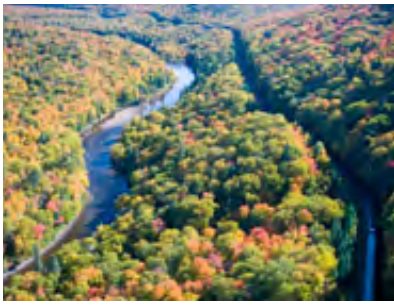
Go find the famous landscape paintings of the Group of Seven artists displayed on wilderness easels in over twenty scenic locations in the North.

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 Trans Canada Highway was 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.



NORTHERN ONTARIO
U.S.A.
LAKE SUPERIOR
LAKE SUPERIOR NORTH SHORE
LAKE MICHIGAN
LAKE OF THE WOODS
LAKE NIPIGON
MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN
ILLINOIS
U.S.A.
Red Lake
Ear Falls
Wabauskang
Grassy Narrows
Sioux Lookout
Ojibway Nation of Saugeen
Armstrong
C.N.R.
Kenora
Vermilion Bay
Oryden
Sioux Narrows
Crow Lake
Nestor Falls
Rainy River
Emo
Fort Frances
Rainy Lake
Atikokan
Ignace
English River
Upsala
Kashabowie
Shabaqua Corner
Thunder Bay
Lac la Croix
Gull Bay
Nakina
Geraldton
Longlac
Beardmore
Jellicoe
Orient Bay Palisades
Nipigon
Redrock
Rossport
Schreiber
Terrace Bay
Marathon
White River
Wawa
Agawa Canyon
Agawa Bay
Sault Ste. Marie
CANADA
ONTARIO
QUEBEC
Montreal
Ottawa
Toronto
Niagara Falls
Chicago
New York
Washington D.C.
UNITED STATES
CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE and link the modules at connecting points to discover RV touring in Ontario.
100 KM

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

Route connecting point

- The Prospector Route
- The Fur Trade Route
- The Waterway Route
- Ports & Forts Route
- The Bluewater Route
- Alternative Route (Ottawa to North Bay & Sudbury)
- Alternative Route (Cochrane to Nipigon)
- Alternative Route (Shabaqua Corner to Kenora)

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

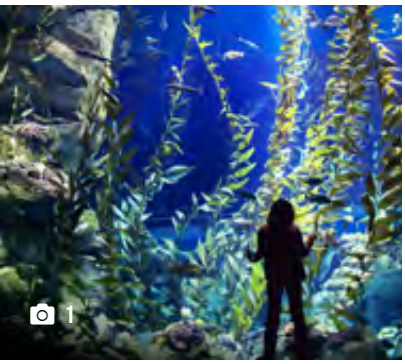
See the great historic ports and forts of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, learn about the significance of the shipping industry, relax in wine country and discover the great Niagara Falls on this 9-day tour through South Western Ontario.

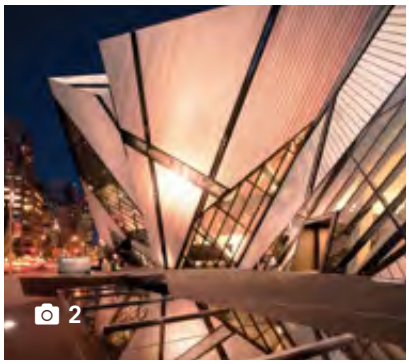
BLUEWATER ROUTE

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, 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 with focus 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

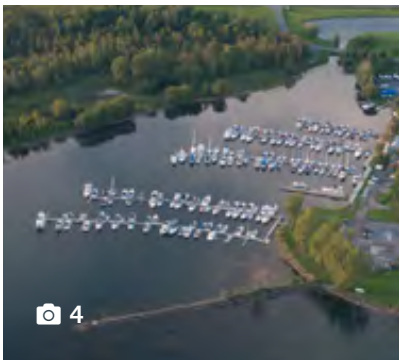
Discover Ontario's Great Waterways.

1000 Islands — Destination Ontario (photo by Ben Flock)

1

2

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

WATERWAY
ROUTE

11-DAY TOUR 1600 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 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 along the way.

EASTBOUND ROUTE

PORT SEVERN / OTTAWA / CORNWALL

Port Severn to Cornwall. Starting at Port Severn on Georgian Bay, the 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. This 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 before heading north of Toronto to Guelph.

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

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.*

SOUTH EASTERN 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

Route connecting point

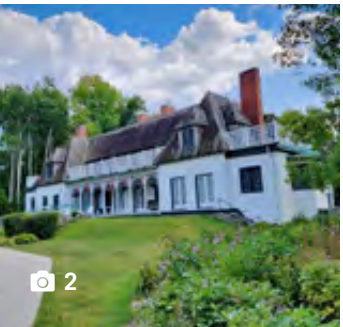
- The Prospector Route
- The Fur Trade Route
- The Waterway Route
- Ports & Forts Route
- The Bluewater Route
- Alternative Route (Ottawa to North Bay & Sudbury)

Day One

TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY / PORT SEVERN / ORILLIA / KIRKFIELD

Georgian Bay Coast near Port Severn / Destination Ontario

1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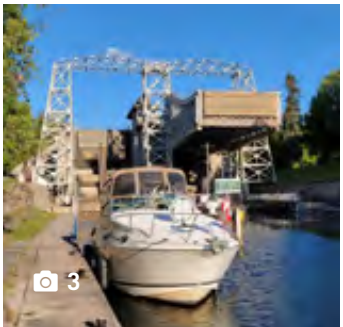
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TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY*

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.

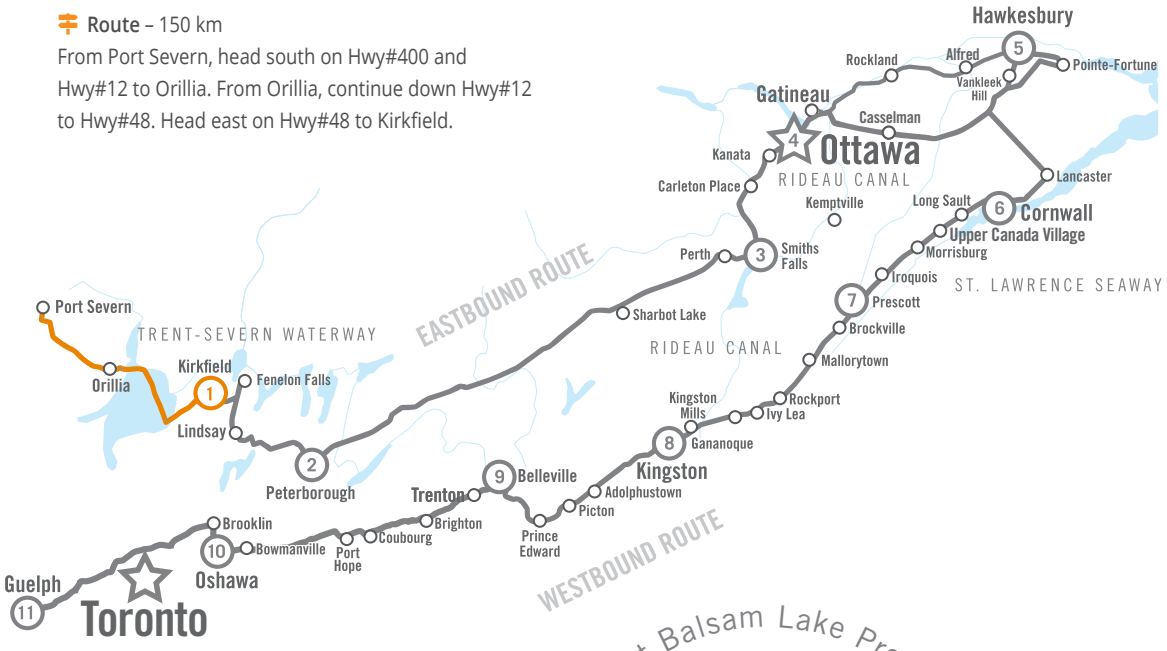
IMAGES

1 Balsam Lake / Ontario Parks
2 Leacock Museum National Historic site / Sandra Keele
3 Kirkfield Lift Lock / Gord Rees

WATERWAY ROUTE

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



1 DAY ONE

Port Severn to Kirkfield.

- **Port Severn.** The start of the Trent-Severn Waterway. The Big Chute Marine Railway has a lift of 18 m that removes boats from the water and carries the vessels in individual cradles between the Severn River to be refloated on to Georgian Bay. Picnic areas and scenic viewpoints are located alongside the locks.
- **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 gale 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. It is a summer tradition for repeat visitors and park goers.
- **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 use of the Trent system serves its sole transportation function.

Kayaking at Balsam Lake Provincial Park Ontario Parks

WHERE TO CAMP

Balsam Lake Provincial Park. Kirkfield. Trent-Severn Waterway. Large sandy beach. Easy day trip hiking trails. **Services:** Both electrical and non-electrical sites available. Park store. Laundromat. Sani-dump. Showers/washrooms. 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.

TRAVEL TIP

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

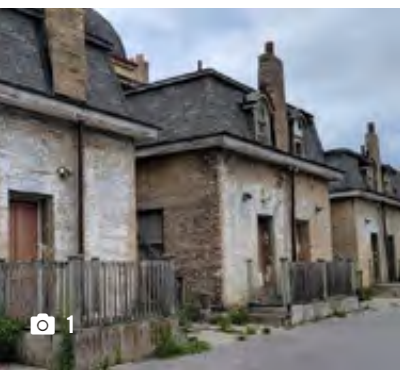
Kawartha Lakes / Destination Ontario

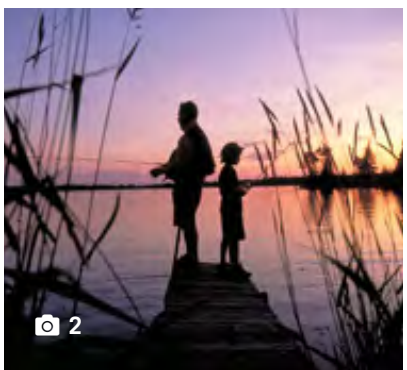
TRAVEL TIP

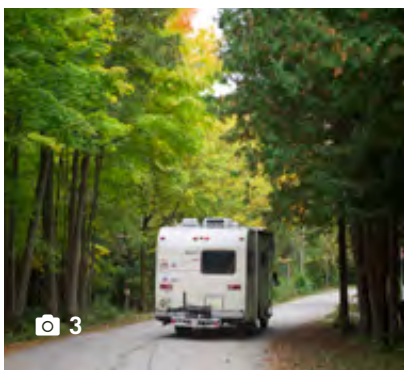
Explore the historic influence of canoe travel at the **Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough,** with canoes stemming from the fur trade used to carry 80lb bales of beaver pelts down the waterways to Montreal. Three "Royal Canoes" on display were offered as gifts to the Royal Family.

IMAGES

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







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
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.

2 DAY TWO

Travel from Kirkfield to Peterborough.

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.

- **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 is in stark contrast to the barbed wire fence surrounding the nearby Central East Correctional Institute.
- **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 as elaborate permanent homes, causing land values to soar.

  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.
- **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 housing style of mansions seen throughout Southern Ontario that were most popular in 1850s that reflects a French influence from the Napoleonic era. The distinctive mansard roof and elaborate ornamentals would distinguish the political and economic stature of the owners.

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:** Flush toilets/showers, in Hill and Circle Campgrounds. Laundromat. Canoe rentals.

Day Three

SHARBOT LAKE / PERTH / PORT ELMSLEY / SMITHS FALLS

Rideau River Beach / Rideau River Provincial Park – Ontario Parks

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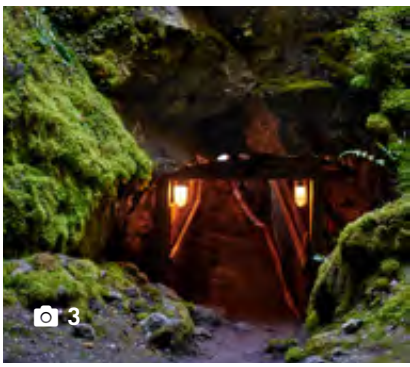

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3 DAY THREE

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

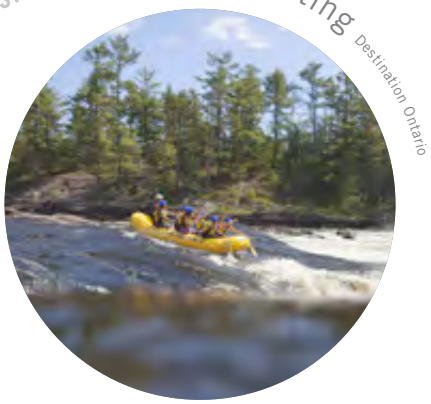
IMAGES

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

Route – 260 km
Follow Hwy#7 eastward to Sharbot Lake. Follow Hwy#7, and Hwy#43 eastward to Perth. Continue east on Hwy#43 to Port Elmsley and Smiths Falls.

1. Port Severn
2. Peterborough
3. **Smiths Falls**
4. Ottawa
5. Hawkesbury
6. Cornwall
7. Prescott
8. Kingston
9. Belleville
10. Oshawa
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:** Flush toilets. 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:** Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Visitor center and park store. Canoe and kayak rentals. Boat launch.

Rideau River Provincial Park. Kemptville. Follow Hwy#43, Hwy#2 and Hwy#5 (30 minutes east of Smith's 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

Wheelers' 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

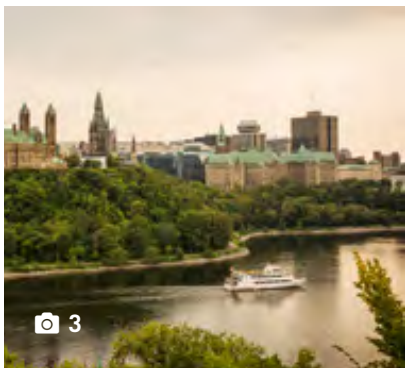
OTTAWA – DISCOVER THE NATION'S CAPITAL

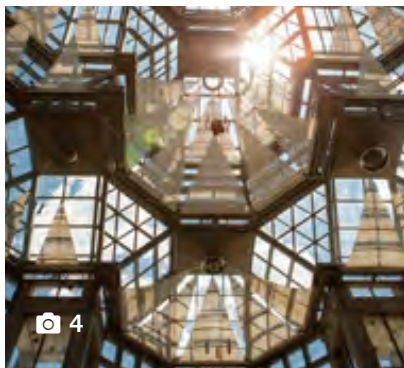
Parliament Hill – Ottawa / Destination Ontario

RIDEAU CANAL*

The Rideau Canal is North America's best-preserved slack water canal and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its entire length between Kingston and Ottawa comes under Parks Canada operations. The connected lakes allow for canoeing, kayaking, fishing and house boating through the rocky wilderness. The RV tour intercepts the Rideau Canal sites at intervals along the route.

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





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 though temporarily closed in 2022 due to renovations.

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. Arnprior. Hwy #5 northwest of Ottawa. The park features an 800 m boardwalk across the marsh. **Services:** Flush toilets. Laundromat. Park Store. Canoe and kayak rentals.

***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.

TRAVEL TIP

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

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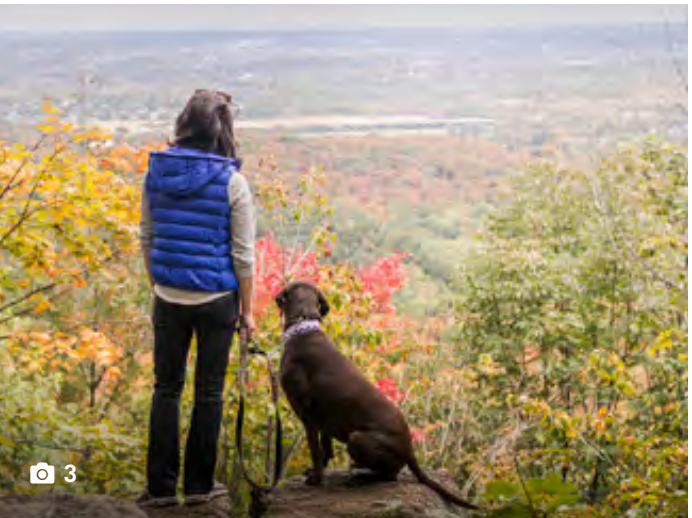
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5 DAY FIVE

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 either Hwy#17 E through Rockland and Alfred to Hawkesbury. Or take Hwy#417 through Casselman and Vankleek Hill to Hawkesbury.

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 had 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 quint 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 a French-speaking area alongside the Quebec border lying half-way between Ottawa and Montreal. This prominent agricultural area grows a large 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:** Flush toilets. 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.

Day Six

HAWKESBURY / SDG COUNTIES / CORNWALL

Historic Jail, SDG Counties / SDG Tourism

6 DAY SIX

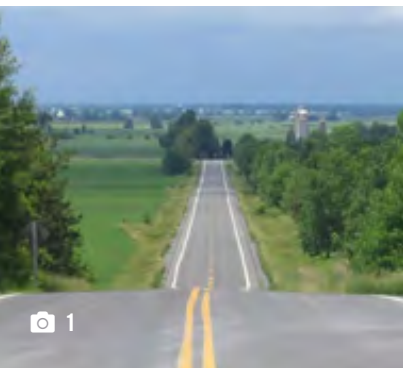
Travel from Hawkesbury to Cornwall.

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

- **Ontario Travel Information Centre.** An Ontario Travel Information Centre is located on Hwy #417 close to the interprovincial border with Quebec.
- **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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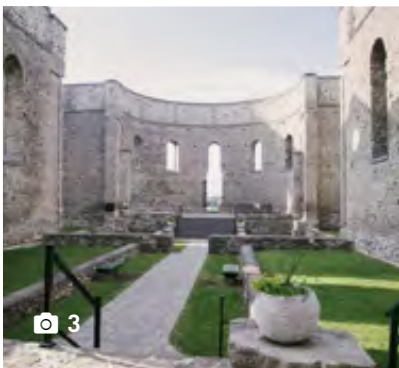
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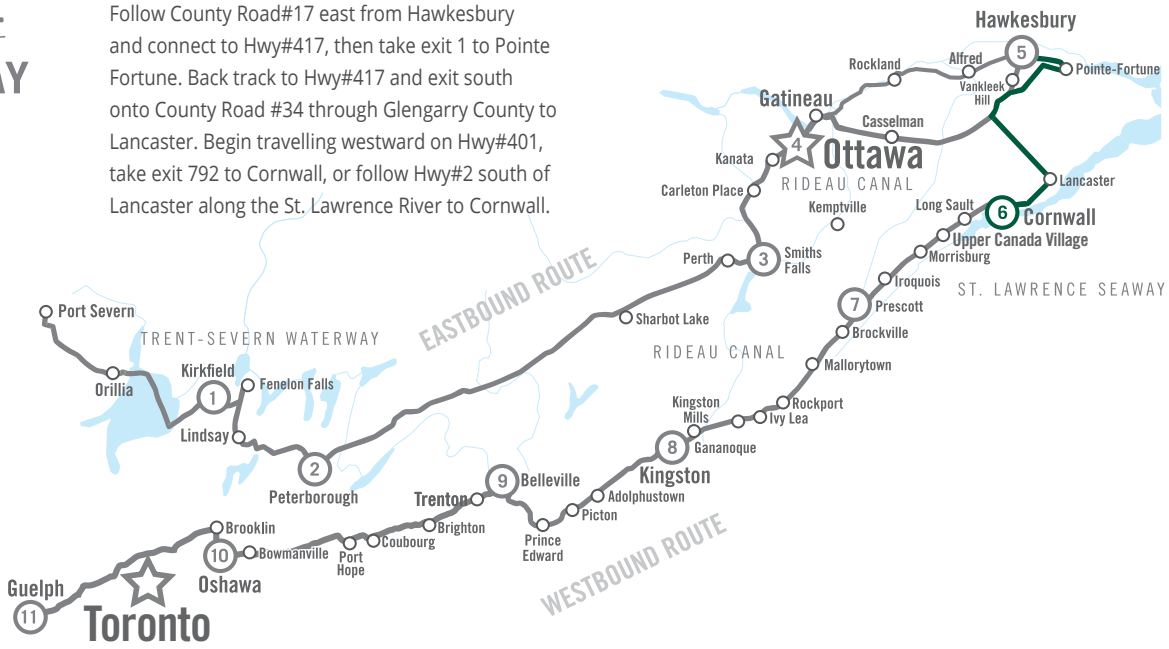
WATERWAY ROUTE

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 – 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 County Road #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 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 look 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 Arcadian 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.

Day Seven

CORNWALL / LONG SAULT / IROQUOIS / PRESCOTT

Long Sault Parkway / SDG Tourism

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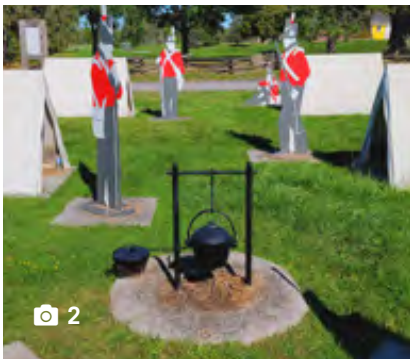
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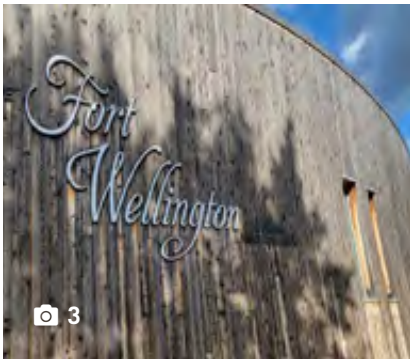

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ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY*

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.

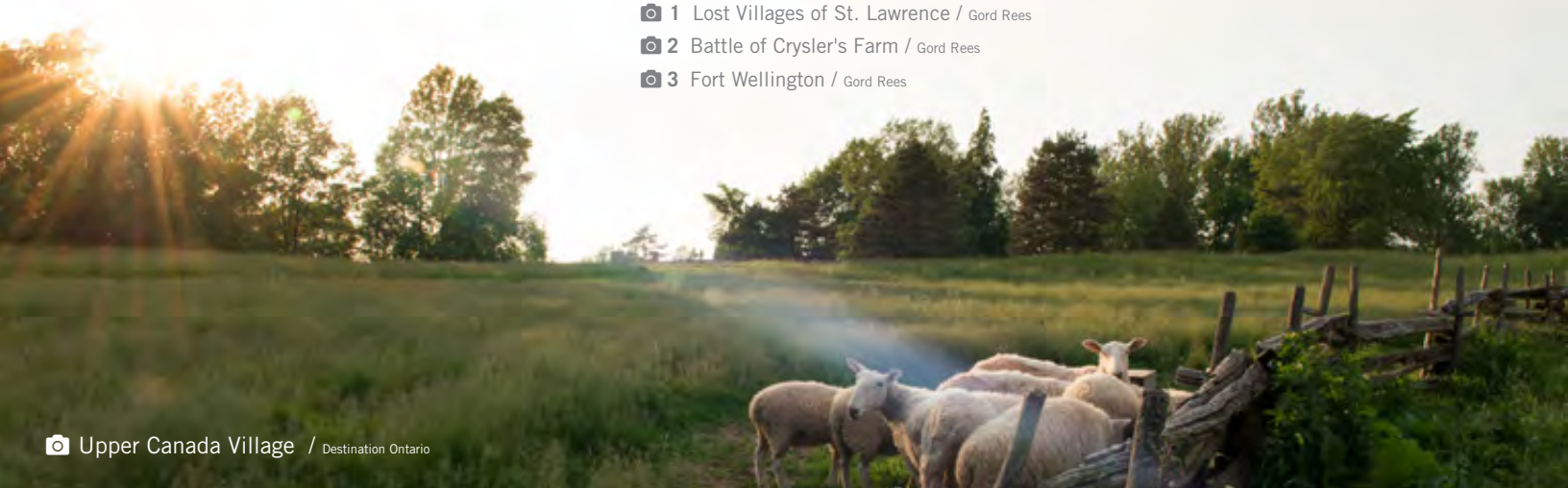
7 DAY SEVEN

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
2. Peterborough
3. Smiths Falls
4. Ottawa
5. Gatineau
6. Cornwall
7. **Prescott**
8. Kingston
9. Belleville
10. Oshawa
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 the 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 during early settlement when 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 Crysler'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.

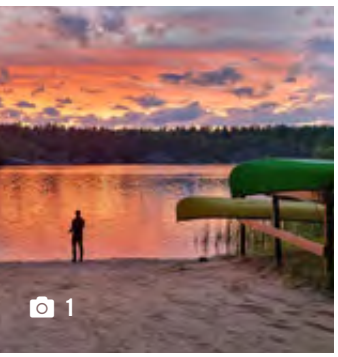
Happy Green Acres KOA. Mallorytown. 25 minutes southwest of Prescott.
Services: Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.

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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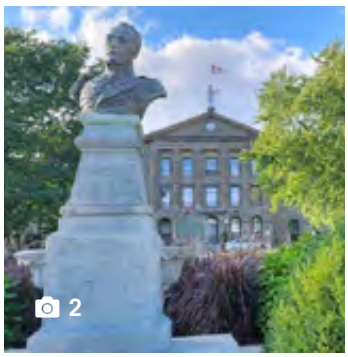

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8 DAY EIGHT

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.

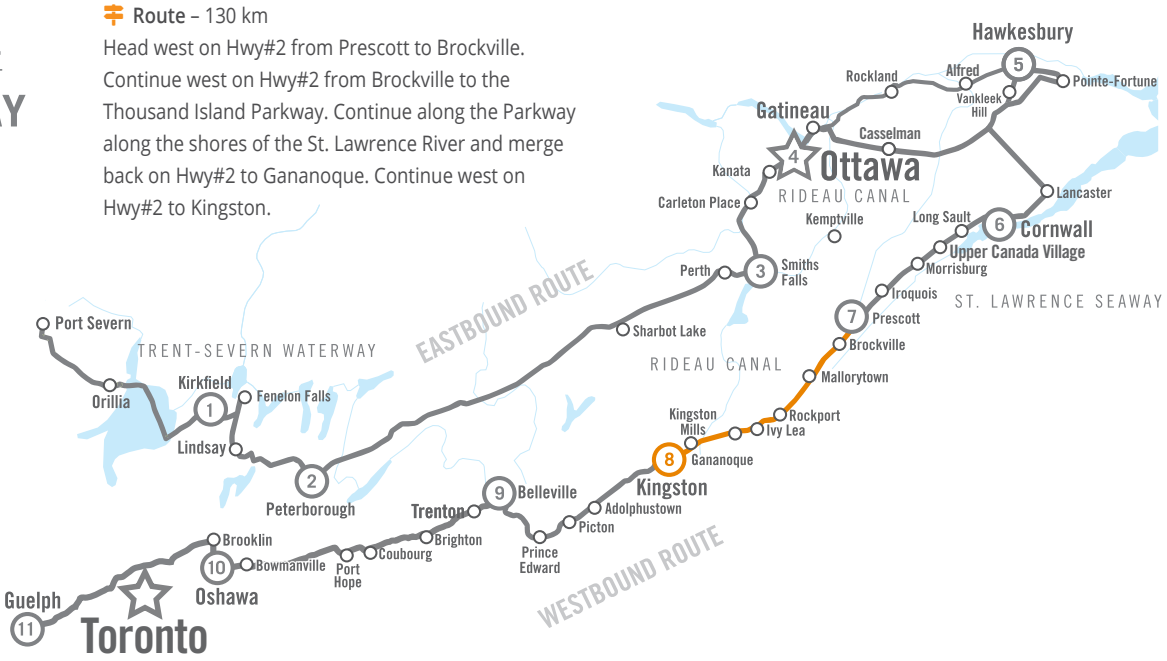
IMAGES

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
9. Belleville
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 that 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 the 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 the 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 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 jammed by a chain of islands where the lake drains in to 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:** 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.

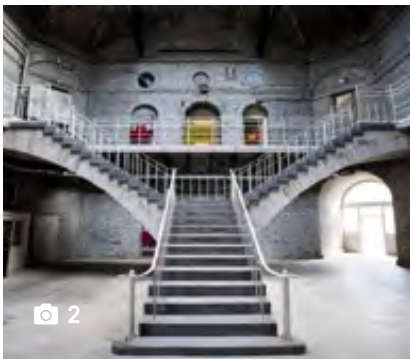
Rideau Acres Campground. On Hwy #15 north of Hwy #401 about 8 km from Kingston. **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store. Restaurant. Boat rentals.

Day Nine

KINGSTON / PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY / BELLEVILLE

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

1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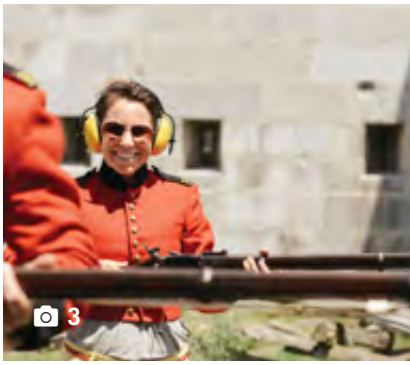
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BAY OF QUINTE

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.

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 known as the North-West Mounted Police that later became the RCMP. He named **Bellevue*** as his country estate.

IMAGES

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

WATERWAY ROUTE

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.

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

- **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 Bloomfeld, with charming architecture, farm markets and antique stores.

Sandbanks Provincial Park is located near Picton and features the world's largest baymouth barrier dune formation. Three sandy beaches with shallow waters and gentle drop-off are 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. Serves lakers 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. Grand Truck Railway station * is the oldest continuously operating railway station in Canada and still serves the mainline between Toronto and Montreal. Glanmore House*, built in 1883 by a wealthy banker, is an excellent example of the Second Empire style popular among the upper middle class. The Belleville Armory is listed on the Register of the Government of Canada Heritage Building. 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

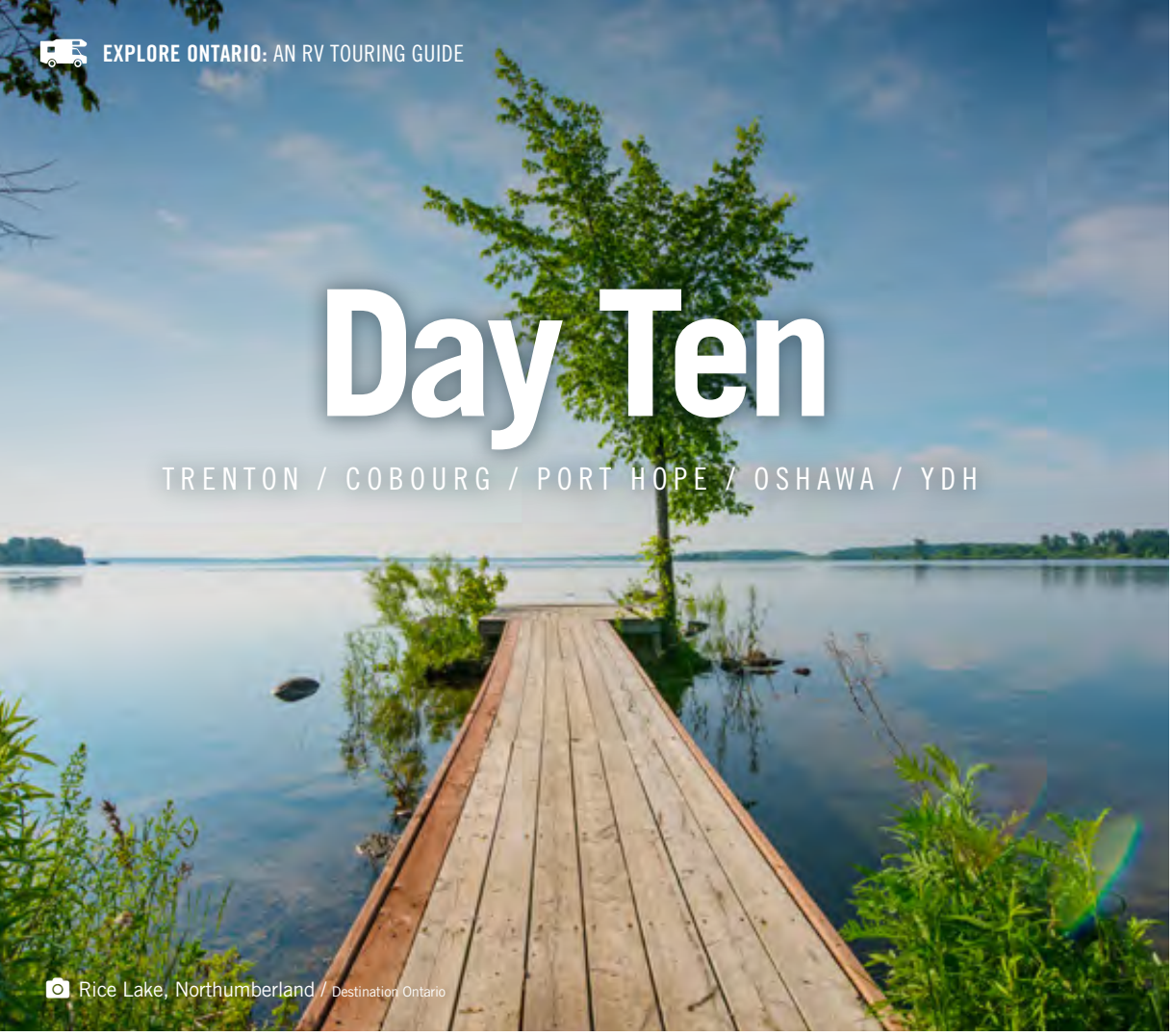
Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Near the town of Brighton. Lighthouse Center and park centre. Highly favoured camping area located on a peninsula extending out in Lake Ontario.
Services: Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Visitor centre. Park store. Canoe and kayak rentals.

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

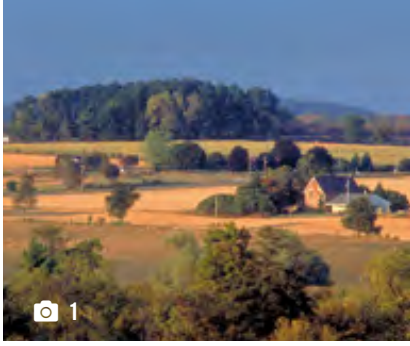
TRAVEL TIP Look for **Slickers handmade ice cream** in Bloomfield and Picton.

Day Ten

TRENTON / COBOURG / PORT HOPE / OSHAWA / YDH



Rice Lake, Northumberland / Destination Ontario



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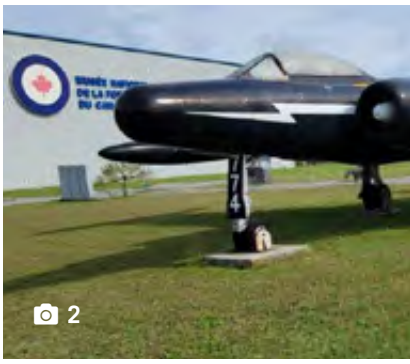

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10 DAY TEN

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)

TRAVEL TIP

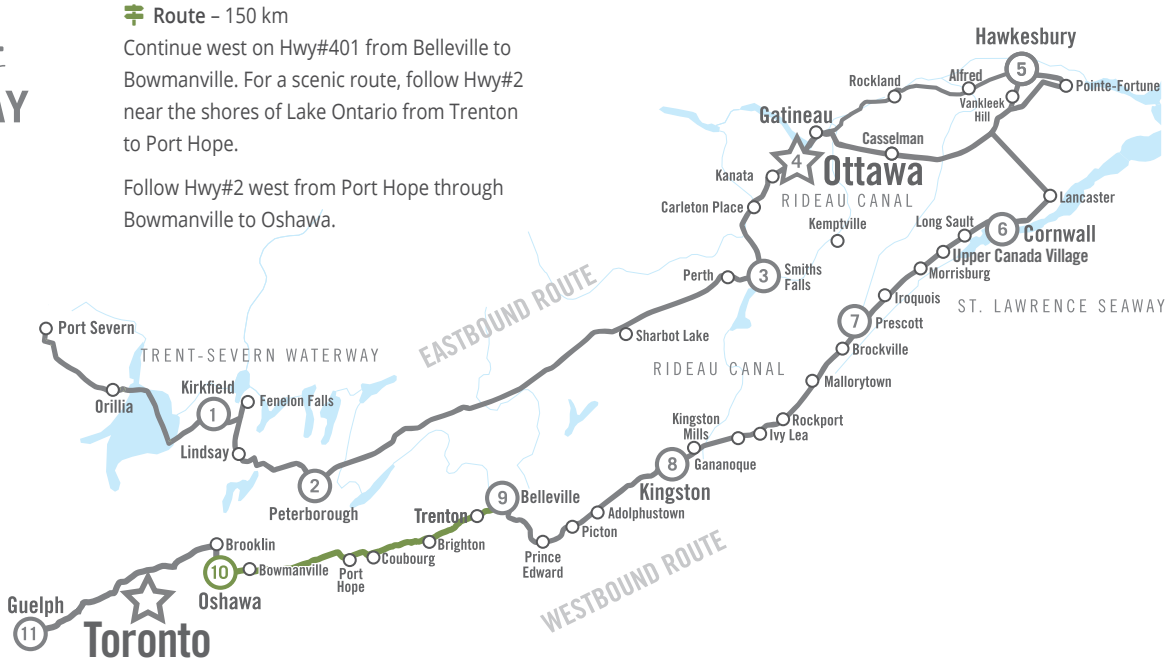
Visit the **oldest historic lighthouse on Lake Ontario i**n Brighton.

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.



- **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 42 basswood horses.

- **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 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 were 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.

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

11 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 examples of 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).

Kleingburg — Destination Ontario / Sabrina Savoy

PORTS & FORTS ROUTE

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

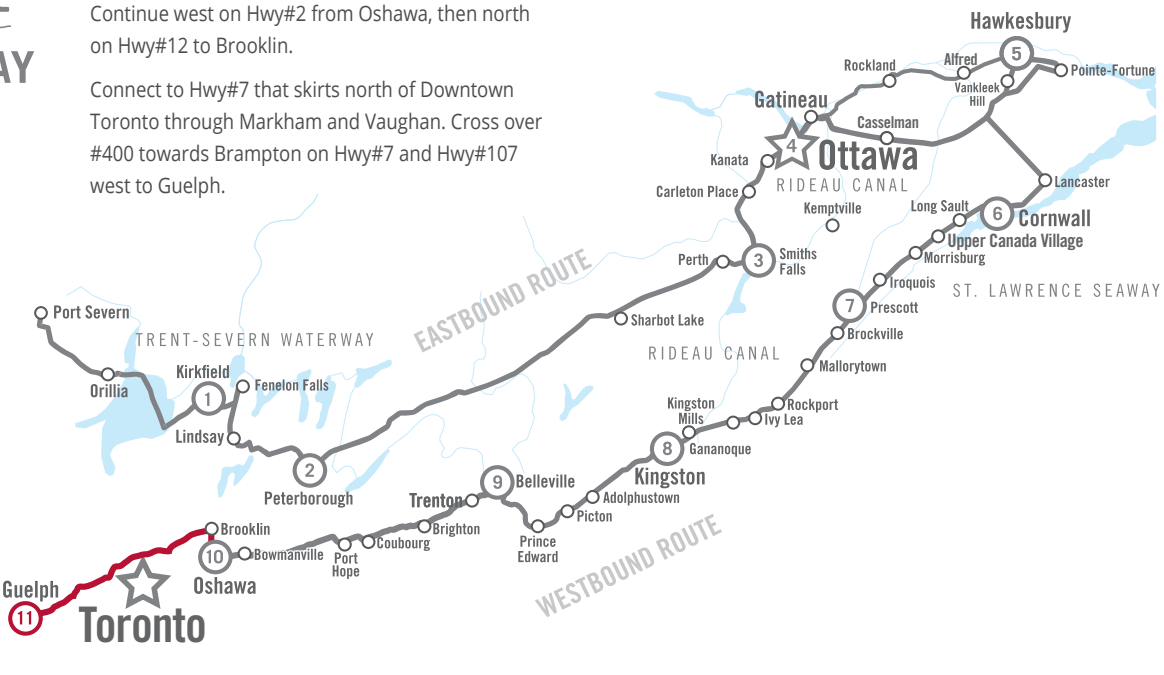
WATERWAY ROUTE

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 remains in 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. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store. Restaurant.

Toronto North/Cookstown KOA. Cookstown. Close to Fraserway RV. **Services:** Electrical. Laundromat. Toilets/showers.

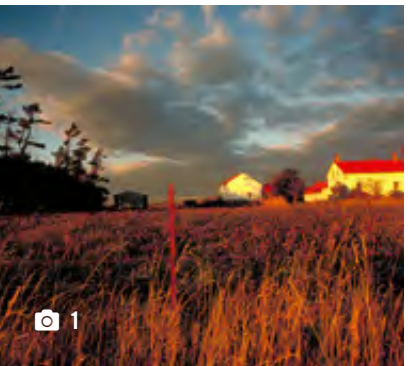
Indian Line Campground. Brampton. Wet'n' Wild Water Park next door. **Services:** Fully serviced. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store.

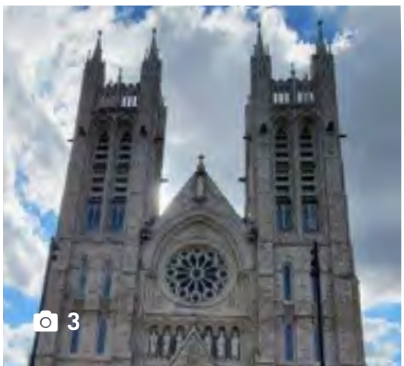
TRAVEL TIP

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

IMAGES

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





A 9-DAY TOUR THROUGH SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO

FORTS & PORTS
ROUTE

Discover Ontario's Ports & Forts

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

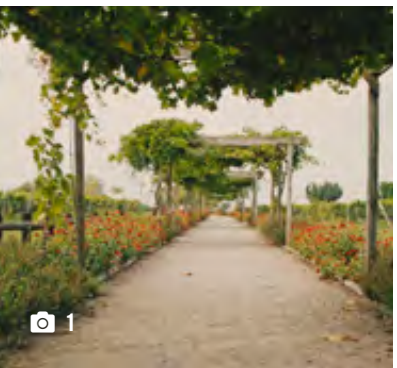
DISCOVER THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ONTARIO'S SHIPPING INDUSTRY IN SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO.

9-DAY TOUR **1300 KM**

This segment of the RV tour starts west of Toronto and heads southerly along Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment which extends from Niagara Falls the Bruce Peninsula. The Golden Horseshoe region extends along the St. Lawrence River Lowlands to Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

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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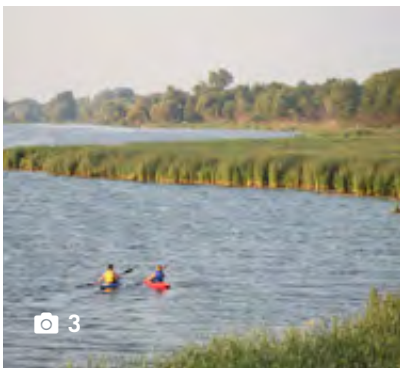
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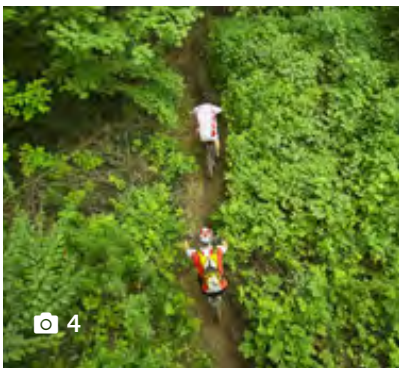
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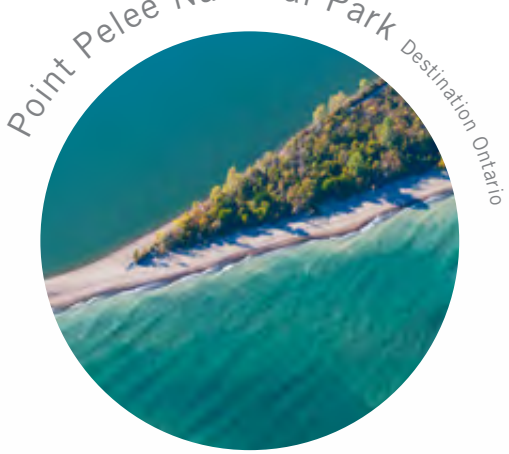
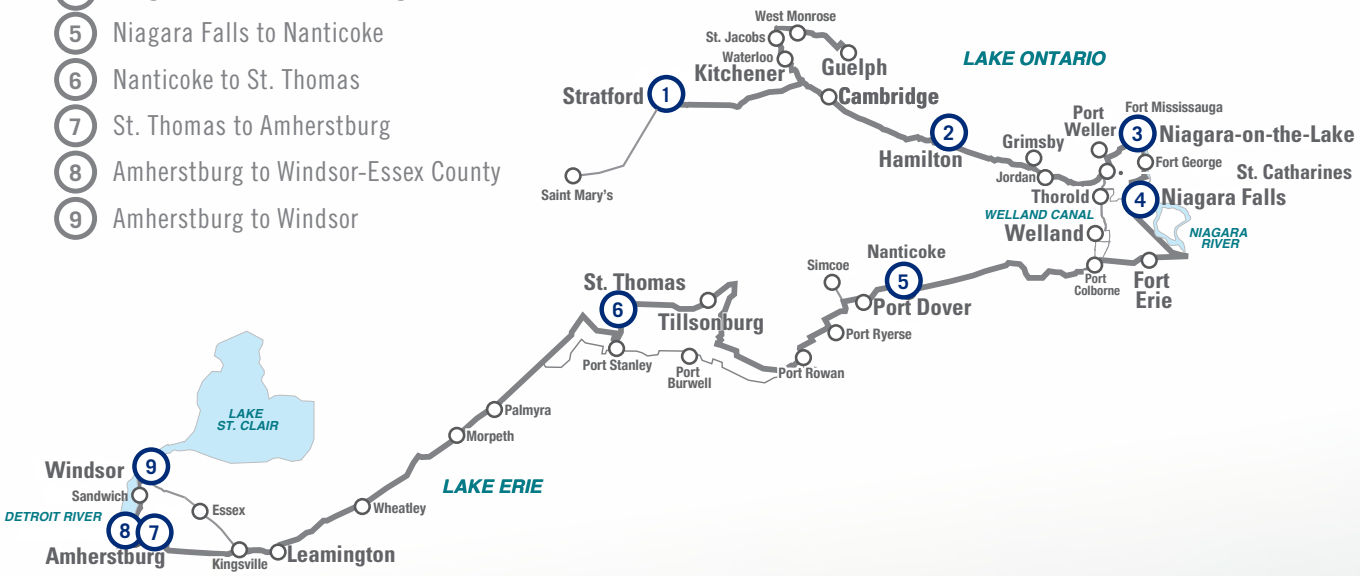
PORTS & FORTS

ROUTE

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





Niagara / Destination Canada

TOP 10 TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

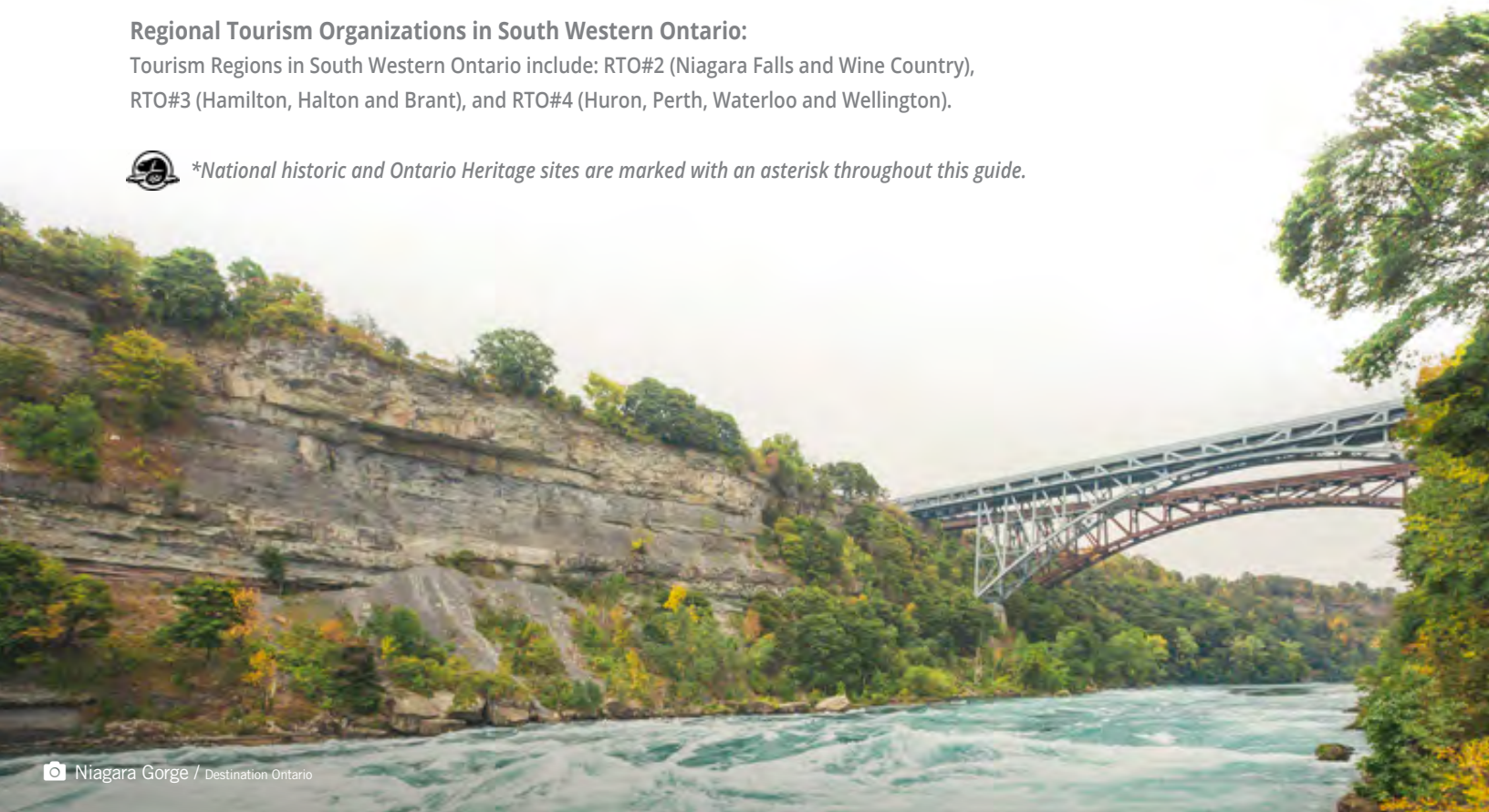
01 **Stratford Shakespeare Festival.** Stratford.
02 **Welland Ship Canal.** Locks between Port Weller and Port Colborne.
03 **Niagara Escarpment.** Steep ridge between Hamilton and Niagara Falls.
04 **Niagara-on-the Lake.** Picturesque tourist town.
05 **Horseshoe Falls.** Skylon and aerial cable car. 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

- **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.
- **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.*



Niagara Gorge / Destination Ontario

SOUTH WESTERN 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

Route connecting point

- The Prospector Route
- The Fur Trade Route
- The Waterway Route
- Ports & Forts Route
- The Bluewater Route
- Alternative Route (Ottawa to North Bay & Sudbury)

Day One

GUELPH / KITCHENER-WATERLOO / STRATFORD

Mennonite Horse & Buggy – St. Jacobs / Jeff Speed

1

2

3

1 DAY ONE Travel from Guelph to Stratford.

Head west through rural landscapes, historic towns and villages.

- **Guelph.** Church of our Lady of 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 a 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.

- **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 heritage railway runs both diesel and steam locomotives.

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.

IMAGES

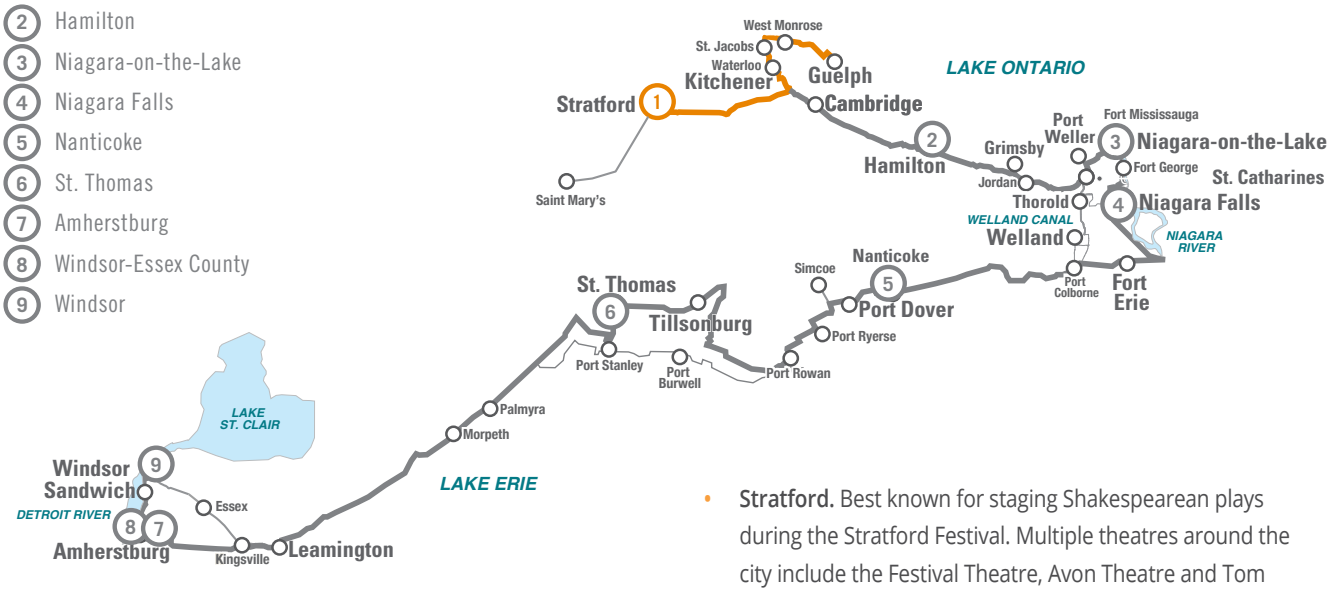
1 Bingeman's Camping Resort / Gord Rees 2 West Montrose "Kissing Bridge" / Gord Rees 3 Farmers Market / Gord Rees

PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

Route – 100 km

Head west from Guelph on Hwy#6 and Hwy#86 to West Montrose. 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 .

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



- **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. A large German immigration 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. Amish buggies are one of many symbols that are essential to maintaining their society.

- **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 space for market stalls, concert hall, police station, council chamber and fire hall that were more common multi-purpose buildings. 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 it 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.

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 Conservation areas are lands set aside in 12 parks with paid admission for recreational use.

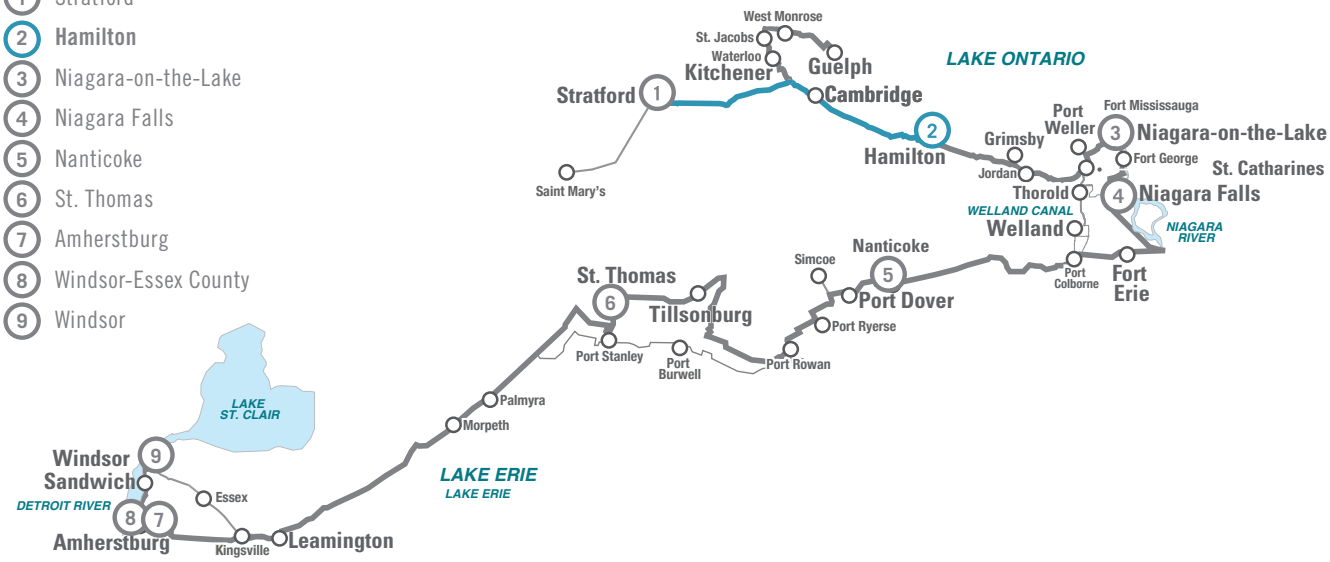
IMAGES

1 Migrating Hawk / Destination Ontario
2 Cambridge City Hall / Gord Rees
3 Heritage Warplane – Hamilton / Destination Ontario

PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

Route – 150 km
Head back east towards Kitchener on Hwy#8, continue south on Hwy#8 through Cambridge to Hamilton.

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



- **Hamilton** sits at the base of the Niagara Escarpment on the western edge of Lake Ontario and is known as "Steel Town" for its cluster of steel mills. Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens, Canada's Warplane Heritage Museum, and Stoney Creek Battlefield Monument at the site of a decisive battle during the War of 1812. Visit the stately 40-room Dundurn Castle*.

  Take the Lincoln Alexander Parkway to the **Devil's Punch Bowl** along the Ridge Road on Hwy #7. The Devil's Punchbowl was formed at the end of the last ice age by huge melt-water rivers that plunged over the Stoney Creek Escarpment, carving out the seemingly endless Punchbowl and gorge.
- **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.

TRAVEL TIP

Visit the **Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area** in Milton (45 minutes north of Hamilton) and hike to the top of the Niagara Escarpment for breathtaking views of the region. Rock climbing lessons available.

Day Three

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

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

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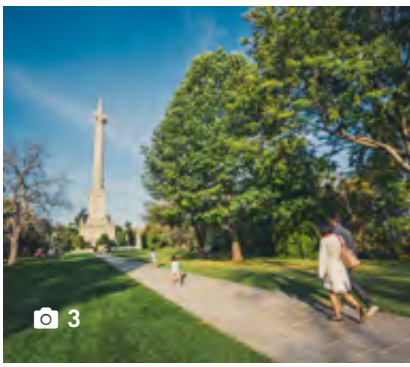


3

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.

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 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 26-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 Beaverdams Old Methodist Church. Thorold Tunnel runs .84 km under the canal on Hwy #58.

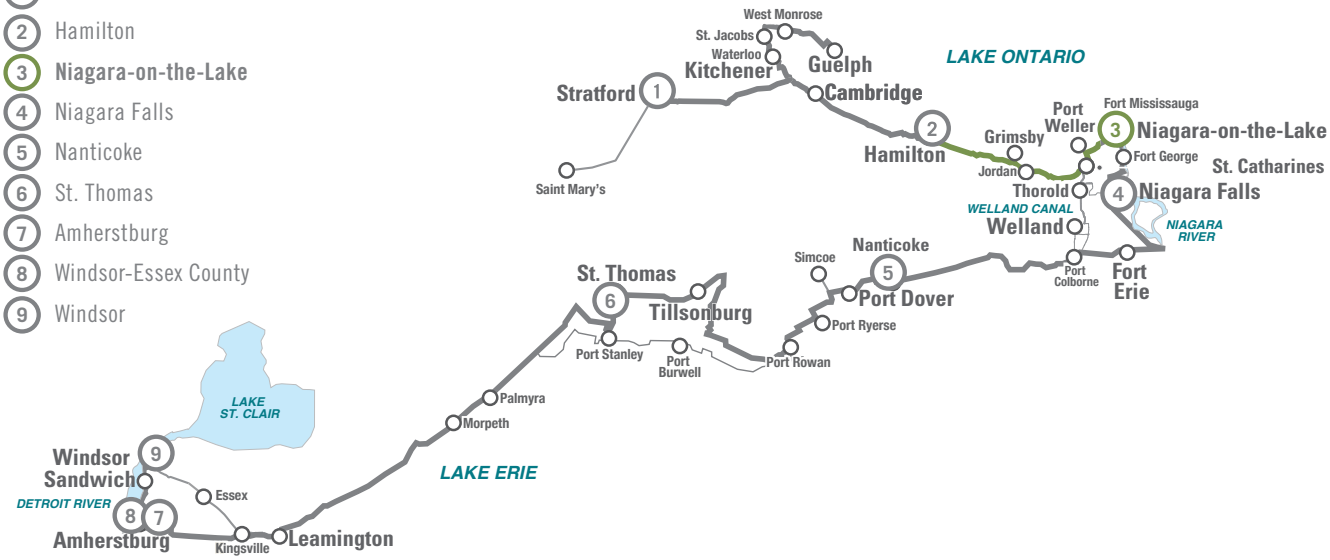
IMAGES

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

PORTS & FORTS
ROUTE

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.

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



- **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 clearance to pass beneath.
- **Fort Mississauga***. The heritage value of this fort is an important example of military construction completed after the War if 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

Book two nights 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.

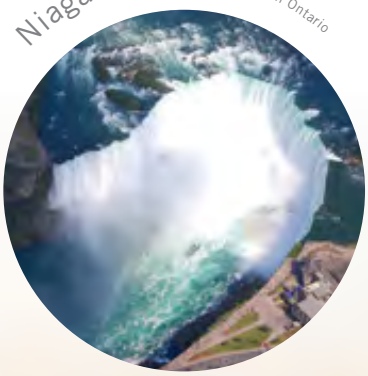
Windmill Point Park & Campground. Ridgeway. Hwy #1 east of Old Fort Erie. **Services:** Electrical. Water. Pull-thru sites. Sani-dump. Laundromat. Toilets/showers. Store. Restaurant.

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.

Day Four

NIAGARA FALLS REGION

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 Vinters Quality Alliance and ensures that wine is made from 100% Ontario-grown grapes.

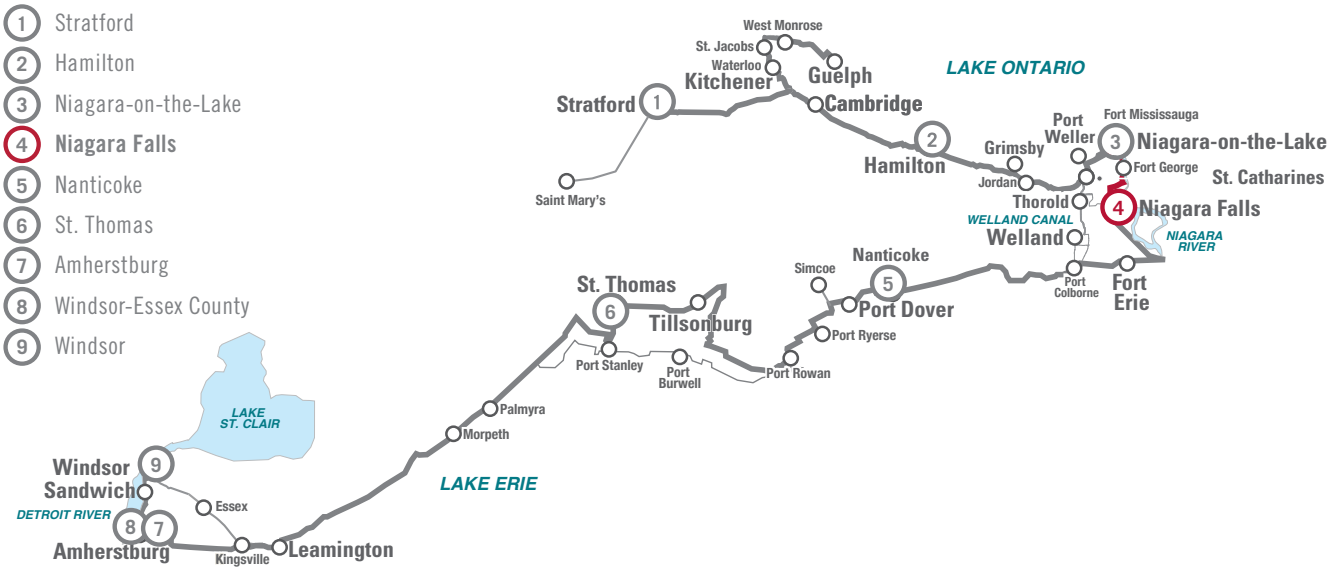
Niagara Gorge / Destination Ontario

PORTS & FORTS ROUTE

Route – 50 km

Spend an extra day exploring the Niagara Parkway along the Niagara River.

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

Spend an extra day in the Niagara Falls region.

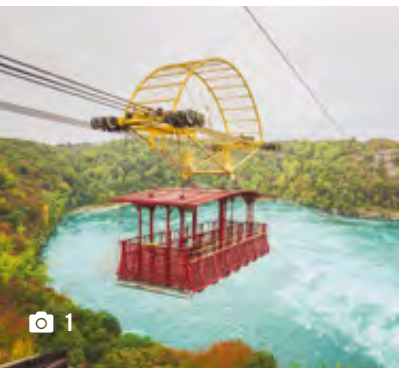
Niagara Falls is one of North America's most famous geographic spectacles and is known as a romantic haven for honeymooners.

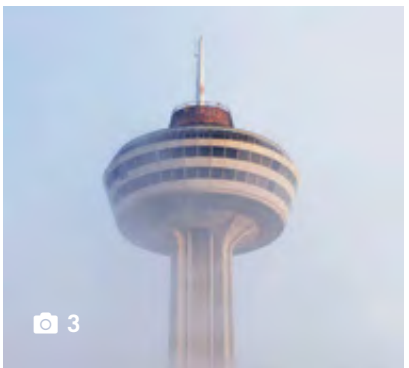
- **Niagara Falls.** Stroll between the best viewpoints of the famous Horseshoe Falls from alongside the river ledge in front of Queen Victoria Place. Highlights include Niagara City Cruise river tour below the falls, and the 160 m high Skylon Tower with observation deck overlooking the curving crest of the 180 m Horseshoe Falls and American Falls from the Canadian side of the Niagara River. The 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*.

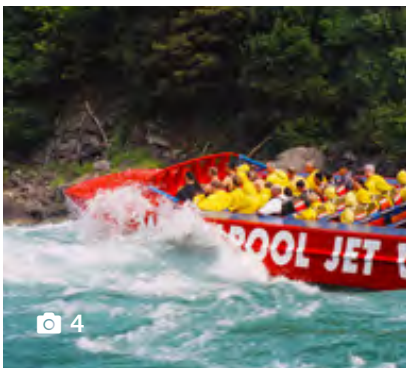
WHERE TO CAMP

Book two nights to allow for more time to explore the Niagara region.

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



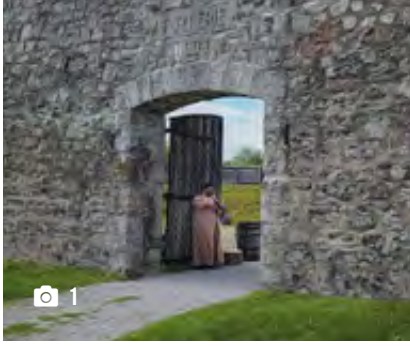




Day Five

NIAGARA FALLS / FORT ERIE / PORT COLBORNE / NANTICOKE

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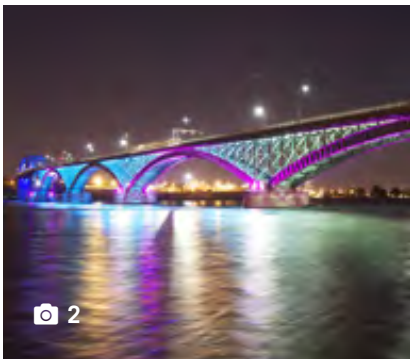
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5 DAY FIVE

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, 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-Rival style 15 km west of Fort Erie.

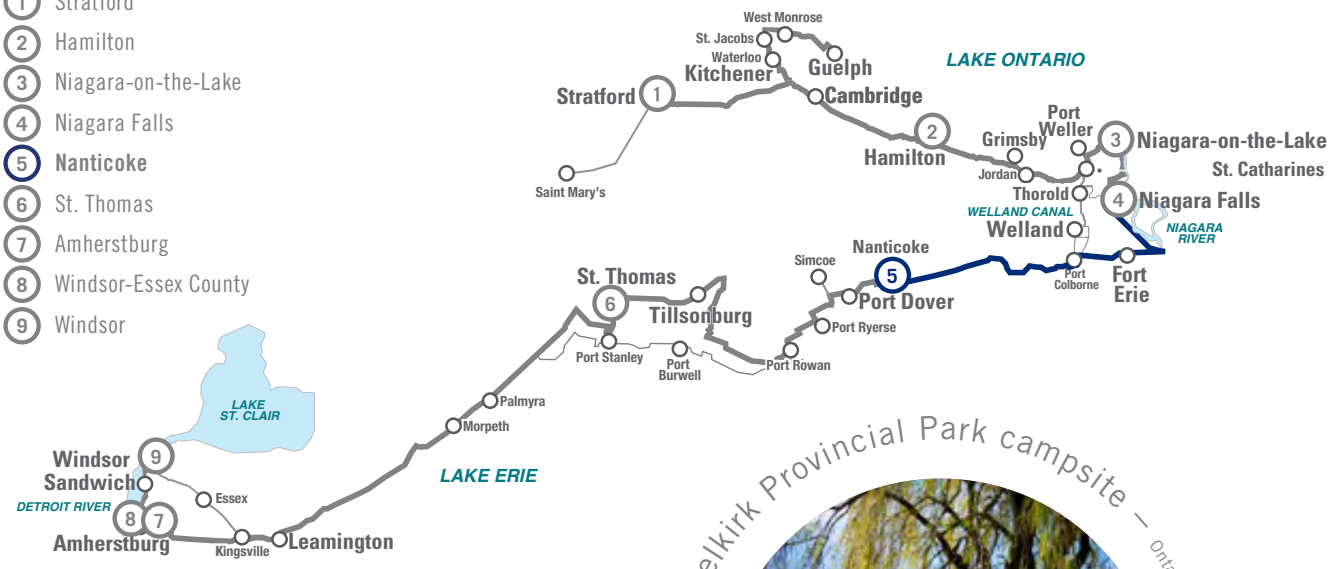
IMAGES

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 Eire 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. **Services:** Electrical. Flush toilets/ showers. Laundromat. Park Store.

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.

Shores of Lake Erie – Selkirk Provincial Park / Ontario Parks

Day Six

NANTICOKE / NORFOLK COUNTY / TILLSONBURG / ST. THOMAS

Port Burwell Provincial Park / Ontario Parks

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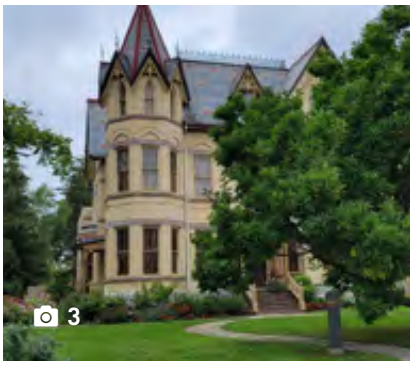
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NORFOLK COUNTY

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.

  Barn quilt patterns are located on private property painted with folk art designs to look like a quilt block on barns and other structures. 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. Wintering site for the first Europeans known to have ascended the Great Lakes to Sault Ste. Marie.

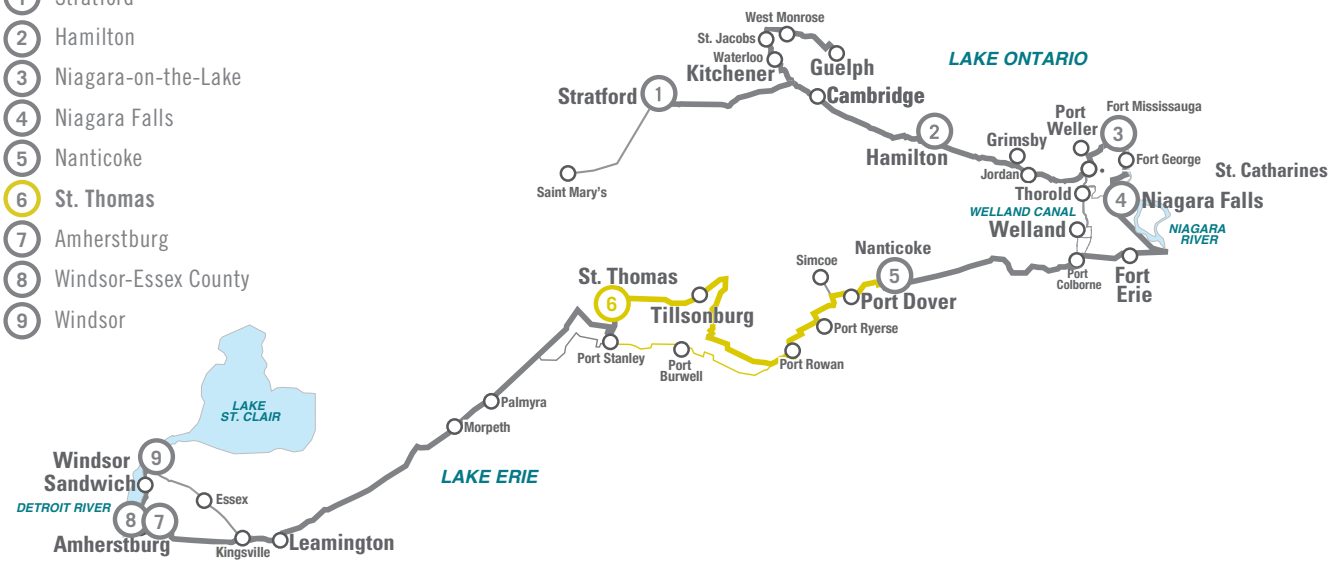
- **Port Ryerse** was founded by United Empire Loyalists in 1794 as a port for shipping lumber and grain.

PORTS & FORTS ROUTE

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.

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



- **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.

TRAVEL TIP

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

- **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 / 855 feet. Box car murals are featured at Elgin County Railway Museum.
- **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: Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Park Store.

Day Seven

LEAMINGTON / PELEE ISLAND / WHEATLEY / AMHERSTBURG

Point Pelee National Park / Destination Ontario

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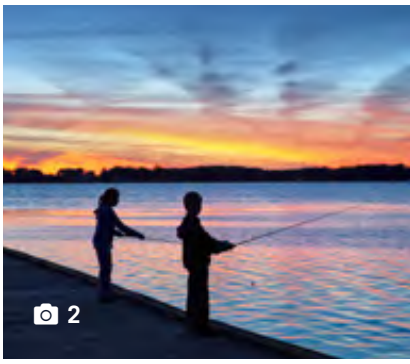
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3

7 DAY SEVEN

Travel from St. Thomas to Amherstburg.

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

- **Leamington**, once famous for growing tobacco, is the "Tomato Capital of Canada" humorously portrayed by Canadian recording artist Stomp'n Tom Connors who wrote "*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.

- **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 pickerel in season.

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

IMAGES

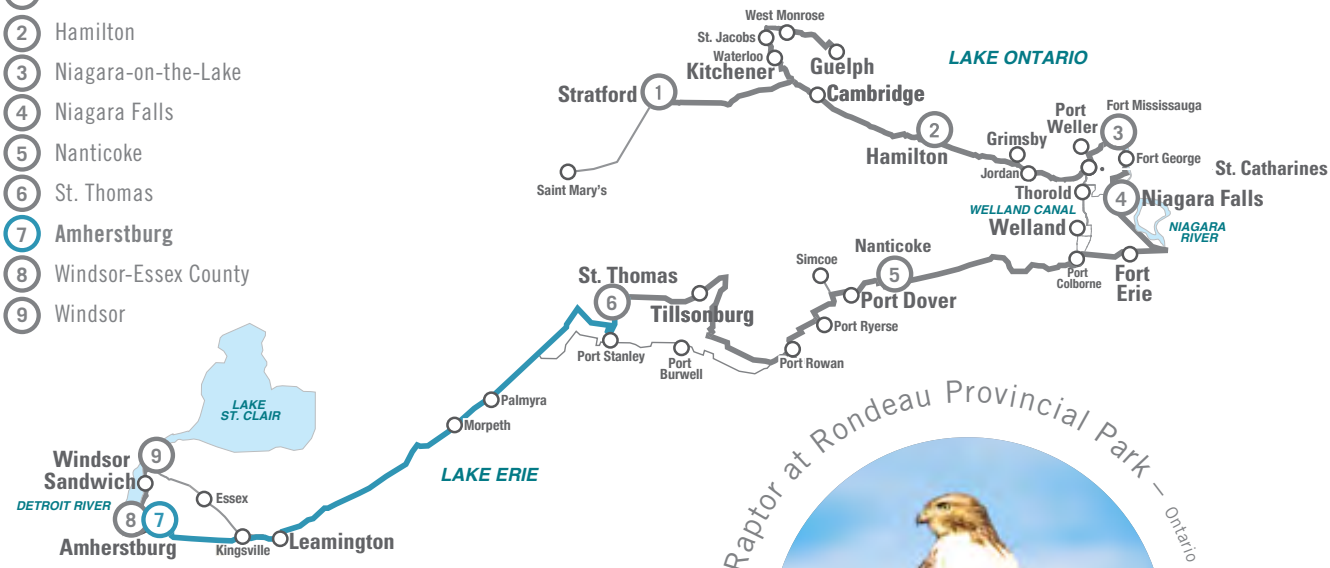
1 Point Pelee Marsh Boardwalk / Destination Ontario
2 Fishing the shores of Lake Erie / Destination Ontario
3 The Town of Amherstburg / Gord Rees

PORTS & FORTS ROUTE

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.

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



AMHERSTBURG

Fort George, Fort Mississauga and Fort Malden were 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 US 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 sandy beaches on Lake Erie. Old growth Carolinian forest along with extensive coastal wetland.
Services: Electrical. Sani-dump. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat. Park Store. Visitor Centre.

Rondeau Shores Trailer Park. Morpeth. 1 hr east of Windsor. Sandy beach. **Services:** Full serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Laundromat.

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 Eight

AMHERSTBURG / WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY

Windsor-Essex Pelee Island Coast (EPIC) / Destination Ontario

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY

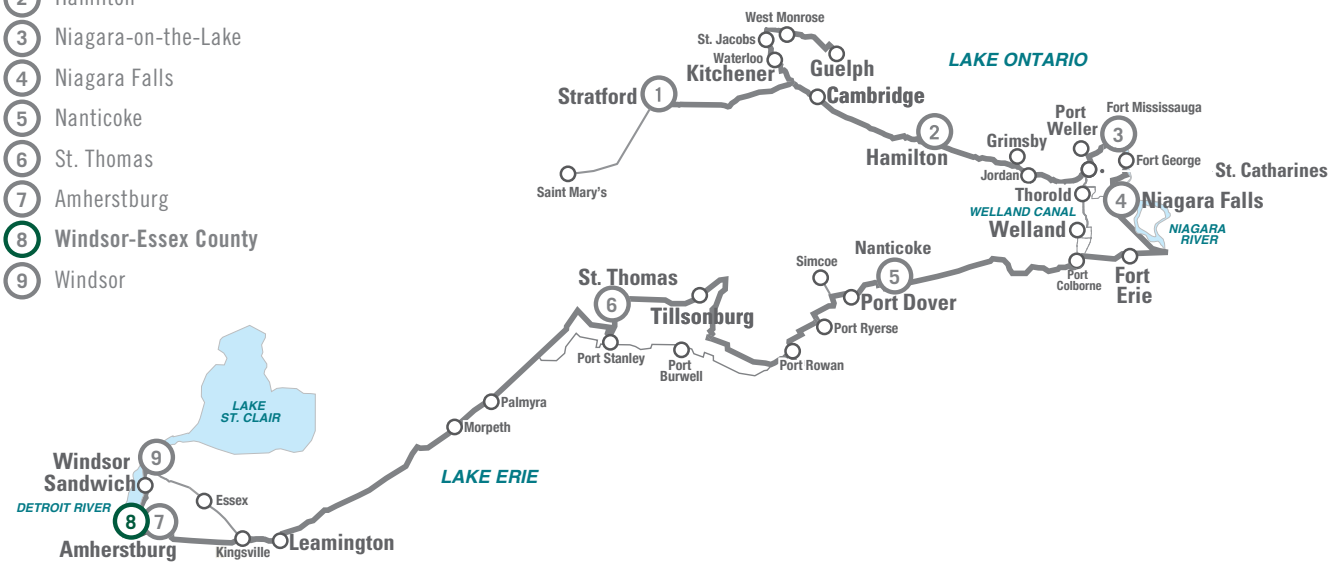
Windsor-Essex County and Pelee Island lies in the southern most region of all of Canada. The county stretches along the north shore of Lake Erie, through Leamington and Amherstburg to Windsor.

Pelee Island / Destination Ontario

PORTS & FORTS ROUTE

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

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



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.

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.

IMAGES Essex Pelee Island Coast Wine Country / Destination Ontario

Day Nine

AMHERSTBURG / OLD SANDWICH TOWN / DETROIT RIVER / WINDSOR

Battle of Lake Erie statues in Windsor / Gord Rees

9 DAY NINE Travel from Amherstburg to Windsor.

Many places of interest along the Detroit River that separates Canada and USA for 26 km along the international border. Explore five kms of waterfront green space established along the Detroit River.

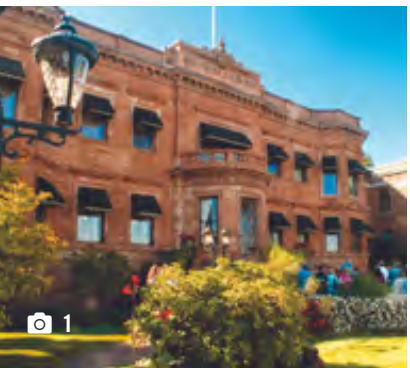
- **Old Sandwich Town**, located on the outskirts of Windsor tells the tales of settlement in the descriptive murals and plaques in a small park located at the Harbour Masters building. War veterans' are memorialized with true life stories, starting from the individual hometown, enlistment, engagement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

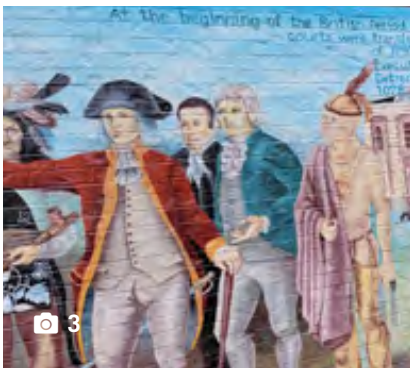
Sandwich First Baptist Church* dating from 1851 is representative of churches from this period and built to accommodate the communities created by Underground Railroad refugees.

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 port still serves as a conduit for smuggling contraband across the narrow stretch of river.

IMAGES

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





PORTS & FORTS ROUTE

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.

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

- **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

  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' largest distillery. The Rum Runners tour tells the story with costumed actors during the roaring 20's.

  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 ice hockey player that played in the Motor City for the Detroit Red Wings.

- **The Detroit River** flows south for 51 km (26 miles) from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie. 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.

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

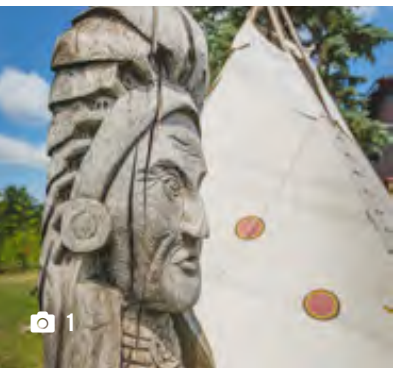
DISCOVER THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE WATERS OF LAKE HURON AND GEORGIAN BAY.

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 McKerrow, 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 Inverhuron Provincial Park / Ontario Parks
4 Sauble Falls Provincial Park / Ontario Parks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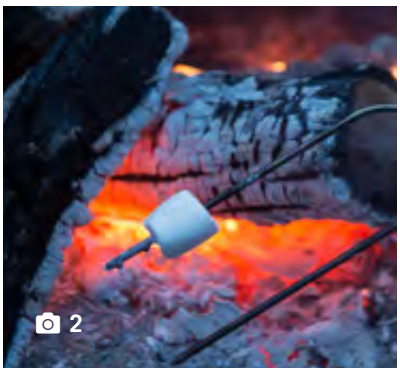
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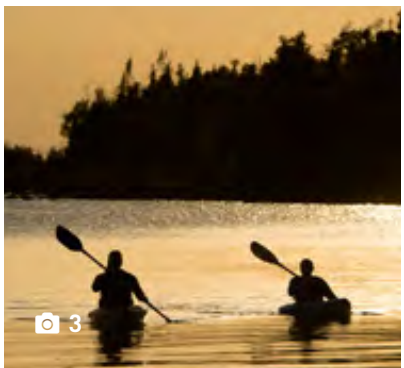
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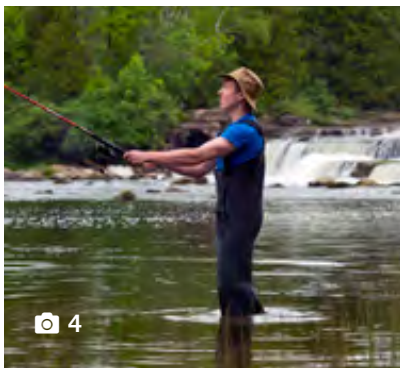
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BLUEWATER
ROUTE

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

Shipwreck, Tobermory / Destination Canada

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

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).

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.
- **Wiarton Willie statue.** Wiarton.
- **Blue Heron Cruise Lines.** Tobermory.
- **Swing bridge.** Little Current.

[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.*

BOOKINGS & TRAVEL PROCEDURES FOR NORTHERN BRUCE PENINSULA

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.

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

"Plan Ahead, Book Ahead"

*Due to the lingering effects of COVID and staff shortages in tourism businesses, many have reduced business hours and capacity. It is advised to plan ahead, and book ahead including calling, emailing or direct messaging to see if businesses are open and to purchase tickets and book rooms whenever possible to avoid disappointment.

SOUTH CENTRAL 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

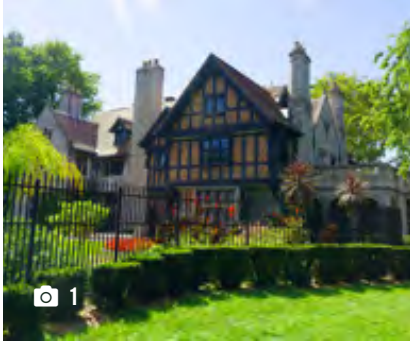
Route connecting point

- The Prospector Route
- The Fur Trade Route
- The Waterway Route
- Ports & Forts Route
- The Bluewater Route
- Alternative Route (Ottawa to North Bay & Sudbury)

Day One

WINDSOR / CHATHAM-KENT / DRESDEN / PETROLIA / SARNIA

Windsor Skyline / Destination Ontario



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3

1 DAY ONE

Travel from Windsor to Sarnia.

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

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 is known for Uncle Tom's Cabin* and 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 international awareness of Canada as a haven for refugees from slavery. Visit the open air museum and a sawmill and farm that was setup to educate Black pioneers. A national historic plaque marks the Henson Family Cemetery*.

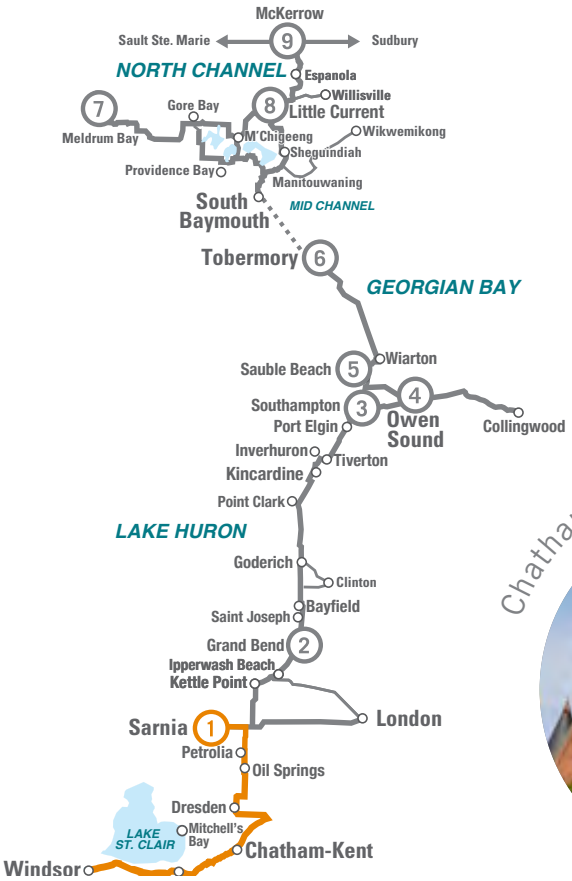
  Huron Wind is Ontario's first commercial wind farm producing enough electricity to power 3,000 homes.
- **Oil Springs** was the site of the first commercial oil wells in the world and the first gas gusher in Canada.

IMAGES

1 Willistead Manor Garden / Destination Ontario 2 Blue Water Bridge – Sarnia & Port Huron USA / Gord Rees 3 Allsop Farms, Windsor / Destination 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 – 120 km
Head east on Hwy#2 from Windsor along the shores of Lake St. Clair. Continue northeast on Hwy#2 and Hwy #36 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.

- **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.

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 Catham-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.

- **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.

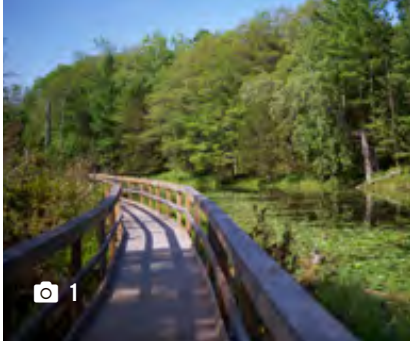
  Climate change however forces new developments even here. A photovoltaic power station in "Chemical Valley" is a large solar generating facility producing 97 MV from an area that covers 450 hectares with 1.3 mm thin-film solar panels. The process converts electricity from sunlight but generates heat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

Day Two

SARNIA / LONDON / PORT FRANKS / GRAND BEND

Forks of the Thames River / Tourism London Ontario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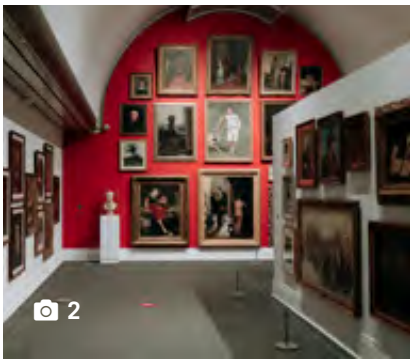
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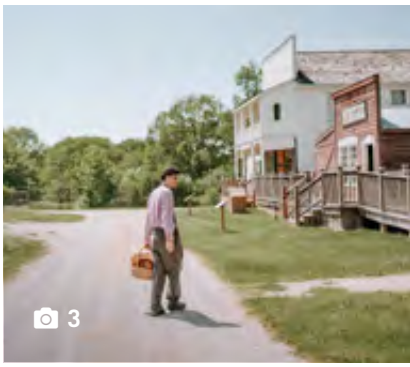
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2 DAY TWO

Travel from Sarnia to Grand Bend.

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.

- **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.

London is a connecting point to the Ports & Forts Route and Waterway Route.

IMAGES

1 Pinery Provincial Park Boardwalk / Ontario Parks
2 Museum London / Tourism London Ontario
3 Fanshaw Pioneer Village / Tourism London 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 – 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. Angle back on Hwy#17/7 to Ipperwash Beach.

- **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.

Sand Dunes, Pinery Provincial Park – Gord Rees

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: Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. 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

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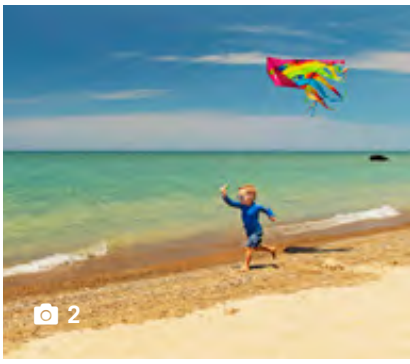
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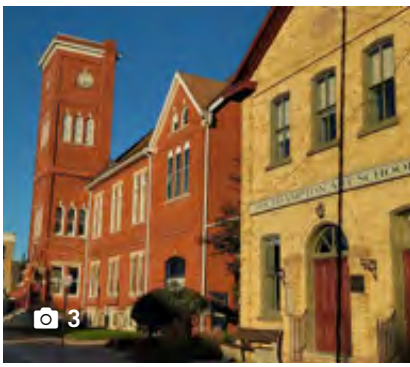
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3 DAY THREE

Travel from Grand Bend to Southampton.

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.

- **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 features 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 Foleyet 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

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 – 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, the beach and 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 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:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/ showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. 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

4 DAY FOUR

Travel from Southampton to Owen Sound.

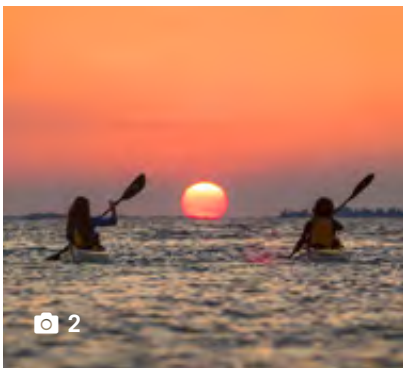
Cut across the bottom of the Bruce Peninsula to Owen Sound on Georgian Bay. Extend the trip to Collingwood and the Blue Mountain resort area.

- **Owen Sound.** The birthplace of prohibition in Canada and the last dry city in Canada led by the Women's Christian Temperence 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 and more.

Harrison Park – Owen Sound

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

1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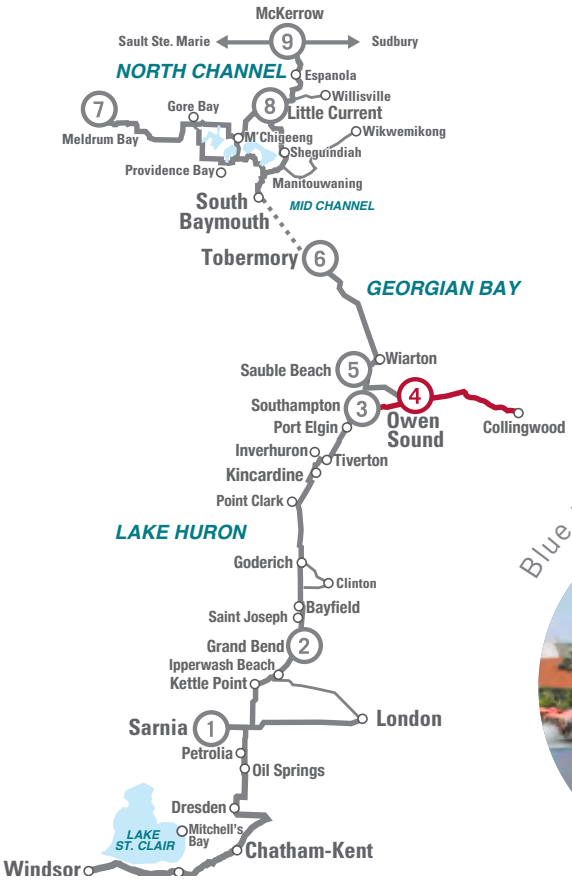
3

4

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 – 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 side trip.** Gateway to the Blue Mountain Ski Resort, a four seasons destination. The Resort is a great destination for family activities. From ziplines to mountain coaster to rope climbing and mini golf, to name a few. Check in with their 'activity centre' for ticket purchase. Blue Mountain Village is home to many restaurants, accommodations and stores. Continue eastward along Georgian Bay to Wasaga Beach. Known for beau-arts style Federal Building and Collingwood Town Hall. Visit the Collingwood Museum to learn about the history of ship building on the Great Lakes. Collingwood Sunset Park offers waterfront trails, picnic areas and other amenities.

This route extension provides an alternative to cutting back to RV rental stations more to the south.

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

TRAVEL TIP

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.

Day Five

OWEN SOUND / SAUBLE BEACH

Sauble Beach / Destination Ontario

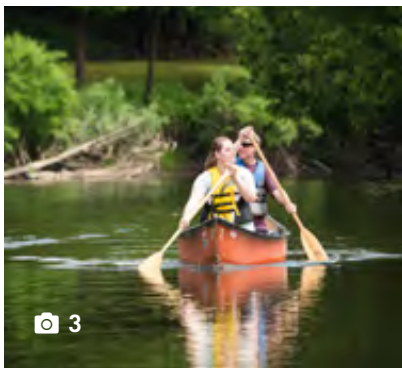
5 DAY FIVE Travel from Owen Sound to Sauble Beach.

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



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 – 110 km
Travel northwest on Hwy#6 and west on Hwy#8 from Owen Sound to Sauble Beach.

- **Bruce Trail.** The entire 850 km trail starts from Niagara to Tobermory, and to the top of the Bruce Peninsula. The end-to-end trail could be hiked in thirty days, or piece-by-piece. Bicycles and motorized vehicles are not permitted. Camping sites are restricted to designated areas only, as outlined in the Bruce Trail Conservancy directive. This portion of the trail runs along the eastern shoreline between Lion's Head and Tobermory.
- **Greig's Caves** offer self-guided tours along rugged trails through 10 limestone caves on the Bruce Peninsula. Please be advised that when exploring Greig's Caves, you travel the property at your own risk.
- **Wiarton.** A furry iconic tourist attraction known as "Wiarton Willie" emerges from his den on Groundhog Day to predict whether it will be a long winter or an early spring. A statue of Willy of Wiarton stands near the shoreline in Bluewater Park. The waterfront trail on shores of Colpoy's Bay in Wiarton is a hard-surfaced portion of the Bruce Trail. This beautiful shoreline path is close to downtown with restaurants and shops.

WHERE TO CAMP

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

Spry Lake Camp. Wiarton. 9 km from Sauble Beach. **Services:** Fully serviced. Flush toilets/showers.

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

Hiking the Bruce Trail / Destination Ontario

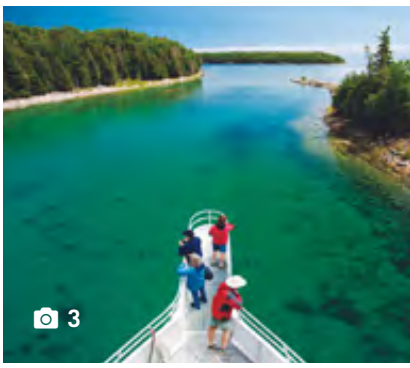
Day Six

SAUBLE BEACH / BRUCE PENINSULA / TOBERMORY

MS Chi-Cheemaun Ferry / Destination Northern Ontario

1

2



3

6 DAY SIX

Travel from Sauble Beach to Tobermory.

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.

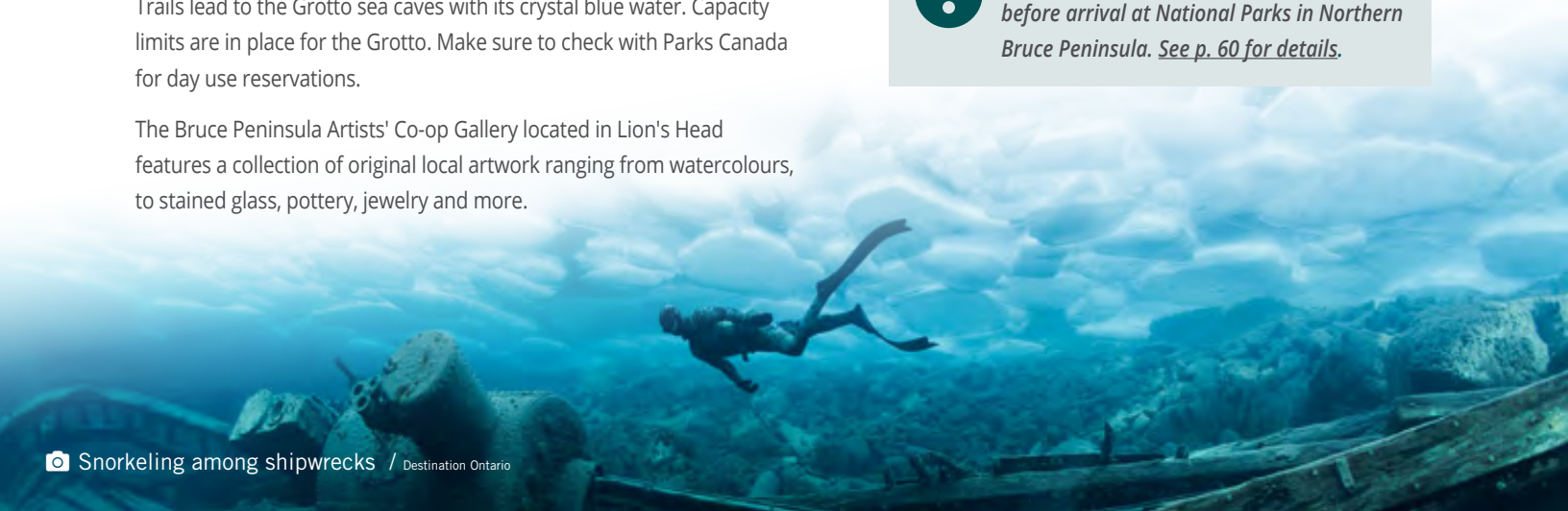
- **Bruce Peninsula** extends 100 km into Lake Huron where it sits at the northern fringe of Southern Ontario between Georgian Bay and the main basin of Lake Huron, and forms the northern extension of the Niagara Escarpment. The limestone cliffs tower 500 feet above the lake. Trails lead to the Grotto 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

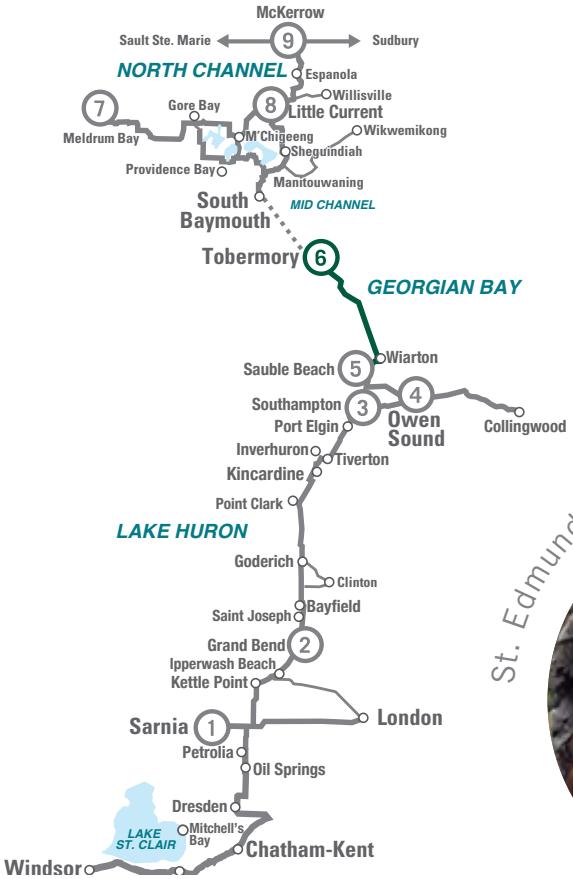
Parking Restrictions:
Visitors are advised to reserve day parking before arrival at National Parks in Northern Bruce Peninsula. *See p. 60 for details.*



Snorkeling among shipwrecks / Destination Ontario

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 – 110 km
From Sauble Beach, head north on Hwy#13 and connect to Hwy#6 north through the Bruce Peninsula to Tobermory.

- **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 Five Fathom 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 tag 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.

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

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.

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, you can buy a delicious fried dough pastry known as a Beavertail – a tradition for many before boarding the ferry.

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

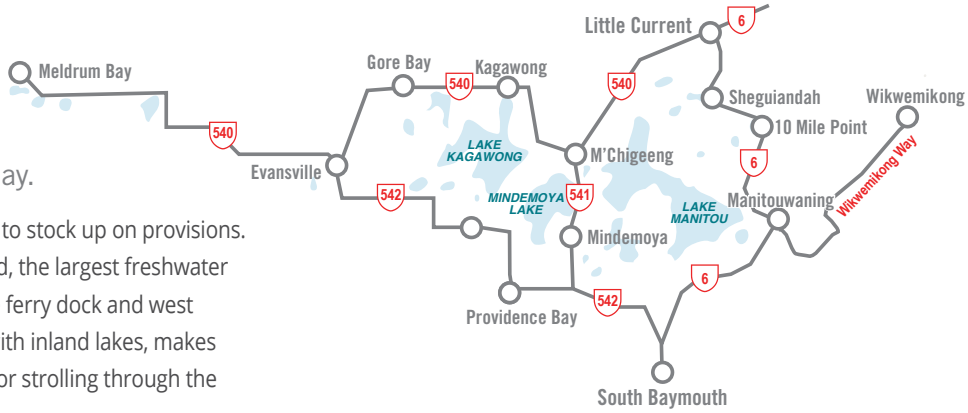
MANITOULIN ISLAND

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.



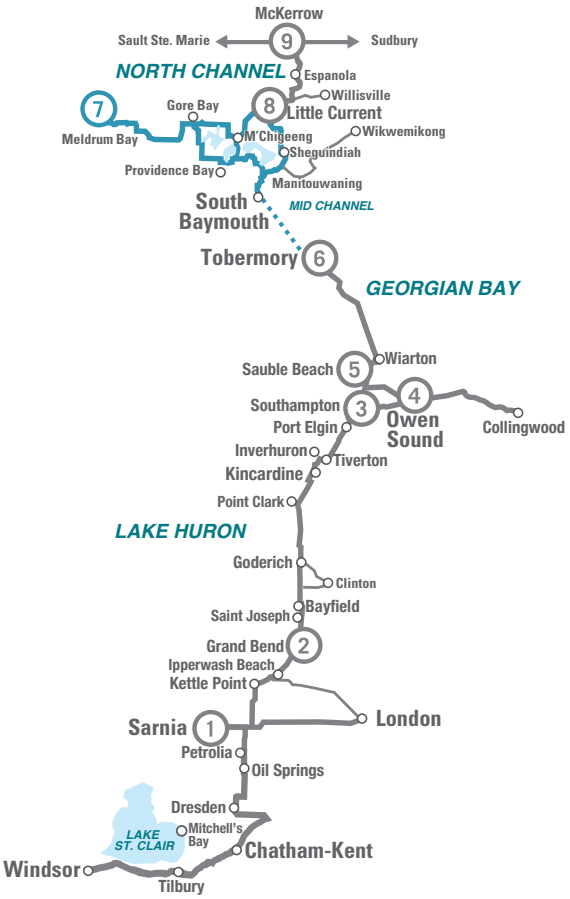
For additional information visit a Travel Information Centre. Manitoulin Island's Travel Information Centres are located in **Little Current** and **South Baymouth.**

IMAGES

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

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
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.

Bridal Veil Falls, Kagawong – Destination Ontario

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

WHERE TO CAMP

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

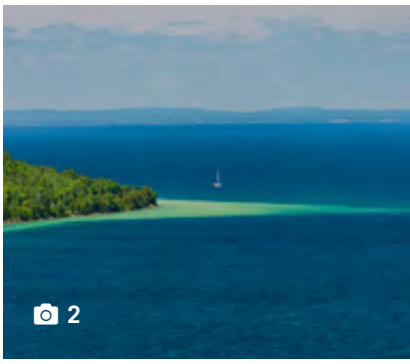
Stanley Park. Mindemoya. **Services:** Electrical. Water. Flush toilets/showers. Pull-thru sites. Laundromat. Store.

Day Eight

M'CHIGEENG / LITTLE CURRENT / SHEGUIANDAH

Sunset over Little Current / Destination Northern Ontario

1



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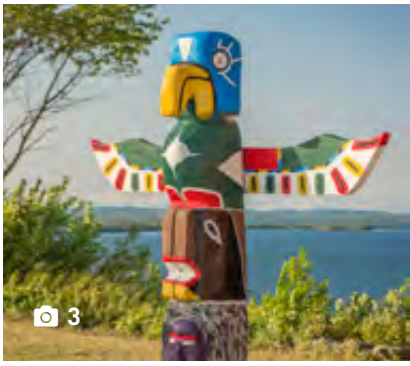

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8 DAY EIGHT

Spend an extra day exploring Manitoulin Island.

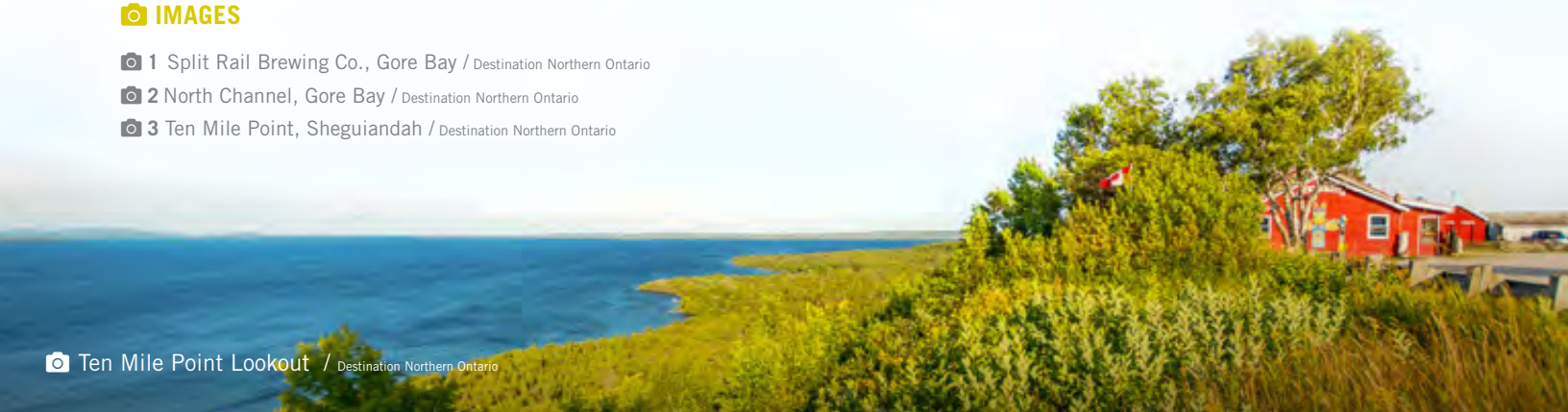
- **M'Chigeeng.** Lillian's Crafts and Museum features a collection of porcupine quill baskets, bead work and antler carvings. Ten Mile Point lookout on Hwy#6 offers Indigenous art, handcrafts and blankets. Manitoulin Island Cycling Advocates offers a new cycling map to follow along paved shoulders of 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.

Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre Destination Ontario

IMAGES

1 Split Rail Brewing Co., Gore Bay / Destination Northern Ontario
2 North Channel, Gore Bay / Destination Northern Ontario
3 Ten Mile Point, Sheguiandah / Destination Northern Ontario



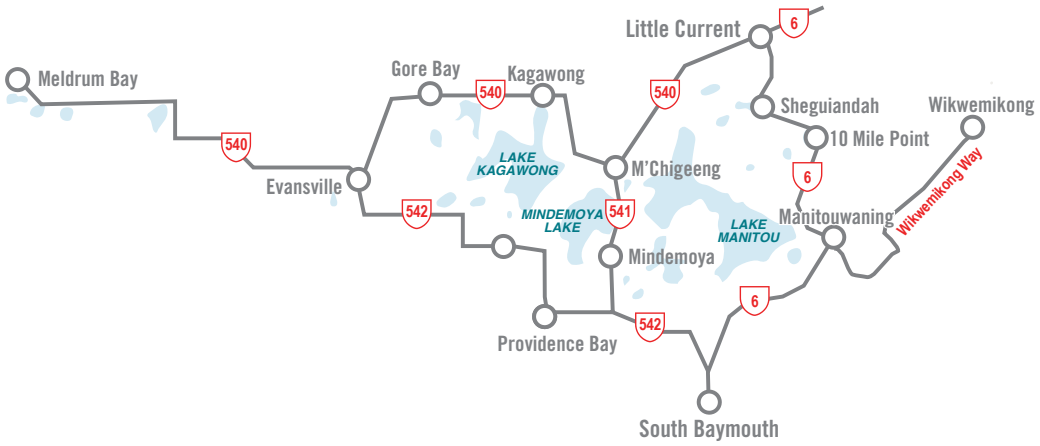
Ten Mile Point Lookout / Destination Northern Ontario

BLUEWATER
ROUTE

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.

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



- **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.

- **Manitowaning.** Historic sites include Assiginack Museum, and St. Paul's Anglican Church next to the tapered wooden Manitowaning light tower.*

- **Wikwemikong** organizes one of the largest, longest running Pow Wow's in Northeastern America the first week of August every year. The 2022 festival July 30-Aug 1 celebrates its 60th anniversary.

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.

Providence Bay Beach / Destination Northern Ontario

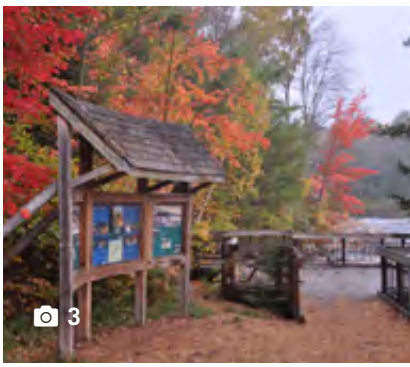
Day Nine

LITTLE CURRENT / WILLISVILLE / MCKERROW

Fairbank Provincial Park / Ontario Parks

1

2



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9 DAY NINE

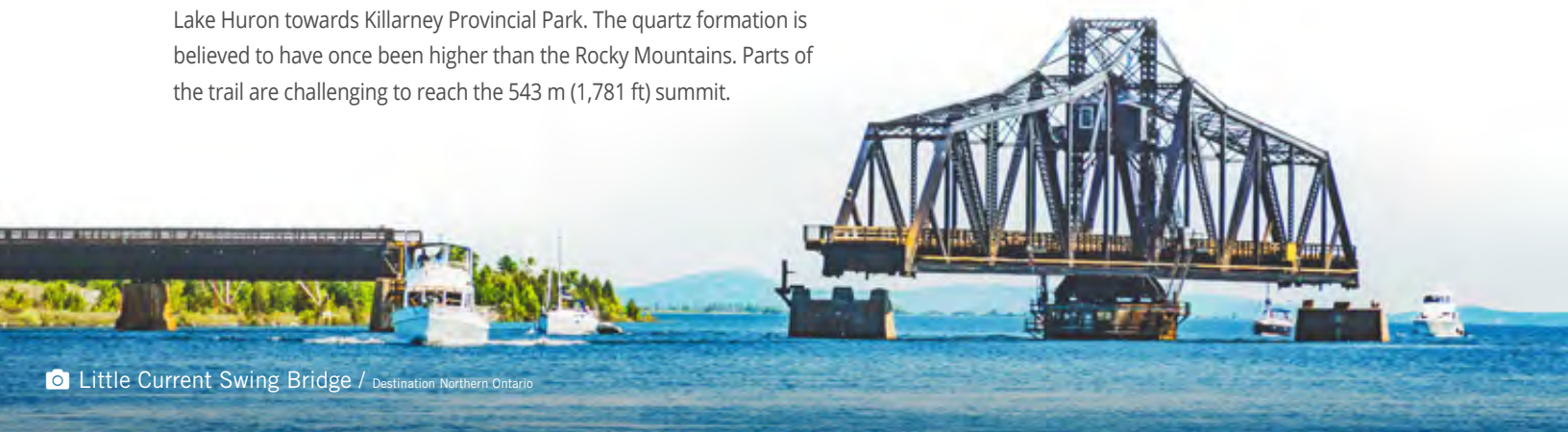
Travel from Little Current to McKerrow.

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
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4. Owen Sound
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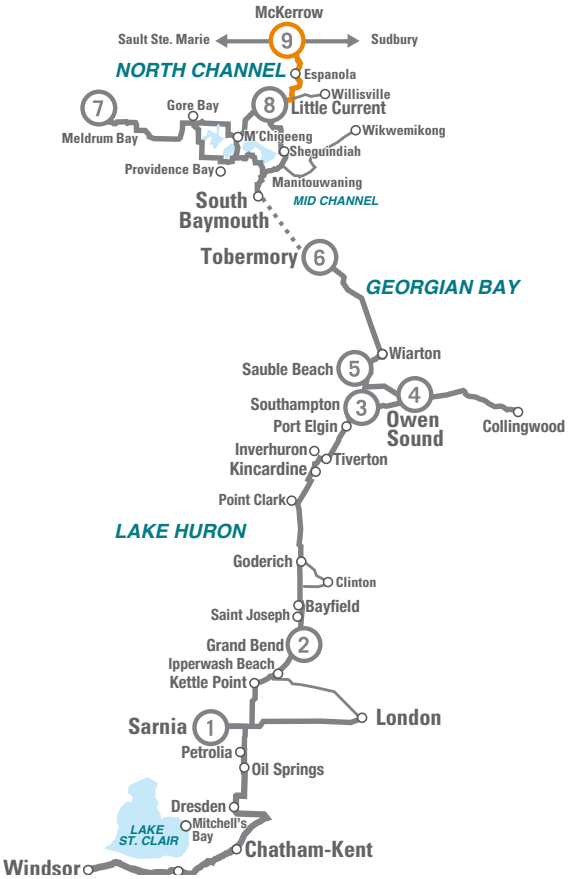


Route – 80 km
Continue north on Hwy#6 across the Little Current Swing Bridge. Follow Hwy#6 to Hwy#17. From here travelers can head east to Sudbury to join the Prospector Route, or west on the Fur Trade Route to Sault St. Marie.

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

The Fur Trade Route
Toronto to Kenora

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 84-105

PROSPECTOR ROUTE

The Prospector Route
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 106-125

DISCOVER THE WORLD'S LARGEST FRESHWATER LAKE

Lake Superior is powerful. The largest lake in the world evokes an ocean temperament that makes weather and water conditions change quickly and give rise to nightmarish storms. The beauty of the extensive North Shore is viewed best from many beaches and viewpoints off the scenic drive on Hwy 17. As the largest fresh water lake on Earth, 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 Group of Seven Touring Route 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 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.

LAKE SUPERIOR

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	Hunstville	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

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

Route connecting point

- The Prospector Route
- The Fur Trade Route
- The Waterway Route
- Ports & Forts Route
- The Bluewater Route
- Alternative Route (Ottawa to North Bay & Sudbury)
- Alternative Route (Cochrane to Nipigon)
- Alternative Route (Shabaqua Corner to Kenora)

THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

AN UNFORGETTABLE 9-DAY ADVENTURE

Follow the Fur Trade Route.

Hwy#17 North, Old Woman Bay

THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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*

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 in Spring, 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 (Northern Ontario).

OTHER SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

- **Group of Seven 19 artists' plaques.** Canada's Group of Seven artists were inspired by the landscapes of Algoma and the North Shore of Lake Superior. There are interpretive installations with easel and chair in 19 locations. 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

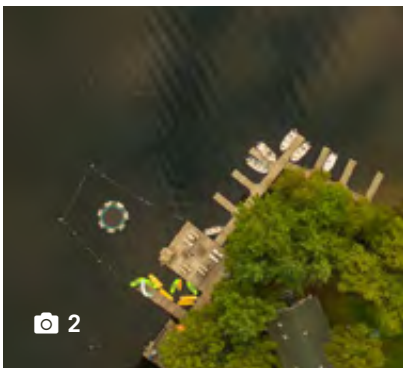
ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

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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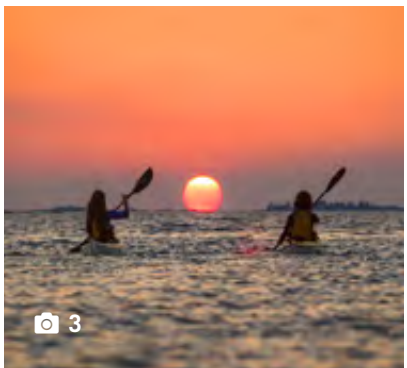
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THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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) available from Toronto to Tobermory where the MS Chi-Cheemaun, Ferry brings visitors across Georgian Bay to Manitoulin Island.

1 DAY ONE

Travel from Toronto to Parry Sound.

- **Toronto.** Stock up on essentials at a big-box store or supermarket. We recommend purchase of a small barbeque and a small gas canister for outdoor dinners along the way.
- **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.
- **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 (see p. 15 for more information).
- **Parry Sound** is cradled on Georgian Bay with a large harbor and a rail bridge trestle spanning right across town, and a Tower Hill with 360 degree view of Georgian Bay surrounded by mixed forests. The Bobby Orr Hall of Fame can be found here on the waterfront. This is a tribute to one of Canada's greatest hockey players.
- **Island Queen Cruises** operates two and three hour cruises from the pier in Parry Sound for a close-up look at Georgian Bay's wild and rugged outer islands.

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. 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.

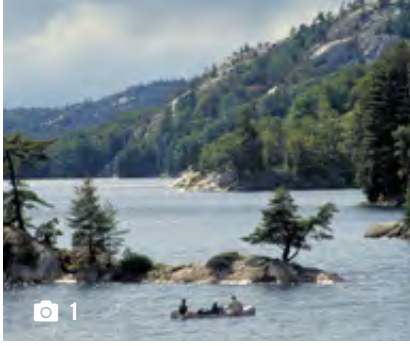
TRAVEL TIP

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

Day Two

PARRY SOUND / FRENCH RIVER / KILLARNEY / SUDBURY

Killarney Provincial Park / Destination Ontario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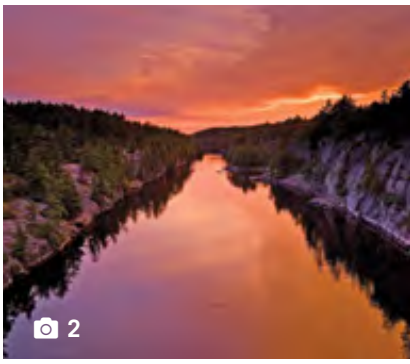
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DAY TWO

Travel from Parry Sound to Sudbury.

The day begins with a noticeable change in landscape 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 2 French River Provincial Park 3 Hiking Georgian Bay Coast

Killarney Provincial Park / Destination Canada | photo by Ben Jaworskyj

THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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

Route – 180 km
Hwy#400 from Parry Sound until it merges into Hwy#69. Continue down Hwy#69 until you meet Hwy#637 where you can exit to visit Killarney Provincial Park (optional side route), or continue along Hwy#69 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.

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.

- **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.

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.

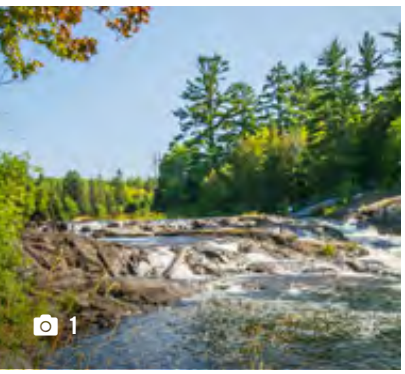
Carol's Campsite. Sudbury.
Services: Electrical. Sani-dump. Laundry. Wifi.

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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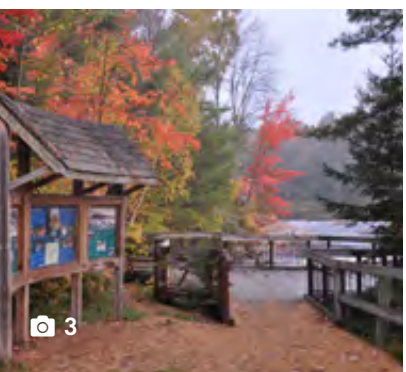
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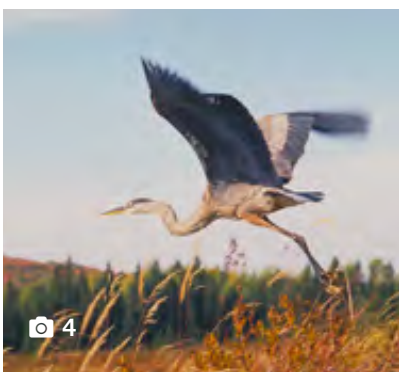
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Little Current Swing Bridge – Manitoulin Island

IMAGES

1 Serpent River
2 The Big Nickel – Sudbury
3 Chutes Provincial Park
4 Great Blue Heron

THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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.

3 DAY THREE

Travel from Sudbury to Spragge.

- The **Dynamic Earth** museum in Sudbury needs a full day to visit. Starting at the 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 McKerrow 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).**

Chutes Provincial Park in Massey. The park features a roaring waterfalls 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.

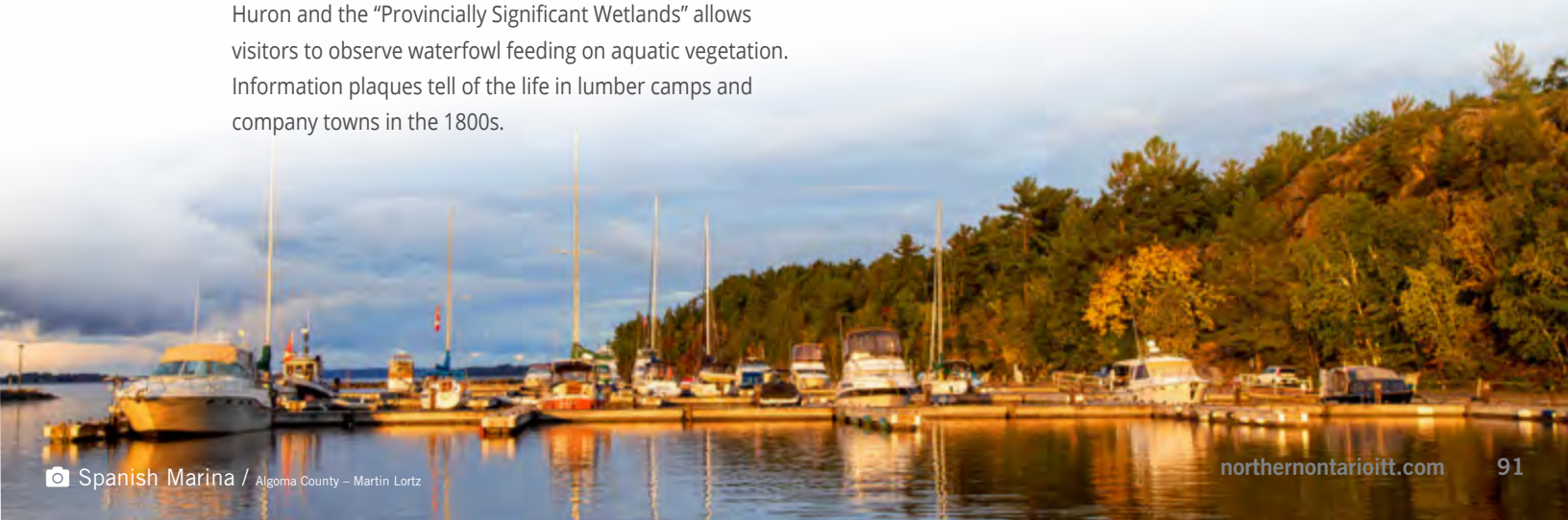
WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Spragge.

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

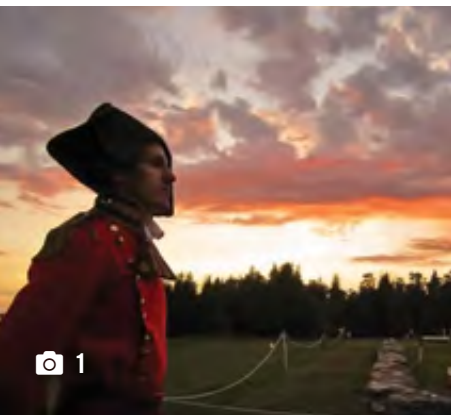


Spanish Marina / Algoma County – Martin Lortz

Day Four.

LAKE HURON NORTH SHORE / SAULT STE. MARIE

Bridge to St. Joseph Island / Destination Northern Ontario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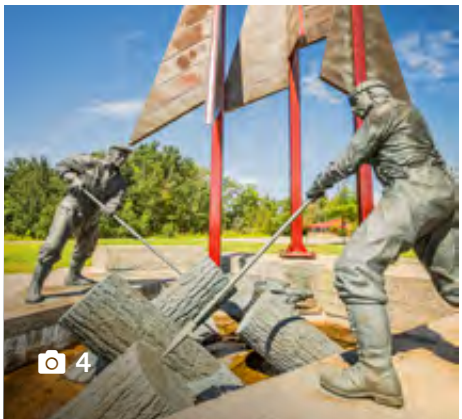
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IMAGES

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

THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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

Travel from Spragge to Sault Ste. Marie.

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

- **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 kms 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.** See the Loon Dollar monument, which 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

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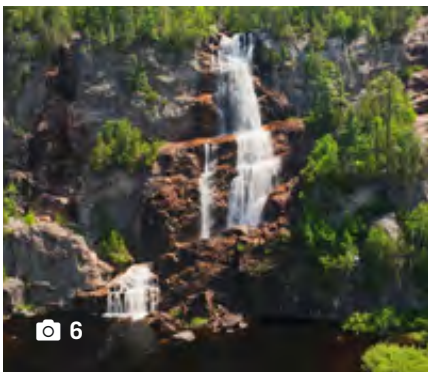
OPTIONAL EXTRA DAY

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.

- **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 fighting brought to life through a 20-minute movie.



- **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. 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.

- **Canoes for Conservation 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.

IMAGES

1 Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site
2 Erratinger Clergue National Historic Site
3 Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre
4 Agawa Canyon Tour Train
5 Canoes for Conservation / Gary McGuffin
6 Bridal Veil Falls, Agawa Canyon

Day Five

LAKE SUPERIOR PROVINCIAL PARK / WAWA

Old Woman Bay Lookout – Nokomis Trail / Destination Ontario

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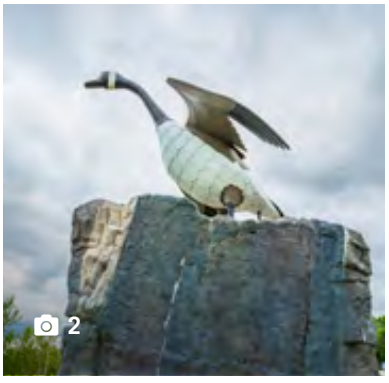
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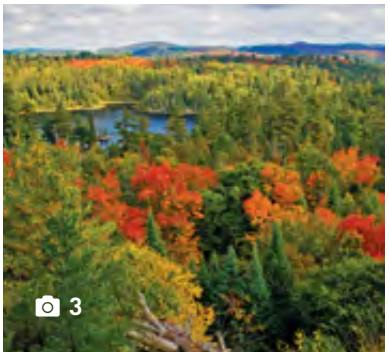
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IMAGES

1 Agawa Rock Pictographs on Lake Superior
2 Wawa Goose Monument
3 Fall colours in the Algoma
4 Lake Superior North Shore

THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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

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

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

5 DAY FIVE

Travel from Sault Ste. Marie to Wawa.

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

- **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".

Batchawana Bay Provincial Park. 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.

Pancake Bay Provincial Park. 76 km northwest of Sault Ste. Marie. Voyageurs preferred this wide sandy 3-km long beach for stopovers on the canoe route around the top of Lake Superior. A plaque on the lookout trail tells of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald that broke up in a violent winter storm made famous by Canadian folk singer Gordon Lightfoot.

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 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.

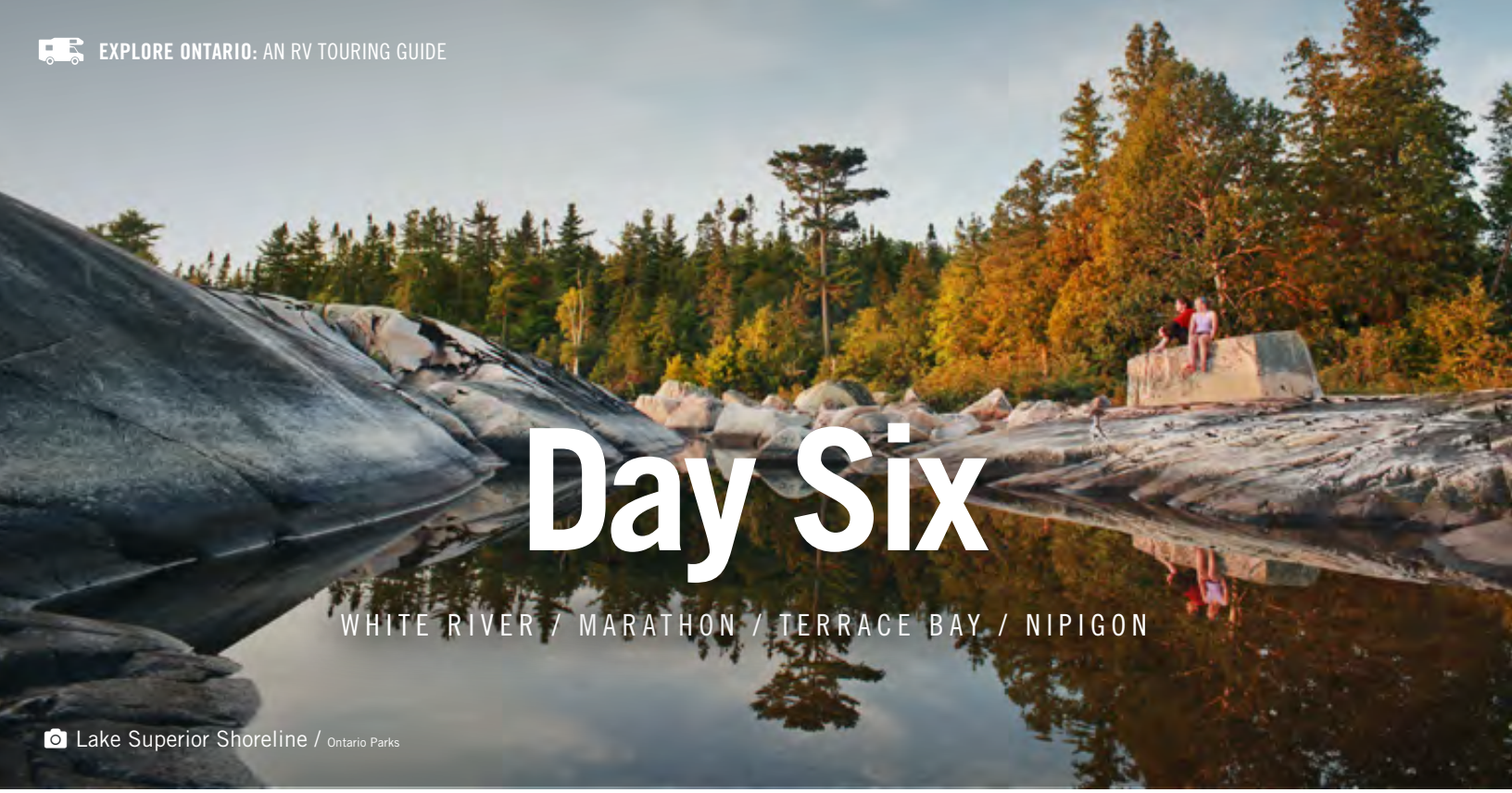
- **Michipicoten.** Magpie River Valley features a 75-foot waterfall at the outflow of a reservoir.
- **Wawa.** A legendary town settled by pioneers located three hours north of Sault Ste. Marie. Follow the "Signs of History" around the town that explain the early beginnings. Look for a statue of early 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. ✔ Fully serviced.

Wawa RV Resort & Campground. Wawa. 1 mile north of town. Open May 1-October 28. ✔ **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

Connect to The Prospector Route.

2-DAYS 700 KM

See page 122 for details

OPTIONAL CONNECTING ROUTE – NIPIGON TO COCHRANE

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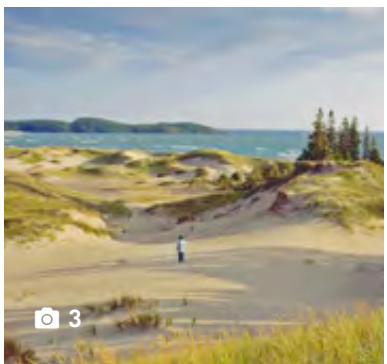
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IMAGES

1 Pukaskwa National Park
2 Anishinaabe Camp, Pukaskwa National Park
3 Rye grass beach, Terrace Bay
4 Scenic views near Nipigon / Gord Rees

THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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

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

6 DAY SIX

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 ($20/ half day) 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 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.

- **Terrace Bay.** Follow the Casque Isles hiking trail for two kms to Terrace Bay beach where visitors can walk knee-deep through rye grass. 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.

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park is just 20 minutes west of Terrace Bay. The park has a beautiful sandy beach.

- **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.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Nipigon.

Stillwater Tent & RV Park. Nipigon.
Services: Electrical. Shower. Wifi. Gift Shop. Laundry. Sani-dump.

Neys Provincial Park. Located 30 minutes outside Marathon.
Services: RV camping available. Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Park store. Hiking trails. Canoe rentals available. Open mid May to mid September.

Day Seven

NIPIGON / THUNDER BAY

Sleeping Giant Provincial Park / Destination Ontario

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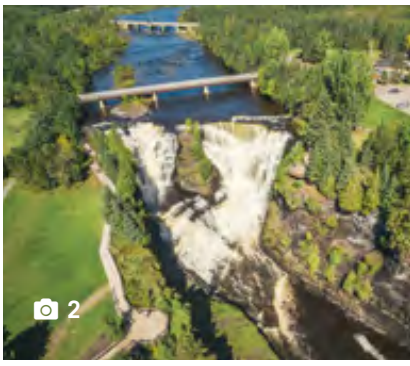

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7 DAY SEVEN

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.

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

Ouimet Canyon Provincial Park / Destination Ontario

THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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

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

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

- **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.
- **The city of 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 harbor front for a choice of fine restaurants.
- **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 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.

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.

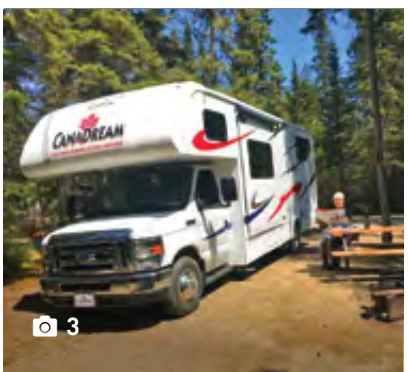
Day Eight

ATIKOKAN / FORT FRANCES / LAKE OF THE WOODS

Canoeing in Quetico Provincial Park / Destination Ontario

1

2



3

IMAGES

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

4

THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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 – 335 km
Depart west from Thunder Bay on Hwy#17. Turn left onto Hwy#11 which will take you to Quetico Provincial Park and Fort Frances.

Alternate Route (c) – There is an alternative northern route on #17 to Ignace, Dryden and Kenora that is slightly shorter. 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.

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. RV camping limited to Dawson Trail Campground.

- **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 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

Tall Pines Marina –Kenora / photo by Greg Mattson

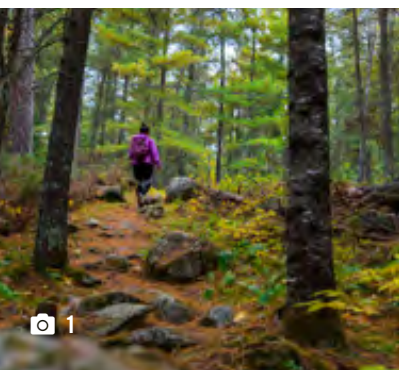
9 DAY NINE

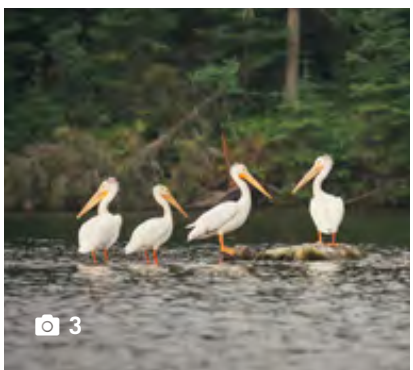
Travel from Fort Frances to Kenora.

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





THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

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.

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 sectioned off swimming area. **Services:** Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry. Hiking trails. Canoe Rentals. Open seasonally.

- **Sioux Narrows / Nestor Falls.** One town separated by 50 kilometers of boreal forest lined roads that wind along the eastern shores of Lake of the Woods. Rich in history and culture, visitor must-see stops include the Nestor Falls interpretive area which highlights the site as a historical gathering place going back thousands of years. This Falls often attracts flocks of Pelicans that feed in the fish spawning beds at the base of the falls. The other must-see stop is at the Northern Ontario Sport Fishing centre, which 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 for the lake lover - boating, swimming, sailing and canoeing. **Services:** Electrical. Showers/flush toilets. Laundry.

Rushing River Provincial Park. Located 25 kms south of Kenora. White water that gives name to the river that drains Dogtooth Lake, surrounded by a forest of jack pine and balsam. **Services:** Electrical. Showers/toilets. Laundry. Kayak rentals. Hiking trails.

- **Kenora.** Once known as "Rat Portage" after trapping muskrats where the voyageur canoe route once by-passed 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 iconic 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 Matiowski Farmer's Market. The **Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre,** located in Kenora, 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.

PROSPECTOR
ROUTE

Discover Ontario's Gold Rush.

A HISTORIC 7-DAY CIRCLE TOUR

Iconic McIntyre Mine headframe, Timmins

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

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 in Spring, and late September–October in Fall. Keep an eye on your fuel and propane before heading into remote areas where gas stations may close in the evening, and on Sundays.

OPTIONAL CONNECTING ROUTE

CONNECT TO THE FUR TRADE ROUTE

2-DAYS 700 KM

See page 122 for details

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

Regional Tourism Organizations along this route include:
RTO#12 (Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park) and RTO#13 (Northern Ontario).

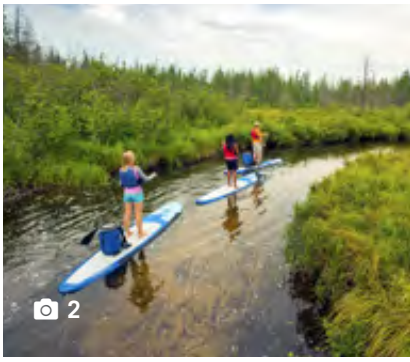
**National historic and Ontario Heritage sites are marked with an asterisk throughout this guide.*

Day One

TORONTO / HUNTSVILLE / ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK

Huntsville / Destination Ontario

1



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ALTERNATIVE SIDE ROUTE
OTTAWA RIVER VALLEY TO NORTH BAY

This 350 km stretch connects to the Fur Trade and Prospector Routes through Ottawa to North Bay (see map on pg. #82-83).

Veer northeast from the shores of Lake Ontario through rolling farmland to Ottawa, the Capital of Canada that sits at the confluence of the Ottawa River and the Rideau Canal. Or by-pass Ottawa on Hwy 29, and head northwest to North Bay.

Ottawa. Canada's national capital. Home to the Canadian Parliament, the Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum. Parc des Portageurs connected the Nor'Westers Route by the portage around Chaudiere Falls (see p. 20-23 for more on Ottawa).

Mattawa River Provincial Park. Stretching along the Mattawa River between Mattawa and North Bay. Day use and back country hiking only. There are no facilities in this non-operational park.

EXTRA DAY **350 KM**

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp between Ottawa and Mattawa.

Ryan's Campsites. Next to Hwy 17 at Deep River. 2,000 feet of sandy beach on the Ottawa River. The gift shop provides an assortment of unusual gifts and crafts including furs and native carvings. **Services:** Sewer and water. Sani-dump.

Drifitwood 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.

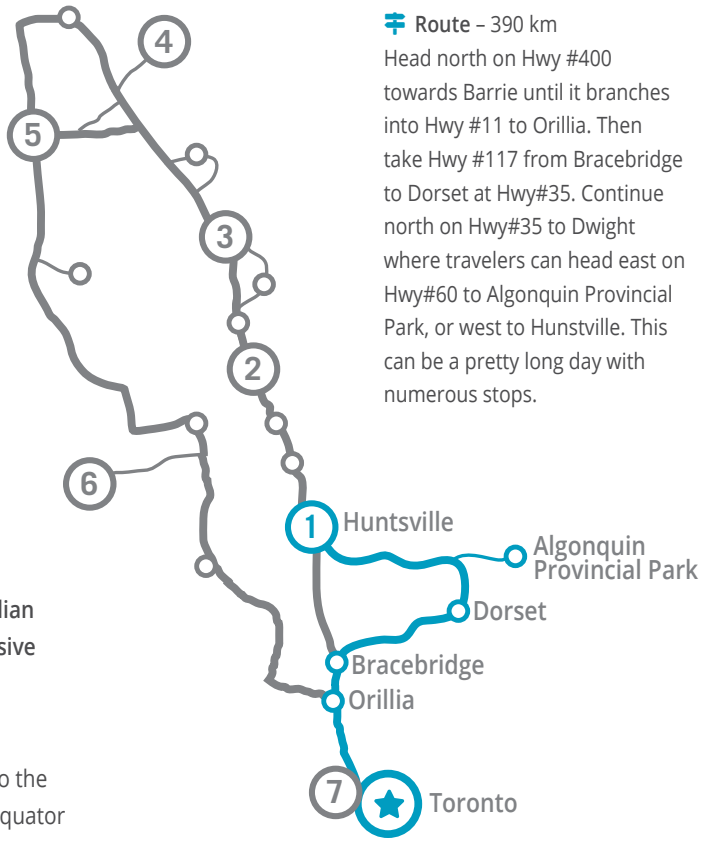
Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park.
A feature park located east of Mattawa on the famous voyageur route to Lake Nipissing. The Mattawa River Visitor Centre and Museum features the cultural history of the voyageur canoe route through the park and Mattawa River valley. **Services:** Jingwakoki and Babawasse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

IMAGES

1 Algonquin Provincial Park / Destination Ontario 2 Algonquin Provincial Park / Destination Ontario 3 Algonquin Provincial Park / Destination Canada – Kevin Arnold

PROSPECTOR
ROUTE

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



Route – 390 km
Head north on Hwy #400 towards Barrie until it branches into Hwy #11 to Orillia. Then take Hwy #117 from Bracebridge to Dorset at Hwy#35. Continue north on Hwy#35 to Dwight where travelers can head east on Hwy#60 to Algonquin Provincial Park, or west to Hunstville. This can be a pretty long day with numerous stops.

1 DAY ONE

Travel from Toronto to Huntsville.

Head north on Hwy #400 towards Barrie until it branches into Hwy #11 to Orillia. The Great Canadian Shield comes into view as the mosaic of an expansive deciduous and coniferous forest unfolds.

- **Bracebridge** is located in the heart of the Muskoka Lakes region and known as "Halfway to the North Pole" where it lays equidistant from the equator and North Pole. The town overlooks the dam and waterfalls near the rail crossing. Antique and fashion shops line the main street.
- **Huntsville.** Muskoka Heritage Place overlooking Cann Lake records the living history of homesteads and First Nations encampments. The Portage Flyer, a restored steam train runs 2 km alongside the Muskoka River and is reputed to be the shortest operational railroad in the world.

Algonquin Provincial Park. East of Huntsville, Algonquin Provincial Park occupies 7,700 square kilometres of stunning wilderness landscapes at the outer edge of the Canadian Shield. Protected since 1893 as Ontario's first Provincial Park, it remains an iconic destination for travelers from around the world.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Hunstville.

Deer Lake RV Resort. Huntsville. 120 acre park on Deer Lake just west of Huntsville.
Services: Fully serviced. Showers/ flush toilets. Laundry facilities.

Algonquin Provincial Park has five campgrounds spread out along Hwy #60. Be sure to book early and specify an RV site when making a reservation. Watch for Fall Color Reports when the dazzling display of maple leaves burst around the lakes.
Services: Fully serviced. Showers / flush toilets. Laundry facilities. Hiking. Discovery program.

TRAVEL TIPS

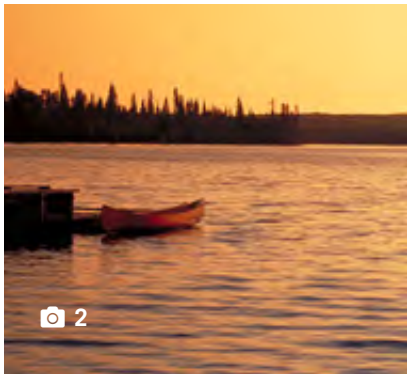
- Start your RV experience with a stop at **Weber's charcoal burger diner** 15 km north of Orillia. Look for the iconic orange walking bridge crossing the divided highway. Outdoor seating available, or enjoy indoor dining in a classic railroad car.
- Visit **Robinson's General Store** in Dorset. The store sells nearly everything. It is voted "Canada's Best Country Store" and offers a large selection of moccasins.

Day Two

ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK / NORTH BAY / TEMAGAMI

Chief Commanda II – North Bay / Destination Ontario

1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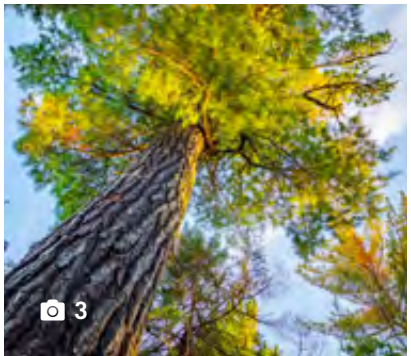
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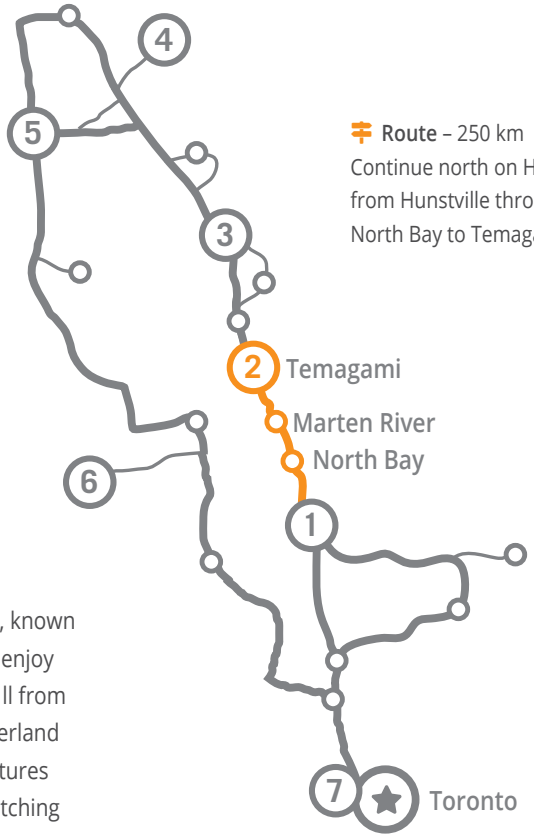
IMAGES

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



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

DAY TWO

Travel from Hunstville to Temagami.

- **North Bay.** Visit the harbour front in North Bay, known as "The Gateway to the North". Take a break to 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.

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 causal restaurant overlooking beautiful Lake Temagami. Outdoor seating available.

Day Three

TEMAGAMI / COBALT / TEMISKAMING SHORES

Heritage Silver Trail – Cobalt / Destination Ontario

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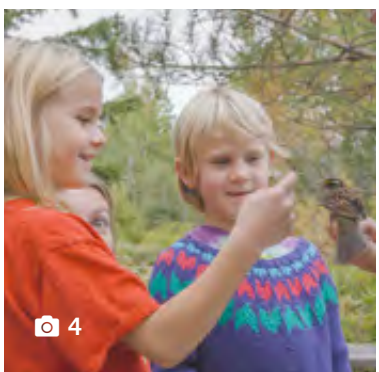

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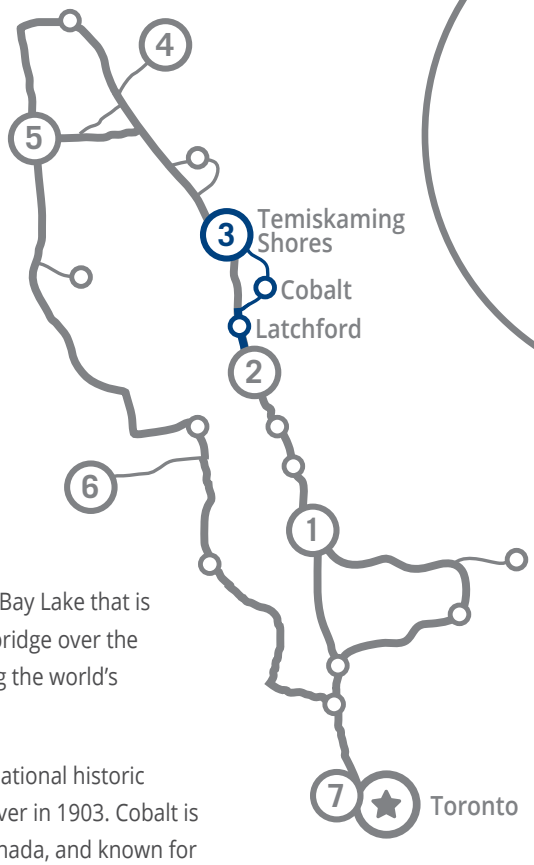
IMAGES

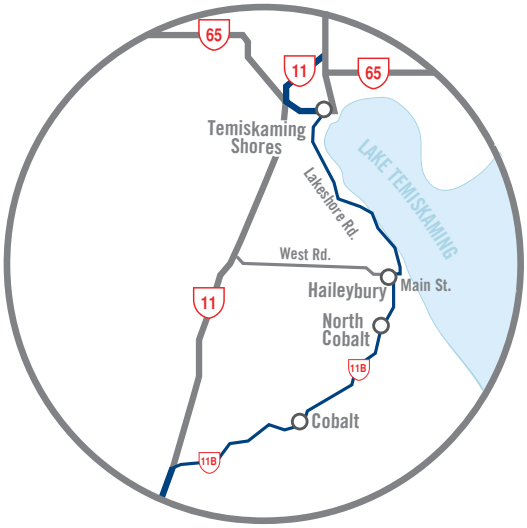
1 Sgt. Aubrey Cosens V.C. Memorial Bridge, Latchford
2 Devil's Rock Lookout
3 Colonial Adit Mine Tour, Cobalt
4 Hilliardton Marsh Provincial Wildlife area
5 Lake Temiskaming

5

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 that 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 of the early mining days.

- **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.

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.

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.

TRAVEL TIPS

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.

Day Four

TEMISKAMING SHORES / KIRKLAND LAKE / IROQUOIS FALLS

Mine Headframe in Kirkland Lake / Destination Ontario

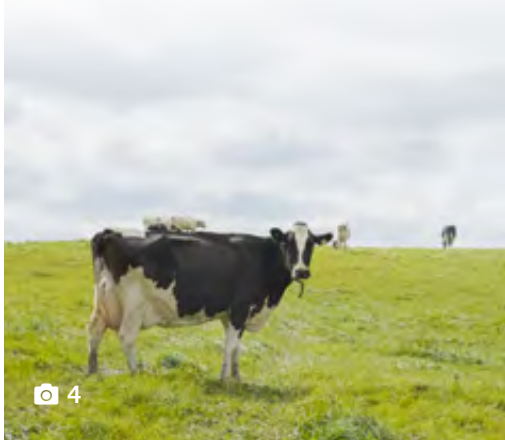
1

2

3

IMAGES

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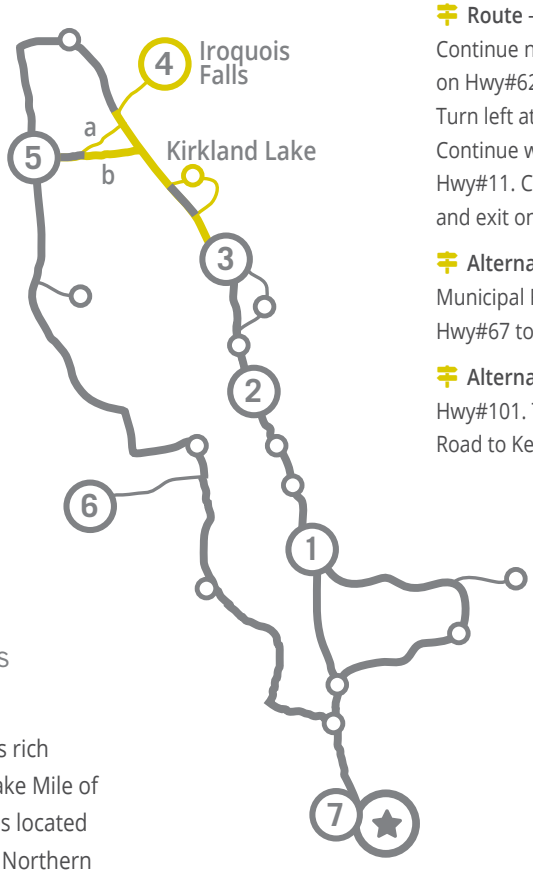
PROSPECTOR ROUTE

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



Route – 170 km
Continue north on Hwy#11. Take a right on Hwy#624, just before Englehart. Turn left at Hwy#66 to Kirkland Lake. Continue west on Hwy#66 back to Hwy#11. Continue north on Hwy#11, and exit on Hwy#67 to Iroquois Falls.

Alternate Route (a) – Head west on Municipal Road between Hwy#101 and Hwy#67 to Kettle Lakes Provincial Park.

Alternate Route (b) – Head west on Hwy#101. Turn north onto Municipal Road to Kettle Lakes Provincial Park.

4 DAY FOUR

Travel from Temiskaming Shores to Iroquois Falls.

- **Kirkland Lake** is another city that owes its rich existence to gold mining. The "Kirkland Lake Mile of Gold" was named after seven major mines located virtually in the town. Visit the Museum of Northern History* in Kirkland Lake housed in a chateau-style mansion built by Sir Harry Oakes that celebrates the town's cultural heritage. Visit the historic Toburn Gold Mine which was the first mine in the area and produced 42 million ounces of gold. Wander the main street as it weaves past historic buildings. The city celebrates its 100-year centenary in 2020.
- **Iroquois Falls** was built as a company town on the Abitibi River, but has turned to tourism after closure of the newsprint mill. It is known as "The Garden Town of the North" where the community takes great pride in flowers and vegetable gardens. Visit Anson Park to view the Shay 70 Locomotive that used to operate through town, or take a tour of the Pioneer Museum to find out how Iroquois Falls came to be.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Iroquois Falls.

Cameron's Beach Campground. Located on beautiful Nellie Lake, just 10 minutes north-west of Iroquois Falls. Camp sites are situated close to a picturesque sandy beach.
Services: Full service. Electrical. Pull-thru sites. Sani-dump. Laundry. Showers/flush toilets. Hiking trails along a ridge to the falls. Canoe rentals.

Kettle Lakes Provincial Park. Located between Timmins 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.

TRAVEL TIPS

Thornloe Cheese, just 10 minutes north of Temiskaming Shores offers grass fed butter, ice cream, fresh cheese curds, and many more incredible products!

Dine at **Bridgehouse Café** in Kenogami at the junction of Hwy#66 and Hwy#11. The Café offers a commanding river view from the patio.

Day Five

IROQUOIS FALLS / COCHRANE / TIMMINS

Glamping – WildExodus Adventures / Destination Ontario

Connect to The Fur Trade Route.

2-DAYS 700 KM

See page 122 for details

OPTIONAL CONNECTING ROUTE – COCHRANE TO NIPIGON

1

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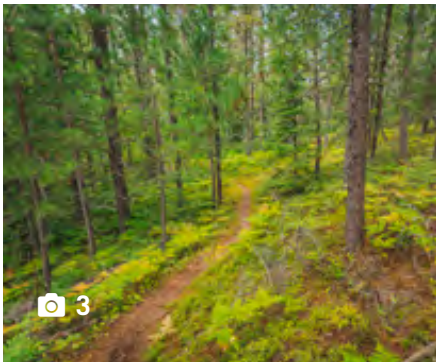
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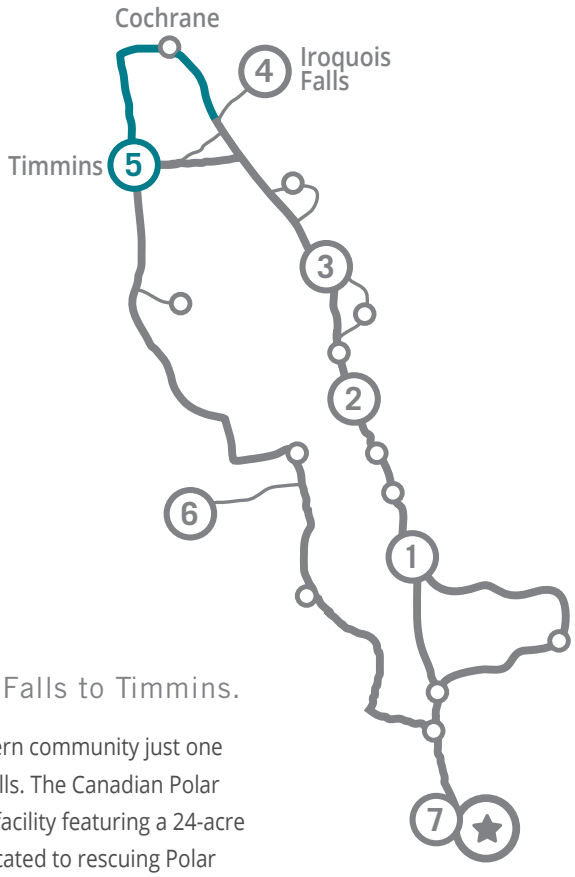
IMAGES

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

PROSPECTOR ROUTE



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

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.

OPTIONAL SIDE TRIP

While in the North, be sure to book the **Polar Bear Express** from Cochrane for a day-trip to Moosonee and Moose Factory situated just south of James Bay, and known as "the Gateway to the Arctic". It's best to reserve overnight accommodation and return the next day to have time to take a water taxi from Moosonee to York Factory. Visit the Cree Cultural Interpretive Centre, the Centennial Park and cemetery, and the Hudson's Bay Company's store as a national historic site. ***Free RV parking is located behind the train station in downtown Cochrane.***

DAY FIVE

Travel from Iroquois Falls to Timmins.

- **Cochrane.** A small northern community just one hour north of Iroquois Falls. The Canadian Polar Bear Habitat, a research facility featuring a 24-acre natural enclosure is dedicated to rescuing Polar Bears. The Interpretive Centre explains the range and habits of Polar Bears in the wild.
- **Timmins.** The story of Timmins begins in 1909 with the Porcupine Gold Rush, a gold rush like no other. 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.

WHERE TO CAMP

Where to camp near Timmins.

WildExodus - Wawaitin Holiday Park. Located 30 minutes south west of Timmins on Kenogamissi Lake. Ontario's first Signature Experience for glamping, guided canoeing, and nature hikes to High Falls and native burial grounds. Imagine exquisite dining and room service in a custom-built prospector tent offered in the two-night package. **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.

TRAVEL TIPS

- 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 experience the rumble of live blasting (safely) twice per day.

Day Six.

TIMMINS / GOGAMA / SUDBURY / KILLARNEY

Killarney Provincial Park / Destination Canada – photo by Ben Jaworskyj

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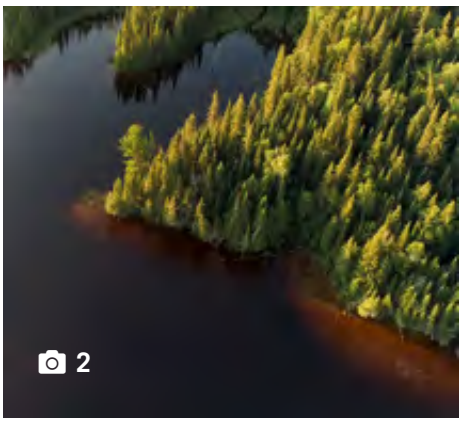
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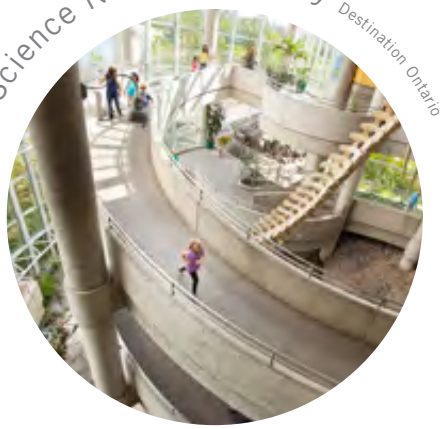
Science North – Sudbury Destination Ontario

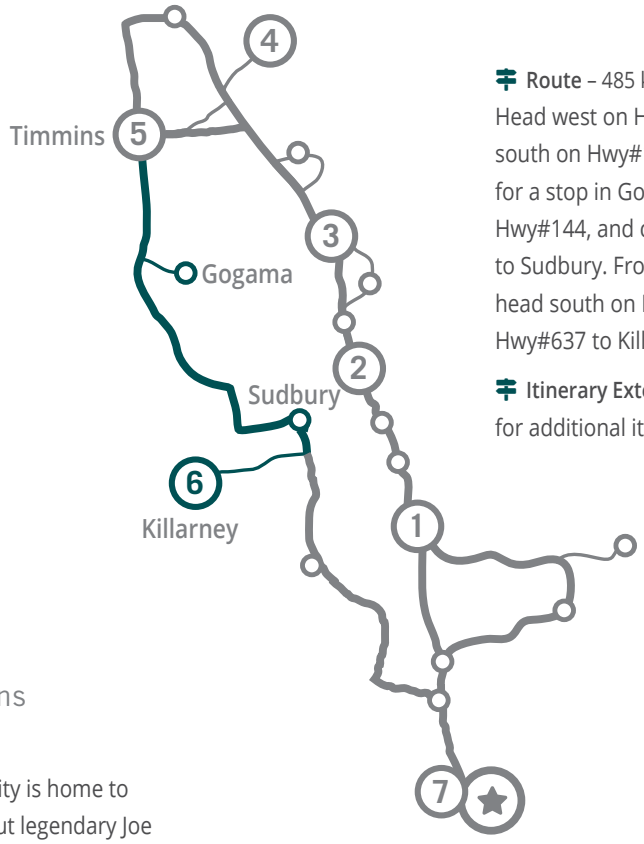


IMAGES

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



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.

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.
- **Point towards 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.

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.

Roche 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

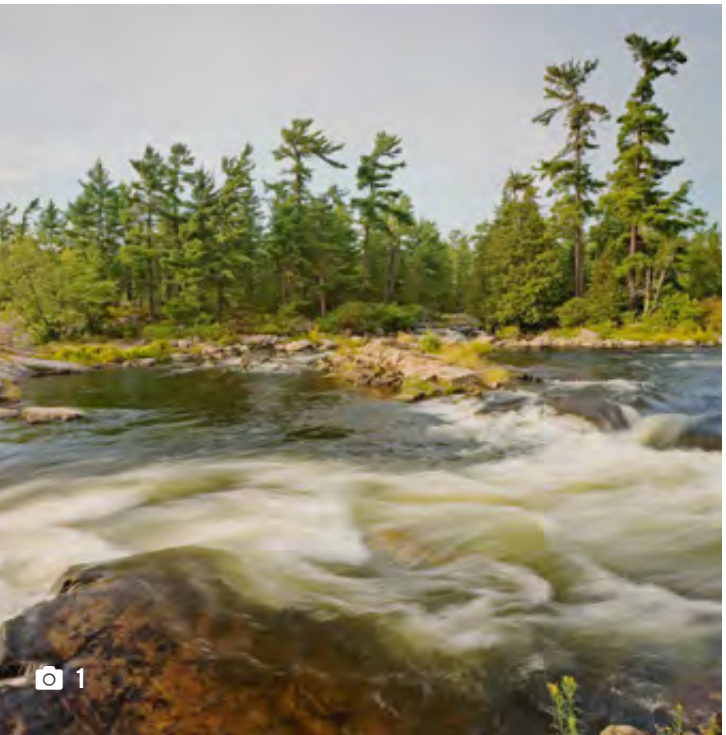
The Fur Trade Route. Head further west on Hwy #17 from Sudbury to connect with the Fur Trade Route to Sault Ste Marie and on toward the North Shore of Lake Superior (*see page #84*).

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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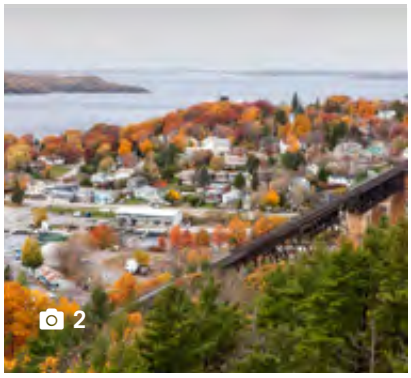
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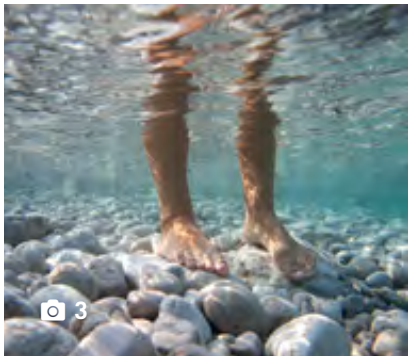
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IMAGES

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**

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.

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.

WHERE TO CAMP

Returning to RV rental stations. It is best to stay reasonably close to the rental station 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.

Connect to The Fur Trade Route.

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 route runs 700 km along Ontario's most northerly Trans Canada highway between Cochrane and Nipigon. The miles of muskeg and black spruce provide evidence of the back woods wilderness where moose abound. The history of the fur trade, lumbering and mining and railroading highlights the remoteness and ruggedness of survival in the Canadian north.

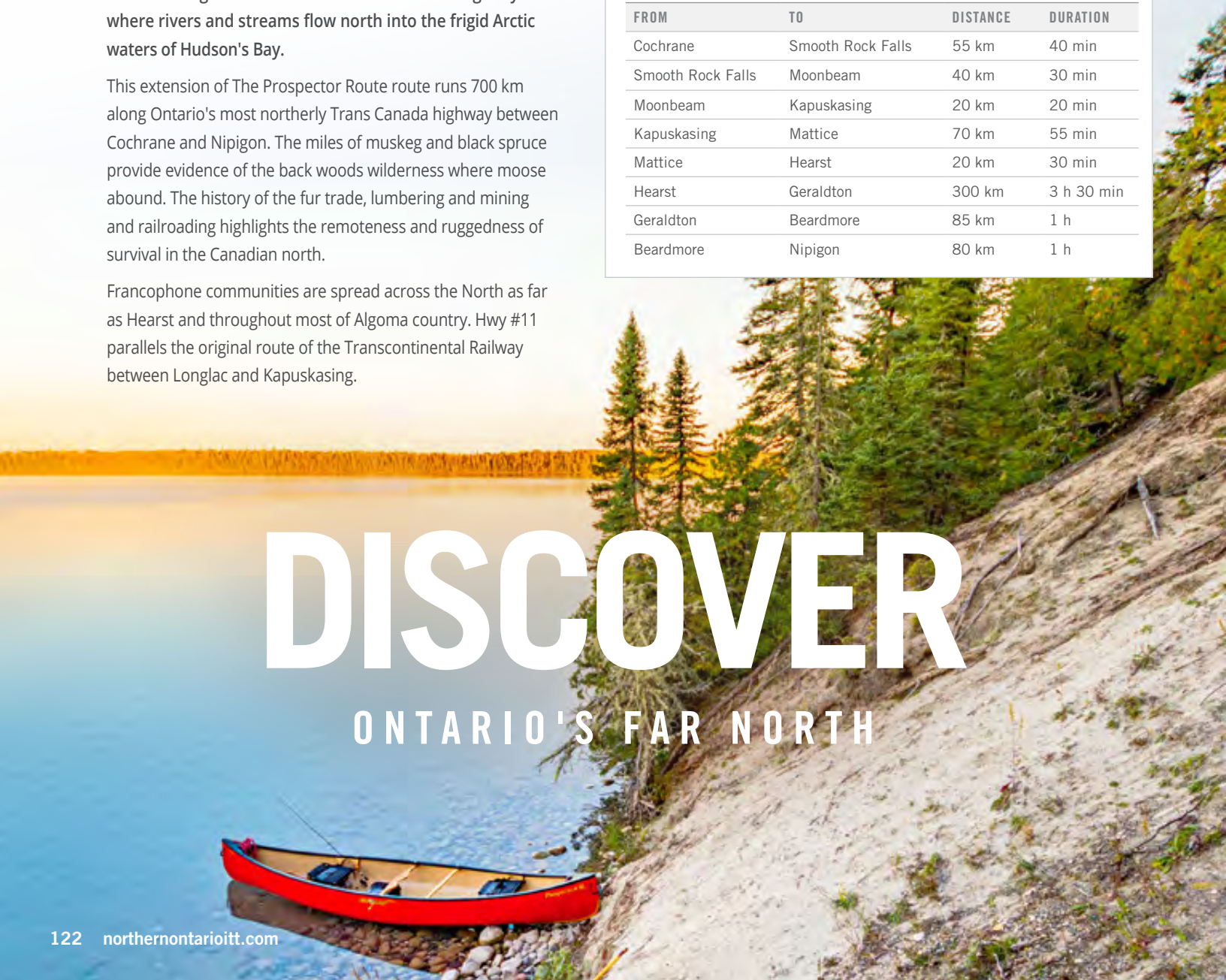
Francophone communities are spread across the North as far as Hearst and throughout most of Algoma country. Hwy #11 parallels the original route of the Transcontinental Railway between Longlac and Kapuskasing.

ITINERARY

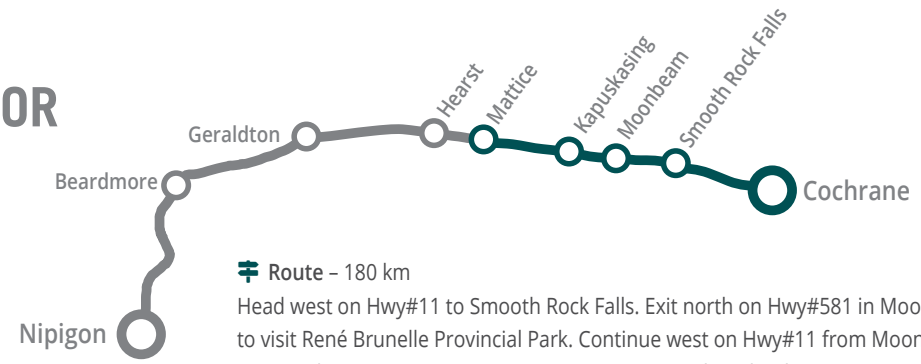
DAY 1 Cochrane to Mattice **DAY 2** Mattice to Nipigon

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 ROUTE



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.
- **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. Access point to René Brunelle Provincial Park.

René Brunelle Provincial Park. Located just 15 minutes outside of Moonbeam on Hwy#581. The park features four 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.
Services: Electrical. Laundry. Showers / flush toilets. Park store. Canoe rentals.

- **Kapuskasing.** Ron Morel Memorial Museum 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.** Located on the Missinaibi River, lies on a historic fur trading route that flows north into James Bay at Moosanee. A voyageur statue stands as a symbol of the importance of an extended wilderness canoe route to the interior. Designation as a Canadian Heritage River recognizes the Missinaibi as a national treasure. Townsfolk provide canoes and supplies where paddlers can set off to explore the famous waterway in the Canadian Shield.

WHERE TO CAMP

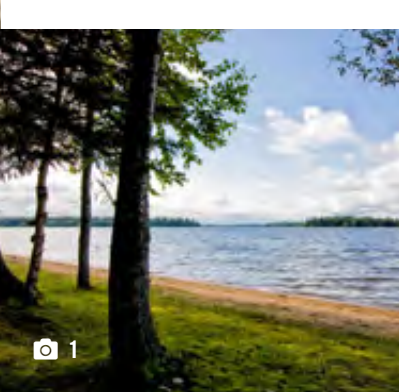
Where to camp near Mattice.

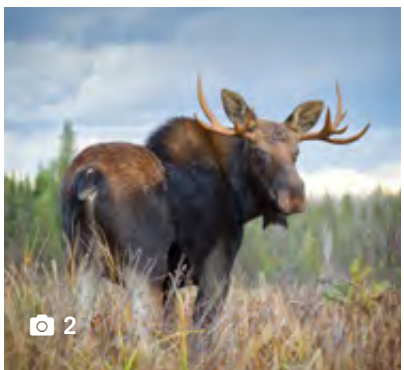
Twin Lakes Camping. Located off of Hwy 11 and just north of Moonbeam on Hwy 583. Water park on a sandy beach. **Services:** Full service sites with mobile sani.

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

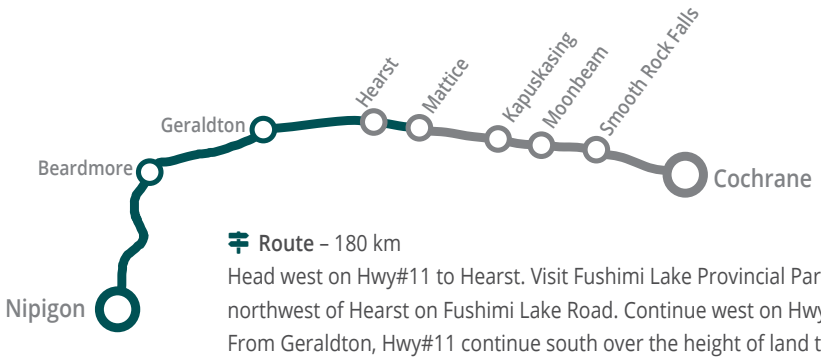
IMAGES

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





PROSPECTOR ROUTE



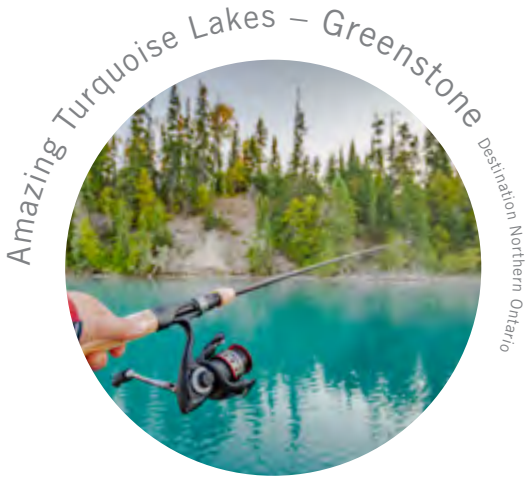
1. Mattice
2. Nipigon

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

Greenstone is made up of several communities and townships across an area of 3,172 sq. km. (1224 sq. mi.) making it one of the largest municipalities in Canada. This region is widely known for its vast wilderness, pristine rivers, lake and waterfalls, and world-class fishing, hunting, canoeing, and hiking.



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 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.

- **Geraldton.** The Geraldton Interpretive Centre describes history of the fur trade and mining activity in the region. Close to MacLeod Provincial Park.

Geraldton Interpretive Centre / Destination Ontario

Views from the Orient Palisades Trail / Destination Northern Ontario

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** is the "Gateway to Nipigon". 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.
- **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.
- **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 on a historic fur trade route.

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.

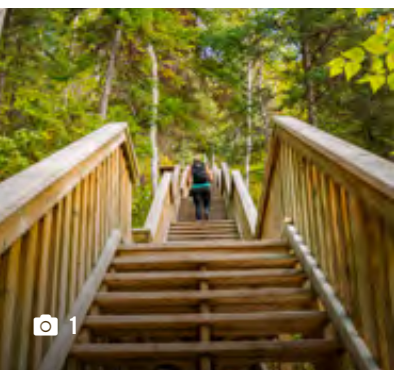
Veilleux Camping. Take #583 South of Hearst on #583 on Pivabiska Lake. **Services:** Store and Laundromat. Fully serviced sites. Mobile sani.

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



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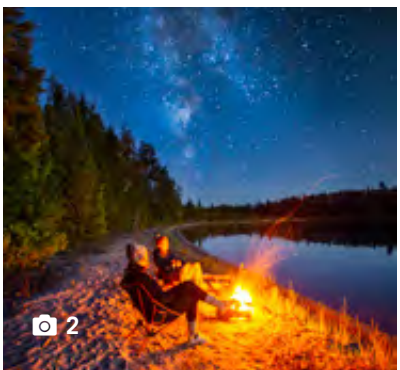

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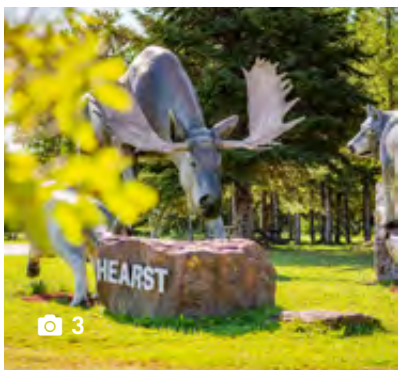

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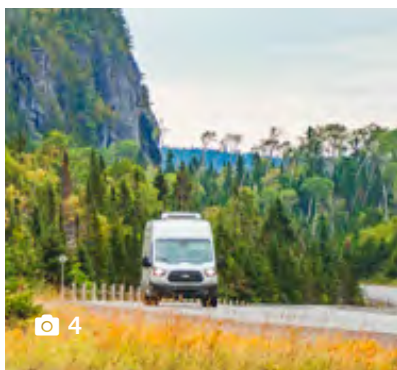

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THE HEART OF CANADA
TOURING • ROUTE

Discover the Heart of Canada.

NORTHWEST ONTARIO

Lake of the Woods / Destination Ontario

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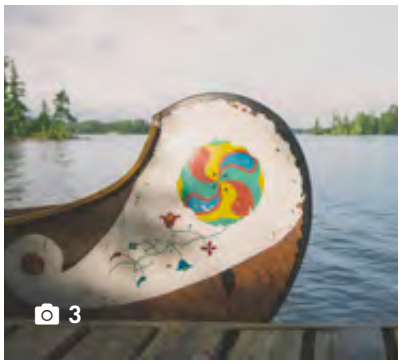
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A FLEXIBLE SELF-GUIDED ADVENTURE TOUR THROUGH NORTHWEST ONTARIO.

THE HEART OF CANADA TOURING • ROUTE

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14-DAY ADVENTURE TOUR

Discover the great boreal forest in the Heart of Canada.

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IMAGES

1 Outdoor adventures **2** Delicious local dishes **3** Historic & cultural experiences **4** Endless waterways

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