



CANADA SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Lake Huron Circle Tour

Enjoy the lively international flavours of Canada's biggest city before heading north into the rural heart of south central Ontario, a diverse landscape of islands, small towns and lakes to cruise. Learn about Aboriginal and Voyageur culture, fly in a bush plane, or explore nature on a wilderness walk.



- ① Toronto
- ② Barrie
- ① Big Chute
- ③ Parry Sound
- ④ French River
- ⑤ Sudbury
- ⑥ Gore Bay
- ⑦ M'Chigeeng
- ⑧ South Baymouth
- ⑨ Tobermory
- ⑩ Owen Sound
- ⑪ Collingwood
- ⑫ Wasaga Beach
- ⑬ Midland
- ⑭ Penetanguishene
- ① Toronto

Approx. distance =
660 mi (1063 km)
9 days

Start: DAY 1 – Toronto, Ontario

The Distillery District

Prowl through specialty shops, galleries, restaurants and cafes filling a warren of 40 heritage buildings and 10 streets within the old Gooderham and Worts Distillery, a downtown national historic site that is the biggest and best-preserved collection of Victorian Industrial Architecture in North America.

Multi-cultural Toronto

Diversity of race, religion and lifestyle help define Toronto. Journey down Little Italy's streets lined in trattorias and cafes that come to life at night. Greektown on the Danforth is North America's largest Greek neighborhood and features traditional cuisine and music. And Chinatown's market area of shops and eateries also includes the cultural offerings of Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

Toronto Islands

A car-free island community 10 minutes from downtown by ferry on Lake Ontario offers a quaint summer amusement park, paddleboats and bikes for rent, in-line skating paths and beaches with views of the city skyline. There are 1920s cottages with English gardens as well as lagoons and waterways designated as wilderness protection zones for ducks, swans and migratory birds. Don't miss the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse.

DAY 2

Travel north via Highway 400 for 59 mi (95 km) to Barrie, Ontario.

Barrie, Ontario

Barrie Boat Cruises

Spend an afternoon or evening cruising around Kempenfelt Bay on Lake Simcoe and see summer homes and local landmarks around the bay. Join a brunch, lunch or dinner cruise on the triple-deck, 265-passenger paddle wheeler, Serendipity Princes or charter a yacht for a private cruise.

The Arbraska Barrie Treetop Trekking Park

Fly through the trees on Ontario's longest zip line, 900 ft (275 m) of adrenaline rush. *Travel north on Highways 400 and 34 for 47 mi (76 km) to Big Chute.*

Big Chute, Ontario

Big Chute Marine Railway National Historic Site

Operating from May until October, the Trent-Severn Waterway meanders 240 mi (386 km) through south central Ontario from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay with 20 mi (32 km) of manmade channels and 45 locks. The Big Chute Marine Railway at Lock 44 is the only operational marine railway of its kind in North America, a virtual roller coaster that lifts vessels and their occupants 60 ft (18 m) between the Severn River and Gloucester Pool. *Travel north on Highway 400 for 49 mi (79 km) to Parry Sound. Overnight in Parry Sound.*



DAY 3

Parry Sound, Ontario

Island Queen Cruise

Take a morning or afternoon cruise on the 550-passenger Island Queen through the island and summer retreat-dotted landscapes of Georgian Bay. Travel into narrow channels to explore remote granite-sculpted islets and watch for birdlife.

Georgian Bay Airways Ltd.

Soar over Georgian Bay's 30,000 islands on a flight-seeing tour aboard a Found Bush Hawk or Cessna floatplane. Sign up for fly-in fishing trips, island hiking or take the "Fly & Dine" trip to remote "Henry's Fish Restaurant" on Frying Pan Island, a legendary spot for a pickerel or whitefish meal.

Bobby Orr Hall of Fame

Learn about the outstanding career of one of hockey's greatest players and learn how a small town kid became an international legend. To this day, hockey historians divide the game into two eras, "Before Bobby and After Bobby".

Festival of Sound

Celebrated annually for over 30 years, the July International Chamber Music Festival attracts musicians from around the globe. Chat with locals on the deck of the Stockey Centre while enjoying the music and the sunset. *Travel north on Highway 69 for 80 mi (129 km) to French River.*

French River, Ontario

French River Visitor's Centre

Creative exhibits tell the story of the French River from the time of early Aboriginals to the days of explorers, missionaries and voyageurs. Walk a trail to Recollet Falls for views over the French River Gorge from a suspension bridge. Then learn about traditional fishing methods, paddle to a Powwow, visit an Aboriginal artisan marketplace and cruise the route of the Voyageurs.

The French River Trading Post

For over 50 years, the Trading Post store has been a Canadiana treasure trove and part of the northern Ontario summer experience. Shop for handmade leather or moose hide moccasins, fleece or wool blankets and clothing. Enjoy a meal at the family-style restaurant. *Travel north on Highway 69 for 55 mi (88 km) to Sudbury. Overnight in Sudbury.*

DAY 4-5

Sudbury, Ontario

Science North

It's an interactive science museum in two snowflake-shaped buildings. Visit a dinosaur exhibition, join Bluecoat guides for daily live science demonstrations, get close to Northern Ontario wildlife on a lakeside boardwalk or take an interpretive cruise on nearby Lake Ramsey. Stroll among hundreds of free-flying tropical butterflies and experience flight in a floatplane in a 4D bush plane film adventure. Drop into the planetarium and Imax theatre.

Franco-Ontarian Culture

French speakers will enjoy Le Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario, a museum holding one of Canada's most renowned collections of traditional oral folk art and songs thanks to the work of Father Germain Lemieux. From October to May, Le Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario presents creative productions by Franco-Ontarian and Québécois playwrights and special cabaret performances.

Dynamic Earth

Open from March to October, journey seven stories below the Earth's surface via an innovative multi-media show that explores mining and geology and is projected on rock walls. Feel a simulated dynamite blast, get up-close to massive mining equipment and try your hand manipulating a remote-controlled rock breaker.

The Big Nickel

Sudbury's famous 30 ft (9 m) five-cent coin, a monument to the chemical element that made the city a major mining centre.

Anderson Farm Museum

On the site of one of the area's biggest dairies during the 1920s and 1930s, visitors can visit the farmhouse, barn and milk house of Finnish immigrants. Try weaving a rug on century-old traditional Finnish loom.



© Great Spirit Circle Trail

DAY 6

Travel south on Highways 17, 6 and 540 for 114 mi (183 km) to Gore Bay.

Gore Bay, Ontario

The Gore Bay Lighthouse (open to the public during July and August on specified days)

Was built in 1879 alongside a two-storey house; the square 25-ft (7 m) tall tower has an octagonal lantern room surrounded with a walkway. Inside, a modern beacon has replaced the Fresnel lens.

Gore Bay Summer Festival

A family-oriented outdoor musical event featuring local artists, a good place to mingle and chat with locals; held in July. *Travel south and east Highways 540B and 540 for 17 mi (30 km) to M'Chigeeng*

M'Chigeeng, Ontario

The Great Spirit Circle Trail

A chance to get up close to regional First Nations folks. Join in a traditional women's wellness retreat or take a nature walk with your native hosts. Retrace ancient canoe routes. Watch traditional dancing and taste local cuisine on the Paw Wow Trail, then spend the night in a tipi after listening to legends and stories. Shop for handmade arts in crafts in shops and galleries. *Travel east and south on Highways 542 and 6 to South Baymouth. Board the ferry to travel to Tobermory.*

South Baymouth, Ontario

Little Schoolhouse and Museum

Learn about local history in this artifact-filled pioneer one room school and museum that is a heritage building from the turn of the 20th century.

MS Chi'Cheemaun

Take a cruise on Georgian Bay on the biggest passenger/car vessel on the Great Lakes. Running between Tobermory and South Baymouth in less than two hours, "Big Canoe" passengers can learn about the region from Parks Canada experts on board. *Travel via the MS Chi'Cheemaun for 27 mi (44 km) to Tobermory, Ontario. Overnight in Tobermory.*

DAY 7

Tobermory, Ontario

Fathom Five Marine Park

Canada's first National Marine Park shelters over 20 shipwrecks and 19 islands. The deep clear water attracts 8,000 divers annually. Non-divers can take glass bottom boat tours several times a day to drift over the wrecks. There is also a lighthouse and walking trails. Enjoy a scenic cruise aboard the 96-passenger Blue Heron V, a 55 ft (17 m) vessel offering glass bottom viewing on cruises from Tobermory to Flowerpot Island.

Flower Pot Island

This 60 foot (18 meter) high, flowerpot shaped sea stack was created by pounding waves eroding its soft limestone base, leaving a harder dolomite top. Go ashore and explore the oddly shaped island that is 1 mile (1.6 km) wide and covers 495 ac (200 he), on well-marked hiking trails. *Travel south on Highway 6 for 67 mi (108 km) to Owen Sound.*

Owen Sound, Ontario

Billy Bishop Home and Museum

The birthplace of William Avery "Billy" Bishop, V.C., Canada's most famous WWI pilot. At 24 he became Britain's leading air ace, Commander of the first Canadian Air Force and one of our country's most decorated citizens during that conflict. In a hanger, the museum features artifacts from Canadians who fought in the air during both World Wars. *Open February to December.*

The Tom Thomson Art Gallery

Named for Canadian landscape artist Tom Thomson (1877-1917), a member of the iconic and internationally renowned Group of Seven, the gallery houses one of Canada's largest collections of his work. This regional public gallery has contemporary and historical exhibitions, lectures, films, concerts and workshops.

The Owen Sound Marine & Rail Museum

Housed in a former Canadian National Railway Station on the Owen Sound waterfront, this museum features scale models of ships, steamers, trains, a dugout canoe and much more. Open February to December.

Owen Sound's Black History

From 1830 to the end of the American Civil War, escaped slaves crossed the Canada-US, many heading for the village of Sydenham, the terminus of the Underground Railroad at Owens's Sound. See a commemorative cairn, join the annual July Emancipation Picnic, take a Black History Driving Tour throughout town and drop in at the Grey Roots Heritage and Visitor's Centre for their "From Slavery to Freedom" exhibit. *Travel east via Highway 26 for 39 mi (63 km) to Collingwood. Overnight in Collingwood.*

DAY 8

Collingwood, Ontario

Scandinave Spa™ Blue Mountain

Relax in a Finnish sauna or Norwegian steam bath. Stand beneath a warm Nordic waterfall and enjoy alternating hot soaks and cold plunges, traditional Scandinavian treatments to cleanse and rejuvenate. Then relax beside an outdoor fireplace.

Scenic Caves Nature Adventures

Take a self-guided tour of caves, caverns and lookouts on the Niagara Escarpment's highest point. Cross Ontario's longest suspension footbridge, swaying above views across Georgian Bay. Climb into the treetops 40 ft (12 m) above the ground on a network of platforms, then fly out of the forest canopy by zipping on a cable. *Open May to October.*

Collingwood Classic Aircraft Foundation Aviation Museum

A collection of vintage aircraft at the Collingwood Airport includes the Canadian-made deHavilland Tiger Moth and the Fleet Canuck. The tiny Smith Miniplane is an American bi-plane and there is a classic Stinson 105 like the ones Howard Hughes and Jimmy Stewart owned.

Sheffield Park Black History and Cultural Museum

With artifacts like actual slave chains, learn about the challenges facing Ontario's black pioneers and the "Underground Railroad" that helped them reach freedom. Open May to October. *Travel east on Highway 26 for 13 mi (21 km) to Wasaga Beach.*

Wasaga Beach, Ontario

Wasaga Beach Provincial Park

Stroll the shores of Nottawasaga Bay's 8 mi (14 km) of white sand beach, swim in warm waters and enjoy panoramic mountain views.

Nancy Island

This island was formed when the schooner HMS Nancy, that took part in the War of 1812, sank. Her hull was lodged in the Nottawasaga River creating an obstruction that collected silt. A museum displays the original hull and there are daily tours to the island where a "Jazz in the Park" festival is held in July.

DAY 9

Travel north and east on County Roads 60 and 25 for 21 mi (34 km) to Midland

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons

A recreated, 17th century French mission where Jesuit lived and worked among the Wendat First Nations. See early pioneer life on guided or self-guided visits and learn about the introduction of Christianity into Aboriginal culture.

Martyrs' Shrine

A Roman Catholic Church honoring the memory of Jesuit martyrs from France who arrived over 350 years ago to plant the roots of Christianity. The interior, with its relics and stations of the cross, has the feel of entering a 17th century Huron longhouse. Open from mid-May to early October.

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre

Canoe through marshlands or take a guided walk in the woods with an Outdoor Educator to spot birds, beavers, porcupine, mink and river otter. Watch for turtles, frogs and snakes on warm summer days.

The Murals of Downtown Midland

Seek out 34 historic murals in downtown Midland including North America's largest, painted on grain silos in Midland Harbour depicting a Huron native and Jesuit priest of the 1640s. *Travel on Yonge Street and Penetanguishene Roads for 5 mi (8 km) to Penetanguishene.*

Penetanguishene, Ontario

Discovery Harbour

Travel back to 19th century Royal Navy sailing days on Penetanguishene Bay aboard replicas of two schooners. Stroll harbor boardwalks, dine at a waterside restaurant and visit the King's Wharf Theatre's lighthearted summer entertainment.

Penetanguishene 30,000 Island Cruises

Enjoy a cruise on the Georgian Queen, once a WWII warship in the Royal Canadian Navy, and see lighthouses, shipwreck sites and historic landmarks amid the island- studded waters while enjoying a lively commentary by the ship's captain. *Travel south Highway 93 and 400 for 65 mi (105 km) to Toronto. Check into Pearson International Airport for your flight home or extend yourstay in the Toronto area.*

End of tour!

