

# GREAT CANADIAN RV TRIPS



**Coast to coast to coast, there's much to experience and explore across Canada. Hop into an RV to experience this vast country of ours, where you'll discover postcard-worthy provincial parks and visit UNESCO World Heritage sites. With help from our friends at CanaDream and Go RVing, we highlight five routes that allow you to choose your own adventure, whether it's driving out west or visiting a regional gem closer to home.**

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PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID NELLER/STOCKY



Before you set off on your RV trip, be sure to check what's open and what the travel advisories are for each province. Also check what the health and safety protocols are for the campsites, attractions, tour operators and restaurants you plan to visit to ensure that they are open and if you need to book tickets or a time slot in advance.

WESTERN CANADA

# SCENIC VIEWS FROM TOFINO TO BANFF

THE DRIVE

Vancouver to Calgary

RECOMMENDED TIME

14 days

BEST SEASON TO GO

Spring



Clockwise from top: hike through Larch Valley in Banff National Park; tuck in to fresh fish tacos from Tacofino; cycle around the Kicking Horse Campground at Yoho National Park

**SILVIA BAUMANN**, a Torontonion who drove with her husband and two young teens through Vancouver Island, mainland B.C. and parts of Alberta, says that driving an RV through the mountains can take longer than you might expect. "Plan to be flexible with each destination and enjoy whatever the road brings," she says.

Baumann's family picked up their CanaDream RV rental in Vancouver and then took the ferry to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island before beginning their drive to Tofino. Although it's only about three hours if you drive straight, there is great hiking and beautiful views along an often windy route. Once in Tofino, there's more great hiking, including the popular Rainforest Trail in Pacific Rim National Park in the Tofino-Ucluelet area. Reward yourself with tacos at Tacofino and a kelp stout at the nearby Tofino Brewing Co. While you're there, book a whale-watching excursion or try surfing.

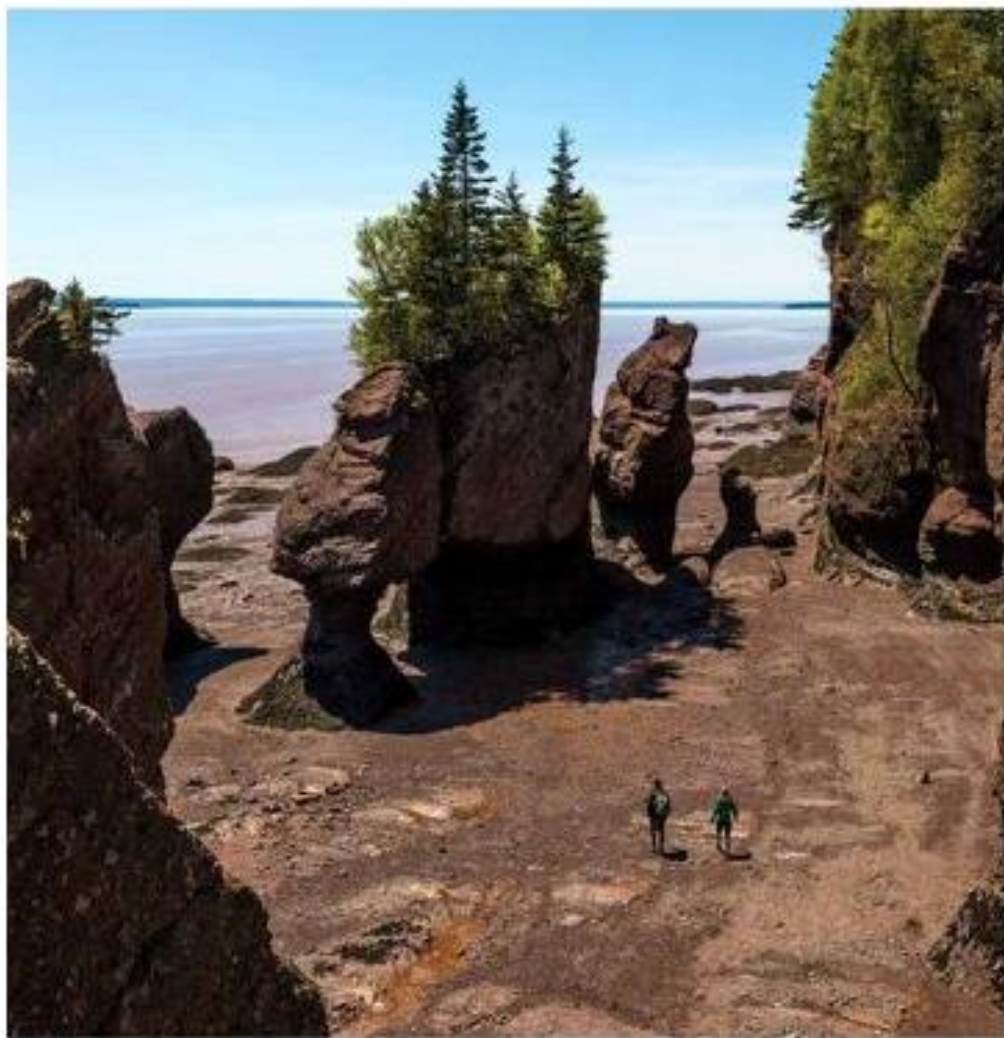
After retracing your steps back by road and ferry to Vancouver, start your overland portion of the trip. Head northeast to Whistler and then on to Lillooet, where you can stay overnight at Fraser Cove Campground and Guest Cabin. This

area is ideal for sturgeon fishing and panning for gold. Book the six-hour gold-panning tour from River Monster Adventures, which includes a jet boat ride and picnic. It's sure to be a hit with the kids, even those as young as three.

Next, drive northeast toward Yoho National Park, Banff National Park and Lake Louise. The bigger national parks offer guided conservation hikes, as well as fun learning experiences for the kids, like what to do if you encounter a bear and how to identify wildlife. It's a beautiful place where every hike seems to end at a waterfall, and every lunch takes place at a picnic table overlooking mountains or a lake.

Plan your trip to end in Calgary. While you're there, visit the Calgary Tower to get a 360-degree view of the city from its observation deck.





From left: walk out to Hopewell Rocks while the Bay of Fundy is at low tide; the charming Murray Harbour in Prince Edward Island; mini-putt at Sandspit Amusement Park



#### ATLANTIC CANADA

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN

#### THE DRIVE

Quebec City to Charlottetown

#### RECOMMENDED TIME

Seven to 10 days

#### BEST SEASON TO GO

Summer



**CANADA'S EASTERN PROVINCES** should be on your bucket list for great campgrounds, scenic drives—the Cabot Trail being just one—and lots of kid-tastic activities.

This RV route extends from Quebec through to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. From Quebec City, drive to Rivière-du-Loup and then into New Brunswick, where you can go tubing down the Nashwaak River in the west-central part of the province; explore Hopewell Rocks, where you can see the Bay of Fundy at the highest tide and then return later to walk on the ocean floor at low tide; and visit the city of Dieppe with its European-style downtown, its market, beaches and parks.

When you're in Nova Scotia, be sure to spend at least a night at the Wild Nature Campground in Shubenacadie. Friendly staff make this a welcoming place for families. There is even a little pond where the kids can feed the turtles and fish.

Crossing into P.E.I. via the Confederation Bridge, which is a two-lane toll bridge

between Borden-Carleton, P.E.I., and Cape Jourimain, New Brunswick, was Angela Carter and family's favourite part of their recent RV trip. They loved P.E.I.'s beautiful sandy beaches and red cliffs; overnights in places like Cavendish Campground in Prince Edward National Park; low-key family fun at the Sandspit Amusement Park; and excellent seafood restaurants, such as the Wheelhouse in Georgetown. They also found some unexpected little gems, like exploring Murray Harbour, a quaint fishing village in the southeastern corner of the province, and taking photos at Blue Rocks in the Lunenburg region. ▷

## DESTINATIONS

Clockwise from right: experience the spray from the Horseshoe Falls in Niagara Falls; stay in an oTENTik at Point Pelee National Park; spot some rare bird species at Rondeau Provincial Park



Go to [caamagazine.ca](http://caamagazine.ca) to read about buying vs renting an RV

### SOUTHERN ONTARIO

## NORTH SHORE OF LAKE ERIE

### THE DRIVE

Toronto to Point Pelee/Pelee Island

### RECOMMENDED TIME

Five days (seven days including Pelee Island)

### BEST SEASON TO GO

Spring



**KATHRYN MUNRO**, CanaDream's director of international sales and marketing, notes that this route is a favourite of birdwatchers in the springtime. The trip starts in Toronto, with the first stop in Niagara Falls, where cascades of water plummet 57 metres to the ground below. You'll head towards Fort Erie next and continue westward through pretty beach suburbs to Port Colborne. Continue along the north shore of Lake Erie to Rock Point Provincial Park and on to Long Point Provincial Park. Although there's only a 1.5-hour drive between these two parks, you'll pass Port Dover and Port Rowan, a quaint lakeside town where you can stop for ice cream and antiques. Once at Long Point Provincial Park, plan to spend the night to enjoy its magical 1.5 km stretch of sandy beach.

From there you can head inland via Highway 401 en route to Point Pelee National Park. Visit the park for the day to do some birdwatching, or stay onsite at one of the park's 24 oTENTiks—be sure to book well in advance—which are permanent shelters that are a cross between a tent and a cabin. A prettier and more leisurely route to follow is the Coastal Route—a route that isn't actually on the coast, despite its name.



If you want to enjoy a round of golf at the nearby 18-hole course at Kettle Creek Golf and Country Club or the 12-hole Bluffs Golf Club overlooking Lake Erie, plan to spend a night at the Kettle Creek Inn in Port Stanley. The next stop is Rondeau Provincial Park and Point Pelee National Park, which is 1.5 hours away. Both are a bird lover's paradise during the spring migration. Point Pelee is also the most southern point of mainland Canada; plan to spend a night at Point Pelee National Park Campground.

Time permitting, take the ferry from Leamington to Pelee Island. (Check [ontarioferries.com](http://ontarioferries.com) for boat times.) The island is well known for its beaches and cycling routes.



## ONTARIO

# CANADIAN CANOE ROUTE

### THE DRIVE

A loop beginning and ending in Toronto

### RECOMMENDED TIME

Nine days

### BEST SEASON TO GO

Summer



**THIS HISTORIC TRIP** follows canoe routes that early explorers once traversed and includes the Rideau Heritage Route. "It's a nice bit of Canadian history," CanaDream's Munro says. Drive from Toronto to Peterborough, then continue north to Madawaska Kanu Centre, where you can book a family whitewater rafting trip. From there, continue along the Canadian Canoe Route, ending up at OWL Rafting, a waterfront resort where you can park your RV and do a full whitewater rafting trip on the Ottawa River. In Ottawa, stay overnight at the Wesley Clover Parks Campground before beginning the Rideau Heritage Route portion of your trip.

The Rideau Heritage Route is a UNESCO World Heritage site where the Rideau Canal links lakes and rivers with hand-operated locks. Explore some of the pretty historic villages, towns and cities in the area, such as Merrickville, Perth, Newboro and Westport, where you can go for a hike and picnic on nearby Foley Mountain. Head to Chaffey's Lock next and rent a canoe or kayak, or arrange for a guided paddle through Rideau Tours.

Gananoque, a beautiful town on the shores of the St. Lawrence River, is 35 minutes away and the gateway to the Thousand Islands. Stay at the 1000 Islands Ivy Lea KOA campsite. Take a guided kayaking tour with 1000 Islands Kayaking, a scenic flight with 1000 Islands Helicopter Tours or a cruise with Gananoque Boat Line. Then drive to Kingston and back to Toronto. ▷

*Clockwise from top: this portion of the trip paddles through historic villages and towns as part of the Rideau Heritage Route; discover the grandeur of the St. Lawrence River with 1000 Islands Helicopter Tours*



## HOW CAA CAN HELP



Whether you're planning a cross-country road trip or one that's closer to home, CAA has ideas to share. Visit [caasco.com/plantravel](https://caasco.com/plantravel)

to get in touch with a travel consultant who can help you create an RV trip to remember. Andrea Gonzalez, a CAA travel consultant, says that Members she has worked with love the RV experience and find it a comfortable way to see the country, particularly given Covid-19 and travel restrictions.

Gonzalez points out that it's important to budget for some amenities that aren't included in an RV rental—such as toasters, coffee makers and utensils—so you aren't surprised when you pick up your rental.



If you'll be going out of province, ask about CAA Travel Insurance plans that cover you along the way. Go to [caasco.com/explore-canada](https://caasco.com/explore-canada) for a quote today. Plus, CAA Members save 10% on travel insurance.



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Don't have your own RV? CAA Members get 10% off the vehicle charge of RV rentals with CanaDream when they book from Feb. 1 to March 15, 2021, and get 5% off the vehicle charge for bookings made after March 15\*. Go to [caasco.com/rewardpartners](https://caasco.com/rewardpartners) for details.



And before you head out, download the CAA Mobile App at [caasco.com/app](https://caasco.com/app) to track your roadside assistance service calls and to find great offers from CAA Rewards partners.

\*Limited-time offer for bookings made February 1 to March 15, 2021, for travel April 1 to December 31, 2021. Conditions apply.

NORTHERN ONTARIO

# LAKE SUPERIOR CIRCLE TO BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK

**THE DRIVE**

Thunder Bay to Toronto

**RECOMMENDED TIME**

Seven to 10 days

**BEST SEASON TO GO**

Fall



**THIS POPULAR ROUTE** has something for everyone, says Go RVing Canada's president, Chris Mahony—from off-the-beaten-path exploring on Manitoulin Island to big city sightseeing in Toronto—with something for foodies to enjoy at each stop along the way.

Begin in Thunder Bay, where you can see an incredible rock formation known as the Sleeping Giant. Visit the impressive Kakabeka Falls and the Ouimet Canyon. Eat Finnish pancakes, which attest to the large Finnish population in the area, and try a local delicacy: the Persian Roll, a fried oval-shaped pastry that's topped with pink berry frosting.

From Thunder Bay, drive along the north shore of Lake Superior to Pukaskwa National Park, and then do the scenic drive to Lake Superior Provincial Park. From there, travel about five hours to the Little Current Swing Bridge, which takes you onto Manitoulin Island.

You can easily spend a couple of days on Manitoulin, one of the largest freshwater islands in the world. Enjoy a hike amidst the fall foliage, explore numerous lighthouses and take in the rich Indigenous culture. Leave via the Chi-Cheemaun ferry en route to Tobermory on the northern tip of the Bruce Peninsula—but

be sure to book your ferry tickets ahead of time. Stay at the Cyprus Lake campground in Bruce Peninsula National Park, which is one of the province's busiest parks, so be sure to book your spot well in advance to avoid disappointment. Use the park as a base for some hiking or a boat tour aboard Tobermory Wave Adventures to see the famous Flowerpot Island and the Grotto.

Make your way down the peninsula, stopping to explore Sauble Beach on the shores of Lake Huron and nearby Wiarton, with an overnight at Bluewater Park Campground. Then drive to Owen Sound on the south shore of Georgian Bay and on to the Blue Mountains and Collingwood. Spend the night at the waterfront campground at Craigeith Provincial Park, and from there enjoy Wasaga Beach, just 40 minutes away, before heading to Toronto. **CAA**



Clockwise from top: visit Tobermory's spectacular Flowerpot Island; six Anishinaabe First Nations call Manitoulin Island home; Kakabeka Falls is the second-highest waterfall in Ontario that is accessible year-round

