



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Where to go Wild in Ontario

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE CAMPING SEASON IN ONTARIO, THE NEED TO POP YOUR TENT IN THE WOODS HAS CLIMAXED, AND NOW IT'S JUST THE QUESTION OF WHERE? Sure you can head off to your habitual camping spots, but why? Ontario is bursting with wild places waiting for you to explore, here are a few:



BRUCE PENINSULA
Venture off the beaten path completely. Flower Pot Island, part of Fathom Five National Park, offers a limited number of tent sites for those seeking that remote island lifestyle. Catch a scenic boat tour from the Tobermory harbour, located at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, and once on the island it is a short hike to a private tent platform. Be sure to bring all gear, because once the boat leaves it's a long swim back to Tobermory.

For those wishing to camp close to their vehicle, try the nearby Cyprus Lake campground. Part of Bruce Peninsula National Park, Cyprus Lake is an excellent base camp for exploring the area. Hike to the Georgian Bay shoreline for spectacular views, huge cliffs and the Grotto - an ancient sea cave. This hike will also hook you up with the Bruce Trail, which runs the entire length of the Niagara Escarpment from Tobermory to Niagara Falls.

SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY
Two parks dominate the south eastern corner of Georgian Bay: Awenda Provincial Park and Georgian Bay Islands National Park.

Awenda, just minutes north of Midland, has a great beach front along Georgian Bay and watersports are definitely the highlight. But for others it's the ability to go back in time: Awenda is close to Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene and Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland.

For the more adventurous boating crowd head due east and you'll come ashore on Georgian Bay Islands National Park.

Accessible only by water, all of the park's tent camping sites are on islands. The park also offers the DayTripper boat to shuttle you to the island. Don't have camping gear? Georgian Bay Islands just introduced an all inclusive camping experience that all equipment and activities, from pick-up in Honey Harbour and pre-assembled luxury tents to guided hikes, canoeing and campfires.

URBAN WILDERNESS
Short on time or the prospect of camping in complete wilderness just a little too daunting?

Conservation Halton has more than 10,000 acres of natural parkland; six primary parks with well developed facilities for recreation and camping, including more than 100 km of hiking and biking trails through spectacular forests and Niagara Escarpment lands.

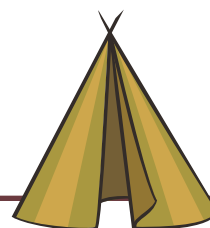
BEYOND ALGONQUIN
It's tough to think of a better park in Ontario to experience that quintessential canoe trip than Algonquin. But that is the very reason

many seek an alternative. Just a hop, skip and a jump north of Kingston, Frontenac Provincial Park provides the perfect near-wilderness many time-starved adventurers seek. Its campsites are all set in the interior, in clusters made up of two to four tent areas. With a maze of portages and hiking trails interconnecting throughout Frontenac, the park can be explored by both paddlers and backpackers.

RIVER GLORY
Set in one of Ontario's most captivating landscapes, the French River is a paddler's dream come true. This accessible waterway provides the perfect getaway for both canoeists and kayakers. But it's not just about the scenery. There's also an intriguing sense of history that draws visitors to the French River. Travelling it today produces a kinship with explorers and the legendary voyageurs.

Beyond camping there are also a few lodges along the French, which blend the wilderness and modern day comforts nicely. Spend your days exploring, but retire each night to a warm shower and comfy bed.

www.pc.gc.ca
www.conservationhalton.on.ca/
www.ontarioparks.com
www.frenchriver.com



89 PER CENT
THE NUMBER OF CANADIANS WHO HAVE BEEN CAMPING AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIVES.

2009 ANGUS REID SURVEY