

ONTARIO EDUCATIONAL – October 2014

I have just returned from a working visit to Ontario and my experiences have opened my eyes to an exciting holiday destination you should be considering if you want to look at something different to The Rockies.

Ontario is four and a half times the size of the UK. However, within a three hour radius of Toronto you can experience a provincial “best of taster” including Victorian towns, vineyards and wilderness.

Discover the wines of The Niagara Peninsula, the picturesque village of Niagara-on-the-lake, marvel at Niagara Falls. Discover Muskoka and Blue Mountain, where Canadians have enjoyed the great outdoors for generations. Explore the 1000 Islands and historic Kingston. Cruise along the Rideau Canal, visit Byward Market and see the changing of the guard at the parliament buildings in Ottawa. Enjoy Cosmopolitan Toronto with its many restaurants and theatres and the view from the CN Tower.

My personal recommendation for a 14 night fly drive holiday

Day 1: Arrive Toronto

Collect your hire car and stay overnight to experience this ethnically diverse city.

1 Night

Day2: Today take a leisurely drive along the shores of Lake Ontario to Niagara-on-the-Lake, a beautiful town full of parks and gardens. The town was placed second in the competition for “prettiest town in the world”. Personally, I would prefer to stay at Niagara on the lake which is very quaint and drive into the falls.

Drive 83 miles.

2 Nights

Day 3: Spend the day exploring Niagara Falls.



The Falls are one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Take a Hornblower Cruise for a thrilling boat ride to the very foot of the falls and a helicopter ride over the falls to see the region from a completely different perspective. My opinion is that the cruise gives the best experience if budget is an issue.

If you choose to stay at the Falls itself only book the Canadian side and I would only book The Sheraton in a falls view room if staying at The falls. The views are magnificent.

Day 4: Leave Niagara on the Lake and head North towards Georgian Bay. Your destination is Blue Mountain Resort.



This is one of the province's most popular ski resorts, it does not rival The Rockies but is very well organised and good for children and beginners.

In the Summer time the resort offers a great recreational experience with hiking, biking, tennis and golf. There are also outdoor heated pools with hot tubs at the Hotels. There is an open air gondola to the top of the mountain that also carries bikes. The ridge runner mountain coaster is a fun way to descend. Zip wiring, free falling and low ropes are all available. The village itself is lively and has plenty of shops, restaurants, bars and nightlife.

The accommodation choice is plentiful and 2 and 3 bedroom suites with full kitchens are great for families.

3 Nights.

Drive 158 miles.

The Scandinavian Spa is a short drive from the mountain and is a great place for adults to unwind.

Day 7: Travel East into the magnificent Muskoka Country.



This is Canadian Wilderness, the scenery is magnificent and in the fall would rival New England. There are many activities available on the lakes and in the surrounding countryside. However, this is a place to relax and enjoy nature at its best.

Drive 124 Miles.

3 Nights.

Day 10: Head East into Algonquin Provincial Park. Take your time and enjoy the scenery and visit the interpretation centre. Continue to Ottawa.

Drive 185 Miles.

2 Nights.

Day 11: Ottawa is Canada's capital city and has many interesting sights including the Houses of Parliament, The Bytown Museum and the Canadian Museum of history. A cruise on the Rideau Canal will highlight points of interest.



Day 12: Head South towards the 1000 Islands. Along the way stop in at Upper Canada Village along the shore of the St Lawrence River, to view this living history museum of early life in Canada.

Drive 175 Miles.

Kingston 2 Nights

Day 13: Today take a cruise through the 1000 Islands, this is where the famous dressing was invented.



The native people called this region the “garden of the Great Spirit”. Stroll the streets of Kingston and visit city hall and explore the historic limestone buildings.

Day 14: Back to Toronto today.



Toronto is a very cosmopolitan city with many museums, theatres and restaurants. It is very safe and easy to get around. It has great shopping which is mostly underground so even when the weather is cold you can enjoy it. A visit to the CN Tower is a must and I would definitely recommend booking lunch in the revolving restaurant as this has the best views and is very inexpensive when compared to the admission charge.

Drive 162 miles.

1 Night.

In summary I would say this area is ideal for people who are active and enjoy the outdoors, there are many activities available and the scenery is spectacular. Families with sporty children would enjoy everything that is on offer in this region as well as some history and culture.