

Sample RV Itinerary

Canada off the beaten track:
Natural treasures in Northern Manitoba

MANITOBA
CANADA'S HEART IS CALLING



Trip length: 20 days from/to Winnipeg

Distance: approx. 2,380 km

With lodging and campground suggestions

Explore Canada off the beaten track and discover the secrets of Northern Manitoba! The journey takes you from the multicultural provincial capital of Winnipeg to the untouched wilderness of the province's North. With its crystal-clear lakes and rushing waterfalls, it is the perfect place for travellers searching wilderness and adventure.

Day 1: Arrival in Winnipeg

Welcome to Winnipeg, the capital of the Canadian prairie province! Numerous cultural sights await in Winnipeg's city centre, such as the **Manitoba Legislative Building** – a magnificent neoclassical architectural building that holds many well-kept secrets.

Suggested accommodation: [Inn at the Forks](#), [Mere Hotel](#), [alt Hotel](#), [The Fort Garry Hotel](#)

Day 2 & 3: Winnipeg

Take your time to visit the city's sights, such as the French quarter of **St. Boniface**, the historic **Exchange District**, **The Forks National Historic Site**, the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights** and, last but not least, **QAUMAJUQ**, the world's largest public collection of contemporary and traditional Inuit art in the Winnipeg Art Gallery. In Assiniboine Park, you can watch polar bears swimming in the zoo's "**Journey to Churchill**" exhibition or admire the landscape of **Canada's Diversity Gardens** and **The Leaf**. Finally, indulge in culinary delights in the city's many restaurants – Winnipeg is also home to one of the few Indigenous restaurants in Canada, the **Feast Café Bistro**.

Day 4: Drive from Winnipeg to Riding Mountain National Park (approx. 300 km)

Today you will drive to Lockport to pick up your motorhome from Styling's RV. Your adventure will take you to **Riding Mountain National Park**. The park rises out of the flat prairie landscape in south-west Manitoba like a huge green mountain island. A wide variety of **outdoor activities** give you the opportunity to get to embrace the nature of Riding Mountain National Park. Cycling, canoeing, horseback riding or hiking – there is something for everyone here. Stop into the visitor centre in the townsite of Wasagaming, to check out Parks Canada's current program offerings.

Campground suggestion: [Wasagaming Campground](#) – bookable [here](#)

Day 5: Riding Mountain National Park

Due to its unique location, with various ecosystems, Riding Mountain National Park is home to numerous **wildlife viewing** opportunities. The park's herd of about 40 **prairie bison** live in a huge open enclosure near Lake Audy and can often be observed directly from the car. If you are out and about in the early morning or just before dusk, you have the best chance of an encounter. Let's head out on a **bison photo safari!**

Day 6: Drive from Riding Mountain National Park to Duck Mountain Provincial Park (approx. 200 km)

Leaving Riding Mountain National Park to the north, you will drive to **Duck Mountain Provincial Park** today. At a height of 831.2 metres, the park's **Baldy Mountain** is the highest mountain in Manitoba. If you don't feel like hiking, you can even "conquer" it by car. An **observation tower** offers a wonderful view of the surrounding spruce forests.

Campground suggestion: [Wellman Lake Campground](#) – bookable [here](#)

Day 7: Duck Mountain Provincial Park

Duck Mountain Provincial Park is home to **moose, black bears, foxes, lynx, coyotes, timber wolves** and **white-tailed deer**. Numerous **bird species** also nest in the park's forests and marshlands. There are over 30 kilometers of hiking trails for every experience level. You never know, you might even meet a new friend on the trail, like a resident moose! Enjoy a peaceful day surrounded by the beauty of the Boreal Shield.

Day 8: Drive from Duck Mountain Provincial Park to Clearwater Lake Provincial Park (approx. 330 km)

Today you continue north and reach the small town of Swan River. Just outside of the town is **Magnetic Hill** – a magnetised hill, that will pull your car uphill at idle speed. Visit **Swan Valley Historical Museum** offering fascinating information about the early days of settlement and insights to the history of the local timber industry and agriculture.

As you head onwards, there are plenty of opportunities to stop for photos in the rocky and lake-filled landscapes of the Boreal Shield. Stop at a small shop in the town of **Dawson Bay** on the shores of Lake Winnipegosis for Indigenous handicrafts.

Next stop is **The Pas** with its impressive **murals**. The large murals are popular photo spots, as is the huge trapper statue on the southern edge of the town. The **Sam Waller Museum** offers exhibits from days long ago, while a visit to **Round the Bend Farm** will give you an idea of the way a family-run farm works. Meet the farm animals, including the farm's own bred bison, and stock up on home-grown produce such as honey, eggs and meat.

20 kilometres north of The Pas you finally reach today's destination: **Clearwater Lake Provincial Park**. With its crystal-clear waters (you can see to depths of up to 30 ft) and tropical blue hue, it's hard to resist the beauty of this spring-fed lake. **The Caves** – a short 1.5 kilometre- hike tucked among rock crevices along the shores of Clearwater Lake – is a hidden oasis teeming with moss-covered rocks, ferns, shrubs and trees. It's a trail like nowhere else in the province!

Campground suggestion: [Campers Cove Campground](#) – bookable [here](#)

Day 9: Drive from Clearwater Lake Provincial Park to Bakers Narrows Provincial Park (*approx. 160 km*)

Take a detour to **Flin Flon** today, a mining town built up on rock outcrop. The landscape of this hilly town can be best seen with a hike along **Flinty's Boardwalk**. The 4.2-kilometre trek brings you around the perimeter of Ross Lake with spectacular views and interpretive signage that explains how the rock below was formed by volcanic rocks that erupted underwater millions of years ago. It ends with a steep climb atop the orange rocks with a lovely vista of the town.

You leave Flin Flon to the south and reach **Cranberry Portage Heritage Museum** in Cranberry Portage, which vividly illustrates the settlement history of the area.

You will call **Bakers Narrows Provincial Park**, home for the evening.

Campground suggestion: [Bakers Narrows Campground](#) – bookable [here](#)

Day 10: Drive from Bakers Narrows Provincial Park to the Sasagiu Rapids (*approx. 350 km*)

Today you follow the wild course of the Grass River eastwards and reach the beautiful **Wekusko Falls**. This is where the river, which snakes its way across Northern Manitoba, drops 12 metres through a series of rapids. There is a very short trail leading to one of two suspension bridges that cross the falls. These bridges not only give an excellent vantage point to photograph the falls, they'll also get you close enough to really sense the power of the tumbling Grass River. A short boat or canoe trip across the Grass River to Tramping Lake leads to an almost mystical place where you will find **Indigenous pictograms** and **prehistoric rock paintings** representing scenes from the everyday and spiritual life of the prairie tribes.

Wekusko Falls Lodge offers guided boat tours to the pictographs and rents out canoes for self-guided trips.

Only 15 minutes north of Wekusko Falls is the small mining town of **Snow Lake**. The region is rich in mineral resources such as iron ore and zinc. At the **Snow Lake Mining Museum**, you will learn interesting facts about the mining past of the community.

Continue your journey to **Setting Lake** and the **Sasagiu Rapids**, where you spend the night.

Campground suggestion: [Sasagiu Rapids Campground](#)

Day 11: Drive from the Sasagiu Rapids to Thompson and Paint Lake Provincial Park *(ca. 120 km)*

On today's journey you will pass Manitoba's most accessible and impressive waterfall - **Pisew Falls** - set amongst the pine, spruce and tamarack forest. You can hear the falls as soon as you exit your RV in the parking lot. Just a short distance from the parking lot, the boardwalk will give you two great viewpoints to these amazing falls. Pisew, which means lynx in Cree, is where the Grass River drops 13 metres, switches directions and plunges through a gorge! If you're up for a hike, a 22-kilometre loop trail runs along the Grass River and connects the Pisew with the **Kwasitchewan Falls** – this hike will take you along an old fur trade route. At 14.2 metres, Kwasitchewan Falls is Manitoba's highest waterfall!

After departing the falls, you will reach the town of **Thompson**, the gateway to the far North of Manitoba. Here you can admire **Canada's largest mural**. The oversized wolf motive measures 26 x 19 metres and can be seen from afar. The mural is part of the **Spirit Way**, a two-kilometre walk with 16 stations focusing on Thompson's heritage, art, industry, geology, and landscape. You can also visit the **Boreal Discovery Centre** or the **Heritage North Museum**, which provides a cultural and historical insight into the world of Northern Manitoba.

From Thompson, there is the option of a multi-day detour to Churchill by plain or train to watch polar bears and belugas (in July-August).

Once you leave Thompson you will head south to **Paint Lake Provincial Park** to overnight.

Campground suggestion: [Paint Lake Campground](#) – bookable [here](#)

Day 12: Drive from Paint Lake Provincial Park to Grand Rapids *(approx. 300 km)*

Today's route takes you back south to **Grand Rapids**. A stopover at **Little Limestone Lake** is a must-do! The colourful lake is located at the northern tip of Lake Winnipeg and is considered to be one of the largest chalk lakes in the world. Seeing the water colour change to a rich turquoise as the temperature warms up, is breathtaking. A walk here offers wonderful photo opportunities. Such an undiscovered treasure of Manitoba!

Campground suggestion: [Cook's Cabins and Campground](#) near Grand Rapids

Day 13: Drive from Grand Rapids to Steep Rock (approx. 240 km)

You will reach the eastern shore of **Lake Manitoba**, the province's namesake, today. "Manitoba" is derived from the Cree word "Man-into-wahpaow" ("the bottleneck of the Great Spirit") and refers to Lake Manitoba, which is just under one kilometre wide, at its widest point. When the waves hit the shores' limestone rocks during strong winds, they often make a strange, wailing sound. The Indigenous believed they could hear the drum of the Great Spirit Manito.

Campground suggestion: [Steep Rock Beach Park](#)

Day 14: Steep Rock

Spend a relaxing day in an almost Caribbean atmosphere at **Steep Rock**! The water here is turquoise blue, the beaches covered in fine sand and the landscape is characterized by a unique cliff scenery of limestone rocks. Cold drinks and snacks are offered at a rustic **beach hut** and **kayaks** and **canoes** are available for rent. Grab your paddles and go!

Day 15: Drive from Steep Rock to Hecla Grindstone Provincial Park (approx. 200 km)

Today you will travel from Lake Manitoba through the 'Interlake' region to **Lake Winnipeg** further east. This is the largest lake in Manitoba and the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world! Far away from any oceans, this huge lake delights with **lighthouses** and small fishing **harbours**, beautiful **sandy beaches** and the best **water sports opportunities**! Your first stop will be **Hecla Grindstone Provincial Park**, which is known for its islands and shoreline. Hecla Island lies in the centre of the park. The island was once home to Icelandic immigrants, whose history can still be explored today in **Hecla Village**.

Campground suggestion: [Gull Harbour Campground](#) – bookable [here](#)

Day 16: Hecla Island

Hecla Island's landscape is very diverse and home to numerous species of wildlife, including a large colony of **American White Pelicans**. What a show when these majestic birds take to the skies with their mighty wings! Long hikes along the limestone shores or relaxed bike rides through the park are the best way to explore the flora and fauna of the region. At **Gull Harbour**, Gull Harbor you can rent out kayaks, jet skis or boats.

Day 17: Drive from Hecla Grindstone Provincial Park to Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park (approx. 110 km)

Leaving Hecla Island and heading south along Lake Winnipeg, you will soon reach the town of **Gimli**. Gimli is a small vacation paradise. The long **beach** and the magnificent **marina** invite you to stay. The town looks back on its long Icelandic tradition. Every year in August, the three-day **Icelandic Festival** attracts thousands of visitors. The **Waterfront Centre** is also

home to the **New Iceland Heritage Museum**. The town offers many unique shops and local museums. A stop at **Kris's Fish and Chips** for fresh local pickerel is not to be missed.

In the afternoon, continue to **Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park**.

Campground suggestion: [Winnipeg Beach Campground](#) – bookable [here](#)

Day 18: Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park

To wrap up your round trip, you can look forward to a lovely day of swimming at one of **Lake Winnipeg's most popular beaches**. The beach and water are perfect for suntanning, swimming, beach volleyball, sailing or surfing. A long **promenade** stretches along the shoreline directly behind the beach and is ideal for leisurely strolls. Be sure to visit the local shops and restaurants in the townsite. Live bands play on the weekends and there are free-to-use BBQ grills.

Alternative route: If you prefer a short detour, you could alternatively spend the day at **Grand Beach Provincial Park**. This park is located around 110 kilometres further along the south-eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg. Here you can take off your shoes and walk barefoot over the high dunes and fine sandy beach.

Camping suggestion: [Grand Beach Campground](#) – bookable [here](#)

Day 19: Drive from Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park to Winnipeg (approx. 70 km)

Your round trip is coming to an end today. You drive back to Lockport to drop-off your RV. Styling's RV will transfer you back to Winnipeg.

Suggested accommodation: [The Grand Hotel Winnipeg Airport](#)

Day 20: Departure



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