

**Duration: 21 days from/to Winnipeg** 

Distance: ca. 1.850 km

with campground suggestions

Delicious local cuisine, charming communities, diverse landscapes ranging from vast prairies to rugged Canadian Shield. Explore Canada's heart and follow the itinerary through southern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario! The region is known for its endless interconnected waterways that stretch between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Superior, lots of wildlife and absolutely stunning vistas. With an RV, you can enjoy flexible travel while being close to nature. Feel free to spend several nights at each campground to soak up the amazing atmosphere and have plenty of time for outdoor activities.

# Day 1: Arrival in Winnipeg

Welcome to Manitoba's capital Winnipeg!

In its diverse neighborhoods, the lively multicultural metropolis offers an exciting mix of architecture, shopping opportunities, artistic offerings and last but not least culinary surprises.

Upon arrival, get a first overview of the city and explore Downtown Winnipeg. <u>The Forks National Historic Site</u>, the <u>Canadian Museum for Human Rights</u>, and <u>The Forks Market</u> with many charming shops, that await you. Finish the day at <u>The Common</u> with a glass of wine or beer.

To explore the city at your leisure, we recommend an overnight stay in a central hotel.

Hotel recommendation: Inn at the Forks, Alt Hotel Winnipeg, Mere Hotel, Fort Garry Hotel

### Day 2: Winnipeg

Enjoy a day of sightseeing in Winnipeg!

Although you can easily explore the city on foot, we recommend a 2-hour city tour with <u>Winnipeg Trolley Company</u>. You'll get a good overview and learn many interesting facts about Winnipeg. If you want to experience Winnipeg from a different angle, take a boat tour with <u>Splash Dash Water Taxi</u>.

Places of interest are the French quarter <u>St. Boniface</u>, the historic <u>Exchange District</u> or <u>Qaumajuq</u>. The world's largest public collection of Inuit art is part of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Just outside Downtown Winnipeg is beautiful <u>Assiniboine Park</u> where you can visit the zoo's "Journey to Churchill" exhibit and watch polar bears swim, or marvel at the fascinating greenery of Canada's Diversity Gardens, including the indoor gardens of <u>The</u> <u>Leaf</u>.

Treat yourself to culinary delights at the city's many restaurants – among them is the <u>Feast</u> <u>Café Bistro</u>, one of the few Indigenous restaurants in all of Canada.

# Day 3: Drive from Winnipeg to Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park (approx. 170 km)

Today you will first head to Lockport to pick up your motorhome from Stylings RV. Your road trip adventure begins with a drive to Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park on Lake Winnipeg. This is Manitoba's largest lake and ranks 12<sup>th</sup> among the largest freshwater lakes worldwide.

A rugged scenery of islands and limestone shorelines, secluded beaches, lush forests and wetlands all make up the beauty of Hecla-Grindstone. Visit the park's heart: Hecla Island.

Campground suggestion: Gull Harbour Campground – here to reserve

# Day 4: Hecla Island

Today, explore Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park! Take a hike along the wooden boardwalk through Grassy Narrow Marsh and use the observation decks to keep an eye out for birds. What a spectacular scene when the mighty white pelicans soar into the air with their massive wings.

In the small village of Hecla you can look for evidence of the Icelandic people who once settled here. A walk to the old Hecla Lighthouse is also not to be missed. In Gull Harbour, bikes, kayaks or jetskis can be rented to explore the park from land or water.

End the day relaxing at the beach and enjoy a strikingly beautiful sunset.

# Day 5: Drive from Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park via Gimli to Grand Beach Provincial Park (approx. 215 km)

On the way back from Hecla Island, stop in the small holiday paradise of Gimli. The long sandy beaches and magnificent marina invite to unwind. Treat yourself to a delicious coffee from <u>Flatland Coffee Roasters</u>, who roast their coffee beans right in their store. Strolling through the pretty town, you can marvel at the art on the harbour wall. At the traditional store H.P. Tergeson & Sons, you can browse for modern clothing, locally made jewelry, great

books and unique souvenirs. Visit the <u>New Iceland Heritage Museum</u> at the Waterfront Centre to learn more about Gimli's Icelandic roots.

Don't forget to snap a selfie with the Viking statue standing 5 meter tall in Viking Park.

In the late afternoon, head to Grand Beach Provincial Park for the upcoming nights.

Campground suggestion: Grand Beach Provincial Park – here to reserve

#### **Day 6: Grand Beach Provincial Park**

12-metre dunes and a long fine sandy beach with gentle waves of the huge lake: that's Grand Beach at Lake Winnipeg! Enjoy the day at the beach, which is considered to be one of the best in North America.

### Day 7: Drive from Grand Beach Provincial Park to Whiteshell Provincial Park (ca. 155 km)

Coming from Grand Beach Provincial Park, your first stop today is Pinawa.

On your way, plan a stop at Pinawa Dam Provincial Heritage Park, where you find the ruins of Manitoba's first hydroelectric power station. It was closed back in 1951, and today you can enjoy great walks along the dam.

In the small town of Pinawa you have the opportunity to experience Whiteshell Provincial Park's beauty from the water. Join <u>Voyageur Houseboats</u> for an escorted trip in a pontoon boat. If you prefer to get active yourself, you can hit the water of the Pinawa Channel in a giant float tube from <u>Float and Paddle</u>.

Campground suggestions: Otter Falls Campground, Opapiskaw Campground, Nutimik Lake Campground – here to reserve

#### **Day 8: Whiteshell Provincial Park**

Today you'll drive through gorgeous Whiteshell Provincial Park with plenty to explore on the way to your next campsite. Passing Dorothy and Nutimik Lake, you'll stop at the extremely popular photo-op of the 86-metre Whiteshell River Suspension Bridge. Following the tracks of Canada's Indigenous peoples, continue to the Bannock Point Petroforms. The sacred site of the Anishinabe is home to stone formations in the shape of snakes, turtles and a thunderbird. They are believed to have been placed on site centuries ago for teaching and healing ceremonies. You can either explore the petroforms by yourself or – if you are interested in a little more background knowledge – join a guided tour with Whiteshell Petroforms.

Nearby, a 9-kilometre loop trail leads to Pine Point Rapids, where you can enjoy a pleasant picnic with a fantastic view.

Campground suggestions: <u>Caddy Lake Campground</u>, <u>West Hawk Lake Campground</u> – <u>here</u> to reserve

#### **Day 9: Whiteshell Provincial Park**

Enjoy another beautiful day in the scenery of the Canadian Shield at Whiteshell Provincial Park. If you feel like lacing up your hiking boots once more, you'll find a relaxing 2.7-kilometre loop trail leading to rushing McGillivray Falls and the lake of the same name. Canoeing and kayaking are also great ways to explore the park: take a paddle through the Caddy Lake Tunnels, which were blasted into the rocky granite at the time of railroad construction and connect South and North Cross Lake. Canoes and other watersport equipment can be rented at Caddy Lake Resort or Green Bay Resort.

After your exciting activities you can relax on the beach of West Hawk Lake. At 115 metres, this is Manitoba's deepest lake.

# Day 10: Drive from Whiteshell Provincial Park to Sioux Narrows (ca. 165 km)

Today's journey takes you across the provincial border into Ontario and through a beautiful lakeland scenery. You may want to stop at Rushing River Provincial Park and stretch your legs with a loop of the Beaver Pond Trail (1.1 km), admire a small beaver pond with water lilies, watch birds and other wildlife.

Campground suggestion: Sioux Narrows Provincial Park, Rushing River Provincial Park

#### **Day 11: Sioux Narrows**

Welcome to Sioux Narrows Provincial Park at Lake of the Woods. Here you can boat, swim, sail, canoe and explore the stunning large lake with its many small islands and idyllic shoreline. Don't miss the short boat ride to the centuries-old Indigenous pictographs. For a beautiful view over the lake, we recommend a short hike along the Lookout Trail, which starts at the beach and is about two kilometres long.

# Day 12: Drive from Sioux Narrows to Quetico Provincial Park (ca. 325 km)

Today, continue east into Quetico Provincial Park. Plan to make small stops along the way at Rainy Lake Scenic Lookout and Little Falls Scenic Lookout near Atikokan. The waterfall is certainly a delight!

Campground suggestion: Quetico Provincial Park

## **Day 13: Quetico Provincial Park**

Welcome to <u>Quetico Provincial Park</u> – a park full of wilderness! Its rugged beauty, towering rock cliffs, majestic waterfalls, pristine pine and spruce forests, scenic rivers and lake are what the park is known for. The best way to explore the park is by canoe, which are available for rent on site. In the evening, enjoy the marvelous night sky: in fact, Quetico is an international Dark Sky Preserve!

# Day 14: Drive from Quetico Provincial Park to Thunder Bay (ca. 90 km)

Today we head to Thunder Bay on impressive Lake Superior. On the way, discover the "Niagara Falls of the North": Kakabeka Falls in the Provincial Park of the same name. It's the second highest waterfall in Ontario and absolutely worth a visit.

Campground suggestions: Thunder Bay KOA, Sleeping Giant Provincial Park

#### Day 15: Thunder Bay

Visit the idyllic town of Thunder Bay, the centre of Ontario's Northwest. At Fort William Historical Park, you'll experience a true-to-life recreation of the voyageurs, traders and Indigenous people, who shaped the fur trade. From the three-metre-high bronze statue of famous long-distance runner Terry Fox, you have a breathtaking view of Lake Superior. At the nearby information centre, you'll learn a lot about the courageous one-legged runner who embarked on a cross-country race called Marathon of Hope across Canada for cancer research. He began his run in Newfoundland and eventually had to end it here in Thunder Bay.

## **Day 16: Sleeping Giant Provincial Park**

Thunder Bay's Sleeping Giant Provincial Park awaits you today! The park's namesake is a volcanic rock formation that towers into Lake Superior and is embraced by Indigenous legends. If you want to climb the Giant, follow the 23-kilometre Kabeyun Trail. In addition to the many other hiking trails, the park can also be explored by bike. A side trip to 100 metre deep Ouimet Canyon should also be planned. If you don't want to drive, you might want to consider a speedboat ride to the Sleeping Giant hiking trail at Thunder Bay Harbor. <a href="Sail Superior">Sail</a> Superior also offers great sailing trips!

# Day 17: Drive from Thunder Bay to Dryden (ca. 350 km)

The Thunder Bay area is known for the large abundance of purple amethyst stones — Ontario's national stone. You can find them in every souvenir store here and even for DIY mining. On the journey to Dryden, a stop at rushing Raleigh Falls is worthwhile. In Dryden itself, the beautiful visitor center with "Max the Moose" — a huge wooden moose statue — and the interesting Dryden & District Museum attract visitors.

Campground suggestions: <u>Aaron Lake Provincial Park</u>, <u>Wabigoon Lake RV Park</u>

#### Day 18: Drive from Dryden to Kenora (ca. 140 km)

A short drive takes you to Kenora today. Visit the picturesque McLeod Park. A true insider tip is the food from the <u>Ye Olde Chip Truck</u> – how about a little snack?

Campground suggestion: Anicinabe RV Park and Campground

### Day 19: Kenora

Today, take a boat ride aboard <u>MS Kenora</u> on Lake of the Woods. You can also enjoy the lake view from the lively boardwalk or from one of the five great beaches. End the evening with a locally brewed beer at the <u>Lake of the Woods Brewing Company</u>.

# Day 20: Drive from Kenora to Falcon Lake (ca. 70 km)

After the drive back to Whiteshell Provincial Park in Manitoba, cool off in beautiful Falcon Lake. This is the perfect place to bury your toes in the sand, stroll along the boardwalk and reminisce about this trip's impressions. For one of the best views in the entire park, take the popular Top of the World hiking trail – it starts right at Falcon Trails Resort.

Horseback riding is also a great way to explore the park, with <u>Falcon Beach Ranch</u> offering great rides along natural beaver ponds, up granite ridges and across sandy slopes. All ages and riding levels are welcome.

Campground suggestion: Falcon Lake Lakeshore Campground – here to reserve

# Day 21: Motorhome drop-off in Lockport (ca. 160 km) und departure

Today your roundtrip comes to an end. You'll drive back to Lockport to return your camper. Styling's RV will then take you back to Winnipeg.