Sample RV Itinerary Canada off the beaten paths: Natural treasures in Southern Manitoba

CANADA'S HEART IS CALLING



Trip length: 15 days from/to Winnipeg Distance: approx. 1,290 km with lodging and campground suggestions

Explore Canada off the beaten track and discover the secrets of Manitoba! The journey leads you from the multicultural provincial capital Winnipeg through Canadian Shield, forest and Prairie landscape and reveals unexpected natural treasures!

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 Whiteshell Provincial Park (approx. 180 km)

Today you will first drive to Lockport to pick up your motorhome from Styling's RV. With your RV you will then head to **Whiteshell Provincial Park**.

On the drive, the landscape slowly changes from prairie to boreal forest to rocky Canadian Shield dotted with lakes.

Campground suggestions:

Opapiskaw Campground, Otter Falls Campground, Nutimik Lake Campground, Betula Lake Campground, Brereton Lake Campground, West Hawk Lake Campground, Caddy Lake Campground, Falcon Lake Lakeshore Campground – bookable here

Day 5 & 6: Whiteshell Provincial Park

Outdoor lovers will get their Canadian outdoor experience here! The many rivers and approximately 200 crystal clear lakes offer a host of recreational activities: lazing on the **sandy beach, boating, canoeing** or **fishing, water skiing, hiking, biking** or **horseback riding** – there are endless possibilities!

Day 7: Drive from Whiteshell Provincial Park to Hecla Island (approx. 350 km)

Today's scenic drive takes you through Whiteshell Provincial Park and via **Dorothy Lake** to **Gimli** on **Lake Winnipeg** which is ranked the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world!

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.

Following the lakeshore, you continue north to **Hecla Grindstone Provincial Park**, which is known for its islands and coastline. Hecla Island lies at 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 8 & 9: Hecla Island

Hecla Island's landscape is very diverse and thus home to numerous species of **wildlife**, including a large colony of American White Pelicans. 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**, you can rent out kayaks, jet skis or boats.

Day 10: Drive from Hecla to Riding Mountain National Park (approx. 380 km)

Today's journey takes you across Lake Manitoba to **Riding Mountain National Park**. The park rises from the flat prairie landscape in southwestern Manitoba like a huge green mountain island.

Campground suggestion: <u>Wasagaming Campground</u> – bookable <u>here</u>

Day 11 & 12: Riding Mountain National Park

Due to its unique location, with its 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.

A wide variety of **outdoor activities** give the opportunity to experience the wonderful nature of Riding Mountain National Park. Biking, canoeing, horseback riding or hiking - there is something for everyone. Check with the Visitor Center and Parks Canada staff in the townsite of **Wasagaming** for the many activities that are available to visitors.

Day 13: Drive from Riding Mountain National Park to Spruce Woods Provincial Park (approx. 160 km)

Todays' journey will take you to **Spruce Woods Provincial Park**. Completely uncommon for the prairies, this park boasts the only **sandy desert** in Manitoba! Cactus species grow here on shifting dunes, that can withstand icy temperatures of up to -40° Celsius in winter.

Campground suggestion: Kiche Manitou Campground – bookable here

Day 14: Drive from Spruce Woods Provincial Park to Winnipeg (approx. 220 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 15: Departure

