The Grand Algoma

Sault Ste. Marie Day Trippin'

Driving

4 days 415 km 19 stops

Sault Ste. Marie is Algoma Country's largest urban centre, and the gateway community if you're driving from the United States at the International Bridge crossing. This city makes for a great base for a weekend or a week-long adventure because there is a lot to see and do. You are staying on nature's doorstep!

For the outdoor adventurer, you'll find trails both in town or just a short few hours to walk, hike or bike. Because of its proximity to neighbouring communities, you can enjoy short road trips for a day of exploring but still gets you back to the city in the evening.

Start of itinerary

Welcome to the City of Sault Ste. Marie, poised between two magnificent Great Lakes: Superior and Huron. Situated on the St. Marys River, the community is emerging as one of Ontario's best adventure towns. Originally named Baawating, meaning ‘place of the rapids,’ Sault Ste. Marie has a long history of being a traditional gathering place, and to this day remains a meeting place of cultures with residents and tourists hailing from all over the world.

Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site

1 Canal Drive, Sault Ste. Marie,

1 Start Learn more

The Sault Ste. Marie Canal, built in 1895, was the world's longest lock, the first to operate using electricity and the last link in an all-Canadian navigational chain from the Atlantic to Lake Superior.

(705) 941-6262 | Website | Google Maps

3.3 km (6 minutes) to next stop

Take an urban trek along the 2.2 km Attikamek Trail on South St. Marys Island across the lock gates. Whitefish Island is a traditional territory, trading and meeting ground of the Anishinaabe people.

Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site

800 Bay Street, Sault Ste. Marie,

2 Learn more

Take a step back in time and tour two of the oldest stone buildings in located northwest of Toronto: Ermatinger Old Stone House and the Clergue Blockhouse. The Ermatinger Old Stone House is restored to depict the domestic and professional life of Charles Oakes Ermatinger and other prominent residents and visitors of the House between 1808 and 1870. The Clergue Blockhouse was relocated to the Site in 1996 and served as the home of industrialist Francis Hector Clergue from 1894 - 1908.

Hear the stories of people who helped to shape Sault Ste. Marie's history and take a step back in time to experience life as an early settler in Northern Ontario from the early 1800s to the 1920s. Join the War of 1812 in the interactive gallery and uncover over 200 years of local history through a film in the multimedia theatre, while enjoying this National Historic Site and gardens. The Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site is open year-round for you to experience local history.

(705) 759-5443	Website	Google Maps

0.5 km (2 minutes) to next stop

You can purchase a 4 Cultures Pass for admission into all 4 attractions in Sault Ste. Marie: Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site, Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, Sault Ste. Marie Museum, and the Art Gallery of Algoma.

Click Here

Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre

50 Pim Street, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

3 Learn more

The Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre is located in the historic waterfront hangar that was once home to the Ontario Provincial Air Service. Explore the centre and check out over 30 aircraft displays, two theatres, flight simulators, and interactive children's activities. Guided group tours are available on request. They host many large events each year including Ready For Take Off Family Day in February, Bushplane Days in September, and Sault Ste. Marie's holiday gift & crafts shows in November. The gift shop offers unique aviation memorabilia including branded t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, pins, local maple syrup, toys, and books.

(705) 945-6242 | Website | Google Maps

0.8 km (3 minutes) to next stop

Low & Slow Smoked Fusion BBQ

648 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

4 Learn more

Low & Slow brings the best of smoked BBQ offering delicious foods made in-house with a bit of Northern Ontario mixed in. Dine-in, take-out, and in summer, enjoy patio dining. Our staff picks are Brisket with sides of Mac & Cheese, Corn Bread and Slaw.

(705) 450-6328	Website	Google Maps

4.6 km (9 minutes) to next stop

The Catalina Motel

259 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

5 Overnight Learn more

The Catalina Motel is a family-owned and operated motel offering quality accommodations/lodging comparable to the comfort you would expect in quality chains, featuring value packages of tourist attractions year-round. We strive to provide friendly service to all customers.

(705) 945-9260	Website	Google Maps

95.7 km (1h24m) to next stop

Places to Stay in Sault Ste. Marie

Find all places to stay, plus restaurants and things to do on the city's website.

Click Here

Day 2 • 92.7km

8.9 km (12 minutes) to next stop

St. Joseph Island is located in the North Channel of Lake Huron and is the 6th largest lake island in the world. The drive from Sault Ste. Marie to the Island is approximately 45 minutes by road and is accessed by a toll-fridge bridge. The Island is home to attractions, locally-owned shops and eateries, and offers a lovely country, rolling farmland atmosphere. One of Ontario's hidden gems for cycling too!

Click Here

Fort St. Joseph Historical Site

185 Fort Road, Richards Landing, ON

6

Learn more

An important Canadian archaeological site, the ruins of the limestone building foundations that were once Fort St. Joseph, make a fascinating tour for any history buff. Let a well-informed Parks interpreter/guide explain the significance of the fort's many buildings and show you the mysterious chimney, an iconic feature of the site whose presence cannot be explained through archaeological investigations.

Wander the path to the shore where the wharf was located and follow it to see where long ago civilian homes once stood. Watch the freighters on the St. Marys River, passing the island where the limestone was quarried for the fort and imagine this place as it was two hundred years ago, the most isolated, westerly outpost of British North America.

Open June through September.

(705) 246-2664	Website	Google Maps

27.4 km (28 minutes) to next stop

St. Joseph Island Museum

2394 I Line, RR#2, Richards Landing, ON

7 Learn more

Consisting of six historic buildings containing over 7,000 artifacts, the St. Joseph Island Museum documents the changes the island has gone through over the years.

(705) 246-2672 | Website | Google Maps

30.4 km (24 minutes) to next stop

The Loonie Monument

3159 ON-17B, Echo Bay, ON

8 Learn more

The Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional is home to the Loon Dollar Monument. The monument is located on Highway 17B in the Village of Echo Bay. The structure was constructed and dedicated in 1992 to Mr. Robert R. Carmichael, the artist responsible for the creation of the Loon Dollar design who was a resident of the Township.

(705) 248-2441 | Website | Google Maps

0.4 km (1 minute) to next stop

Village Bakery in Echo Bay has tasty baked goods like butter tarts, date squares, cookies, etc.

Bucci's Place Eatery

3241 Hwy 17E, Echo Bay, ON

9 Learn more

This restaurant is located in Echo Bay and serves up hearty homemade meals like pizza, burgers, fries, poutine, pasta dinners, fish and chips, and more. Portions are hearty, the perfect road food.

(705) 248-1999 | Website | Google Maps

25.6 km (27 minutes) to next stop

Holiday Inn Express - Sault Ste. Marie

320 Bay Street, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

10 Overnight Learn more

Located in the heart of Sault Ste. Marie's downtow, the hotel features an indoor pool, exercise room and free Express Start breakfast. Rooms are complete with in-room coffee makers, clock radios, mini-fridges. Close to city attractions, and the city's waterfront boardwalk. Complimentary high-speed internet throughout the hotel and computer work station in the front lobby.

(705) 759-8200	Website	Google Maps

Day 3 • 289.6km

67.0 km (51 minutes) to next stop

Pack a picnic lunch for this day trip up the coast of Lake Superior. If you're staying at a full-service hotel with a restaurants, chances are you can order one in advance. Or for something unique, order ahead at the Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site for a picnic of tasty foods made from locally sourced ingredients.

Click Here

Batchawana Bay Provinical Park

10699 ON-17, Batchawana Bay, ON

11 Learn more

A day-use park with a beautiful sandy beach, Batchawana Bay Provincial Park is an ideal spot for a family day at the beach. The drive along Hwy 17 North offers outstanding of Lake Superior and the rugged landscape.

(705) 882-2209 | Website | Google Maps

8.1 km (5 minutes) to next stop

Agawa Crafts and The Canadian Carver

12502 ON-17, Batchawana Bay, ON

12 Learn more

Come and peruse some stunning craftsmanship: The

Canadian Carver features the “cottage-themed” home décor, woodcarvings, whittling and sculpture by some of Canada’s best-known artisans. Agawa Crafts specializes in Canadian crafts, furs, moccasins, pottery, jewellery and much more.

(705) 882-2311	Website	Google Maps

71.3 km (52 minutes) to next stop

Agawa Rock Pictographs

634 A Hwy 17 North, Agawa Bay, ON

13 Learn more

Agawa Rock is one of the most famous pictograph sites in Canada, found within Lake Superior Provincial Park. The area is also one of the most-visited Indigenous archaeological sites in Canada. The majority of paintings from the Agawa site are said to date from the 17th and 18th centuries. Pictographs are messages from the past. This is a sacred site where generations of Ojibwe have come to record dreams, visions, and events. Agawa Rock is a sacred site. Please respect and preserve the pictographs. Do not touch the paintings.

(705) 856-2284	Website	Google Maps

78.7 km (57 minutes) to next stop

Voyageurs' Lodge and Cookhouse

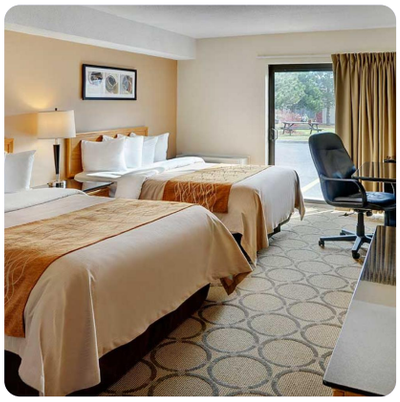
Highway 17 North, Batchawana Bay, ON

14 Learn more

Are you a fan of apple fritters the size of your head? Love a locally caught Friday night fish fry? Like some country attitude in your dining room? Want to look out over the spectacular waters of Lake Superior as you indulge in the best homemade cooking this side of Wawa? Look no further than the Voyageurs' Lodge and Cookhouse. And if you want to get psyched up about how good the food is here, just follow them on Facebook.

705-882-2504	Website	Google Maps

64.5 km (45 minutes) to next stop



The Comfort Inn in Sault Ste. Marie

333 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

15 | Overnight | Learn more

Situated in Uptown Sault Ste. Marie, the Comfort Inn is amongst an abundance of great restaurants, some within walking distance, shopping centres, and area attractions. Your stay includes free wireless internet and a complimentary hot breakfast.

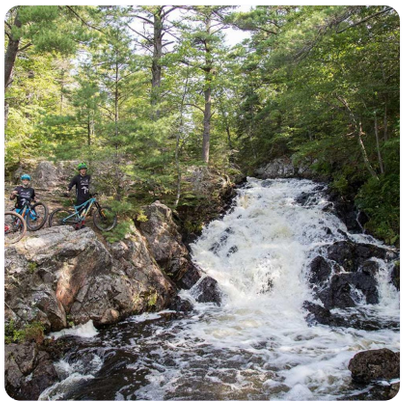
(705) 759-8000	Website	Google Maps

Day 4 • 23.4km

7.8 km (10 minutes) to next stop

There are many outdoor activities to in and around the city. We recommend this day taking some time to enjoy the city's waterfront by fishing, watersports, hiking, or biking. Below are some different guided and self-guided tours to enjoy the outdoors.

Click Here



Hiawatha Highlands

780 Landslide Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

16

Learn more

Hiawatha Highlands, located in Kinsmen Park, is a premier destination for winter recreation and sport offering 50 km of ski trails, 14 km of snowshoeing, as well as fat biking trails.

In the summer and fall months, the Kinsmen Park trails transform from snow trails to walking, running and bike trails. Take in the beautiful site of Crystal Falls and the lower Minnehaha Falls. Kinsmen Park

(705) 256-7258	Website	Google Maps

11.8 km (16 minutes) to next stop

The hike to Robertson Cliffs in the Algoma Highlands is a favourite spot for locals and offers spectacular views overlooking the Goulais River. It's a must-do, especially during the Autumn Colours.

Click Here

John Giuliani Fishing

352 Cathcart Street, Sault Ste Marie, ON

17 Learn more

North America's best-kept secret! Urban fishing in the St. Marys River Rapids with professional guide John Giuliani, who has been guiding the rapids for over 30 years. John started at a very young age of 18 guiding for Steelhead, Atlantic Salmon, 5 species of Pacific Salmon and huge resident rainbow trout.

Book a trip with John for Steelhead, Atlantic Salmon, and guided trips north of Sault Ste. Marie. Charter fishing and wading into the rapids are available. Contact John for more details and information including pricing.

(906) 203-9112 or (705) 575-5570	Website	Google Maps

2.5 km (5 minutes) to next stop

You can find more charter fishing, and guide services in Algoma Country for bass fishing, brook trout and northern pike on nearby rivers and inland lakes.

Click Here

Thrive Tours

99 Foster Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

18

Learn more

Thrive Tours is an Indigenous-owned and operated offering interpretive guided eco-cultural tourism experiences in Northern Ontario. Reconnect with nature with quality experiences and adventure through guided canoe, kayak, hiking, snowshoeing, and year-round camping. Contact by phone or email to book your adventure!

(705) 862-1558 | Website | Google Maps

1.3 km (3 minutes) to next stop

Northern Superior Brewing Company

50 Pim Street, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

19 | End | Learn more

Northern Superior Brewing Co. has been part of the Sault Ste. Marie community and Algoma District for over a hundred years. For nearly 10 years, the stories brewery's doors were shut until a group of three local entrepreneurs with a great interest in keeping Sault Ste. Marie's history alive began with the development of the Northern Superior Brewing Company. The new company is dedicated to carefully working to craft the same taste and quality that Northern drinkers are accustomed to.

Taste of the Soo Menu

The Tap Room partners with local restaurants by offering selected menus from our restaurant partners on a rotating basis daily.

Appetizers

The Tap Room offers an array of appetizers in-house including warm pretzel and beer cheese, chips and salsa/queso, and charcuterie.

Learn some history about the company by clicking here.

(705) 450-7468	Website	Google Maps

End of itinerary

This itinerary is for approximately 3 - 4 nights but more or fewer days can be added to make for a great weekend getaway or a week-long stay. There is a variety of accommodations in the city, including the options to camp at tent and RV sites with amenities. Sault Ste. Marie is also renowned for its pizza and Italian food, but visitors will find a good selection of restaurants and eateries that offer cultural and ethnic cuisine.

You can enjoy cycling by road on the Hub Trail, and mountain biking at Hiawatha Highlands. Sault Ste. Marie is a stop on the Northern expansion of the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail, this 460-km route follows the North Channel of Lake Huron. Follow the route from Sault Ste.

Marie and head west to Prince Township on the shores of Lake Superior.

If you need any help planning your trip to Sault Ste. Marie and area, please contact the Algoma Country staff.

Please note that while we endeavour to keep these itineraries up-to-date we cannot guarantee the reliability of all information. By using this website you agree to our terms and conditions.