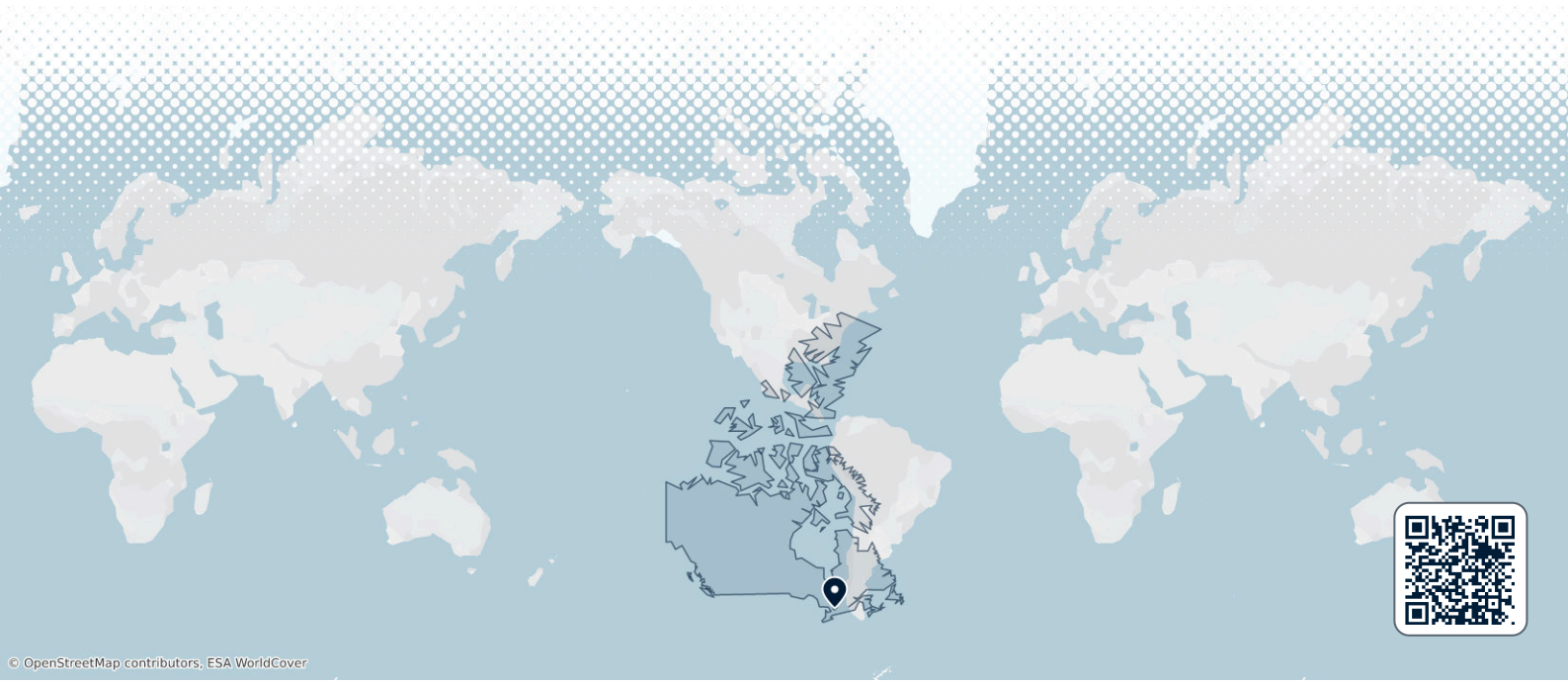


Algonquin Park

Ontario · Canada

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Algonquin Provincial Park is Ontario's oldest provincial park and one of its largest. It is a wide area of forest, lakes, rivers and wetlands in the middle of the province. It is known for canoe trips, quiet lakes and wildlife, including moose, beavers and loons. The park also inspired Canadian painters such as *Tom Thomson*.

Most visitors see the park from Highway 60. This road crosses the south part of the park, with trails, lookouts, lakes and a visitor centre close to the road. Longer trips go into the interior by canoe or on foot. The park suits day trips, camping and short stays from Toronto, Ottawa and Muskoka.

When to visit

Summer is the main season for canoeing, swimming and camping. Late September and early October bring autumn colour, and many people think this is the best time to visit. Spring is quiet and can be muddy, and black flies are bad in May and June. Winter is cold and snowy. Skiing, snowshoeing and dogsledding are possible, and fewer services are open.

Plan around autumn colour. The leaves usually peak around the end of September and the start of October. The Highway 60 lookouts and trails are busy then, mostly on weekends.

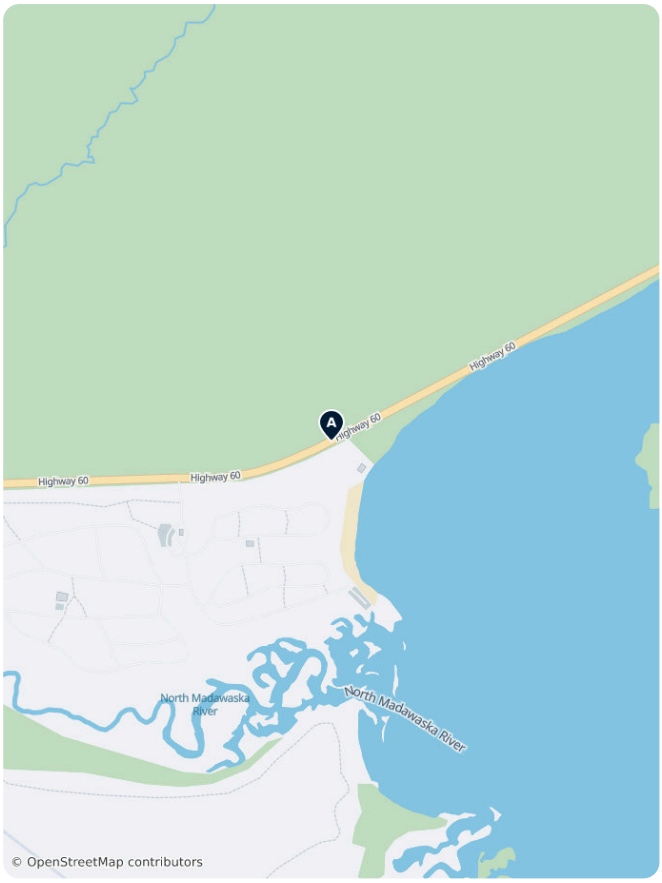
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-7° / 2° Feels like -12°	-16° / -29°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	-5° / 3° Feels like -11°	-15° / -27°	Dry air
March	Great Great for skiing	2° / 13° Feels like -4°	-9° / -21°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for skiing	10° / 20° Feels like 6°	-2° / -8°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 27°	5° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 29°	11° / 5°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	14° / 9°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 31°	13° / 8°	12 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 29°	9° / 3°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	13° / 23°	3° / -4°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	4° / 14° Feels like 0°	-3° / -11°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	-3° / 5° Feels like -8°	-11° / -23°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: July, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Algonquin Provincial Park is the whole park. Most visitors drive the Highway 60 corridor and stop at the main sights below.
- **Algonquin Park Visitor Centre**: Along Highway 60. It has exhibits on the park's nature and history, a viewing deck and a bookshop.
- **Lookout Trail**: A short loop, about 2 km, that climbs to a wide view over forest and lakes. It is one of the best views along the road.
- **Spruce Bog Boardwalk**: An easy loop on a wooden boardwalk through a bog. Look for pitcher plants and bog birds.
- **Algonquin Logging Museum**: An outdoor museum near the East Gate. It shows how the area was logged in the 1800s and early 1900s.
- **Lake Opeongo**: The park's largest lake. It is a common start for canoe trips and a good place to look for moose in the early morning.
- **Canoe Lake and Tom Thomson Cairn**: Canoe Lake is a busy canoe access point. The nearby cairn remembers the painter *Tom Thomson*, who died here in 1917.



Algonquin Park – Plan Your Trip

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What to experience

- **Paddle a canoe.** A few hours on Canoe Lake, Smoke Lake or Lake Opeongo is the classic visit. Longer trips use portages and interior campsites.
- **Look for moose.** Drive Highway 60 at dawn or dusk in late spring and early summer. Stay in your car or well back from the road.
- **See the autumn colour.** Walk the Lookout Trail or drive the corridor in late September.
- **Ski or snowshoe in winter.** The park has trails for skiing and snowshoeing. Mew Lake has yurts that you can book for a winter stay.
- **Camp.** Frontcountry campgrounds along Highway 60 have showers and toilets. Many close in autumn, so check dates.

Where to explore

- Muskoka Lakes is Ontario's lake and cottage country, southwest of the park.
- Toronto is the nearest big city to the west side of the park, about 3.5 hours by car.
- Ottawa is the nearest big city to the east side of the park, about 3 hours by car.

Getting there

- **By air**: There is no airport in the park. Most visitors fly to Toronto Pearson (YYZ) or Ottawa (YOW) and rent a car. Each trip takes about 3 to 4 hours.
- **By car**: The West Gate is about 3.5 hours from Toronto. The East Gate is about 3 hours from Ottawa. Muskoka Lakes is closer, about 1 to 1.5 hours away. Huntsville is the closest large town to the West Gate.
- **By train or bus**: No scheduled train or coach goes to the park. Check seasonal shuttles before you plan a trip without a car.

Each vehicle needs a day-use permit to enter. See Ontario Parks for fees and booking.

Getting around

- **Car**: A car is the practical way to use the Highway 60 corridor. Parking is at the trailheads and access points.
- **Canoe**: Canoes are the main way to enter the interior. You can rent canoes and gear from outfitters near the corridor. Some routes need portages between lakes. You need a permit and a reservation for backcountry camping.
- **On foot and by bike**: Trails near the road are short and easy. The Old Railway Bike Trail is a popular gravel route. Highway 60 is busy with traffic.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Low

Trails are short and easy, but sights are spread along a long road.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Highway 60 is busy. A gravel rail trail is the main option for bikes.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Yes. A car is the easiest way to reach the park and to move along Highway 60 between trails and lakes.
- **Fuel**: Fill your tank before you enter. Fuel inside the park is limited.
- **Wildlife on the road**: Moose and deer cross Highway 60, mostly at dawn and dusk. Drive slowly and keep your distance.
- **Phone signal**: Coverage is poor along the corridor and absent in the interior. Download maps first.

Safety & health

The park is safe for visitors who prepare. The main risks are weather, getting lost on a trail and wildlife.

- **Wildlife**: Black bears and moose live here. Never feed animals. Keep food in your car or in a food locker at the campsite. Stay well back from moose, especially in autumn and with calves.
- **Insects**: Black flies are heavy in May and June. Mosquitoes are common in summer. Use repellent. Check for ticks after you walk in long grass.
- **Water**: Treat or boil lake water.
- **Backcountry**: Tell someone your route and carry a map. Weather changes quickly on the lakes. Cold water is dangerous, so wear a life jacket in a canoe.
- **Winter**: Roads can be icy. Dress in warm layers and carry extra supplies.

History

Algonquin Anishinaabe peoples lived in this area long before the park existed. Ontario created the park in 1893 to protect the forests and the rivers that flow from them. Logging was allowed at the same time, and parts of the park are still logged under rules.

The Algonquin Logging Museum shows this history on the ground. The park also became known through the artists *Tom Thomson* and the Group of Seven. They painted the lakes and pines here in the early 1900s. Tom Thomson died on Canoe Lake in 1917.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Canada at a glance:

CURRENCY
CAD $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



Type A / Type B
120 V · 60 Hz

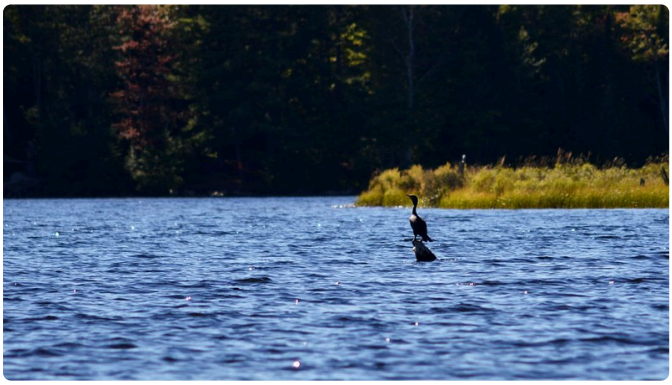
LANGUAGES
English, French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Algonquin Provincial Park: The Absolute Essentials

Algonquin Provincial Park encompasses over 7,600 square kilometers of rugged Canadian Shield terrain. This selection highlights the Highway 60 corridor's essential stops, including the Logging Museum's historical exhibits and the panoramic vistas from the Lookout Trail. It covers key access points like the West and East Gates, alongside natural features such as the Barron River's High Falls and the expansive Opeongo Lake. These locations provide the primary infrastructure for navigating the park's extensive network of canoe routes and hiking trails.





A Algonquin Provincial Park

Algonquin Provincial Park is an Ontario provincial park located between Georgian Bay and the Ottawa River, mostly within the Unorganized...

4681 Highway 60, P0A, Canada (45.58083, -78.49890)

algonquinpark.on.ca

B Visitor Centre

Features natural history exhibits, a bookstore, and an observation deck overlooking the Sunday Creek Valley.

(Unnamed Road), P0A, Canada (45.58368, -78.35966)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

algonquinpark.on.ca/visit/locations/algonquin_visitor_ce...



C The Portage Store

Canoe Lake is a lake located in Algonquin Provincial Park in Nipissing District, Ontario, Canada.

(45.53533, -78.70814)

portagestore.com, +1-705-633-5622

D Outdoor Theatre

Venue for naturalist-led evening programs and the park's seasonal public wolf howls.

(Unnamed Road), P0A, Canada (45.57720, -78.45763)

E Hardwood Lookout

A 1-kilometer loop trail providing an elevated view of Smoke Lake and the surrounding deciduous forest.

(45.52662, -78.70762)

F Tea Falls

Waterfall located along the Oxtongue River near the park's western boundary.

(45.49120, -78.75044)

G Little Twin Falls

Secluded waterfalls situated near the Highway 60 corridor and the West Gate.

(45.45284, -78.82397)

H High Falls

A natural rock slide and waterfall on the Barron River, accessible from the park's eastern side.

(45.85903, -77.69137)

I Lookout

A 2-kilometer trail leading to a cliff-top vista overlooking several hundred square kilometers of the park’s interior.

(45.58494, -78.41348)

J Starling Lake Lookout

Elevated viewpoint providing a direct vista over Starling Lake.

(45.56894, -78.49198)

K Lake Opeongo

Opeongo Lake is a lake in the Saint Lawrence River drainage basin in the geographic townships of Bower, Dickson, Preston and Sproule in the...

P0A, Canada (45.71208, -78.37101)

L Brent crater

The Brent crater is an impact crater in both the geographic township of Deacon, Unorganized South Nipissing District and the municipal...

K0J, Canada (46.07342, -78.48017)

M Logging Museum

Outdoor museum featuring a 1.3-kilometer trail with a reconstructed logging camp and a steam-powered amphibious tug.

(Unnamed Road), K0J, Canada (45.54367, -78.26291)

Late June to mid-October

algonquinpark.on.ca/visit/locations/algonquin-logging-m...



N West Gate Information Centre

Main entry point for Highway 60 visitors, offering park permits, maps, and general information.

5621 Highway 60, P0A, Canada (45.44211, -78.82028)

O Algonquin Provincial Park East Gate Complex

Information and permit office located at the park's eastern entrance near Whitney.

Highway 60, K0J, Canada (45.53714, -78.26467)

algonquinpark.on.ca/visit/camping/east-gate.php

DATA SOURCES

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