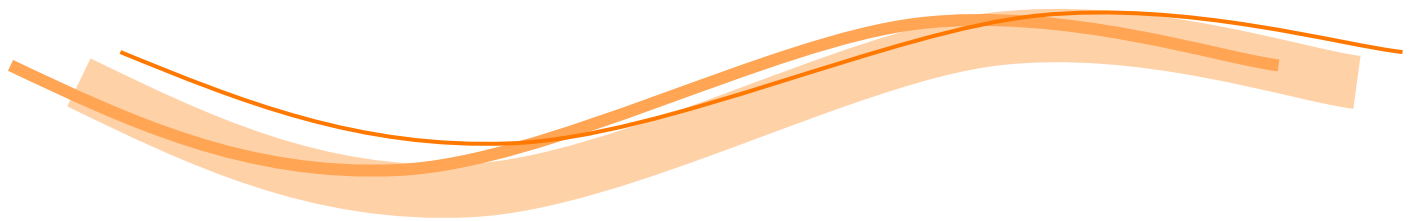




RIDEAU HERITAGE ROUTE & 1000 ISLANDS





RIDEAU HERITAGE ROUTE

The Rideau Heritage Route connects Canada's capital city, Ottawa, to Kingston (the first capital of a United Canada, 1841-43) and presents an outstanding opportunity to experience one of the most historic and yet modern areas of Eastern Ontario. The two cities are certainly exciting end points of the experience, but travellers who also explore along the Route will be richly rewarded with many good memories from the numerous connecting towns and villages and the scenic countryside.

The Rideau Heritage Route follows the beautiful and historic Rideau Canal, which dates back to the early nineteenth century, and is today a Canadian Heritage River and National Historic Site of Canada. It has also recently been nominated by the Government of Canada to be a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This route presents the rich range of heritage attractions, both cultural and natural that makes this corridor one of the premier tourism experiences in North America. The array of world class museums, galleries, festivals, events and culinary experiences offered along this route is unparalleled.

In contrast to the rich urban environment of the two capitals, the corridor presents visitors with the opportunity to visit an array of attractive small towns and villages that offer a taste of the real Ontario including artists and artisans, antique and craft shops, country inns and B&Bs, and country fairs and local festivals.

Between attractive communities such as Perth, Merrickville, Smiths Falls, North Grenville and Westport, the route winds through pastoral countryside, forests and Rideau Lakes country and may be traveled by automobile, canoe, bicycle, motor boat, or on foot along the Rideau Trail.

The Rideau Heritage Route is made up of communities that have been connected by the Rideau Canal for nearly two centuries. The canal was built between 1826 and 1832 by the British under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers. Today the 202 km canal is considered an engineering masterpiece. The chain of lakes and rivers, joined by manmade canals and locks, winds its way through diverse Canadian terrain including the solid rock of the Canadian Shield, marshland, and pastoral landscapes.

The diversity of the terrain is reflected in the distinct communities along the shore. Each city, town and village along the way has been shaped

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	<p>by the canal, the landscape and its own unique inhabitants. They all have a story of their own to share with visitors.</p> <p>The communities of the Rideau Heritage Route welcome visitors to explore the corridor by land or by water. Taste the bread made from stone ground flour; seek out the treasures made by the artists and artisans who dwell in this area of inspirational beauty; or learn the romantic tale of Canada's last fatal duel- an affair of honour. Investigate the history of the Rideau Canal in a museum, or at the lockstations where gates and sluices are still operated by hand. Trace Canada's political history from Bellevue House in Kingston, the home of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, to the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa at the northern entrance of the canal. Enjoy canoeing, fishing, golfing, theatre and festivals.</p>
Location	Eastern Ontario, between Kingston and Ottawa
Geography	<p>From Lake Ontario at Kingston, the Rideau begins its ascent of the Cataraqui River system. It passes through the Cataraqui Marsh, an extensive wetland in the St. Lawrence Lowlands. At Kingston Mills, the most southerly lockstation, boats climb the flight of locks, past towering granite cliffs, onto the Frontenac Axis, part of the rugged Canadian Shield. From lake to lake, the canal rises to its highest point, near Newboro, in Upper Rideau Lake.</p> <p>At the summit, the scenery changes. The canal gently descends through the Rideau Lakes and the Rideau River. It passes through farmlands of the Smiths Falls limestone plain and meanders through shallow marshes, alive with birds and wildlife.</p> <p>Equally interesting are neighbouring towns and villages. The architectural heritage reflects 175 years of canal history, which includes country hospitality and numerous festivities for visitors to enjoy. The remaining portion of the canal provides a pleasant transition from rural Ontario to the urban setting of the Nation's Capital. From Hogs Back to the Ottawa River, the canal forms the heart of Ottawa's parkland, culminating in the majestic staircase of eight locks at the foot of Parliament Hill.</p>
Name	The word 'rideau' is French for curtain, the appearance of the falls to Samuel de Champlain who travelled up the Ottawa River in 1613. The name Rivière du Rideau first appeared on maps in about 1700.
Fast Facts on the Rideau Canal	<p>Number of locks: 47</p> <p>Number of lock stations: 24</p> <p>Length of canal: 202 km</p> <p>First official opening: Summer of 1832</p> <p>Estimated travel time (one way): 3 to 5 days (motor boat), 6 to 10 days (paddling)</p> <p>Season of operation: Mid May to late October</p>

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	<p>Number of land based visitors: 1 to 1.4 million annually</p> <p>Most utilized locks (by boat): Narrows (6921 in 2005), Newboro (6456 in 2005)</p> <p>Services: Most lock-stations provide washrooms, parking for bicycles, first-aid, overnight dockage and picnic facilities, including tables, benches and barbecue grills.</p>
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CLIMATE	
General climate	Moderate with four distinct seasons; average summer temperature is 24 degrees Centigrade
Today's weather	29 degrees Centigrade and sunny/cloudy in Merrickville on the canal (6th August 2011)
Best time to visit	Lockmasters and their staff continue the tradition of hand-operating the locks at most of the 24 lock-stations. The exceptions are Newboro, Smiths Falls Combined and Black Rapids, which are operated electrically. Locks can accommodate boats up to 27.4 m (90 ft.) in length and 7.9 m (26 ft.) in width. Passing through a lock usually takes 15-20 minutes. The navigation season normally extends from Victoria Day weekend in May to mid-October.

GETTING THERE	An easy and scenic road or rail trip to Ottawa or Kingston from Montreal or Toronto and then follow the Rideau Heritage Route signs through the towns and villages.
Driving time	From Montreal it's only a 90 minute drive and from Toronto it's an easy four to six hour drive
Cities	Ottawa and Kingston
Distances	The canal is 202 km long from Lake Ontario to the Ottawa River.
Cruises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ontario Waterway Cruises are a wonderful way to experience the Route: see their website at http://www.ontariowaterwaycruises.com - Glide on the canal on the Harriet By, an electric launch, through the Rideau Migratory Bird Sanctuary. - Classic Rideau Cruises: fully restored vintage cruiser from Chaffeys Locks to Jones Falls and back; lunch and dinner cruises are also available. Their cruiser, "Chuckles" runs on hybrid solar/electric power with an environmentally friendly electric engine, no exhaust fumes and no noise. You will enjoy a silent ride in comfort. You won't only marvel at the sights, but you will hear the sounds of nature, including the cry of the loons, in this most beautiful section of the Rideau. \$62 per person (2011); with lunch: \$80 http://www.rideauboattours.com
Trains	Both Ottawa and Kingston are accessible with VIA Rail
Buses	Confederation Trolley Tours in Kingston and Double Decker Bus Tours in Ottawa

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Passes	<p>Have you visited all 24 lock-stations? Do you know the history behind some of their names? The Rideau Canal passport is much more than a souvenir booklet it's a guide through the system. The lockmasters will be happy to identify their lock-station in your passport. Visit all the lock-stations to complete it.</p> <p>Passports can be picked up at any lock-stations along the waterway or at the Rideau Canal headquarters in Smiths Falls.</p>
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ACCOMMODATION TYPES	<p>There are nearly 1000 listed on the website, including several prize properties. There are also 20 private campgrounds: What could be more serene than sitting by a campfire watching the very last bit of sun pass under the horizon? To then fall asleep to the chorus of crickets and wake up to beautiful birdsong followed by a peaceful hike through the Canadian Shield. It's nature at its best. Enjoy the great outdoors by staying overnight at one of the Rideau Heritage Routes' wide selection of campgrounds.</p>
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TARGET GROUPS Kids	<p>Here are some ideas for the Kids:</p> <p>The Rideau Canal Museum located in Smiths Falls, Ontario and is housed in a 19th century stone building which was once a mill: the Woods Mills Complex. Inside, high-technology displays and a variety of artifacts bring to life the history of the canal - its construction from 1826 to 1831, its role throughout history, as well as the distinct lifestyle and folklore associated with the Rideau Waterway. Explore the unique "Tunnel of History". Take a short climb to the "Lookout" to see a panoramic view of the canal and the Town of Smiths Falls. Test your skills as a "Canal Captain" in a steerable model boat. Sit back in the museum's auditorium to view a short presentation. Open May to Oct: daily 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Adults: \$4.50 Kids \$3.00. (2011) Outdoor visit of the Smiths Falls Combined Locks, Lock-station and Lockmaster's House: approximately 50 minutes. Self-guided tour booklet available for purchase in museum boutique. A Museum visit includes a 15 minute DVD presentation in the Auditorium, and access to the Children's area, Look Out Tower, Resource Centre, & Gift Shop.</p> <p>http://www.rideau-info.com/museum</p> <p>Guided Tours of the Locks: See the impressive modern hydraulic system at the Smiths Falls' Combined Locks and compare them to the original 3-lift manual system built by Lt. Col. By in 1829. This popular outdoor walking tour is offered daily, June through August, or by request. Duration: 50-60 minutes.</p> <p>Teens Owl Rafting, Box 29, Foresters Falls, offers 1- and 2-day white-water</p>
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	rafting trips within 90 minutes of the city, pounding over extensive rapids for the fit and adventurous and floating on gentler stretches for families. Prices start at C\$115 per person per day during the week, meals included. (2011) http://www.owl-mkc.ca/owl
Romance	Romantic country inns in quiet, waterside locations amidst great scenery...rekindle your love life with a long weekend on the Rideau Heritage Route.
Genealogy	Genealogy and the history of Lanark County A wealth of information is available for historians, students, church groups and family members looking for long lost relatives come from all over Canada, the USA and as far away as Europe to discover their roots. Lanark County Archives, Perth, ON (613)267-2232 or 256-3756 for additional information and tours.
Seniors	Gentle walks, craft shops, easy access, comfortable lodgings and wonderful fall colours make this a perfect destination for seniors.

UNIQUES	<p>UNESCO World Heritage: To be designated as a World Heritage Site is the most significant international designation any site can achieve. Rideau Canal designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. In June 2007, the Rideau Canal was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The decision was announced at the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Christchurch, New Zealand. The Rideau Canal was one of 36 natural and cultural sites that were reviewed for inclusion on the World Heritage List by the UNESCO session. The World Heritage List now numbers 936 properties (725 cultural, 183 natural and 28 mixed) in 153 States as at 2011.</p> <p>The Rideau Canal became the 14th Canadian location to be named a UNESCO World Heritage Site (and the first in Ontario), joining: • L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site (1978) • Nahanni National Park (1978) • Dinosaur Provincial Park (1979) • Kluane / Wrangell-St Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek (1979, 1992, 1994) • Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (1981) • SGang Gwaay (1981) • Wood Buffalo National Park (1983) • Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (1984, 1990) • Historic District of Old Québec (1985) • Gros Morne National Park (1987) • Old Town Lunenburg (1995) • Waterton Glacier International Peace Park (1995) • Miguasha National Park (1999) Joggins Fossil Cliffs (2008) is now the 15th Canadian site.</p>
Surprising	The Locks: The locks on the Rideau operate today much as they did 160 years ago. The large wooden lock doors are opened and closed using hand cranks. Hand cranks are also used to let water in and out of the locks. Most of the stone blocks that you see are the ones originally emplaced in the 19th century. The locks cater to tourists and even the

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	<p>novice boater will have no trouble locking through. Parks Canada staff are always there to assist. All the locks offer nice grassy lawns with picnic tables. Lock watching is an interesting pastime, a great way to spend a lazy afternoon, watching boats of all descriptions go up and down in the lock. Many transient boaters moor at the locks which offer good dockage, washroom facilities and an interesting area to explore. Several of the locks have defensible lockmaster houses and blockhouses which are open for public viewing. Many of the locks offer hiking trails. Several of the locks such as those at Ottawa, Merrickville, Smiths Falls, Chaffey's, Jones Falls, and Kingston have heritage museums located close by.</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>The Rideau Canal was conceived in the wake of the War of 1812. It was to be a war-time supply route to Kingston and the Great Lakes/ because the international boundary along the St. Lawrence was vulnerable to attack. The canal provided a secure water route for troops and supplies from Montreal to reach the settlements of Upper Canada and the strategic naval dockyard at Kingston.</p> <p>In 1826, England sent Lieutenant Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers to supervise canal construction. Thousands of Irish immigrants, French Canadians and Scottish stonemasons were among the labourers who helped push the canal through the rough bush, swamps and rocky wilderness of Eastern Ontario.</p> <p>Opened for navigation in 1832, the Rideau Canal was one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century. When the fear of war passed, the canal soon became a major artery for regional commerce. This role continued for several decades but began to decline with the completion of the St. Lawrence canal system and the introduction of the railway in a new era of luxury steamboats began introducing passengers to the Rideau over the next 50 years.</p> <p>Today, the log rafts, barges and steamers have given way to pleasure boats, while roads provide easy access to lock-stations by land. The Tay Canal, an addition to the Rideau, was a private venture built by enterprising settlers of Perth. Connected by five wooden locks, it linked up with the Rideau Canal in 1834, ensuring Perth's participation in the commercial trade of Upper Canada. It was later replaced by a second Tay Canal.</p>
<p>Books</p>	<p>The Rideau Heritage Route Travel Guide is an excellent, pocket-sized guide to the attractions of the area. An online version is available here: http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/dawson/rhrta_travelguide0809-en</p>

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Must Sees	Fall colours from Spy Lookout at the top of Foley Mountain overlooking Westport.
Award	The National Geographic Society's Center for Sustainable Destinations rated the Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada second best on the 2008 "Places Rated" Destination Stewardship survey. This annual survey measures the world's top historic sites for authenticity, stewardship and their tourism footprint. Only Austria's Wachau Valley with its Melk Abbey, a Benedictine monastery overlooking the Danube, surpassed the Rideau Canal with top marks. A panel of 280 experts evaluated 109 sites from all over the world based on the following six criteria: environmental and ecological quality; social and cultural integrity; condition of historic buildings and archaeological sites; aesthetic appeal; quality of tourism management; and outlook for the future.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	Swimming, skating, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and more
Golf	There are 20 courses along the route including some of the oldest golf courses in Canada – the Links O'Tay built in 1890 is the oldest course in Canada on its original site
Fishing	The lakes and rivers of the Rideau Waterway offer great fishing opportunities. Species caught along the length of the Rideau Waterway include Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Lake Trout, Yellow Perch, Black Crappie and Walleye (Yellow Pickerel). There's a very useful new website resource for fishing in Ontario at www.ontario.ca/fishing whereby you can search for fishing opportunities by fish species, water body or GPS coordinates.
Canoeing	There's easy access at over 30 launch ramps and 23 lock stations. You have the choice of portaging around the locks or "locking through". There's over 1,000km of shoreline along the Rideau to explore!
Hiking	Outside of boating, there is no better way to see the wildlife of the Rideau and just enjoy nature in general than taking a nice hike through the woods. There are many trails that the hiker can take advantage of. The most extensive trail system in the region, The Rideau Trail , forms a traverse from Kingston to Ottawa. An interesting portion of the Rideau trail for the boater is the section between Westport and Murphy's Point Provincial Park, where the trail runs close to the shores of Upper Rideau and Big Rideau Lakes. Visit www.rideautrail.org More sedate hikers will enjoy the Cataraqui Trail , part of the Trans-Canada trail system, which follows an old railway bed (no more than a 2% grade).
Cycling	Bicycle enthusiasts can fully enjoy the Rideau region. Although there are no bicycle trails directly along the Rideau (except for bicycle paths in Ottawa), there are many trails and secondary roads close by that the bicyclist can enjoy. You can either come here just to cycle or strap a bike

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	<p>or two onto your boat (trails cross the Rideau Waterway in several places). In addition, several shops and some bed & breakfasts offer bicycle rentals.</p> <p>Velo Quebec: For over 40 years, Vélo Québec, a non-profit organization, has played an important role on the Quebec cycling scene. It constantly encourages the use of bicycles - whether for recreation, tourism or as a clean, active mode of transportation - in order to improve the environment, health and wellbeing of citizens.</p> <p>This year's Grand Tour Desjardins is in the Rideau region participants will spend 3 days in undulating, pastoral hinterland along the Rideau Heritage Route, a multi-tiered waterway ingeniously constructed in 1832 and inscribed as a UNESCO world heritage site in 2007. This will be followed by 4 days in the lovely Thousand Islands region – including stopovers in Belleville, Kingston and Brockville – against the backdrop of Lake Ontario, a veritable landlocked freshwater sea ringed by sandy beaches. The beautiful surroundings and rich historical context of this Grand Tour Desjardins combine to make it a very special edition. http://www.explorebybike.com/destination-bike-adventure-the-grand-tour</p>
Rafting	<p>If heart-racing adventure is your game, gear up to ride class III and class IV daredevil sections of Ottawa River called Hell's Half Mile, Lemming's Leap and Butcher's Knife. Or if it's calmer waters you seek, travel along the Madawaska River and the Ottawa River in summer time — the perfect season for gentle family float trips. However you'd like to tackle the rapids, Ontario can offer the ideal white water adventure.</p>

CULTURE	
Arts	<p>There are 42 public art galleries and artist studios located along the Rideau Heritage Route, with a cluster of 11 artist studios in Merrickville.</p>
Museums	<p>Places to learn more about the canal:</p> <p>Rideau Canal Museum (Smiths Falls) In 2007 a new Parks Canada exhibit at the Rideau Canal Museum was opened. Located in Smiths Falls, the museum is housed in the Woods Mills Complex, a 19th century stone building which was once a busy mill. Inside, displays and artefacts bring to life the history of the canal - its construction, its role throughout history, as well as the distinct lifestyle and folklore associated with the Rideau Waterway.</p> <p>Heritage House Museum (Smiths Falls)</p>

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	<p>Merrickville Blockhouse Museum (Merrickville)</p> <p>Rideau District Museum (Westport)</p> <p>Lockmasters House Museum (Chaffey's Lock)</p> <p>Old Stone Mill (Delta)</p> <p>Bytown Museum (Ottawa)</p> <p>Blacksmith Shop, Sweeney House (Jones Falls)</p> <p>Fort Henry (Kingston) – see separate entry in Destinations at http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Destinations/ONTARIO/FortHenryKingston.aspx</p> <p>Smiths Falls Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario - Your journey into the past begins in the station itself. Built in 1914, for the Canadian Northern Railway Company the station, a National Historic Site, has been carefully restored to its original Edwardian splendour. The Museum’s artefacts and exhibitions narrate the history of railroading in Canada. Visitors can ride the rails on an antique track inspection vehicle, climb up into a cupola of a caboose, explore a travelling dentist car, or visit our Children’s Area</p>
<p>Festivals</p>	<p>No matter where your interests lie, the Rideau Heritage Route hosts a special event to make your visit extra memorable! Anchored on either end by Ottawa and Kingston, and dotted by a number of charming smaller communities, the region is home to a colourful variety of celebrations - both large and small. An International Speed Skating Marathon attracts thousands of visitors to the tiny hamlet of Portland every winter. The Counties of Leeds and Lanark are nationally renowned for their high quality production of maple syrup, with communities such as Perth and Delta hosting festivals in honour of maple season. Discover an eclectic mix of vibrant events including sled dog races, studio tours, flotillas, fall fairs, antique shows and even a turkey festival! This is just a small sampling of the fun and unique experiences that await you along the Rideau Heritage Route.</p> <p>The Annual Merrickville Artists’ Guild Studio Tour & Sale – This venerable self-guided free tour features artists and studios offering such wares as paintings, hot glass, jewellery, pottery, sculpture, textile arts, woodturnings, metal smithing and letterpress printing — all within a 15 km radius of the village. – 24/25 Sept and Oct 1/2 2011</p>

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	<p>www.merrickvilleartists.com</p> <p>Lyndhurst Turkey Fair – Lyndhurst is famous for its arched stone bridge but it’s the annual Turkey Fair that keeps visitors coming back! This year’s event is on Saturday September 17th 2011 and includes activities and entertainment for all the family.</p>
ATTRACTIONS	<p>Maple Sugar House and Museum - located on the Gibbons Family Farm, 3 km east of Frankville (between Smiths Falls and Brockville), the museum is open year around. It is a fully working sugar house and during syrup season (March-April) you can watch (and taste) maple syrup in the making.</p>
Beaches	<p>The water warms up nicely in July for families to enjoy the beaches in the Provincial Parks and the lakes of this region.</p>
Wildlife	<p>Musk rats, deer, osprey, wolf, loons, heron, turtles, beaver – all are often seen along the length of this Route</p>
Parks	<p>The Rideau Heritage Route encompasses 4 Provincial Parks and 10 Conservation Areas, including Charleston Lake, Frontenac, Murphy’s Point and Rideau River.</p> <p>Murphy’s Point - Located on the historic Rideau Waterway, this park near Perth offers tours of a restored mica mine and trails - groomed in winter for cross-country skiing - to sawmill ruins and pioneer homesteads. At Big Rideau Lake, pitch your tent at a boat-in campsite and enjoy boating, canoeing and exceptional fishing.</p> <p>Charleston Lake - Natives once sheltered under rock overhangs on the shores of this coldwater lake north of the St. Lawrence River. Then wealthy Victorian cottagers summered here. The rugged look of the north blended with the south still draws hikers and canoeists to these scenic shores and winding trails.</p> <p>Frontenac - Situated on a southern arm of the Canadian Shield north of Kingston, this semi-wilderness park features granite outcrops, vast wetlands and mixed forests, plants and wildlife. Trails wind through rugged terrain to Moulton Gorge, the Arkon Lake Bog, the Black Lake homestead and the Crab Lake mines. From Otter Lake, hikers and canoeists head into the interior for glimpses of osprey and kingfisher, deer and black bear, coyote and fox, and abundant beaver. Wilderness skills courses are offered in summer and winter</p>
Other Canadian UNESCO World Heritage Sites	<p>The Rideau is in good company as a UNESCO site – here are the other UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Canada: 15 out of 911 worldwide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L’Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site (1978) - Nahanni National Park (1978) - Dinosaur Provincial Park (1979) - Kluane (1979) - Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (1981)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SGang Gwaay (1981) - Wood Buffalo National Park (1983) - Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (1984, 1990) - Historic District of Old Québec (1985) - Gros Morne National Park (1987) - Old Town Lunenburg (1995) - Waterton Glacier International Peace Park (1995) - Miguasha National Park (1999) - Joggins Fossil Cliffs (2008)
Forts	<p>Fort Henry in Kingston is one of Canada's most dynamic, performance-based heritage attractions, offering interactive daily programs from May to September. Daily Garrison Parade at 3:00pm, Sunset Ceremonies Wednesday evening in July and August. It is a part of the Rideau Canal's UNESCO designation. See the separate entry on this site for full details:</p> <p>http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Destinations/ONTARIO/FortHenryKingston.aspx</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>Over 400 local arts and crafts shops including painters, sculptors, potters, silversmiths and glassblowers. One example: Emma's Quilt Shop in Merrickville - Emma's Quilt Shop is a unique fabric & gift shop. The shop has a beautiful display of handmade one-of-a-kind quilts for sale of all sizes & colours. All the quilts are made by local artisans. We also carry giftware for the bed and bedroom. On display are many beautiful bolts of fabric in flannels, bark-cloth all 100% quality cottons.</p>
Markets	<p>There are Farmers' Markets at Kingston, Perth and the Byward Market in Ottawa, plus others in smaller communities in the region, such as: Frontenac Farmers Market, 4504 Verona Sand Rd., Lions Club Hall, Verona, ON, K0H 1W0 Tel: (613) 374 - 3428 Open Saturday mornings from February to December. Fresh Ontario & Canadian made quality products include seasonal produce, meats, baked goods, dairy products and prepared foods, coffee, honey, handmade crafts, soaps, jewelry, pet products and more.</p>
National Park	<p>Close by to the Rideau is the St. Lawrence Islands National Park. The park is located in an area of rich biodiversity and is home to many species at risk. St. Lawrence Islands National Park consists of several ecologically important mainland properties and more than 20 islands between Kingston and Brockville. The Visitor Centre at Mallorytown Landing provides an introduction to the park with a hiking trail, interpretive programs, exhibits, and activities for the whole family. The park is a key regional partner in encouraging sustainable lifestyles and in protecting the ecosystems of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. The Biosphere Reserve, officially designated by the United Nations in</p>

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	2002, recognizes the region as a place where people live, work, and enjoys a variety of economic and recreational activities based on respect for the environment. Established in 1904 as the first Canadian national park east of the Rockies, St. Lawrence Islands celebrated its centennial in 2004. http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/on/lawren/index.aspx
Historical Buildings	Jones Falls Lock-station - The construction of the Jones Falls Lock-station was one of the largest engineering feats during the creation of the Rideau Canal. Contractors had to overcome a series of rapids 1.6 km long with a fall over 18 metres. Work at Jones Falls began in 1827 and was completed in 1832. Lock-station services: barbecues, parking, charts and permit sales, on-site identification, landscaped grounds, and an indoor exhibit. Guided tours are available for groups. Visit the blacksmith shop, defensible lockmaster's house, stone arch dam, and visitor centre. Swimming, fishing and boat watching are some of the activities to be enjoyed here.

CUISINE	
Food	Naturally, the large communities of Kingston and Ottawa offer the traveler ample opportunities for fine dining. But you will also find culinary delights as you travel the Rideau. Most of the lodges and Inns along the route have dining rooms offering the traveler a delicious selection of meals. In addition, the communities along the route offer various restaurants to satiate almost any type of food craving. Maple syrup is a specialty of the area and Lanark County is known as the Maple Syrup Capital of Ontario!
Restaurants	Fiddleheads Bar & Grill, Perth Occupying 5000 sq. feet in one of Perth's oldest heritage buildings, with 4 very unique and distinct spaces to choose from, you are certain to find something to suit your taste here. Whether it's a lively bar, a sunny patio, an elegant dining room or an open air courtyard, come explore one of Perth's gems. For fine dining let your senses escape in the hands of a seasoned culinary team in the main dining room of Fiddleheads in Perth. Enjoy the easy atmosphere and pub menu in the atrium and bar. Sunday brunch is a local favorite with live jazz on alternate Sundays. http://www.fiddleheadsbarandgrill.com

MORE INFO	
Brochures	Order an Ontario Travel Guide by phoning 1-800-ONTARIO.
Websites	www.rideauheritageroute.ca www.ontariotravel.net

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TRAVEL SHOW PRIZES	<p>Rideau Heritage Route Trip Showcase</p> <p>Enjoy a two night Rideau getaway and make sure you take a Classic Rideau Cruise. Moored at Chaffeys Lock, “Chuckles” is a beautifully restored 1940 vintage cruiser now offering an electric tour boat.</p> <p>1000 Islands Trip Showcase</p> <p>One night at the Colonial Resort and Spa in Gananoque. Cruise with the Gananoque Boat Line and don’t miss the Thousand Islands Playhouse.</p>
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PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	<p>I have spent time on many sections of the Rideau Heritage Route over the last few years and I am delighted that its unique history and heritage has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.</p> <p>I have included the Rideau Canal and Kingston Fortifications in my Chris’ Top Ten Canadian History Sites:</p> <p>http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Planning/ChrisTop10Lists/CanadianHistorySites.aspx</p>
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**SPECIAL FEATURE:
1,000 ISLANDS**

The Thousand Islands Region blends the waters of the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario from Kingston to Cornwall. This beautiful area is designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve as it represents Eastern Canada's most bio diverse ecosystem.

Native peoples called The Thousand Islands the "Garden of the Great Spirit." Gananoque, the Heart of the 1000 Islands, is a Mecca for summer visitors for over a Century; it's renowned for calm water paddling, outdoor adventure and scenic cruises. And a spectacular live theatre overlooks the majestic Islands.

Fall is a spectacular time on land or on water. Fall colours abound – as do fall flavours such as apples, cheese and Maple products.

Known internationally as an area of spectacular vistas, the 1000 Islands and St. Lawrence Seaway offer visitors a multitude of activities from festivals and events, outdoor recreation, wonderful shopping and dining, world-class attractions and so much more.

There are three international bridge border crossings. Kingston is the western gateway to the beauty of the Islands and the largest city in the region. Plan to explore the other communities within this region including Gananoque, Brockville, Rockport and the 1000 Islands Parkway, Prescott and Cornwall. Take a 1000 Islands cruise available from Kingston, Gananoque, Rockport or Brockville and cruise among the 1,864 Islands (yes, there's actually more than a 1000) and see the spectacular island homes up close.

For years the 1000 Islands have been a millionaire's playground with many making this area their summer retreat. The grandest structure in the Islands is Boldt Castle located on Heart Island. Accessible by water taxi, tour and private boats, the castle has been restored and features the Boldt Yacht House on Wellesley Island and six impressive structures.

And of course, the 1000 Islands and St. Lawrence Seaway are a great place to enjoy the water - boating, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, jet skiing, scuba diving, water taxis, charters, casino and cruises are all here. The St. Lawrence River is a major inland water route for majestic ocean-going ships. The Iroquois Locks, the only locks in the St.

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	<p>Lawrence Seaway system to be located in Eastern Ontario, are a great place to see majestic Lakers and ocean vessels from all over the world. The outdoor enthusiast will appreciate the St. Lawrence Recreational Path, which stretches over 75 kilometres, the majority of which follows the shoreline of the St. Lawrence River. The path begins in Lancaster, travels west to Cornwall and winds through the rolling terrain toward Long Sault. The path then follows the island causeway of the Long Sault Parkway and continues to the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Ingleside, then arriving at Upper Canada Village and on into Morrisburg.</p> <p>Did you know there are actually over 1,800 islands (1,864 to be exact) that make up the 1000 Islands region? To become an official part of the count, an island must meet two criteria: it must be above water 365 days a year and it must support two living trees. Ferries or bridges provide access to Wellesley, Hill, Wolfe and Howe Islands. The islands are unique, offering a wonderful recreation experience that spans two nations. Each island has its own individuality with features such as stately granite cliffs, soft sandy bays, tall dark pines and vibrant maple trees — it's a sightseer's paradise. Many islands are privately owned but ample public access can be found at island parks and villages throughout the region.</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>It was French explorers who named the region. Vacationers discovered the islands in the 1870s, when wealthy people began to build summer homes while other travelers came to stay in large hotels. For more than a century the area has been a mecca for summer visitors. In the more distant past the islands were stepping stones between New York State and the Province of Ontario—in times of trouble between Canada and the United States, a place of refuge and a setting for disreputable deeds.</p>
<p>Cruises</p>	<p>The region's many boat lines offer a variety of cruises, typically ranging from one hour to three hours in length. You can choose to travel on a modern glass-topped catamaran or triple-decker cruise boats, paddle-wheel riverboats or even an historic 1929 vintage wooden cruise boat. Cruises leaving from Alexandria Bay, Clayton, Gananoque, Ivy Lea and Rockport tour the central part of the 1000 Islands region of the St Lawrence. Many of these cruises offer a stop-over at historic Boldt Castle on Heart Island.</p> <p>Gananoque Boat Line: Sit back and let the Gananoque Boat Line take you on an exciting tour of the world famous 1000 Islands. Offering 1-hour Thousand Island cruises, 2.5-hour Thousand Island cruises (the most comprehensive in the 1000 Islands) and Boldt Castle Stopover cruises on Heart Island, in</p>

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	<p>the Thousand Islands. Toll Free: 1-888-717-4837 Website: http://www.ganboatline.com</p> <p>Kingston 1000 Islands Cruises: With a range of different cruises and meal and entertainment options, this company is a great choice in the Kingston area. Tel: (613) 549-5544 Website: http://www.1000islandscruises.on.ca</p>
<p>Thousand Islands Playhouse</p>	<p>It's the 30th anniversary season at this delightful theatre in Gananoque and their playbill this summer is: Lend Me a Tenor: July 22 – Aug 27, 2011 Billy Bishop Goes To War: Aug 5 – Sept 3, 2011</p> <p>History: In 1981, Greg Wanless returned home from a number of successful seasons at Stratford with the dream of reestablishing a theatre in Gananoque. For a short time, from 1967-1968, Gananoque had been home to the St. Lawrence Summer Playhouse, located in a tent in the parking lot of the Blinkbonnie Hotel. The theatre was extremely popular with locals and tourists alike, featuring a mix of Broadway musicals and American and British comedies. But despite its success, it was soon moved to Kingston where it continued running until 1976.</p> <p>Greg's desire to bring theatre back to Gananoque was met with considerable support from the community, which had deeply missed the activity and excitement generated by the previous Playhouse. Under Greg's leadership, and with the help of the community and a close group of artists and actors, the Thousand Islands Playhouse presented its first show on June 25, 1982.</p> <p>The local Rotary Club sold the Gananoque Canoe Club to the Playhouse, community members donated money to renovate the building, and trades people generously gave of their time and expertise. That first season it was not unusual to come across a local businessman working alongside an actor building a deck, or a plumber teaching people how to install a toilet. Community members often dropped by after work to check on the progress of the building, and hosted dinners for hungry performers or production staff.</p> <p>After such passionate community involvement in the theatre's beginnings, it seemed natural that the Playhouse's mission statement include an acknowledgment of our commitment to community life. Thirty years later, the Playhouse remains an important part of life in Gananoque and the commitment to the community continues to guide their artistic vision.</p> <p>It now operates two fully-renovated historic venues side by side on the</p>

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	<p>banks of the St. Lawrence River in Gananoque—the 360 seat Springer Theatre and the 140 seat Firehall Theatre. By the end of 2011, it will have presented 189 productions including 24 world premieres.</p> <p>Thousand Islands Playhouse, Springer Theatre & Firehall Theatre, Box 241 Gananoque, ON K7G 2T8 Toll-Free 1.866.382.7020 Local 613.382.7020 Open daily at 11:00AM EST http://www.1000islandsplayhouse.com</p>
<p>Casino</p>	<p>Straddling the historic communities of Leeds and Thousand Islands, and Gananoque, Thousand Islands Charity Casino is a first-class gaming experience in a magnificent natural setting. Located just 20 minutes east of Kingston and 10 minutes from the U.S. border, Ontario's newest charity casino offers excitement in a beautiful setting. Ranging from 5¢ to \$5, there are 450 slot machines, with favourites such as Wheel Of Fortune, Big Bang Piggy Bank and Money To Burn. Try your luck at the table games such as Blackjack, Let It Ride, Caribbean Stud Poker and Roulette. When you're ready for a break from the gaming action, enjoy delicious cuisine at Oscar's Marina Grill.</p> <p>Website: http://www.1000islandscharitycasino.com</p>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>The St. Lawrence Islands National Park. With about 9 square kilometers of land area, it is the smallest of Canada's national parks. Established by the Federal Government in 1904, St. Lawrence Islands was the first National Park east of the Canadian Rockies. Located between Kingston and Brockville, it consists of more than 21 islands and a mainland base at Mallorytown Landing. Most islands have docks, trails, shelters and camping facilities. Access to islands is by boat only. Discover the visitors centre at Mallorytown Landing, which features aquariums and live exhibits, a kid's activity area, theatre and a travelling exhibit.</p> <p>Address: St. Lawrence Islands National Park of Canada Headquarters - 2 County Rd 5, RR #3, Mallorytown, ON K0E 1R0 Tel: 613-923-5261 and 1-888-773-8888 web: www.pc.gc.ca/sli Operating Season: mid May-mid Oct</p> <p>The U.S. islands include numerous state parks including Robert Moses State Park and Wellesley Island State Park.</p>
<p>The 1000 Islands Parkway</p>	<p>The picturesque stretch of the 1000 Islands Parkway provides an excellent opportunity to see the islands by being in the midst of their beauty and fascinating geological history. Try biking or hiking on some or the entire 37- kilometre paved bicycle pathway that skirts the shoreline's coves and bays on the waterfront. The 1000 Islands Parkway runs between Gananoque and Brockville and also forms a section of Ontario's Waterfront Trail that will take you through small port</p>

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	hamlets like Ivy Lea and Rockport.
The River	<p>Frequently traveled by large freighters on their way in to and out of the Great Lakes shipping lanes, the St. Lawrence joins with the Atlantic Ocean in the Gulf of St. Lawrence at the rugged shores of the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula in the province of Quebec, some 600 nautical miles from Kingston, Ontario. The waterway along the 1000 Islands Region features several shipwrecks and offers a great environment for diving. Popular among vacationers, boaters and campers, the region is often referred to as the “fresh water boating capital of the world.” The Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, NY houses one the world’s largest collections of recreational freshwater boats.</p> <p>Many visitors choose to experience the river and see the islands up close and personal with a tour boat excursion. Several companies in both the U.S. and Canada offer sightseeing and dining cruises of the region in varying lengths. Fishing charters are another popular way of spending a day on the river.</p>
Fishing	<p>There is a lot to angle for, since are 20 sports species in the St. Lawrence River; you will find Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Walleye, and the Great Muskellunge (Muskie) all just waiting for your lure and bait. Gananoque is steeped in the tradition of legendary Giant Muskie fishing; the largest caught was 65 lbs! The hottest spot to chase Muskie is 40 acre shoals just off the coast of Gananoque where you will find a bounty of them.</p>
Beaches	<p>The beaches can range from all granite rock formations that are incredibly therapeutic to relax upon or explore, to beautiful sandy beaches with emerald green waters. There are many different places to swim in the 1000 Islands, but some are only accessible by boat. Be sure to have your swimsuit, as a dip in the St. Lawrence River is a must.</p>
Scuba	<p>The 1000 Islands boasts the world’s best fresh water diving. Due to an influx of Zebra Mussels, the visibility for divers now is up to 70 feet and has caused a sensation throughout the dive industry. Thanks to the fresh cold water of the St. Lawrence River there are over 200 shipwrecks preserved that date back to the War of 1812, leaving us exciting time capsules to explore.</p>
Houseboating	<p>You are the captain, this is your boat, and you are in command. Lounge with the houseboat comforts in the sun, go fishing, barbeque, water ski, hike, kayak, swim, take a nap, or dock for a while and explore the islands. Easily handled and fully equipped, and instruction will be provided. Try Houseboat Holidays at www.houseboatholidays.ca</p>
Golf	<p>Golfing in the 1000 Islands region is unique and absolutely spectacular! Experience the challenge and beauty of Smuggler’s Glen; the top rated course in Eastern Ontario and a must play course if you are traveling to the area. Tee off twice in a row and experience the unique #4 and 5th holes at Gananoque Golf and Country Club. Play some</p>

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	<p>of the oldest courses in North America steeped in 1000 Islands tradition and history, the Gananoque Golf and Country Club that dates back to 1921 and Thousand Islands Country Club of the late 1800's. Driving ranges and teaching academies/lessons are available. For the young enthusiasts, "Putt and Play" themed 18 hole miniature golf course is fun and challenging.</p>
<p>Shopping</p>	<p>Gananoque's the place! One of a kind artistry, foods, fashions, and collectables. Fabulous shopping in downtown Gananoque is a short walk from the marina and most hotels. You can browse for unique foods, distinctive fashions, original art, home accessories, or a special collectable. Venture into the historic district of Gananoque, where some shops and businesses are housed in restored buildings dating back to the 1800's and shopping doubles as a walking tour. The charm and aromas in the town bakery offers irresistible goodies and fresh bread, while small boutiques, variety shops, general store and old-fashioned hardware store offer an enjoyable way to tour the town and mingle with the locals. Authentic small-town ambiance, shopping and dining can be a way to treat the senses and enjoy a welcome absence of city hustle and bustle without emptying the pocketbook.</p>
<p>Dining in Gananoque</p>	<p>Gananoque Inn Circa 1896, the luxurious Watermark Restaurant features summer-fresh; creative Canadian cuisine and a fine wine list that complement in a romantic setting with water front terrace and views. Popular local pub, Muskie Jake's Tap and Grill, provides more casual fare including sandwiches, pasta and burgers with waterfront terrace. Adjacent to the Thousand Islands Playhouse, the Gananoque Boat Lines and shopping. Wheelchair-accessible. 550 Stone Street, Gananoque 613-382-2165 www.gananoqueinn.com</p> <p>MacNeils Landing In a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, bring a hearty appetite and meet owner Cliff Edwards, famed lead vocalist of "The Bells", a gold record group that produced such hits as "Stay Awhile" and "Fly Little White Dove Fly". Prime Rib, Steaks, and Dinner Concerts. 790 King St. East, Gananoque 613-382-5131 www.macneilslanding.com</p> <p>Best Western Country Squire Enjoy southwestern hospitality at its best with Good Time Charly's Bar & Grill. Relax on the patio or catch one of the games on one of our many TV's while enjoying our relaxed atmosphere. Serving breakfast, lunch</p>

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and dinner, enjoy sizzling steak, fajitas, great appetizers, lighter fair, pasta or pizza.

715 King Street, East Gananoque

613-383-5155 www.goodtimecharlys.com

Ramada Provincial Inn

Dine amongst antiques and collectables, at Captain Dooley's Restaurant. Scrumptious fare includes steaks, fresh fish, roast turkey, seafood, sandwiches, pasta and much more. Family owned and operated for over 40 years.

846 King St. East Gananoque

613-382-2038

www.ramadaprovincialinn.ca

Quality Inn and Suites

The Lobster Trap Restaurant features a casual nautical theme, including the Rum Runner Lounge and outdoor patio. Specializing in live lobster, fish and seafood and also serving great steaks, chicken, past and more.

650 King St. East Gananoque

613-382-7317

www.qualityinn1000islands.com

Blinkbonnie Restaurant

Located at the Historic Blinkbonnie Inn . This restaurant features beef, chicken, and seafood.

50 Main St. Gananoque

613-382-7272

www.blinkbonnie.com

Glen House Resort

Dine in style at Shipman's Dining Room situated on the banks of the St. Lawrence River in the heart of Canada's spectacular 1000 Islands. Prim Rib of Beef, Shore Dinner, Broiled Shrimp and Scallops, Crab Legs, and Lobster Tail, Pasta and much more.

1000 Islands Parkway Gananoque

613-659-2204

www.glenhouseressort.com

Colonial Resort & Spa

The Colonial and Highlander dining rooms feature a cozy fireplace and dinners ranging from buffet style to complete table service. Relax and enjoy a cocktail in the Library bar or the Harp and Heather Pub.

780 King St. West

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	<p>613-382-3226 www.1000islandstours.com</p>
Castles	<p>Distinguished visitors flocked to the 1000 Islands in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, and the area became widely known as a summer resort. Steamboats offered extensive tours of the islands, and grand hotels provided luxurious lodging. Summer homes were built by middle-class residents. Two masonry castles remain as international landmarks and major tourist attractions.</p> <p>The most famous of these is Boldt Castle, located on Heart Island in Alexandria Bay, NY. Millionaire George C. Boldt, proprietor of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, began construction in 1900 on the six-story, 120-room castle for his beloved wife Louise. Construction was halted four years later when Louise unexpectedly died. Today Boldt Castle is owned and operated by the 1000 Islands Bridge Authority (Alexandria Bay, NY) who over the course of more than 30 years has restored various parts of the castle, which is one of the area's largest tourist attractions. Entrance: US\$7.00 adult, \$4.50 children (2011) It is open to the public and is accessible by boat tours leaving the U.S. and Canada, as well as private vessel. A shuttle connects the castle to the extravagant Boldt Yacht House on Wellesly Island, which is also open for public touring. Castle staff are well-versed in history. For more information see www.boldtcastle.com .</p> <p>Singer Castle is located on Dark Island, a 7-acre granite island, one mile from Chippewa Bay in the American waters of the St. Lawrence. The 28-room castle was maintained as a private residence for 100 years until 2003 when the owners opened it up to the public.</p>
The Bridge	<p>New York State and Ontario are connected by the 1000 Islands International Bridge, a unique multi-span bridge that includes a soaring 4,500-foot suspension bridge over the American Channel. It touches down on series of islands and crosses the international border between American Wellesley Island and Canadian Hill Island where several island communities and parks are located.</p>
1000 Islands Skydeck	<p>The best view of the 1000 Islands, 400 feet (130 metres) above the St. Lawrence River. The elevator, running continuously, takes 40 seconds to reach the first of three observation decks. Gift shops, ice cream, cheese shop and currency exchange. 1000 Islands Skydeck, Hill Island, 716 Highway # 137, Lansdowne, ON Tel: 613-659-2335 Operating Season: mid Apr-end Oct Operating Hours: 9am-8pm Prices: Adults - \$9.75 Child 6-12 \$5.75; 5 and under free. (2011)</p>

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	web: www.1000islandsskydeck.com
The Communities	<p>With its rich history, natural beauty and international flavor, the communities of the 1000 Islands Region have much to offer. Each community offers a unique experience that is sure to keep you returning from year to year.</p> <p>Numerous communities on the U.S. side are all within close proximity of one another. The angler will enjoy Henderson Harbor, located on the shores of Lake Ontario, with access to nearly every freshwater fish known and a plethora of experienced charter captains. History buffs flock to its neighbor to the northeast, Sackets Harbor, which was headquarters to the U.S. Navy during the War of 1812 and site of one of the most crucial battles of the war. A bit further east is Cape Vincent, where the Lake and River meet and home to Tibbett's Point Lighthouse. From there, it's a short drive to the communities of Clayton and Alexandria Bay, where shopping, attractions, boat tours and fun abound. The mighty Black River runs through the City of Watertown, which lies one-half hour to the south. With seven miles of whitewater and 14 sets of class III and IV rapids, the adventure seeker is sure to revel.</p> <p>A visit to the Canadian side of the region is even more inviting. At the foot of the Canadian span of the International Bridge are the many marinas and docking services of the 1000 Islands Parkway which attract the boating enthusiast. To the west, Gananoque is home to a wide variety of outdoor activities, including sea kayaking, scuba diving, swimming and nature walks. Slightly to the west, sitting at the junction of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River is historic Kingston, the first capital of Canada. Kingston is the home of Fort Henry National Historic Site, where visitors can experience the life of a soldier in the 1860s. Back in an easterly direction, at the very center of the 1000 Islands, is the community of Brockville, with historic buildings and beautiful waterfront. More history is yours to discover in Prescott, with Fort Wellington National Historic Site of Canada, featuring original buildings and grounds from the 1830s. Continue east along the St. Lawrence and you'll stumble upon Cornwall, dubbed the "Friendly Seaway City" and home to the Cornwall Historic Jail and a short drive to Upper Canada Village in nearby Morrisburg.</p>
Lost Villages Museum	<p>Through videos and displays, the story of the "Lost Villages" along with the Hydro and Seaway Projects of the 1950s come to life. Ten buildings are filled with artifacts and memorabilia relating to the people and times of this important historical period.</p> <p>Address: Co. Rd 2, 3km East of Long Sault, Long Sault, ON K0C 1P0 Tel: 613-534-2197 web: www.lostvillages.ca</p>

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	Open: mid June-Sept 30 Daily, 10am-5pm
Upper Canada Village	<p>Upper Canada Village Heritage Park: Experience an authentically recreated 1860s village with three fully operational mills, flourishing farms, trades people and a busy social and domestic life. Period music & entertainment, horse drawn vehicles, children's activities and boat rides. Address: 13740 Co. Rd. 2, Morrisburg, ON K0C 1X0 Tel: 613-543-4328 and 800-437-2233 web: www.uppercanadavillage.com Open: May – Oct 9:30am-5pm</p>
1000 Islands-Seaway Wine Trail	<p>Long absent from New York and the country's wine discussions, the 1000 Islands has quickly grabbed a foothold as an emerging wine region thanks to innovative grape growing and compelling entrepreneurs. The wineries, grape nurseries and vineyards are an exciting way to reintroduce viewers and readers to the 1000 Islands. They also provide a unique opportunity to give consumers a fresh look at the latest in winery and viticulture expansion.</p> <p>The winery boom – four have opened in six years – was made possible by scientific innovation that shattered the perception that wine grapes cannot grow in cold climates. Thanks to a partnership with upper Midwestern universities, Northern New York boasts a grape nursery and 20 vineyards growing “cold hardy grapes” with colorful names such as King of the North, Frontenac and Sabrevois (reds) as well as La Crescent and Frontenac Gris (whites).</p> <p>The growers teamed with the wineries to successfully lobby for state-recognition of the Thousand Islands-Seaway Wine Trail, which landed instant regard and credibility within the nation's wine industry. One location was named 2009 Winery of the Year by the New York State Wine and Grape Foundation and has managed to pull the organization's attention from more established areas such as Long Island and the Finger Lakes. Wineries have also received business-development awards and recognition for agriculture innovation.</p> <p>The area's first winery was opened by a retired US Army major inspired by his time in Germany to turn his adopted home into a wine region. The 1000 Islands also boasts the state's youngest winery owner. www.thousandislandsseawaywinetrail.com</p>
1000 Islands Dressing	<p>The many legends regarding the origin of 1000 Islands dressing all seem to relate back to George Boldt, one time owner of the Waldorf Astoria in New York City and the Bellevue-Stratford in Philadelphia, PA. Legend has it that while cruising aboard his yacht on the St. Lawrence River, Boldt's steward served a new dressing on the luncheon salad. Boldt was so pleased with the taste he decided to serve it at his New York City hotel, dubbing it 1000 Islands dressing in honor of the</p>

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	<p>beautiful region where it was first served. The steward, promoted to work at the hotel, subsequently rose to international fame as Oscar of the Waldorf.</p>
Pirate Days	<p>In 1838, notorious pirate Bill Johnston and a small band of his followers managed to sink a British river boat, the Sir Robert Peel, in the St. Lawrence. After robbing its passengers and putting them ashore, Johnston is thought to have hid for nearly a year in a cave, named Devil's Oven on Devil's Island near Alexandria Bay, NY.</p> <p>The community celebrates legends and lore with an annual 10-day festival of pirates. Bill Johnston's Pirate Days begins on August 12, 2011, when pirate ships attack the village of Alexandria Bay from the St. Lawrence River, as brave villagers try to stave them off. The air is filled with smoke and the sound of musket fire and cannon, and the villagers eventually succumb. Once the mayor turns over the key to the village to the invading marauders, everyone becomes a pirate. The festivities continue through August 21, 2011.</p> <p>http://www.visitalexbay.org/index.php/events/bill-johnstons-pirate-days</p>
St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival	<p>The Company began to take shape in 2002 after Deborah Smith of Chesterville brought a small, self-produced, touring production of Romeo and Juliet to the area. The community was charmed by the idea of having live theatre in its midst and it was agreed that the Company could utilize the outdoor amphitheatre for a full production of The Tempest in the summer of 2003; the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival was born.</p> <p>In the summer of 2006, Ian Farthing was appointed as the Festival's new Artistic Director and oversaw the expansion of the theatre's activities to a season of two mainstage Shakespeare productions, a full Sunday Series of events and an education program.</p> <p>With no other professional outdoor theatre in the St. Lawrence Seaway area, the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival fulfills a key role in the artistic life of the region. The unique riverside setting combined with the high quality of the performances has resulted in 100% increase in attendance over the first six years. The Festival is held at the Kinsmen Amphitheatre on Water Street West, in Prescott.</p> <p>For the Summer 2011 (July 9 – Aug 13) season there are two productions to choose from: All's Well That Ends Well and Twelfth Night</p> <p>Website: http://www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca</p>
Contacts	<p>Thousand Islands Accommodation Partners Address: 10 King St. East, Gananoque Ontario, K7G 1E6 1-800-561-1595 for Thousand Islands Tourism Website: http://www.1000islandstourism.com</p>

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