

Sault Ste Marie to Chippewa Falls

67 km
TOTAL DISTANCE (ONE WAY)

4–6 hrs
SUGGESTED RIDE TIME

DRIVE-AND-RIDE SELF-GUIDED ITINERARY

Celebrate the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail's first foray along the shores of Lake Superior with a ride from the Sault Ste Marie Waterfront to stunning Chippewa Falls where you'll see landscape that inspired the Group of Seven and can hike to the top of the falls.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL

Experienced. Route includes ~31km on the paved shoulders of Highway 17 and ~16km on lower volume secondary highways. Cyclists must be comfortable riding near traffic, including truck traffic and use caution.

TERRAIN

The route includes a big climb (4.4km. Avg Grade 2.8%. Steepest Grade 8.6%) out of Sault Ste Marie that can be broken down by treating yourself with a visit to a local bike shop, Velorution, part-way up the hill. There is a notable steep hill on Highway 522 you will **travel down** on the one-way itinerary (4.5km. Avg Grade 3.4%. Steepest Grade 7.9%). This is a cruise travelling northward. Those travelling back to Sault Ste Marie by bike will need to travel up this hill as well.

START LOCATION

Parking can be found at Clergue Park in Sault Ste Marie near the Art Gallery of Algoma (10 East St.) where you can enjoy a sculpture garden and view of the St. Clair River. Consider a quick pre-fuel at Ernie's Coffee Shop (13 Queen St E) for a coffee and some of their locally-famous coconut cream pie.

NOTE

This is a one-way linear route and you will need to arrange transportation back to start. Consider dropping off a vehicle at both the start and end locations or having a companion provide ride support (you can swap roles for the trip back!) You may also consider making this a two-day trip with the weekend-warrior option below.

COURTESY OF



ROUTE MAPS

Ride with GPS
(Single Day / 67km)

Ride with GPS: Weekender
(Two Day / 136 km)

**Great Lakes
Waterfront Trail
PDF maps**



Disclaimer: This route is a suggested route only. The route incorporates both multi-use trail and on-road riding. All cyclists are responsible for their own safety and must use both trails and streets with caution and do so at their own risk. Always wear the proper safety gear when cycling, ride sensibly and abide by all laws. Each route should be evaluated by each individual cyclist based on their level of experience, comfort level in cycling on trails and roads, weather conditions, time of day, and any road obstacles. Waterfront Regeneration Trust and all others involved in the development of this route do not assume any liability whatsoever for cyclists using this information and travelling upon this route

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THE RIDE

START LOCATION

Clergue Park, (10 East St, Sault Ste Marie) or a location of your choice.

TIPS

Sections of this route are remote. Make sure to plan accordingly with extra water and snacks. Many businesses in Northern Ontario are family owned and operated. Always call ahead to confirm hours and availability when relying on a business or amenity.

RIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Bakery: Ernie's Coffee Shop,
13 Queen St E, Sault Ste Marie. Pre-fuel

Bike: Velorution Bike Shop,
12 Fish Hatchery Rd, Sault Ste Marie

Beach: Harmony Beach, Harmony Beach, ON

Brewery: Northern Superior Brewing Co,
50 Pim St, Sault Ste Marie

0 km – Sault Ste Marie Waterfront and Boardwalk

A sculpture garden, beautiful views of the St. Clair River, a boardwalk and Beaver Tails (summer only). Dismount and walk your bike along the short boardwalk section. It is worth it.

6 km – Fort Creek Conservation Area

An oasis of tranquility in the heart of the City. The route in Fort Creek is off-road and includes a short series of bridges spanning the Fort Creek and great for a gawk. The bridges are wood-decked, we recommend dismounting to cross them.

14.4 km – Suggested Stop: Velorution Bike and Ski

Take a break on the big climb out of the City at Velorution for a quick gear-grab or an espresso. Open Tuesday through Saturday.

16.3 km – Suggested Stop: Kinsmen Park

The gateway to the Hiawatha Highlands mountain bike trails. If you haven't had a break yet, enjoy the lakeside. Parking and washrooms on site.

18 km – Highway 17: Caution

At this point the route transitions from local roads and trails to the paved shoulders of Highway 17. You will be on Highway 17 or quieter secondary highway for the remainder of your trip to Chippewa Falls.

24 km – Suggested Stop: Heyden

Just before you turn onto Highway 556 you'll find a convenience store and restaurant in Heyden. Don't miss the opportunity to stock up.

50 km – Recommended Stop: Havilland Shores Kitchen and Bar

Hello Lake Superior! Havilland is the first step along the shore of Lake Superior with a beautiful beach and causeway. Here you'll also find the Havilland Shores Kitchen and Bar—a great spot for an early lunch—and McCauley's Havilland Bay, potential roofed accommodations for a Weekender trip. Take a moment to dip your toes and say hello.

54 km – Suggested Stop: Harmony Beach

Not far from Havilland you'll find aptly-named Harmony Beach a short stretch of sandy beach right on the shores of Lake Superior. Nearby is Harmony Beach Resort, a potential roofed accommodation for weekenders.

67 km – Chippewa Falls Rest Area

A perfect stop for the First Foray, where you'll be treated to close-up views to power and majesty of Chippewa Falls that inspired the Group of Seven. A short hike to the top of the falls will get you up close with a view toward the Lake. Chippewa Falls Rest Area is the official half-way point of the Trans-Canada Highway. There is a restaurant and food concession almost directly across the street from the rest area and vault toilets are on site.

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THE WEEKENDER

TOTAL DISTANCE **136 KM**
SUGGESTED RIDE TIME **1-2 DAYS**

DAY ONE

Weekender Add-Ons:

To continue the Weekender version of the trip, follow the route above as far as Chippewa Falls, then travel back along your route, right up close to Lake Superior. You'll travel part way back to Sault Ste Marie tonight and complete your journey on Day 2. On Day 2 you'll have time to take advantage of amenities you passed yesterday, with the perk of some additional stops you may not have had an opportunity to visit on the trip north.

79 km – Recommended Overnight: Harmony Beach Resort

The first of two recommended overnights, Harmony Beach Resort is the closer, with an expansive beach from which to do some stargazing over the Lake.

83 km – Recommended Overnight 2: McCauley's Havilland Bay

Roofed accommodations across from Havilland's local beach. McCauley's has the benefit of having a restaurant on-site for food needs. Grab some extra food before you leave in the morning. If you plan on biking the whole 136km route in one day

DAY TWO

Depart from your chosen overnight, heading south. Make sure to say goodbye to Lake Superior. You'll depart the Lake in Havilland.

100 km – Recommended Stop: Heyden

Restaurant and convenience from your trip north.

116km – Suggested Stop: Mockingbird Hill Farm (fees apply)

A working homestead and farm that includes a planked "goat walk" where you can give a goat a treat.

123 km – Sault Ste Marie

Here you'll re-enter Sault Ste Marie proper with plenty of opportunities to sit down for some food or a faster grab-and-go.

131 km – Recommended Stop: Sault Ste Marie Canal and National Historic Site and Whitefish Island

You'll depart the signed route a short distance to visit this literally-hidden gem in Sault Ste Marie. The Historic Site includes parking and walking trails on Whitefish Island that you will not want to miss

136 km – Ride Finish and Recommended Stop Clergue Park and Northern Superior Brewing Co

After a rewarding ride you'll return to Clergue Park, again within view of the St. Clair River. 500m east of the park, near the Canadian Bush Plane Museum, you'll find Northern Superior Brewing Co, an excellent spot for a post-ride celebration.

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THE DRIVE

The Drive section of the itinerary provides suggestions for experiences to add on to your trip once your bikes are stowed and you are back in the car. Many are not on, but nearby the itinerary route when travelled by car. Each is an opportunity to celebrate the communities and landscape of Lake Superior.

Batchawana Bay and Voyageur Cookhouse and Lodge

Located 12km west of the Chippewa Falls end point you'll find the expansive sand beach of Batchawana Bay, location of an info centre and year-round washrooms as well as the nearby Voyageur Cookhouse and Lodge. The Cookhouse has a café, convenience, roofed accommodations and some outstanding apple fritters. If you want a fritter, plan on arriving early. There is a limit of 6 for good reason.

Robertson Cliffs (hike)

Exit Highway 17 at Old Highway 17 Rd in Karalash Corners and follow Mitchell Rd / Robertson Lake Road ~5km to visit the Robertson Cliffs trailhead. There are a number of loops for an afternoon hike. The lookouts can be reached within a half-hour, depending on your fitness level. The hike is rugged and includes some steep climbs to summit the cliffs, but the view is breathtaking. Maps are present at the Trailhead. Remember to take a photo of them before you hit the trail.

Sault Ste Marie Canal and National Historic Site and Whitefish Island (fees apply)

At the end of Canal Dr in Sault Ste Marie you'll find tucked away hidden corner of serenity, with deep historic routes. Walk the canals, hike the trails on Whitefish Island and take in a sunset.

Northern Superior Brewing Co.

50 Pim St, Sault Ste Marie

Located ~500m from your start point in Clergue Park you'll find a craft brewery and local favourite. A perfect way to responsibly celebrate your journey.