

Lake Rosseau Loop

DRIVE-AND-RIDE SELF-GUIDED ITINERARY

The impressive Lake Rosseau Loop links five Lake Rosseau communities: Port Carling, Port Sandfield, Minett, Rosseau and Windermere.

The tour around Lake Rosseau is a celebration of the landscape of Muskoka and Seguin, challenging, rewarding, exciting and beautiful. The experiences along the route blend the distinct luxury and incredible natural beauty unique to Ontario Cottage Country.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL

Best suited for experienced cycle tourists comfortable riding with traffic. Some of the route follows Muskoka Road 118 West, an important arterial road connecting Bracebridge on Highway 11 to Highway 69. Traffic intensifies near Port Carling. Muskoka Road 118w presently has narrow-to-no shoulders east of Port Carling, requiring cyclists to travel alongside traffic, including truck traffic. Highway 141 has paved shoulders. All other roads on the route involve shared on-road facilities. District of Muskoka is improving conditions annually.

TERRAIN

This route is very hilly, including several steep hills and some impressive downhill stretches where you can coast for long stretches. All roads on the route are paved.

TIPS

Expect 15–20 km between major amenities on the route and plan ahead. Carry extra water and snacks and expect extra time to accommodate the terrain. E-bikes help with hills. Some businesses close for the season starting in September, including most amenities in Minett. If cycling in September or later, we recommend calling the businesses you hope to visit in advance. While the tour route is based in Port Carling, it can just as easily be based in Rosseau, Minett or Windermere.

START LOCATION

Park at the public parking lot at Hanna Park at the Bailey St terminus in Port Carling.

Disclaimer: This route is a suggested route only. The route incorporates 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.

69 km
TOTAL DISTANCE

5-7 hrs

SUGGESTED RIDE TIME
TO ENJOY STOPS IN EACH
COMMUNITY (CAN BE EXTENDED TO
2 DAYS WITH AN OVERNIGHT. SEE
ACCOMMODATIONS SECTION.)

ROUTE MAPS

Ride with GPS

(69 km, +/- 1114 m elevation)

Great Lakes
Waterfront Trail
PDF maps



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THE RIDE

START LOCATION

Hanna Park parking lot, Bailey St terminus, Port Carling.

RIDE HIGHLIGHTS:

Port Carling: Muskoka Rd 118w

Port Sandfield Canal: Scenic, historic canal (Peninsula Road)

Minett: Seasonal amenities and luxury accommodations

Rosseau: Lakeside eatery, and historic buildings, Rosseau Waterfront Park

Vistas: Some challenging but impressive climbs and exultant downhill

Windermere: Historic accommodations, restaurant and beach

0 km – Hanna Park (*Hanna Park: Bailey St terminus*)

Port Carling is the Hub of the Lakes and centrally located on both the Lake Rosseau Loop and the Lake Muskoka Loop. Port Carling is bustling in summer, with scenic lakeside views, plenty of history, culture, restaurants, and shops. Hanna Park, located at the terminus of Bailey St, is a little more intimate, and an ideal spot to start and finish your ride.

0–2 km – Downtown Port Carling

(*Muskoka Rd 118w*)

Downtown Port Carling has an array of unique local shops and eateries, very scenic locks, local art and culture, and of course, ice cream!

6.7 km – Port Sandfield (*Peninsula Road*)

Picturesque historic canal, public washrooms and red chairs for a quick chill by the lake. The Silver Stream Farms market is immediately on the west side of the canal.

14 km – Minett (*Muskoka Rd 28 / Juddhaven Rd*)

Minett has a number of seasonal amenities including a bakery and convenience, and the luxury accommodations at the JW Marriot Rosseau crouched on a nearby bluff.

30 km – Recommended Lunch Stop: Rosseau

Rosseau is located at the northern extreme of the Lake Rosseau Loop and marks the almost-halfway-point. The town sits nestled on Rosseau Bay. Amenities include restaurants like the famous Rosseau Pizzeria, a bakery and convenience, and exceptional general store. Nearby Rosseau Waterfront Park offers daily parking, a dockside lookout for a postage-stamp view of the lake, public washrooms, and wifi.

42 km – Violetta's Bent River Café & Local Convenience (*3041 Hwy 141, Utterson*)

Locally owned restaurant and café adjacent to convenience.

53km – Windermere

At the terminus of Windermere Rd and the eastern shore of Lake Rosseau is Windermere. Here you'll find the stately Windermere House, restaurant and lodgings, a small number of eateries and local shops, and the Windermere Marina and Patio that offers food and convenience items. At Windermere Park you'll find a sandy beach for a dip in Lake Rosseau if you haven't yet! In August, visit the **Muskoka Chautauqua** festival celebrating music, literature, and the arts.

69 km – Return to Port Carling

Back to the Hub! Enjoy some local coffee, ice cream, a meal by the water or a heritage/mural walk. Explore the Drive below for additional ways to experience Muskoka.

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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 experiences are not directly on the itinerary route but are nearby, ideal for travelling by car. Each is an opportunity to celebrate the communities and landscape of Ontario Cottage Country.

The Lake Rosseau Loop can easily be started and ended in Port Carling, Minett, Windermere or Rosseau. Should you want a half-day ride, consider staying in Rosseau or Windermere. After your ride, explore more of what Muskoka and Seguin have to offer:

Cruise two of the Big Three Lakes: Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Port Carling

Cruise operators in these key Lake Muskoka communities all offer scenic boat tours allowing you a curated tour of the Muskoka River (Bracebridge), Lake Muskoka (Gravenhurst) or Lake Rosseau (Port Carling). Tours are ~90-120 minutes long. Book these experiences in advance, especially if it involves a meal.

Muskoka Cruises operates from Bracebridge (300 Ecclestone Dr) and Port Carling (7 Lock St E.)

Muskoka Steamships operate from Gravenhurst (185 Cherokee Lane) and conduct their tours on historic steamships located at the Muskoka Wharf. Tours on Muskoka Steamships can include, lunch, dinner or high tea.

Hike Muskoka and Seguin: Muskoka has an incredible amount of hiking trails with exceptional views on offer. The below list is not exhaustive and includes a few locations on or closer to the Lake Muskoka Loop. Discover Muskoka maintains a [website](#) with information on hiking in Muskoka more broadly. A short

drive from Rosseau you'll find the Humphrey Barn and Nature Trails (115 ON-141, Parry Sound) with several km of looped hiking experiences.

Hardy Lake Provincial Park

(Muskoka Rd 169, Torrance)

Hardy Lake Provincial Park offers beautiful hiking around Hardy Lake. The park has a small parking lot access located ~4.5km east of Torrance on Muskoka Road 169. There are three main hiking loops ranging from 3-9km in length. There are no washrooms or amenities, so pack accordingly. The park is increasing in popularity, so going early ensures a better chance to park. The hikes are rugged, but not exceptionally challenging.

Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail

(Milford Bay Rd, Milford Bay)

Considered one of the best sunset locations on Lake Muskoka, the Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail. The Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail is 2.5km. Muskoka Lakes maintains a [hiking trail brochure](#) that offers helpful maps for Huckleberry Rock, Hardy Lake and Torrance Barrens, amongst other locations.

Weir Lake Trail *(Hwy 141, Muskoka Lakes)*

The Weir Lake Trail is a linear 3.6km (each way) trail traversing hills, hardwood forests and creeks. The trailhead location is marked near KM 36 on the Lake Rosseau Loop map.

Bracebridge Waterfalls Tour:

There are a number of waterfalls located in and around Bracebridge, each adjacent to a short walk or hiking trail. Each is an exceptional location to visit.

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THE DRIVE

Bracebridge Falls is located right along the route, just outside downtown Bracebridge with parking off 39 Wharf Rd. The Falls and bridge are lit at night.

Wilson's Falls: Located at 461 Wilson Falls Rd. Adjacent to a 3.6km hiking trail.

High Falls: Located at High Falls Rest Area at the Cedar Lane Exit of Hwy 11. The rest area has picnic tables, parking, vault toilets and a short, rugged hiking trail that is also part of the Trans Canada Trail.

Paddle one of the Muskoka's Three Big Lakes: Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph.

There are a number of outfitters that rent canoes and kayaks in the area including **Liv Outside** (271 Ecclestone Dr, Bracebridge). Liv Outside is well situated near the Muskoka River and is a short paddle to the base of Bracebridge Falls. Ask them about booking a rental to take offsite, where you can visit a lake and explore from a public beach or dock.

For boats and more unique watersports consider a class with **Muskoka Wake**, whose offerings include flyboarding and e-foils.

Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Reserve

(Southwood Road, Gravenhurst)

The world's first permanent Dark Sky Reserve, located on Southwood Road and accessed from Muskoka Rd 169 in Torrance. The Reserve has several kilometers of hiking trails. Tucked away from light pollution it is an amazing location to stargaze, especially during the Perseid Meteor shower in July/August.

Visit Bala:

Bala is the cranberry capital of Ontario and a popular place to visit in summer with plenty of lakeside eateries, scenic falls, a historic walk and accommodations.

Kee to Bala Concert Hall

(1012 Bala Falls Rd, Bala)

The **Kee to Bala** is a historic concert venue and bar located in Bala right on Lake Muskoka that has been operating and hosting performances for almost a century. Visit the website for a listing of current shows.

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ACCOMMODATIONS

There are numerous roofed accommodations and cottage rental locations located throughout Muskoka. Discover Muskoka maintains a **valuable website listing accommodations**. We've listed a few on or near the Loop: There are plenty of cottage rental experiences along the both the Lake Rosseau Loop and Lake Muskoka Loop, particularly in the area of Port Carling.

Minett

JW Marriott The Rosseau Muskoka Resort & Spa. (1050 Paighton House Road, Minett)

Luxury accommodations and spa overlooking Lake Rosseau.

Rosseau

The Rosseau Retreat Historic B&B is located on Cardwell Rd in town in a restored Victorian home.

Windermere.

Windermere House: 2508 Windermere Rd, Windermere. Historic luxury accommodations.

Bracebridge:

Quality Inn: 300 Ecclestone Dr. Located right on the Muskoka River and right on the Loop. Onsite restaurant includes a discounted breakfast.

Tru by Hilton: 320 Taylor Rd Building B, Bracebridge. Located near Hwy 11.

There are also numerous smaller hotels and motels located in Bracebridge.

Bala:

Bala Bay Inn: 3063 Muskoka District Rd 169, Bala. Historic hotel with on-site restaurant and complimentary shuttle to Muskoka Beer Spa in Torrance for those staying overnight.