

# Autumn in Ontario



## October 1-7, 2018

On this trip you will enjoy a scenic journey through the autumn woodlands of central Ontario. We will visit areas renowned for their natural beauty including Algonquin, Killarney, and French River Provincial Parks, and the Muskoka Lakes region. A scenic boat tour through some of the thirty thousand islands of Georgian Bay is also planned. Other lesser known but still exciting destinations include Grundy Lake Provincial Park, Killbear Provincial Park and Wye Marsh. The region contains many extensive outcroppings of Precambrian rock, countless lakes, and numerous beaver ponds. Maples and white pine are the most common trees in the forests here.

**Monday, October 1.....** Please arrive at the nature center by 8 am. We shall depart shortly thereafter. Our route will take us across the border at Port Huron. There will be a stop for lunch near here. We will continue through southern Ontario and arrive at the town of Midland, located on the southern shores of Georgian Bay, by late afternoon. Our accommodation will be the Comfort Inn.

### **Tuesday, October 2..... Wye Marsh and Georgian Bay Ship Cruise**

We will visit nearby Wye Marsh first thing in the morning. This wetland is a three thousand acre preserve consisting of forest and marsh. It is rated a provincially significant habitat for a variety of wildlife. Features of the preserve include a visitor's center, floating boardwalks and forest trails. An hour's drive from here will bring us to the town of Parry Sound. We will walk aboard the Island Queen cruise ship for an unusual three-hour (1-4 p.m.) journey through the heart of Georgian Bay's world famous thirty thousand islands. This large vessel with three decks will take us through unusual landscapes of granite rock and wind- swept pines. You will be amazed at how the crew can navigate such a large vessel through narrow, deep channels. Passengers will sometimes view sheer walls of rock at eye level only a short distance away. You will have an opportunity to buy lunch in Parry Sound before we leave the dock. Later in the afternoon there will be a scenic one- hour drive through the forests of the Muskoka Lakes region on our way to the Comfort Inn at Huntsville.

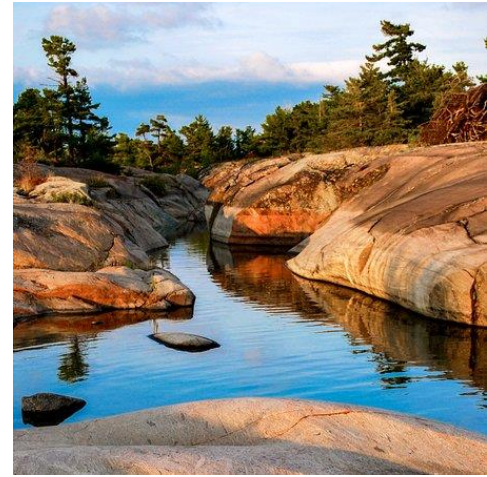
### **Wednesday, October 3..... Algonquin Provincial Park**

Huntsville is the closest community to the western gate of Algonquin Provincial Park. We will spend all day touring the forty-mile highway 60 corridor through the southern part of this park and stop to walk on some of the trails. Contained within this three thousand square mile park are one thousand lakes, six rivers, numerous falls and rapids, high rocky ridges, hilly terrain, and a large moose population. A visit to the park at the right time in the fall can offer some spectacular leaf color viewing. Let's keep our fingers crossed for this year! A picnic lunch will be offered today. Our overnight stay will once again be at the Huntsville Comfort Inn.

### **Thursday, October 4..... Grundy Lake Provincial Park**

We will travel three hours towards the northern part of Georgian Bay today with a pleasant stop at Grundy Lake Provincial Park. The group will walk through classic Canadian Shield country featuring domes of bare,

glacier scoured rock. The park has some highly rated trails of various lengths and is a mecca for paddlers because of its many lakes. This park features mixed forests, northern wetlands, rocky overlooks and the chance to see moose and beaver. A picnic lunch will be offered around noon today. Our final destination will be Killarney Mountain Lodge located near the village of Killarney. If there is time we may do a short nature walk near here.



### **Friday, October 5..... Killarney Provincial Park**

Today we will explore some of nearby Killarney Provincial Park. This park is considered the crown jewel of Ontario's park system due to the spectacular domes of white quartzite rock which forms the La Cloche Mountain range.

Other features of the park include mixed forest, fifty lakes, and northern wildlife. We will do a walk in the morning, go back to the lodge for lunch, and then walk another trail in the afternoon. The trails we will do here will be moderate. The group will enjoy another night at Killarney Mountain Lodge.

### **Saturday, October 6..... French River and Killbear Provincial Parks**

The French River was an important segment of the route of the Voyageurs as they paddled between Montreal and the western end of Lake Superior. Little has changed in the many years since this time and French River Provincial Park allows the visitor to experience some of the beautiful rugged landscape the Voyageurs saw. We will visit the first-class visitor's center, cross the river to get nice views from the one-hundred-yard-long suspension bridge, do a scenic walk, and eat a picnic lunch here. The walk will be a two and one-half mile moderately rated round-trip journey along a rocky gorge to a rapids known as Recollet Falls. After this we'll drive south to the Parry Sound area and do one more scenic stop along the shores of Georgian Bay at Killbear Provincial Park. There is a short loop trail which leads to a scenic view of the water. Our overnight lodging will be once again at the Comfort Inn at Midland.

**Sunday, October 7.....** This is our travel day back to Sarett Nature Center. We should be back by 5 p.m.

**Lodging:** Both Comfort Inns at Midland and Huntsville have received good reviews. All rooms have two queen beds and offer standard hotel amenities. They both feature continental breakfasts. The Killarney Mountain Lodge is located along the shores of Georgian Bay. The attractive main lodge building has large wood-burning fireplaces. There are two on-site restaurants featuring fine wines and craft beers. You are responsible for purchasing your own meals. Rooms feature knotty pine interiors, a queen and twin bed along with a private bathroom with a shower. There is a sauna on the property. Guests may hike a trail to a lighthouse.

**Trail Walking Activities:** The trails on this trip are rated easy to moderate. Terrain in the rocky areas is many times uneven due to the nature of the rock and the presence of tree roots. We will do a slow pace which will help to avoid trip hazards. Walking sticks are recommended but not necessary to help with balance. Sturdy walking shoes or light hiking boots are recommended. The usual format for an excursion like this is no more than a couple of hours walking at a time, usually a walk in the morning and one in the afternoon.

**Island Queen Cruise Ship:** This ship provides for comfortable viewing from inside and outside, offers snacks, hot and cold drinks (no alcoholic beverages), and has on-board restrooms. The ship sails rain or shine.

**Border Crossing Documents:** You must have a current US passport or enhanced State of Michigan driver's license.



**Cost:** \$ 1,200.00/person based on double occupancy. This includes:

- Round trip transportation in nature center vans
- Six nights lodging
- Four continental breakfasts
- One cruise aboard the Island Queen
- Services of nature center naturalists
- Park entry fees
- Three picnic lunches



**Deposit:** Each person must pay a \$100.00 non-refundable deposit to sign up for this trip.

**Membership:** You must be a current member of the nature center. The cost is \$40.00 for an individual and \$50.00 for a family.

**Method of Payment:** We prefer that you pay by check as this saves us money. However, we do accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover credit cards over the phone and in person.

**Final Payment:** You must have the final payment to us by September 1, 2018.

**Cancellation Policy:** Every attempt will be made to refund any recoverable costs in the event that you must cancel.

**Responsibility:** Sarett Nature Center reserves the right, at their sole discretion, to make changes in the itinerary should that become necessary, and is not responsible to any person for expenses, loss of time, money, or happenings resulting from a change of tour scheduling. Sarett Nature Center reserves the right to accept, decline, or retain any person as a member of the tour, and is not responsible for any losses or damages of personal property, injuries, expenses, or damages incurred or claimed by any tour member.

