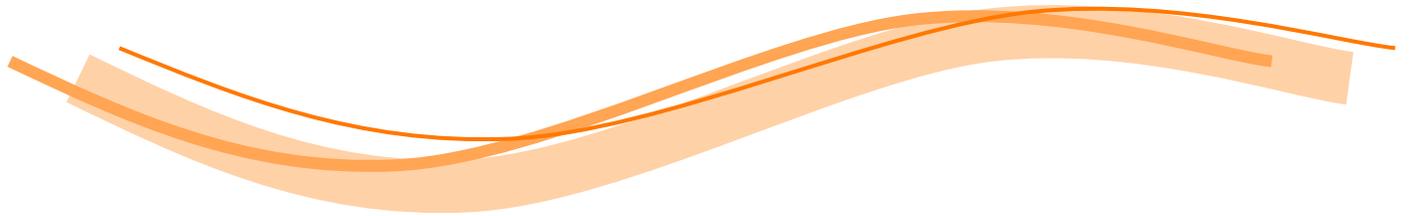




ONTARIO'S HIGHLANDS





ONTARIO'S HIGHLANDS

Ontario's Highlands is in the South Eastern part of the Province of Ontario. The Region spans from Haliburton County at its western border to the Ottawa Valley at its eastern edge. And it's within easy driving distance - just 30 minutes west of Ottawa and 2.5 hours east of Toronto. This is a place to escape the busy pace of city life and to discover a very different travel experience from big city destinations like Toronto, Ottawa or Montreal. The entire region is very rural – there is only one Starbucks in its entire 23,000 square km area.

Rather than the skyscrapers, big box stores and restaurants of a “concrete jungle”, you will find small towns, authentic local culture and untouched wilderness. If you are looking for that “small town” experience - look no further than quaint towns like Haliburton, Almonte or Perth. People will remember your name here and you will feel your shoulders relax as you bask in warm, friendly hospitality. Unwind to the slower pace of life that epitomizes small town living as you wander between country store and shops, cafes, galleries and restaurants. And in the summer time you will be sure to find local festivals and events to while away the time.

Without the distractions of the bright city lights there is no better environment in which to reconnect with family and friends. This is perfect “road trip” territory that lends itself to the cozy camaraderie of winding roads with scenic views and quirky small town attractions and pit stops.

Couples should check out Black River Retreat near Tweed for the ultimate in pampering and fine dining. Nestled amongst six acres of rolling woodland trails and with a half kilometer of privacy along the banks of the Black River – this is the ultimate romantic escape! Your luxurious suite includes a sitting room with fireplace, bedroom with oversized log bed, plus opulent ensuite finished in travertine and stone.

Throughout the year you are sure to find a variety of local festivals and events to share together. With everything from the Rockhound Gemboree in Bancroft July 31 - Aug 3, 2014 to the Tweed Tribute to Elvis Festival (with bedazzled jumpsuits!) from August 22-24, 2014.

Girlfriends can plan on great shopping - make a point to drop in at Moon Shadows Winery in Haliburton, Ontario's first Maple wine producer. There is also the Classic Theatre Festival in beautiful heritage Perth as well as spas and wellness retreats such as the award winning Grail Springs near Bancroft.

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Guys Getaways could include Whitewater rafting in the Ottawa Valley – the Whitewater capital of Canada. Maybe sample maple beer at Perth Brewery or hand crafted beer at the Whitewater Brewing Co in Foresters Falls. Renfrew has ties to the formation of the NHL and an NHL Museum. Millionaire businessman M.J. O'Brien, founder of the Town of Renfrew, was also a founding member of the National Hockey Association – precursor of today's National Hockey League.

Active travellers who like to challenge themselves physically will always come back with stories from their travels in Ontario's Highlands. Earn bragging rights by trying something new and unique that you'll want to tell all your friends about... The area offers wilderness tours, bungee jumping, ATV trails and ziplines, just to mention a few. Plus Whitewater rafting that will make you feel like you've just been put through the laundry! In winter try ice climbing – and this is fabulous country for snowmobiling. Ontario's Highlands are included within Ontario's Premier Snowmobile Tour Round Algonquin Park (the RAP Tour).

If you want to challenge the mind as well as the body and expand your horizons - Ontario's Highlands has plenty of opportunities to not just to appreciate something, but to learn something new as well. Travel back in time with the region's Museums, pioneer buildings and heritage centres. Bancroft Mineral Museum is the perfect place to learn about the story of our earth – and Bancroft is the "Mineral capital of Canada". Thanks to the unique geology of the area you can hunt for, and find, your very own crystals.

Haliburton Highlands has the highest number of working artists per capita in Ontario and often manages to blend the arts with its pristine environment. Visit artist's studios, walk, cycle or ski through Haliburton's sculpture forest - or take part in glassblowing or pottery workshops at the Haliburton School of the Arts. And don't miss the music and arts at the Forest Festival (August 12-17, 2014) held at the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve.

Lastly – if you just want to get away from it all and venture off the beaten path there are plenty of Provincial Parks and peaceful, secluded wilderness areas where you can feel that you are the only person there. Recreational geology hikes in areas like Bear Lake Diggings near to Bancroft and Eganville Geology & Fossil Trail in the Ottawa Valley introduce you to the Canadian Shield. And thanks to the rural seclusion there is no light pollution here - the night sky glows with stars, just as it should.

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OTTAWA VALLEY

In Ontario's Highlands, cradled between the Ottawa River and Algonquin Provincial Park, the Ottawa Valley is Ontario's Adventure Playground and a mere half-hour drive from downtown Ottawa. With more than 2.4 million hectares (6 million acres) of pristine waterways, rolling woodlands and forests – the river and trail networks test the might and mettle of every explorer to the area, expert and novice alike. Ottawa Valley is the Whitewater Capital - not just of Ontario, but of Canada. You'll find rivers for all seasons and skill levels and the rivers flow from March right through to the end of November - making for a long paddling season.

Raft, kayak or canoe the mighty Ottawa, Madawaska or Petawawa rivers. And if you want to improve your J stroke - The Valley is also home to Canada's best paddling schools for kayak, canoe or raft. This is where you will find Canada's first whitewater paddling school – the Madawaska Kanu Centre.

It really is water, water everywhere ... the Valley is home to 4 major rivers systems and over 900 lakes. Including Lake Dore – whose claim to fame is that it is the world's largest inland freshwater lake without an island!

There's lots to keep you active off the water as well. Feel the Need for Speed at the Calabogie Motorsports Park. And the Ottawa Valley is a great spot for a motorcycle adventure. It was recently named the top destination for Fall riding in Ontario. Imagine the trees bursting with glorious reds, yellows and oranges, the crisp autumn air and the uncrowded roads.

Don't underestimate the size of the Ottawa Valley region. Renfrew County is the largest county (geographically) in the entire province of Ontario and measures almost the same size as Algonquin Park (7,500 sq. km). Renfrew also happens to be the birthplace of the NHL and home to the Renfrew Millionaires (one of the original 6 teams). Nor is it just a summer destination. Calabogie Peaks Resort is Ontario's highest public vertical ski/snowboard hill and Petawawa's Mount Molson is the world's shortest vertical run.

Like the rest of the Ontario's Highlands region – the Ottawa Valley has its fair share of quaint towns like Almonte and Perth. For something different explore Wilno - Canada's first Polish settlement. Kashub Day, is celebrated the 1st Saturday each May. Discover the deep history of this proud community with traditional food, music, dance, arts and culture.

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	<p>All summer long there are local festivals and events to draw you in. Bring out your inner dancer & fiddler - Canada's largest Step Dancing & Fiddling competitions are held in Pembroke (August 29-30, 2014). You can learn to step dance with the best and fiddle with the rest!</p> <p>If you want to venture off the beaten path – take the recreational geology trail in Eganville - the Ordovician Fossil Capital of Canada. You can even dine underground here in the natural wonder known as the Bonnechere Caves. This is also a great location for the new sport of GeoCaching.</p>
<p>BANCROFT REGION</p>	<p>Bancroft is centrally located between Toronto and Ottawa. It is in the northern half of Hastings County, which is the second largest county in Ontario. 42% of North Hastings is crown land plus it has 242 named lakes – and it is only an hour away from the world renowned Algonquin Provincial Park.</p> <p>Bancroft is known as the mineral capital of Canada. Be sure to take a guided mineral collecting tour – it is thrilling to discover your very own specimen. North Hastings sits on the edge of the Canadian Shield that was formed over a billion years ago. After a long period of repeated cycles of erosion and glaciation, the once mighty Grenville Mountains have been worn down to mere rolling hills - bringing their rich mineralized roots to the surface. Nearly 300 species of minerals have been identified in the region and this great diversity provides easy access to world-class specimens that you can take home!</p> <p>The Bancroft Visitor Information Centre can provide you with a listing of sites and maps for a self-guided mineral excursion... or, especially if you are new to collecting, join in a field trip with a geologist as your expert guide to really enhance the experience. Tours are offered to seven different collecting sites rotated throughout the summer on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays – with extra tours during the annual Gemboree festival.</p> <p>Bear Lake Diggings is a great place to go to collect mineral specimens – but take shovels, rock hammer and chisel and prepare to get down and dirty! You will need to dig to find those elusive crystals of Microcline (feldspar), Titanite, Biotite (mica), Hornblende, Apatite and Calcite. Buy a permit at the Visitor Information Centre in Bancroft or take a tour for just \$15 (permit included).</p> <p>Also at the Visitor Information Centre in Bancroft you will find a Mineral Museum with specimens all found within a 150 km radius of Bancroft. These are very beautiful, high quality minerals, including some</p>

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specimens from the Museum of Nature in Ottawa. This is a great orientation to help you know what minerals occur locally and what they look like – plus there are some beautiful cut gems and a cool mining diorama.

The annual Gemboree is the highlight of the season for Rockhounds – with 4 days of awesome geology (31 July to 3 Aug 2014) and over 150 vendors selling rocks, minerals, fossils, gems and jewelry. You can buy specimens from \$1 to \$4000

Thanks to the Canadian Shield that shaped its landscape - Bancroft and District is also a paradise for outdoor adventure. The geology has shaped waterways and rugged terrain where you can experience a variety of outdoor activities in beautiful untouched settings! Take on the Canadian Shield by climbing over rocks, up rocky terrain and around creeks and streams. There are over 4,000 kms of trails and whether it's by foot, bike or ATV, the topography lends itself readily to outdoor activity. And in the winter months, trail users will appreciate the well groomed trail system and the large amounts of snow - offering ideal conditions for activities such as snowmobiling and cross country skiing.

Lakes and rivers abound for water based fun. For canoeing or kayaking the York River provides flat water paddling through spectacular wilderness. And if you're an adrenaline junkie then challenging whitewater rafting is also close by! There are also calmer rapids allowing all age groups and experience levels to participate. And for an even less strenuous activity again - the clean lakes and rivers offer anglers a variety of fish. North Hastings even has its own species of fish - the Jewel Trout!

This rugged geography also lends itself to rally driving. The Maple Leaf Rally Club is one of the largest, oldest, and most active rally clubs in Canada. The Maple Leaf Winter Rally is a snowy overnight road rally held in Bancroft each February which covers nearly 400km. And the Rally of the Tall Pines is one of Canada's premier performance rallies held the last Saturday of November.

In Bancroft if you aren't looking down to the ground for rocks then you can look upwards to the stars. Southern Ontario is rapidly losing its dark skies as the glare of city lights makes it increasingly difficult to witness the unimpeded beauty of the night sky. This region is a Dark Sky Preserve! The Viewing Area at the Nutwood Observatory offers a night sky experience with a spectacular view, especially during the annual meteor showers that occur in the months of July and August.

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	<p>But Bancroft isn't just about geology and terrain. It also has a vibrant arts community – in fact a few years ago Bancroft was voted “the Most Talented Town in Ontario” by TVO. Over 20 artists working in different media including pottery, woodworking and painting participate in the Bancroft Studio Tour (September 20 - 21 and 27 - 28, 2014).</p> <p>The Bancroft Summer Theatre delivers charming live theatre based at the Village Playhouse. Originally the town hall it later became the local jail and court house. Various original features have been lovingly restored, the auditorium has vintage velvet seats and luxurious stage curtains, and the lobby has gorgeous tin ceilings. There is also live music all summer long at the Mineral Capital Concert series in Bancroft.</p> <p>Bancroft preserves its heritage and there are some cool things to discover. Because of its boom and bust mineral-based economy this area has some of the best “Ghost Town” viewing in the Province.</p> <p>The Hastings Heritage Museum is situated in a log building that dates back to 1879 and which once belonged to a lumber company. A tour of the museum will reveal several carefully reconstructed rooms that are reminiscent of Bancroft's past. Artifacts contained in the museum include logging and agricultural tools, dental and medical equipment, costumes, pictures, documents and minerals that all reflect the history of this wilderness town.</p>
<p>HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS</p>	<p>Haliburton Highlands is less than 3 hours from Toronto or Ottawa, and it is very accessible from Quebec. Centred around the town of Haliburton, it is tucked underneath Algonquin Park to the North East of Toronto. With pristine lakes and untouched forests - the Haliburton Highlands offer some of Ontario's best hiking, cycling, fishing and canoeing. The Fall colours are breathtaking. And the area seems to achieve a unique interaction between its vibrant arts scene and its natural, unspoiled environment.</p> <p>Merging art with nature comes naturally in the Haliburton Highlands. For example, the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, in Glebe Park near the village of Haliburton, is a unique outdoor collection of sculptures by Canadian and international artists. The trails in the Sculpture Forest - for walking and bike riding in spring, summer and fall and skiing in the winter - provide changing perspectives on the forest and the sculptures in each of the seasons.</p> <p>The area is blessed with so many fantastically talented artists that there are now 27 Studios on the Haliburton County Studio Tour. The tour takes place this year October 4 – 5, 2014 and over Thanksgiving</p>

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weekend October 11-12, 2014. Meet with over 40 artists and simply admire or buy their work.

The Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve also embodies this fusion of art and the environment. The Forest Festival presents music in unique natural settings. Imagine sitting in the middle of a forest, away from the lights of the city, in an amphitheatre overlooking beautiful Bone Lake and listening to live music as the sun sets. Or imagine yourself listening to incredible musicians while sitting in an Historic Logging Museum surrounded by the forest. This year the Forest Festival runs August 12-17 2014 and headline acts include Measha Brueggergosma, Canadian Brass and Greg Keelor & Jim Cuddy.

The Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve offers a lot more besides. There is a fully functioning observatory as well as a planetarium. Astronomy programs run every Friday (and with enough demand Saturday) throughout the summer to take advantage of the wonderfully clear night skies.

The Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre contains numerous exhibits, a small cinema/classroom, as well as a large indoor observatory overlooking the feeding area within the wolf compound. The Wolf Pack comprises Luna and Fang, the Alpha pair, and their siblings and offspring. They roam freely in a 15 acre enclosure, one of the largest of its kind in the world. Visitors of all ages are mesmerized by the opportunity to watch these magnificent creatures. And four new pups were born at the beginning of May 2014!

The canopy boardwalk in the Haliburton Forest is over half a kilometer long – it is the longest of its kind in the world. The boardwalk winds through the treetops 10-20 meters above the forest floor. You arrive at a platform suspended from the treetops and your guide elaborates on the forest environment surrounding you. There is a spectacular view across lakes and forests. The Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve is also crossed by over 300 kilometers of forest access roads and trails - making it one of North America's premier mountain biking destinations.

In fact the entire Haliburton area is a great destination for hiking and the 12th annual Hike Haliburton Festival takes place September 18-21, 2014. Choose from themed hikes at every skill level, each led by an experienced, educational guide. There is a hike for you, whether you interested in Geology, Botany, Geo-caching, Mushrooms, History, Fitness, The Arts and more! There are also family, kid and pet friendly hikes.

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	<p>If you don't want to walk then there are wonderful car and motorcycle tours as well. Explore 6 defined routes throughout the curves and rolling hills of the Haliburton Highlands. Whether you are seeking a day trip or extended excursion, you will find The Highlands filled with breathtaking scenic views and attractions along the way.</p> <p>And after all that exercise you will want a good meal! Fortunately the entire area has wonderful local produce. The area is developing a strong local "food to table" initiative and, especially in the late summer and fall, you can buy delicious harvest treats in farmers markets and local stores – or sometimes pick your own.</p>
Location	Ontario's Highlands is in the South Eastern part of the Province of Ontario. The Region spans from Haliburton County at its western border to the Ottawa Valley at its eastern edge.
Geography	This is Canadian Shield Country, softened into a rolling landscape over the millennia and filled with forests and thousands of pristine lakes
Name	Ontario's Highlands name is self-explanatory – here, the rolling terrain reaches heights of 1,500 to 2,00 feet in elevation, often providing spectacular views over the surrounding countryside. Haliburton's name derives from the name of The Canadian Land and Emigration Company Chairman in the 1860's: the Honourable Thomas Chandler Haliburton, former Chief Justice of Nova Scotia. This historian and author who hailed from Nova Scotia, never once visited the provisional county with his namesake and eventually moved to London England where he became a member of Parliament and a Supreme court Judge.
Population	The population is small and scattered – the largest town is Pembroke with just 15,000 people.

CLIMATE	
General climate	Similar to Southern Ontario, but a few degrees cooler on average
Today's weather	25 degrees Centigrade and sunny (26 August, 2014)
Best time to visit	Ontario's Highlands is genuinely a four season destination: delightful in the spring when the trillium carpet the forests, gorgeous in summer as Cottagers know well, brilliant in the fall colours, and full of cold weather adventures in the winter.

GETTING THERE	
Drive time	It's within easy driving distance - just 30 minutes west of Ottawa and 2.5 hours east of Toronto.
Regions	There are six distinct regions that make up Ontario's Highlands: ComfortCountry, Haliburton Highlands, Land O'Lakes, North Hastings,

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	Ottawa Valley South, and Upper Ottawa Valley. The scenic landscape, unique heritage sites, and culture you'll encounter vary from region to region and every community, park, lake, and attraction has something special to offer.
Distances	Toronto to Haliburton is 200 km; Montreal to Haliburton is 480 km Toronto to Ottawa Valley is 4.5 hours; Montreal is 1 to 2 hours.

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	Enjoy local accommodation from cozy B&Bs to luxurious Inns Book your getaway by calling 1-855-629-6486 or emailing booking@ontarioshighlands.ca
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	This is a child's paradise! There are so many things for a kid to do out in the fresh air of Ontario's Highlands – from nature walks to exploring caves to finding crystals to water activities of all kinds!
Teens	Teens will love the many outdoor soft adventure activities available in the region, especially the Walk in the Clouds canopy walk in Haliburton Forest and the Wolf Centre.
Romance	There are many inns and resorts in Haliburton that focus on romantic stays and several offer packages tailored to this need.
Genealogy	Haliburton County has a Genealogy and History Site which can be found at: http://www.ontariogenealogy.com/Haliburton/index.html This site represents an ongoing effort to collect information related to the genealogy and history of Haliburton County
Zoomers	This region is highly recommended for mid-week breaks, particularly in Spring and Fall when the accommodation rates are very good value.

UNIQUES	
Surprising	The region is globally renowned for the variety and beauty of the minerals to be found all over the County. Rockhounds come from all over the world to collect specimens of crystals and rocks that were formed a billion years ago...One way of experiencing this for yourself is with Yours Outdoors , an experiential tour company one of whose tours is Haliburton Rocks! This tour offers a chance to be guided by professionals to some of the best mineral sites of the county. Find out more at www.YoursOutdoors.ca
History	This region has a long and rich history filled with fascinating tales of life long ago. Natives and settlers carved a way of life in the rock and the trees of the area and created a community that exists even today. The history of Ontario's Highlands begins long before permanent settlers inhabited the area. Native Canadians left their mark on the land with artifacts and rock etchings. As early as 1590, Jesuit priests travelling to Huronia, told of Iroquois war parties searching for Huron

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Indians along the Trent water system in what are now Peterborough, Victoria and Haliburton Counties. The Mississauga and Ojibwa hunted extensively in and around Algonquin Park in the amalgamated Townships of Sherborne et al. Native artifacts have been discovered around Grass, Boshkung and Kashagawigamog lakes, and burial grounds have been unearthed in the Ingoldsby and Maple Lake areas. Copper objects were discovered in 1951 in Harcourt at Farquar Lake that are estimated to be at least two thousand years old.

In 1615, Samuel de Champlain amassed information on the area on a return journey from Iroquois country. In 1653 a map was created from the information given by Champlain that marks the Haliburton area as an excellent area for hunting stag.

Over the course of time, various treks were made up the Gull River in search of a trade route from Georgian Bay to Ottawa. Several expeditions were made in search of an easily travelled highway in 1819, 1825 and 1827. It was determined that this route would be of use only after great expense and effort. Despite the lack of the simple route, other visionary settlers realized the logging, trapping and settlement potential of the area. The Peter Robinson settlement of the Peterborough area did reach as far as what is now Ontario's Highlands. Eventually surveyors were commissioned to begin mapping the land for settlement.

The first to arrive was John Huston. In 1826, Huston studied the areas north of Harvey and Verulam townships in search of useable land, but a number of events led Huston to report that the area was unsuitable for sustainable settlement. In 1836, David Thompson, one of the greatest British surveyors travelled the areas of Sherborne and McClintock where his party caught many speckled trout and admired the stands of hardwood.

By the 1840's the need for land had become great. Scottish and Irish immigrants were arriving in Upper Canada in larger numbers. Also interested in settlement were Canadians who were the children of immigrants who had settled around the great lakes. In the 1850's land was being divided and sold for settlement and timber. In 1854, Michael Deane created the guide line that eventually became the Bobcaygeon Road, opened up the townships of Lutterworth, Snowdon, Anson, Hindon, Minden and Stanhope. This line opened the path for settlers to find their fortune in Haliburton. In 1854 the Canadian Land and Emigration Company purchased nine townships in Haliburton. The name Haliburton came from Thomas Chandler Haliburton, the first chairman of the Land and Emigration company from 1861 to 1865. The historian and author who hailed from Nova Scotia, never once visited the provisional county with his namesake and eventually moved to London England where he became a member of Parliament and a

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	<p>Supreme court Judge. By 1859 there were 25 families settled along the Stanhope and Minden township border and other groups were beginning to spread out around the area. The townships of Lutterworth, Anson and Hindon were annexed to Victoria in 1858, while Snowdon, Minden, Stanhope, Guilford, Dysart, Glamorgan, Monmouth, Dudley, Harburn, Bruton, Harcourt and Cardiff became townships of Peterborough County. This was the first of many separations and amalgamations between townships in Haliburton, Peterborough and Victoria Counties.</p> <p>Through many hardships times of strife, the small settlements in the area began to grow and evolve into communities, with a post office, stores and established government.</p> <p>As the years passed, new settlers travelled to the area and more land was opened up for colonization. The Village of Haliburton grew quickly and established various merchants, a blacksmith and hotels. In 1866, the municipality had 276 residents. By 1869 that number had risen to over three hundred.</p> <p>The Village of Minden, despite fire, flood and pestilence of near biblical proportion survived and blossomed over the course of time. Fires razed large portions of the village in 1879, 1890 and 1942, but time and again, the community was renewed.</p> <p>The rivalry between Haliburton and Minden, which for some still exists, began during the struggle to decide which village would hold the county seat. Three townships from Victoria county and twenty from northern Peterborough county joined together to form the Provisional County of Haliburton.</p>
<p>Books</p>	<p>“In the Fullness of Time – The Story of Eagle Lake” by Ruth Still is a well written account of the evolution and history of a small Haliburton community on the shores of Eagle Lake.</p>
<p>Canopy Tour</p>	<p>A Walk in the Clouds is more than a guided tour, it is an experience that you will not soon forget. From the moment you arrive at the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve, your professional guides will lead you through a unique and very dynamic tour. From river basin to tree top, the tour takes in all the splendour that nature has to offer. The four hour round trip, departing the Base Camp twice a day, three times a day in July and August, consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a guided van tour through the private lands of Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve Ltd., passing through forests and along lakes and streams. - a 0.5 kilometer walk along the scenic Pelaw River. - a short, guided, voyageur-canoe ride across a wilderness lake to the final destination. - the Canopy boardwalk... from here the tour continues into the forest canopy.

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	<p>The canopy boardwalk is the ultimate highlight of this outing. Over half a kilometer long - and as such the longest of its kind in the world - the canopy boardwalk winds through the treetops some 10-20 meters above the forest floor. A platform suspended from the treetops above, becomes the gathering place where you can enjoy a leisurely snack while your guide elaborates on the forest environment surrounding you. A spectacular view across the lakes and forests becomes a fitting closure to your tree top tour.</p> <p>Your safety during the tour is a priority and will not be compromised. The canopy boardwalk has been designed to meet, or exceed, all industry standards. Before any person leaves the comfort of the forest floor your guide will introduce you to all the safety procedures and equipment. The latter, especially harnesses, have been chosen to offer the ultimate in safety while providing a comfortable fit to persons of all ages and sizes.</p> <p>Your Haliburton Forest guides are trained interpreters who will ensure a safe and exciting tour. All guides have an intimate knowledge of Haliburton Forest and its diverse natural surrounding. They are fully trained with all equipment and procedures involved with the boardwalk excursion.</p> <p>The \$95 per adult fee also includes a visit to the Wolf Centre. Pre-registration is required and can be made by phoning 705 754 2198. The minimum age to participate in the tour is 10.</p> <p>I can personally recommend this tour and found it to be not only a fascinating way to see the forest in a whole new way, but also much more professionally managed than other canopy tours I have experienced overseas.</p> <p>www.haliburtonforest.com</p>
<p>Must Sees</p>	<p>Boncherre Caves, Eganville</p> <p>The Bonnechere Caves have been welcoming people from all over the world for over 55 years. They provide a safe, educational, informative and fun tour for people of all ages. Everyone from babies in backpacks to senior citizens have enjoyed the handiwork of Mother Nature here along the beautiful Bonnechere River. Reservations are not necessary as they have staff on hand to take you on tour when you arrive. To better plan a visit to us check out the Special Events section of their website or take a virtual reality trip underground.</p> <p>Guided tours leave every twenty to thirty minutes and last approximately one hour except for weekdays in September when the tours are at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. On the hottest summer days, the caves are cool. For your comfort, take a light sweater. There is a set of stairs leading you into the caves and one that takes you out of the caves. A beautiful trail that passes a sink hole will bring you back. Low-heeled shoes are recommended. For pictures underground, don't forget your flash. The</p>

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	<p>white waters of the waterfall are a fine subject for movie fans and artists. Although not necessary, if you have a flashlight bring it along to get an extra close look at the walls and the fossils that are everywhere underground. - See more at: http://www.bonnecherecaves.com</p>
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SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
Golf	<p>Breathtaking beauty is par for the course with every hole when playing a round of golf in Ontario's Highlands. Crimson maples contrast with emerald firs of the dense forests lining the fairways of every course. Whether a scratch golfer, serious amateur, or an avid duffer, you will find the links here to be challenging and most enjoyable to play.</p> <p>DRAGONFLY GOLF LINKS Features a naturally splendid 18-hole golf course covering 170 acres of diverse terrain for all skill levels. Located in Renfrew in Upper Ottawa Valley, this course has been voted one of the top three public courses in the Ottawa region. The holes spread across rolling terrain, with luscious greens bordered by forest and speckled with reflecting ponds. Relax after the game in the fully licensed clubhouse. Lessons and lesson packages are available. There is also a driving range. http://www.dragonflygolf.com/</p> <p>THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS GC South Kashagawigamog Lake Road 9-18 HOLES The 2,425-yard, 9-hole golf course, overlooking lake Kashagawigamog, provides a rugged test of your golfing skills. There is a fully stocked pro shop, with an extensive line of accessories and clothing, on site. Lessons can be arranged with private instructors. Kids are welcome. Power cart rentals. www.haliburtongolf.com</p> <p>PINESTONE 705 457 1800 HWY 121 West of Haliburton Village 18 HOLES A soft spike course, Delta Pinestone offers a fully stocked pro shop, power cart rentals and golf lessons. Carved from the mineral rich glacial till of the Haliburton Highlands, it offers unparalleled splendor in both its scenic views and challenging golf holes. Stately pines strategically placed Precambrian Boulders are signature, from beginning to end. At 6,204 yards, it's not notably long, but the low handicapper is kept honest by narrow fairways, natural stone outcrops, and an array of bunkers and ponds.</p>

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	<p>BEAVERBROOK 705 286 1378 (Minden-just off HWY 35) 8 OR 19 HOLES A challenging 2900-yard golf course with rolling fairways. Because of its location, nestled between the Gull River and Beaver Creek, water comes into play on four of its nine holes. Beaverbrook opened in 1939 and the property has been in the Stevens family since 1916. Power carts, pro shop and listened lounge.</p> <p>THE BLAIRHAMPTON 705 286 1315 (Minden-off of HWY 121) 18 HOLES A picturesque golf course, which has recently undergone major upgrades and expansion to 18 holes. It provides plenty of challenge along with abundant scenic beauty. The club also has a driving range with a natural grass tee. A licensed club house and golf pro shop.</p> <p>LAKESIDE 705 754 2110 9 HOLES This lovely 2,802 yard, Par 35, 9-hole golf course overlooks Grass Lake. Recent improvements include two new ponds, expanded gardens and a new putting green. Junior golfers welcome.</p> <p>CEDAR MEADOW GOLF 705 448 3999 Elephant Lake Road, Harcourt. A nine-hole course on Elephant Lake. It offers affordable family golfing.</p>
Fishing	<p>If you like to fish in Ontario, you'll simply love fishing in this destination! The flick of your wrist. The whirl of the reel. That tug on the line. Set the hook and hang on for the ride...a Northern Pike, or better yet, a Muskie has taken your bait...and the game is on! The tranquility of the mist rising off the lake at dawn as you slowly troll the thermoclimb in the granite ravines 50 to 75 feet below the surface where Lake Trout, Whitefish, and Splake reside. For licensing information and regulations, refer to Ministry of Natural Resources www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/pubs/pubmenu.html#fish</p>
ATVing	<p>It's one thing to embrace the magic of autumn from the highway in your car, but if you really want to immerse yourself in the fall colors, come ATVing in Ontario's Highlands. The splashes of color of the magnificent hardwood forests dramatically clash with the gigantic granite outcroppings of the Canadian Shield. This is Nature at its roughest and most beautiful splendor. Go enjoy hundreds of miles of off road trails through hundreds of acres</p>

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	of Crown land only accessible by ATV.
Hiking	<p>As an avid hiker, you'll love the variety of hiking trails that are available to you in the region. The Head Lake Trail is a comfortable walk or jog and is wheelchair accessible from end to end in Haliburton. For the more adventurous hiker, there are nature trails, bird watching tours, and even self-guided wetland eco-system tours.</p> <p>For the ultimate thrill in hiking, check out the Haliburton Forest "Walk in the Clouds". Tour the white pine canopy up close and personal as you traverse the half kilometer long boardwalk suspended 20 meters in the air. In autumn, with the forests ablaze in color, the view is spectacular, and the hiking experience is unforgettable.</p> <p>Another personal recommendation is the 15 km hike around Silent Lake Provincial Park in the southeast of the county. This is a hike I do every fall when the colours are fabulous and the bugs have gone.</p>
Cycling	<p>A kaleidoscope of colour splashes before you as you careen down the trail through the hardwood forests of Ontario's Highlands. Mountain biking and cycling take on whole new dimensions in the fall as the leaves change colour and the morning air becomes a little nippier. The conditions are perfect to enjoy going for a ride on and off the trails that run throughout the region. From relatively flat rail beds to hills that put "mountain" into biking, Ontario's Highlands are every cyclist's ideal habitat for riding.</p>
Canoeing	<p>More than four centuries unfold as you paddle the streams and lakes of the Canadian Shield. Each dip and stroke of the paddle takes you back to the time when the Algonquin and the Huron Nations aided Samuel de Champlain to explore the region.</p> <p>The waterways have been integral to the development and enjoyment of the area for centuries. Explore the Highlands from the vantage point of the earliest explorers and natives. There are hundreds of kilometers of interlinked rivers and lakes accessible from the Frost Centre, Drag River, or the Irondale River to make your canoeing vacation most memorable.</p>

CULTURE	
Arts	<p>The Haliburton Sculpture Forest, in Glebe Park near the village of Haliburton, is a unique outdoor collection of sculptures by Canadian artists. The trails in the Sculpture Forest, for walking and bike riding in spring, summer and fall and skiing in the winter, provide changing perspectives of the forest and the sculptures in each of the seasons. There is no charge for admission in spring, summer or fall. Trail passes are required for Nordic skiing in the winter.</p>
Museums	<p>The Haliburton Highlands Museum offers visitors a year-round look into the past with their permanent displays as well as a blacksmith shop and the seasonally-operated Reid House, an authentic, furnished log</p>

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	<p>home. Located on Bayshore Acres Rd. off Hwy 118 just west of Haliburton village. Open year round. Summer 10 am - 5 pm Tues through Sun, Spring and Fall 10am - 5 Tues through Sat, Winter 10 am - 5 pm Wed through Sat.</p> <p>Stanhope Heritage Discovery Museum: The Stanhope Heritage Discovery Museum is a community museum dedicated to the collection and preservation of the history of Stanhope Township. They're small on size but big on heritage, annually rotating 144 years of fabulous history. It's the headquarters of the Hawk Lake Log Chute Historic Park, the only log chute in Ontario and home to the World's Largest Lumberjack - come for a photo op. Enjoy the Heritage Gardens June through October. They are open year round online with photo galleries, newsletter, searchable databases and more. Don't miss Heritage Day in July.</p>
<p>Festivals</p>	<p>The Haliburton Studio Tour is Saturday & Sunday October 4-5, 2014 and Thanksgiving Weekend October 11-12, 2014 and is a great way to spend a weekend. Enjoy local accommodation from cozy B&Bs to luxurious Inns, soak up the Fall colours - plus the fabulous work of over 26 celebrated local artists. For more information check out www.haliburtonstudiotour.on.ca .</p> <p>The Hike Haliburton Festival is in October each year. Choose from themed hikes at every skill level, each led by an experienced, educational guide. There is a hike for you, whether you interested in Geology, Botany, Geocaching, Mushrooms, History, Fitness, The Arts and more.</p>

<p>ATTRACTIONS</p>	
<p>Beaches</p>	<p>There are a number of public beaches on the region's many lakes which are perfect spots for some summer down time.</p>
<p>Wildlife</p>	<p>The Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre In July of 1996 the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre opened its doors to the general public. The Wolf Centre at Haliburton Forest had humble beginnings as far back as 1977 in the backwoods of Upper Michigan ... Today the pack - Ebony and Citka, the Alpha pair, and their siblings and offspring, - roams freely in a 15 acre enclosure, one of the largest of its kind in the world. The Wolf Centre contains numerous exhibits, a small cinema/classroom, a retail area featuring a wide selection of wolf related books, tapes and graphics as well as a large indoor observatory overlooking the feeding area within the wolf compound. An annual themed exhibit is open to the public during the summer: In 1998 it was Wolves in Art, and in subsequent years the themes were: Wolves in the Movies, Wolves in Advertising, Wolf Toys and Stories, A Wolf in the</p>

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	<p>Mail, Little Red Riding Hood, Wolf Masks and Wolves in Fashion. While it is most probable that visitors will have an opportunity to observe the wolf pack or individual members of it, an actual viewing cannot be guaranteed within a short period of time due to the size of the compound and the unsocialised nature of the pack.</p> <p>The mandate of the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre is research and education. It is an important component within the overall framework of Haliburton Forest with its philosophy of integrated, sustainable resource management and land use.</p> <p>Unlike most other facilities of its kind, the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre is a private facility, supported entirely through user-fees.</p> <p>The Wolf Centre is open from Victoria Day in May until the end of the Thanksgiving weekend seven days a week from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. The rest of the year we are open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm.</p>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>There are several provincial parks for you to visit in Ontario's Highlands, each with its own unique beauty and landscape. Ontario's Highlands is also conveniently situated on the border of Algonquin Park, one of Ontario's largest and most famous parks. Come for the day to swim and hike or bring your tent and stay awhile.</p> <p>Algonquin Park As one of Ontario's largest provincial parks, the impressive Algonquin Park and its outstanding wilderness, lakes, and scenery offers year-round outdoor adventure.</p> <p>Bon Echo Provincial Park Visit Bon Echo Provincial Park to see the famous Mazinaw Rock, a steep, 1.5 kilometer wall of rock that shoots straight out of Mazinaw Lake for 100 meters towards the far reaches of the sky. http://www.bonnecherepark.on.ca</p> <p>Bonnechere Provincial Park Bonnechere Provincial Park can be found at the northwest corner of Round Lake, approximately 30 minutes southwest from Pembroke; on a map, you can locate Bonnechere near the eastern portion of Algonquin http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/murp.html</p> <p>Murphys Point Provincial Park Located less than half an hour south from Perth, Murphys Point Provincial Park can also be reached by boat if you travel down the Rideau Waterway from Smiths Falls. http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/shar.html</p> <p>Sharbot Lake Provincial Park Sharbot Lake Provincial Park provides a rustic outdoor getaway for those looking to explore a naturally magnificent part of the Canadian Shield. The park is home to both Sharbot Lake and Black Lake http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/silvl.html</p>

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	<p>Silver Lake Provincial Park Known for its long, sandy beach and pristine water that shines like silver when the sunlight hits it just right, Silver Lake Provincial Park is located near Perth along highway 7.</p> <p>Silent Lake Provincial Park is located on Highway 28, about 25 km north of Apsley and 24 km south of Bancroft and offers a perfect setting for enjoying the natural beauty and tranquility of the lower Canadian Shield. The forest is a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees, with birch, maple, hemlock and white pine the most common species. With a total of 167 campsites scattered throughout the developed area of the park, Silent Lake offers a choice of different camping experiences. The park also offers year-round accommodations and features some Mongolian-style yurts, perfect that something different break! I have hiked the 15km trail right around the lake and only encountered one other person on the trail – Silent Lake is well named!</p>
<p>Fall Colours</p>	<p>The Highlands are ablaze in fiery reds, and rich golds as autumn approaches. Around every turn, over the top of every hill, the colors cascade down the hillsides spilling out to the edge of the road. No wonder thousands of people migrate to the Highlands every fall by bus, car, RV and camper to enjoy the splendor. One of the very best drives to see the colours is along Highway 118 west of Bancroft.</p>
<p>Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve</p>	<p>This is a privately owned forest in Central Ontario's Haliburton Highlands. Comprising over 60,000 acres of rolling hardwood forests, pristine lakes, meandering rivers and extensive wetlands, make it a nature enthusiasts dream. Haliburton Forest is Canada's first "certified sustainable forest", meeting the stringent standards of the "Forest Stewardship Council", supported by such organizations as the WWF and the Sierra Club.</p> <p>In order to facilitate the exploration of its natural environment, Haliburton Forest offers unique outdoor experiences throughout the year.</p> <p>The Base Camp serves as the main entrance point into Haliburton Forest and provides all services essential to an enjoyable stay. At the office visitors check in, pick up permits, maps and information material, as well as get updated on the latest conditions and events at Haliburton Forest.</p> <p>Haliburton Forest is open year round. Office hours are from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, seven days per week. Weekend hours during July and August as well as from January to March, are extended. The entrance point into Haliburton Forest is the Base Camp, the site of a former saw mill, which left its name and some old equipment preserved as a tribute to the pioneer days in this part of Ontario.</p> <p>Rental Equipment: The type of rental equipment available is dependent</p>

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	<p>on the season. The equipment available includes snowmobiles in the winter as well as canoes, kayaks, and mountain bikes during the summer and fall. Licensed Restaurant and Store</p> <p>A licensed restaurant and store on site provides visitors with essentials from toothbrushes to chicken fingers.</p> <p>Accommodation is available at Base Camp in 2 types:</p> <p>One consists of spacious 3- and 2- bedroom housekeeping units with 3 piece baths. These are fully equipped with TV to microwave, some with fireplaces, offering a fitting home base for excursions into the forest.</p> <p>Also available are two rustic, open loft log cabins with kitchen and washroom facilities. Heating is provided predominantly through wood stoves. These buildings lend themselves to accommodating smaller groups of visitors.</p> <p>Special events are organized throughout the year. The Base Camp is either the location or starting point for a wide variety of events and happenings through the four seasons.</p> <p>Also available in the forest are: semi-wilderness camping (with a reserved number of sites available for short term use), orienteering, wilderness skills, canoeing, dog sledding, snowshoeing, skiing, hiking and much more.</p> <p>Haliburton Forest can be reached via Highways 118, 35, and 121. At West Guilford cross the bridge, and take County Road 7 for approximately 20 kilometres to the Base Camp.</p> <p>www.haliburtonforest.com</p>
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OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	There is excellent craft and antique shopping available in many of the scattered small communities, such as Haliburton , Minden, Dorset, Bancroft, and Pembroke.
Markets	<p>The Maynooth Farmers' Market is held every Saturday from June 6 through to October 10. It is at the car park by the Hastings Highlands Muncipal Office.</p> <p>Sharbot Lake Farmers Market features local farm, agricultural and craft products. Saturday 9 am – 1 pm, Victoria weekend through Thanksgiving at beautiful Sharbot Lake Beach. Winter market at Oso Hall Sharbot Lake 9:30-12:30 1st & 3rd Saturdays Jan - April.</p>
Studio Tours	<p>Tweed & Area Studio Tour</p> <p>Location: 4167 Hwy 37 RR2, Tweed</p> <p>Sep 28 & 29, 2014. A self-guided tour of the studios of artists & artisans of Tweed & area: paintings, jewellery, fibre arts, pottery, stained & painted glass, photography, wood working, native crafts, sculpture, santas. www.tweedstudiotour.org 613-477 2869</p>

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	<p>Madawaska Valley Studio Tour Location: 49 Knox Terrace P.O. Box 406, Eganville 23rd annual self-guided, free, studio tour exploring and inspired by the Madawaska Valley. 16 studios, 29 artists creating paintings, jewellery, pottery, fibre art, weavings, soap, skin care, photos, wood turnings, fretwork, forged knives and cast stone.</p> <p>Highlands East Studio Tour Location: 1151 Dark Lake Rd, Wilberforce A quality studio tour of fine arts and crafts amidst the breathtaking scenery and the quaint communities of Irondale, Gooderham, Tory Hill, Wilberforce, Paudash and Harcourt. Step inside each studio to view the demos and creative works of art.</p>
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CUISINE	
Food	Local produce can be found both in the region's restaurants and for sale in the village shops. The locally produced maple syrup is unbelievably good!
Wine	For something different and surprisingly good (I can personally vouch for that!), Moon Shadows Estate Winery at Maple Moon, 5km west of Haliburton Village, is Ontario's first maple winery. Drop by and sample some of this really different wine and say hello to the Thompson's whose passion this new development is.
Restaurants	There are some great restaurants in this region! Starting with " Rhubarb " in Carnarvon which offers inventive and tasty dishes in a beautiful lakeside setting; the Heritage House Café in Haliburton Village offers great wraps and coffee to travel for; and our dinner at the Bonnie View Inn by the shores of Lake Kashagawigamog was absolutely first class. The Old Country House Restaurant is also recommended at 172 Highland St., Haliburton. In the Bancroft area my own favoured eateries are Mirrors on Lake Paudash; the Craftsman just north of Paudash Village and The Granite in Bancroft at 45 Bridge St W.

MORE INFO	
Websites	Ontario's Highlands: www.ontarioshighlands.ca Connect with Ontario's Highlands on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ontarioshighlands Follow Ontario's Highlands on Twitter: https://twitter.com/OnHighlands Ottawa Valley: www.ottawavalley.travel Connect with Ottawa Valley on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ottawavalleytravel Follow Ottawa Valley on Twitter: https://twitter.com/theottawavalley

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	<p>Haliburton Highlands: www.MyHaliburtonHighlands.com Connect with Haliburton Highlands on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Haliburton.Highlands Follow Haliburton Highlands on Twitter: https://twitter.com/visithaliburton Bancroft: http://www.bancroftdistrict.com/</p>
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<p>PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</p>	<p>Bancroft Gemboree Silent Lake Park Bon Echo Park Heather Lodge Dinner at That Place in Carnarvon (now Rhubarb) Sir Sam's Inn and Waterspa Wolf Centre at Haliburton Forest Walk in the Clouds Tour Maple Moon Winery Lunch at Heritage House Café in Haliburton Tour of Fleming College and Sculpture Forest Tour of Green Mantle Mineral Farm Dinner at the Bonnie View Inn on Lake Kashagawigamog Delta Pinestone Resort Head Lake Park, Haliburton Yours Outdoors Macdonald Lake, Haliburton Forest</p>
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