

Manitoulin Loop



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Manitoulin Loop

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Manitoulin Loop

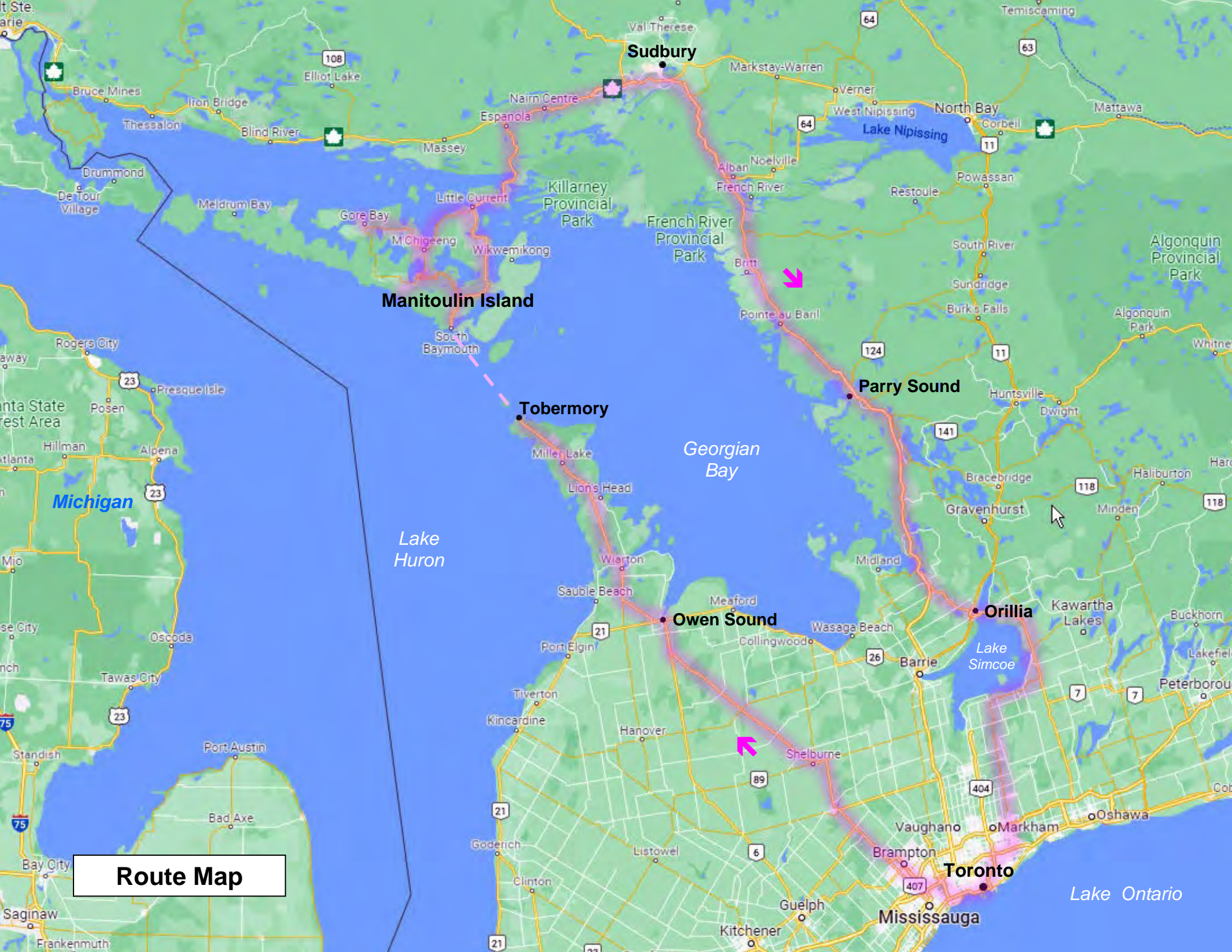
Introduction

This was a trip to one of the few parts of southern and central Ontario that I had never visited before – Manitoulin Island. It was a loop: up to Tobermory, car ferry to the island, explorations there, and return down the east side of Georgian Bay.

The trip was planned for October, partly as a safety measure to avoid big crowds and partly in hopes of catching some fall colour. Many of the summer tourist attractions (and too many of the restaurants) were closed.

The weather was not impossible, but not ideal. Fall colour photos require coloured leaves, sunshine, and a place to stop the car – a far too elusive combination. Global warming is pushing the timing of fall colour later, so there wasn't much bold colour yet, and very little deep red.

Large parts of Manitoulin are home to First Nations communities. I found that both ordinary people and businesses in the north have become sensitive to the massive injustices done to aboriginal peoples ever since Europeans arrived. This was especially striking during a period when both the Government of Canada and the Catholic Church keep showing that they remain in denial. I found it interesting and encouraging to see how First Nations peoples have organized themselves in a place where they have substantial lands and the freedom to manage their own affairs. That was unexpected, and the greatest part of this trip for me.



Sudbury

Manitoulin Island

Tobermory

Georgian Bay

Parry Sound

Owen Sound

Orillia

Toronto

Mississauga

Route Map



Owen Sound Owen Sound Bay creates a major harbour at the base of the Bruce Peninsula.



Owen Sound The harbour still serves as a grain shipping port, though it's not as busy now as in times past.



Tobermory

Tobermory, at the northern tip of the Bruce Peninsula, is a picturesque tourist town.



Tobermory

Glass bottom boat tours explore the many nearby shipwrecks in clear shallow waters.



Tobermory

The numerous wrecks and the clean clear waters of Georgian Bay have created a major SCUBA diving industry.



Tobermory

Tobermory claims to be the fresh water
SCUBA diving capital of the world.



**Chi-
Cheemaun**

**This is the ferry that will take me to Manitoulin Island,
arriving in the late afternoon the day before.**



Chi-
Cheemaun

As the ferry approaches the dock it pulls a neat trick.



Chi-
Cheemaun

The bow flips up so that vehicles can drive off.
The ferry can take 143 vehicles.



Chi-
Cheemaun

Next morning I get to see how this works.



Chi-
Cheemaun

There's a flip-up door at the stern too,
so we will be able to drive off in that direction.



Chi-
Cheemaun

We're at South Baymouth,
just waiting for the ramp to unfold.



Chi-
Cheemaun

The ferry loaded up again once we were off,
taking on all manner of “vehicles”.



**Chi-
Cheemaun**

And then headed back to Tobermory.



Manitoulin Island

Day One

Day Two



**South
Baymouth**

South Baymouth is a tourist town too,
but the season is well and truly over here.



**South
Baymouth**

The town is full of shops selling crafts and souvenirs.



**South
Baymouth**

Some of the crafts are locally made, but the proportion of genuine native crafts and souvenirs seems very small.



**South
Baymouth**

Everybody's in on the act.



**South
Baymouth**

There aren't many sightseeing highlights here.



**South
Baymouth**

A museum rounds out the list of attractions.



En route

Just of out town a farm family has created a combination Thanksgiving and Halloween scene.



**Providence
Bay**

Providence Bay boasts the best beach on the south coast.



Providence
Bay

The Harbour Centre facilities are closed for the season.



**Providence
Bay**

The Mutchmor Café and Gallery, opened in 2016, features a massive mural sensitive to the area's heritage.



Mindemoya

A bit inland, Mindemoya offers a Welcome Centre ...



Mindemoya ... and a Pioneer Village.



En route

This is actually a rare sight this year, though very welcome.



En route



Manitowaning Manitowaning's old steamboat wharf is now part of the community's Museum Heritage Complex, home of the SS Norisle.



Manitowaning The SS Norisle was the first steamship built in Canada after WW II. It sailed the Tobermory / South Baymouth route from 1946 to 1974.



Manitowaning This pioneer village is part of Manitowaning's Assiginack Museum Complex.



Wikwemikong

Welcome to Wikwemikong First Nation. “Unceded” means that it has not relinquished title to its land to the government by treaty or otherwise.



Wikwemikong Wikwemikong occupies a large peninsula on the eastern end of Manitoulin Island, on the opposite side of Manitowaning Bay from the town.

1836 Treaty

(also known as the Goodhead Treaty)

Wikwemikong
UNCED INDIAN RESERVE



On August 9, 1836 a treaty was signed at Manitowaning to preserve Manitoulin and the surrounding Islands for the Anishinaabek. Manitoulin Island is known to the Ojibwa, Odawa, and Pottawatomi Anishinaabek as Mnidoo Mnis, meaning Isle of the Spirit.

Since time immemorial the Odawa have occupied Manitoulin. In the 1800's, the Ojibwa and Pottawatomi joined the Odawa and settled on Manitoulin. Manitowaning is a spiritual place, it is believed that at the heart of the bay is an under water tunnel frequented by the spirit "Mshibizhi".



WIKWEMIKONG
HERITAGE
ORGANIZATION

Holy Cross Camp circa 1877

Father Kohler sketch across from Manitowaning Bay

Photo courtesy of Wikwemikong Heritage Organization photo archives

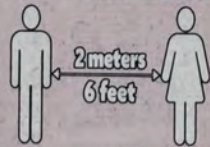
Wikwemikong The reserve has a land area of 413 km² / 159 square miles, and is the fifth-largest Indian reserve in Canada.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES



**AANGGOWAAMZIK!
MNENDAAGIZIK GOJIING PAAYAAYIK**
BE SAFE! ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

**PKWEDAN
WAASA WII
NZAAMDIYIK**



Please remember to practice
physical distancing

WII GZIBIIGININJIIYIK

Wash your hands



**NEN MDAASWI BEMAADIZIJIG
ETA DA MAAWNJIDIWAG**

Keep your social circle under 10 people



ZHICHIGEDAA ENENDAAGOZIIYING
LET'S DO OUR PART

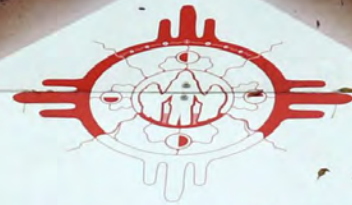
Wikwemikong This community is bilingual: Anishinnaabe and English.



Wikwemikong Band administration occupies several large, modern buildings in the heart of the town of Wikwemikong.



Wikwemikong The Hub Centre's architecture blends traditional and modern influences.



Phone: 859-3797

Fax: 859-2362

WIKWEMIKONG HUB CENTRE

Aanii, G'dinmikaagoom - Hello, We welcome you all

Emeziniganikaadeg kinoomaagegamig yaawaat meziniganjig eshki maadzinjin kinoomoowaa'aat.

A Full Licensed Centre with Registered Early Childhood Educators.

Naagdawenmindwaa miinwaa kinoomoondwaa eshkibimaadzijig.

Providing childcare services and early childhood education.

Wiikwemkoong kinomaagewin eminzhaandigik.

Administered by the Wikwemikong Board of Education.

Enkiichigaadeg miinwaa enaadmaageemgak:

Ngo naakwe kinoomaagewin, Shkwaa naakwe kinoomaagewin, Gbegiizhik Kinoomagewin,

Bebiiwzhiinhjig Kinoomagewin, Maamwi naadmaadwin, miinwaa Bemikaaget

Programs and Services: ½ Day Preschool Programs, Full Day Preschool Program, Toddler Program,

Toy Library (Family Resource Program), and Resource Teacher

Anishinaabe Aadzowin Kinoomagegamig

Wikwemikong The Hub Centre's role is to provide childcare services and early childhood education.



Wikwemikong Homes, businesses, and services look much the same as they would anywhere else in Ontario.



Wikwemikong But things really are different here.



Wikwemikong This Junior School looks typical, but the sign's notice for *Spirit Day* isn't. I leave impressed and encouraged that pride in heritage is being fostered.



Kagawong

The Bridal Veil Falls just south of Kagawong are a popular tourist destination, and the anchor point for an extensive trails network.



Kagawong

Visitors get to walk behind the falls.



Kagawong

Tourist season is totally over here too ...



Kagawong

**... but the Heritage Centre is open.
The Centre features historical exhibits from recent times ...**



Kagawong ... back to the War of 1812 with the Americans.



En route

**What the ... ? A Mustang convention in the middle of nowhere?
Well, actually on the route from Kagawong to Gore Bay.**



En route

It's the Sudbury Mustang Club hosting visitors from Niagara Falls, stopping for coffee.



Gore Bay

The Janet Head Lighthouse north of Gore Bay, built in 1878, is a classic Georgian Bay design in which the keeper's home is part of the lighthouse.



Gore Bay

**The town of Gore Bay,
seen from the opposite side of the Bay.**



Gore Bay

The big yachts are all bundled up for the winter here.



Gore Bay

The Harbour Centre would be bustling in the summer.



En route

A person could really feel out of place around here.
But the natives were friendly and the takeout lunch was great.



**Maclean's
Mountain**

Maclean's Mountain Lookout, south of Little Current, offers views to the North Channel and the Ontario mainland beyond.



**Maclean's
Mountain**



Little Current This “Bird Cage Lighthouse” is a replica commemorating the services provided by a series of these built in the Little Current area in 1866.



Little Current The other notable sight in town is the swing bridge, my route out tomorrow. The bridge opens for 15 minutes on the hour during daylight hours.



Parry Sound

Parry Sound's skyline is dominated by the high level CPR bridge.



Parry Sound

This is the major freight route between eastern and western Canada.



Parry Sound

We're a bit further south, so some boaters remain active here.



Island Queen
Cruise

My boat for the day will be the 550-passenger *Island Queen*.



Island Queen
Cruise

We're setting out on a three-hour cruise.
This is a repeat experience for me.



Island Queen Cruise A swing bridge is making way for us this time.



**Island Queen
Cruise** After three overcast and rainy days it's great to have nice weather.



**Island Queen
Cruise**

Like many businesses in this area the Island Queen company is making it a point to acknowledge First Nations history and claims.



Island Queen The Precambrian rock here doesn't make it easy for trees to thrive.
Cruise



**Island Queen
Cruise**

The modest vacation cottages here are appropriate for people actually interested in the great outdoors. Not showhouses.



Island Queen We meet a few friendly natives.
Cruise



**Island Queen
Cruise**

**Most of the trees along the Island Queen route are evergreens,
but there was the odd dash of colour.**



**Island Queen
Cruise**



**Island Queen
Cruise**

**We spot some Thanksgiving Day holiday hikers
scrambling over the granite at Killbear Provincial Park.**



**Island Queen
Cruise**

**As we near the end of our cruise we pass through
this narrow 34 metre / 112 foot *Hole In The Wall*.**



Lake Simcoe **Almost home.**
A quick stop along the south shore of Lake Simcoe.



Lake Simcoe And one last chance to catch some colour.

< End >

 **Manitoulin Loop**