

# Bawaating - Heart of Turtle Island

GROUP ITINERARY



## Whitefish Island

### 1 Hour with Guided Tour

Take a leisurely stroll in the 'Heart of Turtle Island' with Thrive Tours and immerse yourself in history as you cross over to Whitefish Island, the original meeting place of the Anishinaabe peoples of the Great Lakes. The St. Mary's River rapids are legendary and right off the shore of Whitefish Island. This historic location was once renowned as an international fishing community. Ernest Hemmingway is quoted as saying the Canadian Soo has "The best rainbow trout fishing in the world".

## Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site

### 1-2 Hours Depending on Tour

The new visitor centre at the Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site shares stories of the lock's construction, its history as a commercial operation, its connection to the people who lived and worked here as well as its impacts on Batchewana First Nation and the historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis People.

## Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site

### 1-3 Hours Depending on Tour

The Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site welcomes visitors to the two oldest stone buildings northwest of Toronto. These buildings have witnessed the transformation of a small Ojibwa encampment into a Northern Ontario hub. Step back in time and learn about Chief Shingwauk through a live theatrical performance from a direct descendant. Followed by a taste of culinary heritage in the summer kitchen over an open hearth.

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This itinerary has been prepared for the 2025 Group Tour Season.







### **Discover Métis History at Bawaating Through Walking & Paddling Tours 2 Hours**

Learn about the Métis connection to Bawaating and the St. Mary's River through Métis-led cultural and ecology tours. Groups have the option to choose a walking tour, or a walking and paddling tour, boarding the Big Canoe and paddling on the St. Mary's River. Both tours begin at the new Sault Ste. Marie Métis Centre.

### **Guided Truth Walk at Shingwauk Residential School 1 Hour**

An amalgamation of a museum, interpretative centre and memorial, learn about the impact of the Residential School system through a "Guided Truth Walk".

### **Experience a Tour with Local Indigenous Guides Time Varies Depending on Tour Selected**

**Thrive Tours**, Indigenous owned and operated guided ecotourism company that connects with nature through land-based adventures including guided canoeing, kayaking, hiking, snowshoeing and year round camping. **Walk Among The Trees** Indigenous guides offering walking tours in the Hiawatha Highlands. Their tours are centered around sharing culture through storytelling, traditional teachings and culinary dishes. During a guided tour you will have the opportunity to visit their newly built Medicine Garden.



### **Drive North for a Day of Sightseeing and History Along the Shores of Lake Superior/Gitchi-Gami - Full Day**

#### **Agawa Crafts and the Canadian Carver**

Stop at Agawa Crafts and the Canadian Carver, located in Pancake Bay. This well known trading post is owned and operated by Serpent River First Nation, and features crafts, carvings and local smoked fish.

#### **Lake Superior Provincial Park and Pictographs**

The displays in the interpretative centre highlight the power of the lake and its influence on surrounding cultures and natural landscapes; offering great coastal hiking trails right off the site! Do not miss the opportunity to visit one of Canada's famous pictograph locations, in Agawa Bay. Pictographs are surviving messages from the past and this is a sacred site where generations of Ojibwe peoples have come to record their dreams, visions and events. Hike the moderate trail down to the coast and see one of the most visited Indigenous archaeological sites in the country where most paintings are said to date from the 17th and 18th centuries.

#### **River Rock Gifts Deli & Bakery**

Located in Batchewana Bay, a must-stop is at the River Rock Gifts Deli & Bakery, a dedicated establishment to Métis culture, heritage and cuisine. Enjoy their world famous apple fritters and gift shop.