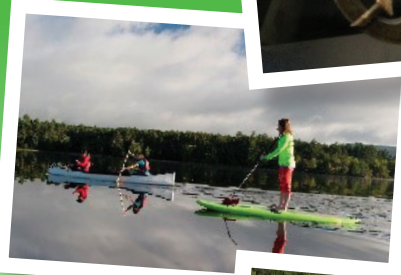


North



Route Champlain
Be the explorer!

OTTAWA VALLEY AND GATEWAY TO THE NORTH



Feeling adventurous? Begin your Champlain adventure on the Ottawa River rapids with a choice of several rafting and canoeing outfitters:

- [Owl Rafting](#) or [RiverRun Rafting & Wilderness Resort](#)
- [Wilderness Tours](#)
- [Ottawa River Adventures](#)

Owl Rafting also offers pontoon tours for those wanting a calmer adventure.

Follow Samuel de Champlain's voyage to Cobden where legend says his Astrolabe was discovered. At [Bonnechere Caves](#) in Eganville you can go underground and learn how the caves were formed, discovered and explored. A family discovery not to be missed!

For paddling lovers, [Madawaska Kanu Centre](#) on the south-eastern edge of Algonquin Park in Barry's Bay has courses for everyone from the absolute beginner to seasoned river rat.

Enjoy the countryside wonders with a visit to [Hugli's Blueberry Ranch](#) where you can pick your own blueberries on their 17-acre ranch. Learn about Champlain paddling along the Ottawa River and discovering the pleasure of eating blueberries as he explored.

[Champlain Trail Museum](#) in Pembroke is your next stop. With one of the largest collections of Ottawa Valley artifacts, the Champlain Trail Museum is truly a must see!

Following Hwy 17 North to Mattawa, explore [Driftwood Provincial Park](#) where you will enjoy panoramic views of the scenic Upper Ottawa Valley and Laurentian Hills

[Mattawa](#), where the Ottawa and Mattawa rivers meet, has a long history as a meeting place by the first nations people and voyageurs. Look for the three large crosses that are very symbolic to this area and the numerous larger-than-life wooden statues that depict lumber jacks and local characters from the past.

[Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park](#) is located on the historic Mattawa River fur trade route in the scenic Mattawa Valley. They offer great hiking trails with scenic views, a Voyageur Canoe adventure interpretive experience and a Visitor Centre.

The [Canadian Ecology Centre](#) offers many programs related to nature and aboriginal cultures, traditional outdoor skills and activities like learning to make bannock bread!

North Bay on Lake Nipissing was on the early French Fur Trade's main canoe route west from Montreal. Nipissing, one of Northern Ontario's largest lakes was explored by Samuel de Champlain and is steeped in legends. On highway 17, stop at the [LaVase Portage Conservation area](#) to learn about how Champlain went across Lake Nipissing from the Ottawa River to the French River.

On your way to the Georgian Bay, enjoy your itinerary with a taste of the country at [Leisure Farms](#) and a glimpse of history at the [Sturgeon River House Museum](#).

HISTORIC PLAQUES

- [Champlain's Journey of 1613](#) &
- [Rapids of the Upper Ottawa River](#)

