

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE



Wawa



www.experiencewawa.ca



Welcome to Wawa

Connect with us

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Follow us on social media:

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 **@WawaTourism**

Share your photos!

#WawaTourism

This publication is produced by Wawa Tourism. Cover photo courtesy of Ryan MacDonnell. Designed by Jessica Glemnitz / Anthem Design, printed by Cliffe printing. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy.

Welcome to Wawa! A small, friendly community in Northern Ontario. Although we're probably most known for our giant goose monument overlooking the Trans-Canada Highway, Wawa is surrounded by ancient forests, rich in history, culture, and opportunities for adventure. Wawa resides on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, specifically the people of Michipicoten First Nation, and is within the Robinson-Superior Treaty territory. Indigenous peoples have inhabited this land for over 7,000 years and are still present today. The Wawa landscape is steeped in rich Indigenous history and culture with many unique Ojibway names still used today. Wawa — most associated with Goose, comes in part from a mistranslation of wawaan (egg), but came to symbolize the position of our community as a stopover point — both for geese as well as travellers throughout the continent. As our community works with the rest of the Nation on reconciliation, we are growing our knowledge and merging years and centuries of history to a new understanding of place and people.

Located in the heart of Northern Ontario, Wawa boasts endless amounts of pristine nature that can be experienced any way you'd like. For those who like to take it slow, our waterfalls, beaches, walking trails, and picnic areas are easily accessible and immerse you in our beautiful landscape. For active outdoor enthusiasts, many different hiking trails and paddle routes are waiting. Not too keen on exploring the local landscape? Make a connection with Wawa's history by touring through town and reading all about the pivotal pioneers of the past on our 15 heritage doors. Check out our local shops for the perfect souvenir and consider treating yourself to a poutine and an ice cream cone. Read through this guide to learn how Wawa can welcome you into our friendly, small Northern community.

Getting Here

Wawa is located at the intersection of Highway 101 and 17, making it the perfect rest stop during a long day's drive. Whether you're driving a car, motorcycle, or cycling, Wawa has everything you need to rest and recharge to continue your journey.

Distance to major city centers:

- Sault Ste Marie: 227 km | 141 mi
- Timmins: 330 km | 205 mi
- Thunder Bay: 481 km | 299 mi
- Sudbury: 530 km | 329 mi
- North Bay: 657 km | 408 mi
- Toronto: 923 km | 573 mi
- Kenora: 946 km | 588 mi
- Ottawa: 1015 km | 631 mi

Photo: Ryan MacDonnell

Community Services

Emergency Services

In the event of an emergency, dial 911. For non-emergency related services, please see the contact information below.

Lady Dunn Health Centre

705-856-2335

Ontario Provincial Police

1-888-310-1122

MNR – Fire Control

310-FIRE (3473)

U Wanna Cab

705-992-5005

CHADWIC Home

1-800-461-2242

Women's Crisis Centre

Lamon's Towing

705-206-7822

Mission Motors Towing

705-856-2394

24 Hour towing services

Superior Truck Repair Centre

705-856-2075

24 Hour towing and repair services

Petro-Canada

37 Mission Road | 705-856-7800

CANCO/ONE STOP Wawa

95 Mission Road | 705-856-7948

Donald L. Davidson Fuels ESSO

54 Pinewood Drive | 705-856-1577



Contents

- 7** What's On
- 8** Nature & Outdoors
- 10** Trails & Routes
- 12** Going Up the Coast
- 14** Arts & Culture
- 16** North Star Woman
- 18** Visitor Map
- 20** Fishing & Hunting
- 22** Official Touring Routes
- 24** Business Info



Top Picks

1



3



4

Must Sees in Wawa

1 Scenic Magpie High Falls

One of Wawa's most popular attractions. Enjoy the short trail, picnic shelter, Heritage Doors and maybe even a mist from the waterfalls if you are lucky.

2 Silver Falls

Just west of Michipicoten River Village lies three sets of waterfalls. Parking is available on either side. Enjoy the many views that inspired the likes of both Glenn Gould and A.Y. Jackson.

3 Wawa Lake Beaches

The perfect place to enjoy all the sights and sounds of Wawa's four seasons. Lions Beach and Dr. Rose's Beach offer seasonal amenities like swimming, ice-fishing, skating, and playing beach volley ball for year round fun.

4 Sandy Beach

A short 15-minute drive from Wawa lies beautiful Sandy Beach on Lake Superior. Learn about local Michipicoten First Nation at the Interpretive Pavilion. Take a walk down the boardwalk and across sand dunes to the beautifully soft white sand beach that you'll have a hard time leaving behind.



2

What's On

SPRING

Mother's Day Goose Nest Market
Saturday before Mother's Day

SUMMER

Canada Day Celebrations
July 1st

Wawa Music Festival

For exact dates:
www.wawamusicfestival.ca

Wawa Salmon Derby

Every 3rd weekend in August
www.wawasalmonderby.com

FALL

Fall Fair Goose Nest Market
Visit Goose Nest Market on
Facebook and Instagram for
exact dates

WINTER

Bundle Up Goose Nest Market
1st weekend of December

Festival of Lights
First two weeks of December

Santa Claus Parade
3rd Friday in December

Wawa Winter Carnival
Every 3rd weekend in February

Wawa Ice Fishing Derby
Every 1st weekend in March
www.wawaicefishingderby.com



Share your photos!
[#WawaTourism](https://www.instagram.com/WawaTourism)



Nature & Outdoors

History

The Wawa landscape is why we are here. The Ojibway ancestors called it home and the land provided food, shelter, and resources to trade like copper and furs. The many boreal rivers and waterways were important sources of nourishment and travel to neighboring lands and communities. Wawa's hub location on a traditional canoe route from Superior to James Bay was and still is key to our rich history. We are all a part of a long line of travellers and explorers. Find what you are looking for: fish, fur and game; timber and wood products; mineral riches; or vistas and natural wonders under star filled skies?

Experiences & Activities

Camp

Whether you are car camping, glamping, or backcountry tenting, Wawa offers a variety of venues for sleeping under the stars.

Hike & Paddle

Explore a diverse collection of trails and canoe routes which follow the traditional paths and waterways of our earliest residents.

Golf

Wawa is proud of its community run public golf course. The Michipicoten Golf Club is a picturesque, full length 9-hole course complete with Pro Shop and Club House.

Cross-Country Ski

Beautiful views abound on any of the seven groomed ski loops and trails catering to a variety of skill levels.

Snowshoe

Don't let the cold weather deter you from exploring. Our lake effect snowfall turns hiking trails into a winter wonderland for snowshoeing and frozen waterfalls are a whole new way to see the area's classic trails.

Scan the QR for more information on Wawa experiences.



Mijinemungshing Lake, Lake Superior Provincial Park

A gem of the Ontario Parks in the heart of a remote Superior landscape and Dark Sky Preserve.



Photo: Ryan Macdonnell (night sky)

Trails & Routes

Nokomis

Top Hiking Routes

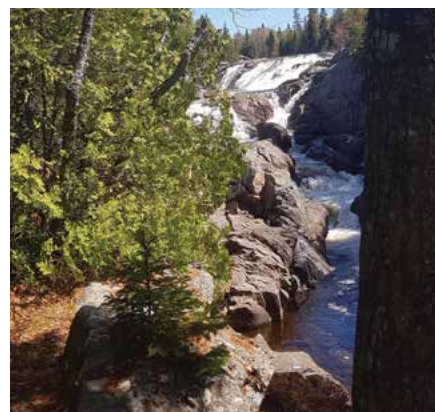
Nokomis
Moderate; 5 km (3 mi) loop;
1.5 - 3 hours

Located 27 km south of Wawa, prepare for steep inclines and spectacular views of Old Woman Bay.



Pinguisibi (Sand River)
Easy; 6 km (3.7 mi) return,
linear trail; 1.5 - 3 hours

Located 68 km south of Wawa, this trail is perfect for chasing waterfalls. Leading you past a series of falls, it reaches one of the largest in the park.



Orphan Lake
Moderate; 8 km (5 mi) loop;
2 - 4 hours

Located 65 km south of Wawa, venture through hardwood and evergreen forests and climb to spectacular lookouts over Lake Superior.



Gateway to the Boreal Forest

Soak in all that nature has to offer by walking through our Gateway to the Boreal Forest. Accessible from Lions Beach or Dr. Rose's Beach, the Gateway to the Boreal Forest is an interpretive boardwalk along Wawa Lake that celebrates our location at the entrance of the primary forest type of the Canadian North. With many signs to read, you'll learn all about the flora and fauna of the area in English, French and Ojibway.

Wawa is located on the boundary of the Boreal Forest; the world's largest remaining continuous forest. Stretching 1.5 billion hectares from coast to coast across North America, the Boreal Forest plays a crucial role in life on Earth. It is responsible for carbon sequestration, regulating climate, purifying the air we breathe and the water we drink. Over 600 Indigenous communities are located within the Boreal Forest and rely on its plants and wildlife for food, medicine, cultural tradition, and economic prosperity. It is home to over 4 billion migratory birds representing 325 species, as well as species of large mammals such as bears, moose, wolves and caribou. The Boreal Forest is also a recreational refuge for those who want to escape the busy city, and enjoy some peace and quiet in nature.



Snowmobile

One benefit of being on the eastern shore of a Great Lake is massive amounts of snow. For serious sledders, Wawa has over 400 km of trails meticulously groomed by operators who want to log as many miles as you do. Take in the scenic views of trees, wildlife and shred some powder while enjoying all that Wawa has to offer. Snowmobiling is recognized and celebrated as Ontario's premier winter recreation and tourism experience, and Wawa does it perfectly. Purchase your trail permit and check current trail conditions at www.ofsc.on.ca.

Snowshoe

There are many snowshoeing opportunities in and around Wawa. Whether you'd like to venture into Lake Superior Provincial Park or stay closer to town and explore locally made trails, the opportunities are endless.

Ski

The Wawa Ski Club has over 10 km of perfectly groomed trails to skate ski or cross-country ski. Beautiful views can be seen on any of the seven loops and trails, including different levels from easy to difficult. Entrance to these trails is at the Wawa Municipal Airport located on Hwy 101 across from the famous goose and the Tourist Information Centre. To purchase a ski pass, please go to the Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre located at 3 Chris Simon Drive.



Scan the QR codes for maps and more information about our trails.



Photos: Alley Amos (Nokomis, Orphan Lake, Boreal Forest)



Going Up the Coast

By Conor Mihell

I've lost track of the number of times I've loaded my sea kayak and set off on Lake Superior, heading west from Wawa's Michipicoten Bay. We always called it "going up the coast," towards the Dog River and Pukaskwa National Park, the start of 200 km of uninhabited shore. This simple adventure captures all of the great outdoor opportunities in Wawa: easily accessible, yet underappreciated. I dreamed of this place for years and then, suddenly, I was there, working as a sea kayak guide. This wild piece of freshwater coastline was the backdrop of my best years: experiencing the joy of sharing wild places with new people. A sea kayak is the best way to explore Lake Superior's haunted shore. It slips into tiny coves and can be pulled off when the water becomes rough. Lake Superior is a paradise of contrasts from a paddler's intimate perspective, with unforgiving headlands set against glowing sand beaches that rival the

Caribbean, and secret waterfalls rushing in torrents after heavy rains. Each day on the lake is different, and so is every kayak trip.

The Dog River is a two-day kayak journey from Wawa. It reveals the many personalities of Lake Superior. The surging swell seems to breathe as it tumbles and smooths the shoreline cobbles. A hike upriver arrives at Denison Falls, its towering cascades pouring through a gauntlet of smooth blue rocks.

In hindsight, I took the places, experiences and people for granted, at least at the time. Maybe I was too busy. It took me years to discover for myself the sense of awe I observed in my kayaking guests. I no longer guide as many trips as I used to, but going up the coast is a pilgrimage I return to year after year. 🐦

Other popular Wawa area routes:

Fenton-Treeby

Route: 16 km (10 mi) loop; day trip or relaxing overnight trip; 11 portages, all 150m or less;
Access: via Hwy. 17 in the Lake Superior Provincial Park

Mijinemungshing Lake

Route: Mijinemungshing Lake is the largest inland lake in Lake Superior Provincial Park.
Access: From Hwy. 17 via Mijinemungshing Road (Hwy km 1058.0)

Arts & Culture



History

The rich sights and sounds of Wawa have inspired our creativity and artistic nature from day one. The original peoples named the land based on inspired stories and events. Wawa is an Ojibway word which may reflect the cold clear water of Wawa Lake, or the skies filled with migrating geese. A.Y. Jackson, founding member of the Group of Seven, produced 100s of sketches around Wawa during the 1950's and 60's. Piano virtuoso Glenn Gould found Wawa extraordinary and claimed to compose his best work here during his regular visits in the 1960's and 70's. Do the Wawa sites and sounds inspire you?

Experiences & Activities

Wawa Music Festival

This three-day event features the talents of local and regional musicians across various stages around Wawa. The Wawa Music Festival is a grassroots, non-profit organization of music and art lovers.

Fall Fair

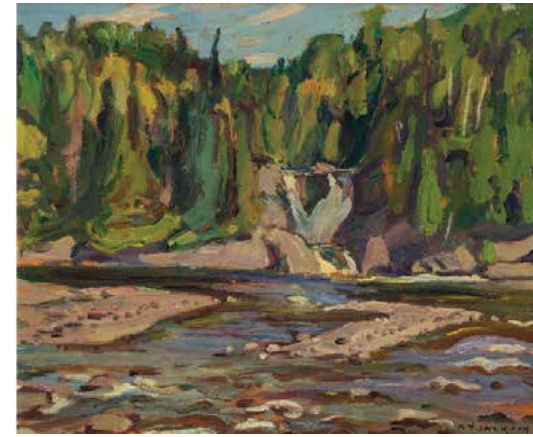
One of our biggest markets of the year, our annual Fall Fair symbolizes the changing of seasons in the North. With over 30 vendors, locally grown harvest competitions, and kids activities, make sure to prepare for a fun filled day.

Mackenzie Bethune Cemetery

This cemetery on the Michipicoten and Magpie Rivers is the final resting place of two dozen 19th and 20th century frontier residents.

Sandy Beach Eco-Interpretive Pavilion

This eco-interpretive park features a story telling pavilion where you can learn about the First Nations people who first settled the area, famous artists who spent time on the shores of Lake Superior, and so much more. Follow the boardwalk to one of the most beautiful sand beaches along the Lake.



Festival of Lights

The annual Festival of Lights serves as an unofficial kick-off to the holiday season where residents beautifully decorate their houses and maps are provided for self-guided touring. The festival culminates in a parade and the lighting of the Municipal Christmas tree!

Goose Nest Market

The Goose Nest Market is a community space featuring local makers, bakers, growers and more! Locals are able to share their passion and grow their small businesses at markets hosted throughout the year. Annual markets include the Mother's Day Market, Indigenous Day Market, Canada Day Market, Fall Fair, and the Bundle Up!

Market. Follow Goose Nest Market on Facebook or Instagram for exact market dates.

Heritage Door Self-Guided Tour

Heritage doors are painted history panels that commemorate pioneers and pivotal people of Wawa's past. These doors are located in many locations around Wawa. We recommend beginning at Lion's Beach and visiting each location in the following order: Lion's Beach, Heritage Park (Goose Nest Market), Wawa Tourist Information Centre, Scenic Magpie High Falls and Mackenzie Bethune Cemetery. A book that includes more information on each door can be purchased at the information centre.

Activities

Group of Seven Tour

A.Y. Jackson was a founding member of the famous Group of Seven who left an incredible legacy on the Canadian art scene. Jackson was so taken with the Algoma region that he purchased cottage property on the shores of Michipicoten Bay near Sandy Beach. Pick up a Moments of Algoma pamphlet from the Wawa Tourist Information Centre or download the app for a self-guided tour to feel inspired by the landscapes of natural beauty that are behind many Group of Seven paintings. Looking for a more personal experience? Contact Soul of Superior Experiences for a guided tour.



Scan the QR for more information about Moments of Algoma.





North Star Woman Shines in Wawa

By Gina Gasongi Simon

Local artist Linda Peterson was born on Manitoulin Island. Her Spirit name is 'Kiwedin Anung Kwe' meaning North Star Woman. Unbeknownst to her, the formidable seeds of patience and creativity began at an early age. Linda fondly recalls her life back in the bush, in Doogaaning, working alongside her grandmother, mother, and siblings. "I give credit to my Anishnaabe mother and the Elders who taught me" she says. "We had fun and at the same time we learned respect 'minaadendamowin' to honour all creation."

Birchbark has been a vital part of Anishnaabek survival and remains important in cultural rituals and medicines today. Sheets of birchbark

are carefully selected to be used for canoes, containers, roof covers or for lining storage pits.

"I never really saw it as artwork, it was more a way of life. Gathering bark, roots, medicines it was all a part of our life."

In keeping with traditions passed down for generations, Linda too uses many fibrous tissues from stems, bark, and roots for twine, rope and weaving materials for baskets, mats and personal adornment.

"Eventually, I realized my mother used her work to supplement our everyday life of goods and necessities. Otherwise, we lived and worked the

land to survive," she said.

Linda goes about her business and artistic expression in a quiet way. However, she does have strong opinions of herself and her artwork. "A lot of people try to put us into a box, and stereotype us, or view our work as museum pieces." As an artist, she believes the materials, colours, lines and composition can be understood in the context of the culture. "Our artistic expressions are alive, just as we are, meant to be enjoyed, utilized and respected" she says.

There are secret elements woven or sewn into Linda's work that's not loud in your face, but they're there in her work. Linda still practices the distinct

art of quilling. A skill that has endured over the centuries to become one of the most recognizable art forms. Over the years she has honed her craft and tools. Quill work is a rare artform that employs using dyed porcupine quills often wrapped, woven or sewn onto birchbark or buckskin for an added aesthetic element.

The process of harvesting and preparing the quills could take several days. Once cleaned and sorted the quills traditionally were dyed using natural colourants from flower petals and roots.

"With my work, I naturally like to be very authentic and celebrate my culture, its relationship to the land. I put my spirituality into my work. I need to be moved in such a way to create. I need to feel the sincerity of a request when commissioned." She does not produce for material gain. "I could not do what I do-- if I did it for money. Like I said, it's the spirit that moves me," she explained.

Linda's goal is to preserve and promote this culturally significant artform. Within the Anishnaabe culture all animal's life is sacred. "Its not easy to get porcupine quills so even 'road

kill' is used as no animal's life should be wasted" she explains.

"The bear is something significant since she was little," she said. "Bears are seen as protectors. When a loved one has passed, can come back in an animal form. So, the use of bear has a special meaning in Anishnaabe culture and to the person who commissioned the work."

"When using bright colored quills, there is an energy shift," she said. "Much like a painter it draws the viewer's attention. Then when they look at the color closely, they see the uniqueness of each porcupine quill."

Her designs feature her own use of pattern, she envisions from dreams and other patterns she has used in the past, with a touch of artistic elements throughout.

She explodes with colors and elements that naturally inspire her when she looks out into the land," she said. "I want to incorporate these things that I see and feel when I'm out there, even from my own window," she chuckles.

And although Linda is a mother and grandmother, she does not agree

with the reference of 'Elder' being used lightly. "An 'Elder' is a term you earn and not necessarily with age, but with humility 'bekaadiziwin' or 'dabaadendiziwin'. You don't call yourself an Elder, its something that is bestowed upon you, not taken like a title" she explains.

Along with bringing a resurgence of traditional 'Anishnaabemowin' language and cultural expression Linda has held an elected leadership role, as Councillor since marrying into Michipicoten First Nation to local trapper and fisherman Doug Peterson.

Together, they share a simple life, carrying on the hunting and gathering traditions of their ancestors. Nothing brings 'Kiwedin Anung Kwe' more peace, than sitting in her tiny back yard shed, beading and quilling. She is totally immersed in her place of solace, "I love to look around, see the mountains, the wind blowing freely through the trees. Its never the same but always inspiring to my Spirit" she says. "Life for no one is easy" she says, "but if you take time to appreciate it, it shows you beauty." 🐦

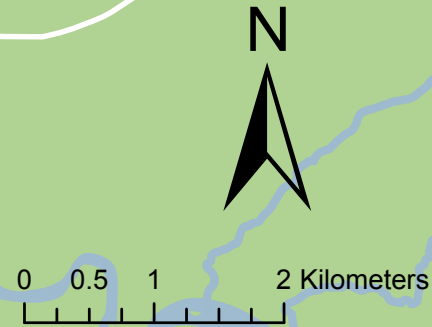
Wawa

Legend

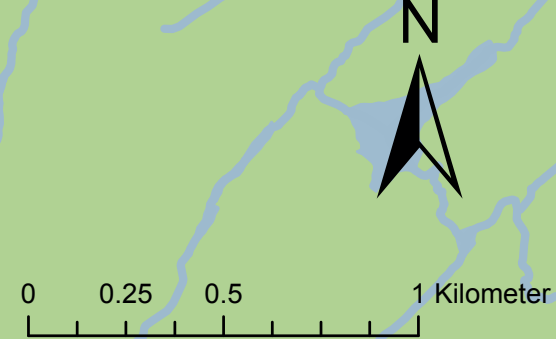
- Trans Canada Highway
- Hwy 101
- Trails
- Hiking Trail
- Swimming
- Hospital
- Parking
- Public Washroom
- Boat Launch
- Golf Course
- Airport
- Information Centre



Downtown Wawa



To Sault Ste. Marie



Fishing & Hunting



History

Wawa's boreal forests and waterways are teeming with a diversity of species and wildlife. The health and prosperity of Michipicoten First Nation and their ancestors was closely tied with the diversity and success of the fish, fowl and game animals. A lengthy fur trade history and commercial fishing have played an important role in Wawa's economy back to 1725. Fishing and hunting opportunities continue to exist and provide a crucial relationship with the land, nourishment, recreation and environmental appreciation.

Experiences & Activities

Backcountry Fishing

The number of inland lakes dispersed throughout our area means you can combine your favourite outdoor activity like hiking or canoeing in the quest for walleye, pike, lake trout, bass, and more.

Lake Superior Fishing

For anglers who crave raw power and immense size, fishing the world's largest body of fresh water is the obvious choice. Michipicoten, Old Woman, and Agawa Bays are host to the frenzied feeding of the marauding Chinook salmon while giant Lake Trout patrol the depths. Chase "coasters" – giant brook trout – running along clear, wide stream mouths that run into the great lake.

Ice Fishing

Some of the best fishing of the year is only a hole in the ice away. Snowmobile, snowshoe, or cross-country ski to lakes that bubble with activity beneath their frozen surfaces. Every lake has its story – some are still waiting to be told.

Hunting

Many of the areas fly-in remote lodges transform from a fishing lodge to a hunter's paradise, catering to everyone from all-inclusive packages including guides and five-star meals, to do-it-yourself hunts.

Fly-In Fishing

Take to the skies for a remote wilderness getaway at one of the many local fly-in fishing lodges. Complete services and an abundance of fish will ensure that the hardest decision you have to make is which walleye to keep for the pan and which pike to keep for the wall.

Wawa Salmon Derby

Registered anglers can test the waters and have a chance at winning big during the five-day pre-fishing, when a daily cash prize will be awarded for the largest salmon. The tournament runs for three days in Michipicoten Bay on Lake Superior annually during the 3rd weekend of August.

Wawa Ice Fishing Derby

Wawa's Annual Ice Fishing Derby is the largest Derby in Ontario and attracts anglers from across Canada and the US. The family atmosphere is a homecoming of sorts for many who have experienced Wawa's friendly community. The Derby takes place on Wawa Lake, Hawk Lake and Manitowik Lake, and is always held the 1st weekend in March.

Fishing & Hunting in the Wawa Area

By James Smedley

Resting at the junction

of the boreal and Great Lakes St. Lawrence forests, the town of Wawa lies within a unique and productive landscape, cradling countless lakes and rivers within a wilderness embrace. Here the waters of the world's largest freshwater lake wash up on the rounded rock of the Canadian Shield which stretches inland to meet the rolling expanse of coniferous forests. This distinctive land holds a mind-boggling array of options for hunting and fishing. It's no accident that I moved to Wawa more than 30 years ago and never left.


Within many of the multitude of inland lakes, precious resources of natural and self sustaining brook trout and lake trout thrive, guarded by wilderness. Hundreds of more accessible lakes are stocked with splake, brook trout, lake trout and rainbow trout and provide four season angling excitement whether traveling by path and portage or via the network of snowshoe and snowmobile trails.

A thriving remote fly-in fishing industry is centered around the region's larger lakes offering world-class walleye, northern pike and smallmouth bass. We can choose from full-service lodges or outposts camps where we are the only anglers on the lake. There are also road accessible resorts we can drive to with our own boat and gear that can offer fishing that rivals fly-in destinations. Do-it-yourself adventure seekers find remote lakes accessible by logging roads, ATV trails and footpaths leading to exceptional wilderness angling.

The vast and sculpted beauty of Lake Superior is another key ingredient to the Wawa angling scene. Lonely shorelines of sand beaches enveloped by steep granite headlands give way to the icy depths that hold lake trout, Chinook, Coho and pink salmon.

The opportunities for angling adventure are enough to keep us occupied year-round, but the woods and waters of the Wawa area are also habitat for a wide variety of

game. Moose are probably the most revered. Not only are these majestic creatures a quintessential addition to the northern Ontario landscape, there are also a limited number of calf, cow and bull tags available for hunters. Big game is joined by long seasons for small game. Ruffed grouse, spruce grouse and rabbits are virtually everywhere and provide the perfect excuse for a walk down a bush road, and vast wetland systems are virtually untouched for waterfowl.

When I'm out on the land or waters of the Wawa area, I enjoy a connection to the earth and her creatures. Those of us who love to hunt and fish should be well aware that this precious resource needs to be treated with respect and kindness. When we strive to imprint a small environmental footprint we help to ensure that this valued renewable resource continues to provide for hunters and anglers down the road. Poised at the transition between forest types and along the shores of the world's greatest lake, Wawa's unique signature landscape is worth a look. 



Official Touring Routes

Located at the intersection of Highways 17 and 101, Wawa is the perfect spot for overnight stops on several touring routes across Ontario and around Lake Superior. Whether you're driving a car, motorcycle, RV, or cycling, take a look at the routes below and consider making Wawa an overnight stop!



1 Lake Superior Circle Tour

Distance: 2092km/1300mi
Duration: 5 – 10 Days

Considered a world-class touring experience, the Lake Superior Circle Tour is a multi-day trip taking you around one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world. There are 14 official stops along the way to record your journey, one of which is Wawa.

2 Algoma North Drive/Tour

Distance: 388km/241mi
Duration: 1 Day

Starting in Wawa, this route takes you to Dubreuilville, White River, Hornepayne, and Hearst. Visit a variety of cultural and natural attractions, monuments, parks, and shops, with plenty of opportunity to fish, hike, and explore along the way.

3 Grand Algoma Drive/Tour

Distance: 682km/424mi
Duration: 2-3 Days

This two-day drive takes you along the Lake Superior shoreline and inland through the heart of Algoma. The fall drive from Sault Ste Marie to Wawa is rated among the top 10 best drives in Canada. Awaken your senses by driving North on Highway 17 from Sault Ste Marie to Wawa, before looping back along Highways 101 and 129.

Scan the QR for Algoma touring routes.



Scan the QR for the Lake Superior Circle Tour route.



The Famous Wawa Goose

One of the most photographed landmarks in North America, the Wawa Goose has been a local icon for over 63 years.

The location of the Wawa Goose on Highway 17 commemorates the completion of the last link of the Lake Superior section of the Trans-Canada Highway, officially opening on September 17, 1960. Prior to 1960, the townspeople of Wawa traveled to and from their hometown via steamboat on Lake Superior (until 1941) or the Algoma Central Railway (after 1921). While there was much excitement when the highway finally connected Wawa to the rest of the country, there was disappointment that it did not pass through the town. Instead, the

highway bypassed the town by a mile. A number of business owners decided that something was needed to redirect highway traffic into the community.

Enter Al Turcott, Jerry Spreng, and Mel Phillips; these three instrumental citizens were the masterminds behind Wawa's iconic goose statue. The idea was presented to the Government, who were skeptical at first but eventually agreed to erect the base and plaque. Turcott funded the majority of the creation of the first Wawa Goose statue built by Mr. Koci using mostly chicken wire and plaster. The Goose was erected on September 17, 1960 during the official highway opening ceremonies.



The original goose lasted a mere three years, eventually deteriorating and a new goose was erected in 1963. Constructed of steel made with iron ore from the Helen Mine, the goose was built by Dick Vanderclift in Sault Ste. Marie with help from Algoma Steel.

After 54 years, the second Wawa Goose desperately needed to be replaced. Led by the late Lori Johnson, Wawa's past Director of Community Services and Tourism for 25 years, funding applications were completed, donation campaigns were initiated, and businesses and citizens from far and wide contributed to the Wawa Goose Fund. The new goose was made by Research Casting International based out of Trenton. Made of a stainless-steel skeleton with individually cut bronze feathers in order to prevent rusting, our current Wawa Goose was unveiled on July 1, 2017 as part of the Canada 150 celebrations.



Share your photos
#WawaTourism

Business Info

Eat

AJ's Pizza
64 Broadway Ave | (705) 856-0288
Takeout Only

Bangin' Burger N Chicken Shack **S**
92 Broadway Avenue | (705) 856-0062
Seasonal Fry Stand

Krazy Fries **S**
135 Mission Road
Seasonal Fry Stand

Lai's Chinese Restaurant
27 Broadway Ave | (705) 856-2625

North of 17 Restaurant
68 Broadway Ave | (705) 856-0180

Philly Wawa Hoagie
208 Mission Road | 705-943-5121

Subway
179 Mission Road | (705) 856-2211

Tim Hortons
92 Mission Road | (705) 856-8467

The Viking **S**
117 Mission Road | (705) 856-4441

Wawa Goose Bar & Grill
118 Mission Road | (705) 856-2278

Highway 17 South
Best Northern Restaurant **S**
150 Highway 17 South | (705) 856-7302

Kinniwabi Pines Restaurant **S**
136 Highway 17 South | (705) 856-7226

Hawk Junction
The Big Bear
109 Front St, Hawk Junction, ON
(705) 889-2000

Shop

Algoma Highlands Wild Blueberry
Farm & Winery **S**
1 Pinewood Drive

Beer Store
156 Mission Road

Canadian Tire
54 Broadway Avenue

Circle K
208D Mission Road

Fenlon's Pharmacy
88 Broadway Avenue

Home Building Centre
109 Mission Road

John's Independent
186 Mission Road

LCBO
20 Ganley Street

Northern Superior Cannabis
106 Hiawatha Drive
Michipicoten First Nation

Red Apple
60 Broadway Avenue

Superior Coast Outfitters
14 Broadway Avenue

T-Cannabis NW
152 Mission Road

The Thrift Barn
45 Broadway Avenue

Wawa Rent-All & Repair
58 Winston Road

Wawa Pharmacy
63 Broadway Avenue

Young's General Store **S**
105 Mission Road

Stay

Algoma Motel **P**
164 Mission Road | (705) 856-7010
www.algomamotel.com

Alpha Motel **P**
170 Mission Road | (705) 856-2385

Beaver Motel
148 Mission Road | (705) 856-2294

Best Northern Motel **S**
150 Highway 17 South
(705) 856-7302
www.bestnorthern.ca

Big Bird Inn **P**
191 Mission Road | (705) 856-2424

High Falls Motel & Cabins **S**
280 Highway 17 South
(705) 856-4496
www.highfallsmotelandcabins.com

Highway 17 Motel **P**
46 Pinewood Drive | (705) 856-0888
www.hwy17motel.com

Lake Superior Provincial Park
Campgrounds **S**
Rabbit Blanket Lake | 34km South
of Wawa

Agawa Bay | 90km South of Wawa
1-888-668-7275
www.ontarioparks.ca

Lakeview Hotel
28 Broadway Avenue | (705) 856-2625

Mystic Isle Motel
153 Highway 17 South | (705) 856-1737
www.mysticisle.com

Outdoorsman Motel **P**
171 Mission Road | (705) 856-4000
www.outdoorsmanmotel.com

Parkway Motel
232 Highway 17 | (705) 856-7020
www.parkwaymotel.com

Rock Island Lodge **S**
10 Government Dock Road
(705) 856-2939
www.rockislandlodge.ca

Wawa Motor Inn **P**
118 Mission Road | (705) 856-2278
www.wawamotorinn.com

White Fang Motel **S**
133 Highway 17 South | (705) 856-0344
www.whitefangmotel.com

Wawa RV Resort & Campground **S**
634A Highway 17 North
1-877-256-4368
www.wawarvresort.com

P = Pet Friendly **S** = Seasonal



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Tuesday- 12pm to 9pm
Wednesday- 12pm to 9pm
Thursday- 12pm to 9pm
Friday- 12pm to 9pm
Saturday- 12pm to 6pm

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Sandy Beach
Lake Superior



Coastal Trail
Lake Superior Provincial Park



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GUIDE AND APP HAS ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN
YOUR TRIP AROUND THE LAKE

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