

# 5 Day Cruise -South on the Rideau Canal

Smiths Falls to Westport Return to Smiths Falls

Approximately 12-hours of cruising



## Overview

Gently cruise the vast lakes, past forests, and hidden islands of the Southern Rideau. This is the perfect playground for any lover of the outdoors. Find yourself paddling the Big Rideau Lake, going on a hike in Foley Mountain Conservation Area or playing golf on one of Portland's two golf courses.

## Top highlights:

- The Heritage House Museum of Smiths Falls which delves into the lives of a family living in 1860s Canada.
- Enjoy the village of Westport and part in the heart of the town. Explore the Winery, great shopping, restaurants and look out point at Foley Mountain.
- Enjoy cruising on the wide-open lakes of Big Rideau and stop at Portland or Colonel By Island.
- Enjoy the best of cruising, see lots of wildlife, enjoy outdoor adventure and visit the small towns and villages along the Rideau Canal.

## Sample Itinerary

Explore this area in whichever order you want, so long as your boat is back at the end base at the end of your vacation.

### Day 1 - Check in and orientation in Smiths Falls, ON.

Smiths Falls is in the heart of Eastern Ontario on the banks of the historic Rideau Canal. The area offers a unique mix of leisure and recreational activities set against a backdrop of history and nature. Smiths Falls has a rich heritage, and today offers museums, theaters, art galleries and outdoor adventures including hiking, biking, and fishing.

If you are arriving a day before your boat rental starts and needs overnight accommodation, we recommend staying overnight at Beverages Lock Station.

- 2-hour cruise from Le Boat base.
- Beveridge's Locks: When the Rideau Canal was built, there was no water connection to Perth, so the residents constructed the Tay Canal. This area is known as "Haggart's Ditch" and features some of the best wildlife viewing on the Rideau on the way to Perth.
- Great place to hike, bike, kayak, evening campfire and meet other boaters along the canal.

*Overnight in Smith Falls, ON.*

### Day 2 - Cruise Rideau Ferry to Westport.

- Rideau Ferry: Straddling a thin strip of water between the Big and Lower Rideau Lakes, Rideau Ferry is the spectacular scenic gateway to the southern Rideau. A hub for live music and festivals throughout the summer, stop here for the biannual Vintage Boat Regatta first held here in 1897.
- Stop at CC's for lunch: A great spot to stop for lunch will be [CC's on the Rideau](#). Clients must call ahead for reservations. Live music and events on the weekends  
Public Dock in Rideau Ferry (included) and docks at CC's on the Rideau if you are stopping for lunch or Dinner.
- Westport: [Westport](#) is a charming village located lies at the west end of Upper Rideau Lake, at head of the navigable Rideau Canal system. Public docking facilities are available at Westport.  
The village offers shopping and restaurants, ice cream shops & bakeries, hardware store, unique vendors, sports, grocery store and much more. The village also features a variety of activities including swimming on the beaches, arts, and culture. And then there is always more to explore. Nature lovers will be able to enjoy a hike in Foley Mountain Conservation Area which has spectacular views of the area,
- Meal or Wine Tasting at the popular [Scheuermann Vineyard & Winery](#). The Winery is famous for wine tasting and the best steak and wood-oven pizza. Reservations are recommended as it gets quite busy during mealtimes.
- [Westport Brewery](#) located at the Harbour and only short walk from the dock. Please call ahead as the bakery closes early.

- [Nightly Entertainment at the Cove Restaurant](#). Looking for some music to spice up your time in Westport? The Cove is the place to go to. Cove brings you a variety of music including Blues, Jazz, Rock, Folk, Country, Bluegrass, Soul and Funk. In the warmer months, larger performances with full band shows take place in the Lounge while solos, duos and small groups play to the patio crowds. When it gets cooler, all shows happen in the Lounge. Reservations are recommended.

**NOTE:** Westport Harbor has shore power, internet, and water. First two Le Boats that arrive there will be FREE. 3rd, 4th 5th boat will have to pay. Free dockage is for one night only and based on first-come basis. Be sure to fill your water tanks in Westport (potable water).

*Overnight in Westport Harbor, ON.*

### Day 3 – Cruise from Westport to Portland or Colonel By Island.

Cruise today from Westport to Portland or Colonel By Island.

Portland: [Portland](#) is a small village located on Big Rideau Lake. There are many things for the landlubber to see and do in the Portland area. The village showcases several unique stores, restaurants, and ice cream shop etc.

**Overnight Mooring & Shore Power:** Portland Public Harbour, shore power and water available

Colonel by Island – At Colonel by Island, you can use the Parks Canada dockage. This is the largest island in a set of islands collectively known as “Long Island”. It was formerly known as “Livingston Island” and may be marked that way on older charts. The flat roofed building on the Island is “Wag’s Lodge,” built by Danny Arnstein (co-owner of Yellow Cab in New York and Chicago) in 1949-50. The cottage features two massive “peanut rock” fireplaces and “driftwood plywood” walls. Please note - the building is deteriorating, and Parks Canada has restricted access in and around the building.

Colonel by Island is a good place to go for swims, kayaking, etc. The island also features hiking trails and tennis courts.

**Overnight Mooring:** Public docks and mooring balls available. There is no shore power.

*Overnight in Portland or Colonel by Island, ON.*

### Day 4: Cruise back to Smiths Fall to Le Boat Base

Enjoy your final day on the boat and cruise back to Smiths Falls.

This is an approximate 3 to 4 hours sailing from Portland.

Arrive back in Smtihs Falls.

Explore this town, go shopping, visit the Eastern Ontario Railway Museum, Heritage house, beach front or splash pad with the kids. Smiths Fall is also a great place to kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, biking and so on.

Plan your final dinner on the top deck or at local restaurant.

*Overnight in Smith Falls, ON.*

### Day 5 – Breakfast onboard and Check out.

Enjoy your final breakfast onboard, pack up, tidy up and check-out.

Check out is 9 AM.

*End of your Houseboat Holiday.*

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