

8 Days | 7 Nights – Cruise North on the Rideau Canal

Smiths Falls to Ottawa and return to Ottawa

(we recommend clients book an early check in and a late check out)

43 hours of cruising • 190 km • 38 locks • 10 nights



Overview

This cruise will allow you to enjoy the spectacular offerings of Mother Nature that lines the Rideau Canal, from the Otter to the Osprey, as you make your way to Ottawa. Here, you'll be able to take in all that Canada's capital has to offer before making your way back to Smith Falls and for a second chance to spot any animal you may have missed on the way up!

Top highlights:

- The Heritage House Museum of Smiths Falls which delves into the lives of a family living in 1860s Canada.
- Merrickville's famous homemade ice cream and mustards along the Rideau Canal, Block House Museum and great shopping and artist community.
- Birdwatch amongst the beautiful nature of Upper Nicholson's.
- The "Tip to Tip Trail" in Burrit's Rapids- great to hike or bike,
- Art, culture and history in Canada's stunning capital city - Ottawa (and don't miss the famous Byward Market).

Sample Itinerary

The below itinerary is only a suggestion. Clients may plan to sail and explore this area in whichever order they prefer, so long as your boat is back at the end base at the end of their charter.

Note: We suggest purchasing early check out and late check in when planning to cruise all the way to Ottawa in 7 days

Day 1 - Smiths Falls overnight

Smiths Falls: Located in the Heart of Eastern Ontario on the banks of the historic Rideau Canal, Smiths Falls 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.

Overnight in Smiths Falls and unpack and relax.

Great town with lots of activities for both families and couples.

Great downtown just minutes from the docks and a great place to buy all your boating supplies. Grocery Store, LCBO, Beer Store and award-winning butcher shop and great restaurants for lunch or dinner.

Family splash pad for the kids, Historical Railway Museum, bike paths, beach and movies in the park and much more

If you are leaving Smiths Falls on day one, consider an overnight at Edmunds Lock or Kilmarnock (depending on the season).

Overnight in Smith Falls, ON.

Day 2 - Cruising to Merrickville

Merrickville: Renowned as Canada's prettiest village, Merrickville has a village center consisting entirely of picturesque Victorian-era stone houses perched by the waters of the Rideau Canal. Merrickville is home to many local arts and craft shops, museums, restaurants and specialty stores serving some of the best local handmade ice cream or gourmet mustards on the Rideau Canal.

Spend your time at Merrickville exploring the historical town. The village features the Block House Museum, great shopping, restaurants and an artist community. There is a beach in Merrickville. You can go on bike rides as well to explore the town & side streets etc.

Overnight in Merrickville.

Alternatively, you can choose to save time in the morning by going through the locks and park at the bottom of the locks overnight. There is no Shore Power here. It is very peaceful at the bottom of the locks, there is lots of park land around.

NOTE: You can dock at the Harbour overnight. Parks Canada will charge a Fee of \$10 for overnight Power. If you choose to go through the locks and dock at the bottom of the falls, please note there is no Shore Power here.

NOTE: Going through the lock in Merrickville can take 45 minutes to an hour depending on traffic as there is 2+ locks, and bridge to pass.

Overnight in Merrickville, ON.

Day 3 - Cruise Merrickville to Long Island Lock station

Leave Merrickville and Cruise North

Time and space permitting –can stop in Manotick for the day and go shopping. Please note – there is no overnight mooring here. If you cruise 30 minute north to Long Island Lock station you will find overnight mooring.

Upper Nicholsons: For historians and birdwatchers this is a great place to visit. Upper Nicholsons features one of four remaining Unequal Arm, a center bearing timber swing bridge, on the Rideau. Just up the road you'll discover McGuigan's Cemetery (448 County Road 23, aka Burritts Rapids Road), one of the oldest burying grounds on the Rideau. You will be touched by the poignant headstone of Margaret Davidson, the 2-year-old daughter of one of the contractors for Clowes Lock, who died in 1829.

Burrits Rapid: Tie up at Burritts Rapids Lock Station to go on a self-guided walking tour of the village. You will get to experience early Canada through centuries old heritage buildings. Alternatively, go on a nature walk on the "Tip to Tip Trail", a 2 km nature walk.

Long Island: Long Island Locks is an idyllic location for picnicking, fishing, exploring and boat watching.

Manotick: Manotick is a charming town with plenty of restaurants and shops to keep you entertained. A highlight is Watson's Mill, a fascinating working museum that is one of the only remaining grist mills in North America.

Note: No shore power.

Great park space – lots of areas to look around, walk, bike, perfect for kayaking or stand up paddle boarding as very calm, many people fish off the docks

Very peaceful and secluded

Overnight at Long Island Lock Station.

Day 4-Cruise from Long Island Lock station to Ottawa

Stop at Hogs Back for hike, bike or photo op at the waterfalls.

Cruise past Dows Lake – we recommend replenishing water supplies here.

NOTE: Pump out at Dowes Lake \$35

Spend day in Ottawa ...explore Byward Market, Parliament Buildings, restaurants etc.

NOTE: Keep an eye on the time as there are time restrictions on the Pectoria Bridge in Downtown Ottawa (closed during rush hour and give yourself 30 minutes for it to lift. It is best to call ahead from Hartswell or Hogsback and tell them you are coming.

If you happen to miss the lifting of the bridge, downtown Ottawa offers several mooring spots including the public docks at Dowes Lake –and you are in the heart of Little Italy.

BIKING—There is a bike path all along the Rideau Canal in Ottawa so perfect opportunity to use the bikes

Dowes Lake is a great spot to stand up paddle and kayak.

Overnight in Downtown Ottawa

Day 5 Cruise from Ottawa and head back to Smiths Falls

Breakfast in town or onboard in Downtown Ottawa.

Spend the afternoon cruising south on the Canal.

Morning hours are great for kayaking, or use the paddle boat or go on bike rides along the path.

NOTE: You also have an opportunity to go to Dowes Lake for water and pump out if you did not do it earlier. Plan for 45 Minutes to do pump out and fill the water tanks.

Overnight at Burrits Rapids or Nicolson Lock

Both are beautiful park lands and great spot to kayak or bike, hike etc.

Day 6 Cruise from Lock back to Smiths Falls

Cruise from your overnight lock and head towards Smiths Falls.

Time to stop back in Merrickville for lunch or ice cream.

Arrive back in Smiths Falls midafternoon or in time for dinner.

Tidy up boat and start to pack.

Overnight on boat at Smiths Falls.

Day 7 Last day

- Breakfast onboard.
- Tidy up and pack your belongings!
- Time to check out and say goodbye to your boat.
- Check-out 9:00 AM.



Stay longer and explore more of Smitihs Falls or do a day trip to nearby Perth.

NOTE: If they have 10 nights it allow they to spend longer time in Ottawa or not be as rushed to get back to the base –and spend more overnights at the beautiful lock stations going North.

End of your Houseboat Holiday.
