

Ontario

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Photos: Destination Ontario / Algoma Country

Catch the Migration

Birdwatching

Grab your binoculars and visit **Sault Ste. Marie** and Central Algoma in May and September to witness the height of the spring and fall bird migrations. An impressive 241 species of songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors have been observed in the islands, wetlands and mixed woods of the **Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site**, adjacent to downtown. Cross the lock to discover easy nature trails alongside the St. Marys River rapids.

The tally for **Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site**, located off Highway 548 on St. Joseph Island, is almost as long—with the added opportunity of spotting Meadowlarks, Bluebirds and Bobolinks in pastoral landscapes adjacent to the **North Channel of Lake Huron**.

Canoe Wild Lakes & Rivers

Canoe Routes

Algoma is a hub of historic Indigenous and Fur Trade canoe routes. This heritage is part of what makes the region home to some of the best wilderness paddling in Ontario. The **Missinaibi River** is the traditional water route from Lake Superior to James Bay, featuring a perfect mix of flatwater and intermediate whitewater for modern-day explorers. Wildlife including moose, black bear and wolves is abundant, along with ancient Indigenous pictograph sites and wilderness camping. Sign up for a guided trip with **MHO Adventures**.

Thrive Tours offers Indigenous interpretive tours of the lakes and rivers in the region. **Forest the Canoe** offers a variety of interpretive guided trips to explore the Algoma region.

Explore the Wild Shore

Coastal Hiking

There's plenty of hiking in **Lake Superior Provincial Park**, located on Highway 17 between Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. The 8-km **Orphan Lake Trail** is a moderately difficult day hike for adults and adventurous families. On the trail you will encounter lush forests, cascading waterfalls and a sweeping pebble beach on the Lake Superior coast.

For the adventurous, check out the 65-km **Coastal Backpacking Trail** in **Pukaskwa National Park**. This rugged trail requires 5 to 7 days and expert wilderness skills. Intermediate backpackers can get a glimpse of the Pukaskwa backcountry (including an amazing suspension bridge) on the 3-day **Mdaabii Milkna** (Anishnaabe for "go along the shore") Trail. Both are accessed via Highway 627, south of Marathon.

Ski Deep Powder

Downhill Skiing

The snowbelt hills north of Sault Ste. Marie were once a secret stash for local backcountry ski enthusiasts. Now, the word is out. **Belleve Valley Lodge** is your destination for Ontario's best powder skiing on gladed runs. Enjoy bed and breakfast accommodations, with guided tours for all levels of backcountry skiers, snowboarders and snowshoers of all ages.

Rather stick to groomed runs? Located just 40 minutes north of Sault Ste. Marie, **Searchmont Ski Resort** boasts the highest vertical terrain in Ontario for alpine skiing and snowboarding, complete with high-speed chair lifts. Searchmont provides a range of amenities, including equipment rentals, lessons, a recently expanded beginner area, a modernized slopeside lodge, and new accommodation options.

2024 Algoma Outdoor Map

Your Guide to Northern Ontario's Best Outdoor Adventures

ONTARIO CANADA **Algoma** That real.
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On the map and in real life,

Algoma is a landscape of superlatives. This huge area in Northern Ontario is bounded by Lake Superior and Lake Huron, the greatest of the Great Lakes. Inland lakes and rivers are scattered across the map like gems and arteries of blue, tempting paddlers and anglers alike. Algoma's forests blaze red and orange in autumn. Moving north, the maples give way to spruce and birch, providing a glimpse of Canada's vast boreal forest.

There's a lifetime's worth of adventures in the Algoma backcountry. Day hikes and long-distance backpacking trails; whitewater canoe routes; coastal kayak touring; mountain bike single-track; and pastoral backroads for cycle touring. Experience secluded drive-in and backcountry camping, abundant wildlife, and stunning landscapes and shorelines to tempt the photographer. Winter in Algoma provides Ontario's best cross-country and downhill skiing, snowshoeing and fat-biking.

All that allure is remarkably easy to access: Algoma is less than a day's drive on major highways from Toronto, Ottawa, Chicago and Detroit—and swifter yet via the Sault Ste. Marie International Airport. This map showcases the best outdoor adventures that Algoma has to offer in all seasons of the year. But there's only so much space on the map...and so much more to discover! Algoma is THAT spectacular.

Photograph Epic Storms & Waterfalls

Photography in Algoma

Lake Superior is known for its fickle moods, especially in autumn when westerly gales lash rocky shores with oceanic waves. **Wawa** is an epicentre for storm-chasers and surfers, with steep sand and pebble beaches and rock promontories that make you feel like you're on the Pacific. Learn how to capture the drama at a photography workshop at **Rock Island Lodge**.

With so many choices, it's hard to pinpoint Algoma's best waterfall. However, the Mississagi River's **Aubrey Falls** scores high points for its veil of plummeting water. A short hiking trail leads to the falls from Highway 129, between Chapleau and Thessalon. **Chippewa Falls** is another photographer's favourite, visible from Highway 17 just north of Sault Ste. Marie.

Camp Without Crowds

Camping in Algoma

Car and RV camping is available at nine provincial parks and one national park in the Algoma region. While the **Agawa Bay Campground** in Lake Superior Provincial Park and the sand beach of **Pancake Bay Provincial Park** draw plenty of attention from campers, you may prefer to get off the beaten track and enjoy the solitude of **Nagagamis Provincial Park**, which boasts 107 drive-in campsites and an expansive lake on Highway 631, near Hornepayne.

Wakami Lake Provincial Park, on Highway 667 near Chapleau, also offers great seclusion with 59 spacious campsites in the boreal forest and great paddling and angling. There are also dozens of private campgrounds throughout the region offering tenting, RV sites and cabin rentals.

Ski Snowy Trails

Cross Country Skiing

Stats alone distinguish **Stokely Creek Lodge** located just north of Sault Ste. Marie, as one of Canada's top cross-country ski destinations. Combine over 120 km of classic, skate-ski, backcountry and snowshoe trails with Scandinavian-style accommodations, gourmet meals, fun events and a wilderness backdrop. It's easy to see why Stokely regularly lists among North America's best in skier rankings.

Cross-country skiers in Sault Ste. Marie have it good: Not only does the area receive abundant snowfall, it also features impeccably groomed, challenging terrain within city limits at **Hiawatha Highlands**. The area boasts over 50 km of maintained ski, snowshoe and fatbike trails, along with rentals and instruction.

Hike Ancient Mountains

Scenic Hiking Trails

The 5-km **Robertson Cliffs Trail**, located a 30-minute drive north of Sault Ste. Marie, is suitable for most hikers. The payoff for a steady climb is a jaw-dropping view of the Algoma forest and Lake Superior. Discover the cultural and Indigenous history of the region on an interpretive guided hike with **Thrive Tours**. Or take a deeper immersion with an overnight stay at nearby Norm's Cabin with **Blaq Bear Eco Adventure Routes**.

Mississagi Provincial Park located north of Elliot Lake on Highway 108, is a little-known treasure with a quiet drive-in campground, backcountry canoeing and great hiking—including the 7-km **Helenbar Trail**. This 4-hour hike ascends from the campground and offers panoramic views of jewelstone lakes and Canadian Shield hills.

Kayak the Inland Seas

Kayaking Adventures

Algoma's Great Lakes coastline proves you don't have to go to the ocean to experience world-class sea kayaking. Lake Superior's **Michipicoten Bay**, near Wawa, is a great destination for novice paddlers. Sign up for a guided day trip with **Naturally Superior Adventures** and encounter huge beaches and a historic lighthouse. Michipicoten is a starting point for experienced sea kayakers setting off on multi-day wilderness trips on the pristine coastlines of Lake Superior Provincial Park and Pukaskwa National Park.

The **North Channel of Lake Huron** offers the same polished granite islands and windswept pine of Georgian Bay—with a fraction of the crowds. The 5-day trip from between the towns of Blind River and Spanish has easy access from Highway 17.

Cycle Trails & Backroads

Cycling Routes

Sault Ste. Marie's **Hiawatha Highlands** include mountain bike flow trails and technical single-track spanning over 40 km through a rugged wilderness of old-growth pine and secluded lakes. A new youth skills zone and pump track make it great for families, too. You won't find better mountain biking in Ontario. Visit **Vélorution** or **Algoma Bicycle Company** in Sault Ste. Marie for rentals and more information.

Discover some of the best cycling on the **Great Lakes Waterfront Trail** (a long-distance cycling route on the Trans-Canada Trail) on St. Joseph Island, east of Sault Ste. Marie. The **Sylvan Valley** on Highway 638, between the towns of Echo Bay and Bruce Mines, offers more challenging hills, beaches and stunning scenery.

Trek the Landscape

Snowshoeing

Trek the picturesque winter landscape by snowshoe on trail systems in the Algoma region. Snowshoe trails at **Stokely Creek Lodge** vary from 2 to 25 km with views from King Mountain. **Hiawatha Highlands** has over 14 km of snowshoe trails with both easy and challenging opportunities. Trail systems require passes and have warm-up shacks, snowshoe rentals, and oftentimes, evening lantern snowshoe events.

For backcountry snowshoe adventures, book a guided snowshoe tour with local outfitters. Snowshoe to the Eagle Lookout or Full Moon Snowshoe with **Forest the Canoe**. Take in the view from Robertson Cliffs with **Blaq Bear Eco Adventure Routes**. **Thrive Tours** offers Indigenous-led interpretive snowshoe experiences.

More to Explore

Long winters make the town of **Hearst** an ideal spot for cross-country skiing, with 15 km of trails and 9 km for snowshoeing.

Ivanhoe Lake Provincial Park has 108 campsites in the boreal forest, on Highway 101 between Chapleau and Timmins.

An easy hike in **Potholes Provincial Park**, located between Wawa and Chapleau on Highway 101, explores a unique geological feature of sculpted rock.

Paddle into a water-access campsite in **Fushimi Lake Provincial Park**, near Hearst. The park includes a trail to a historic fire-lookout tower.

Missinaibi Provincial Park, northwest of Chapleau, provides great camping and opportunities for paddlers to see northern wildlife.

The **Agawa Canyon Tour Train** is a Canadian Signature Experience that's suitable for everyone. One-day rail excursions depart the new train station in Sault Ste. Marie, bound for the renowned waterfalls and cliffs of the Agawa Canyon.

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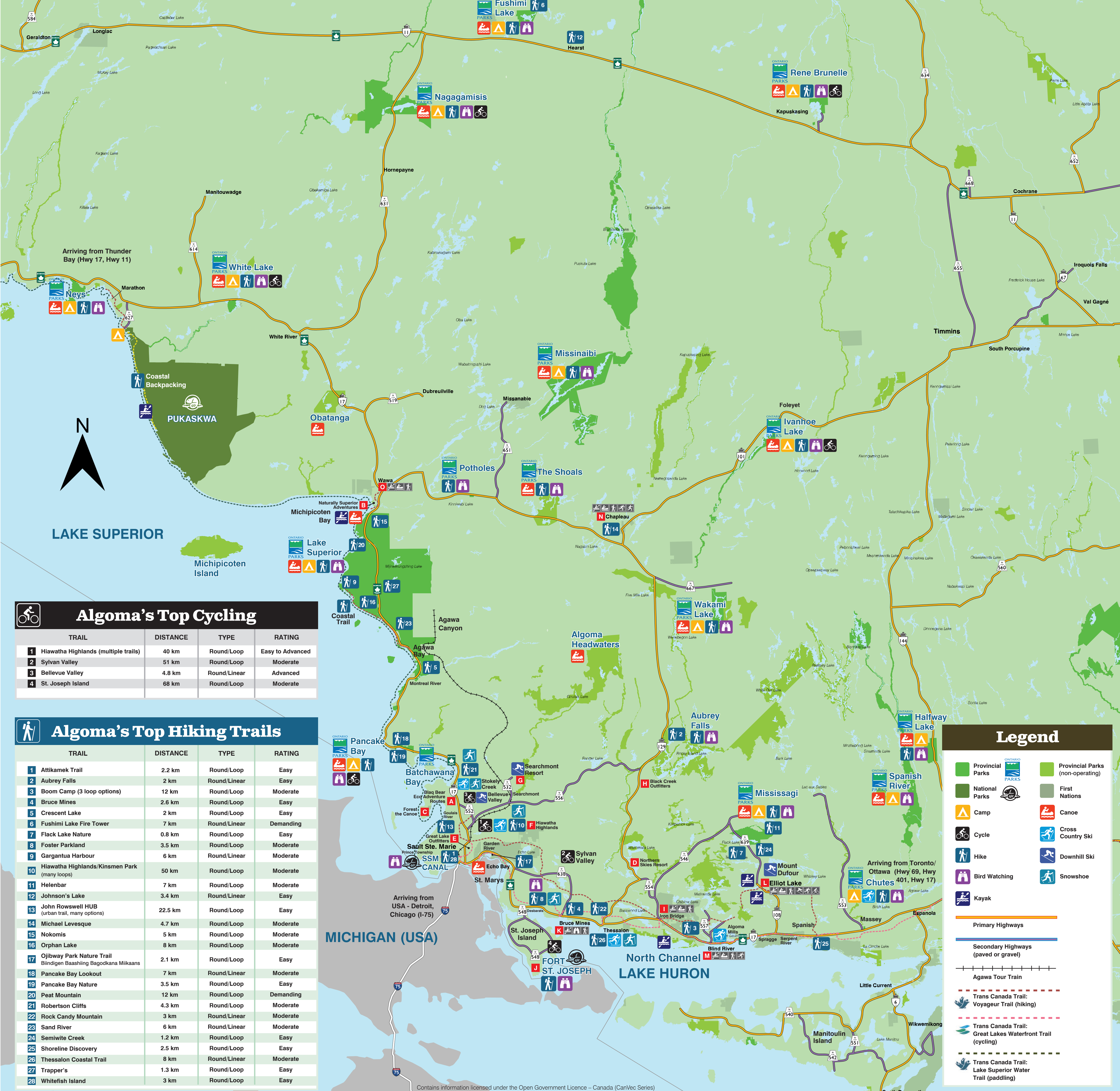
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View of the Voyageur Trail @huronthes.com



Algoma's Top Cycling

TRAIL	DISTANCE	TYPE	RATING
1 Hiawatha Highlands (multiple trails)	40 km	Round/Loop	Easy to Advanced
2 Sylvan Valley	51 km	Round/Loop	Moderate
3 Bellevue Valley	4.8 km	Round/Linear	Advanced
4 St. Joseph Island	68 km	Round/Loop	Moderate

Algoma's Top Hiking Trails

TRAIL	DISTANCE	TYPE	RATING
1 Attikamek Trail	2.2 km	Round/Loop	Easy
2 Aubrey Falls	2 km	Round/Linear	Easy
3 Boom Camp (3 loop options)	12 km	Round/Loop	Moderate
4 Bruce Mines	2.6 km	Round/Loop	Easy
5 Crescent Lake	2 km	Round/Loop	Easy
6 Fushimi Lake Fire Tower	7 km	Round/Linear	Demanding
7 Flack Lake Nature	0.8 km	Round/Loop	Easy
8 Foster Parkland	3.5 km	Round/Loop	Moderate
9 Gargantua Harbour	6 km	Round/Linear	Moderate
10 Hiawatha Highlands/Kinsmen Park (many loops)	50 km	Round/Loop	Moderate
11 Helenbar	7 km	Round/Loop	Moderate
12 Johnson's Lake	3.4 km	Round/Linear	Easy
13 John Rowswell HUB (urban trail, many options)	22.5 km	Round/Loop	Easy
14 Michael Levesque	4.7 km	Round/Loop	Moderate
15 Nokomis	5 km	Round/Loop	Moderate
16 Orphan Lake	8 km	Round/Loop	Moderate
17 Ojibway Park Nature Trail	2.1 km	Round/Loop	Easy
18 Blindigen Baashing Bagodkana Milkaans	7 km	Round/Linear	Moderate
19 Pancake Bay Lookout	7 km	Round/Linear	Moderate
20 Pancake Bay Nature	3.5 km	Round/Loop	Easy
21 Peat Mountain	12 km	Round/Loop	Demanding
22 Robertson Cliffs	4.3 km	Round/Loop	Moderate
23 Rock Candy Mountain	3 km	Round/Linear	Moderate
24 Sand River	6 km	Round/Linear	Moderate
25 Semiwite Creek	1.2 km	Round/Loop	Easy
26 Shoreline Discovery	2.5 km	Round/Loop	Easy
27 Thessalon Coastal Trail	8 km	Round/Linear	Moderate
28 Trapper's	1.3 km	Round/Loop	Easy
29 Whitefish Island	3 km	Round/Loop	Easy

Legend

- Provincial Parks (Green square)
- National Parks (Blue square)
- Provincial Parks (non-operating) (Light green square)
- First Nations (Dark green square)
- Camp (Yellow triangle)
- Cycle (Bicycle icon)
- Hike (Hiker icon)
- Bird Watching (Binoculars icon)
- Kayak (Kayak icon)
- Primary Highways (Thick orange line)
- Secondary Highways (paved or gravel) (Thin orange line)
- Agawa Tour Train (Dashed orange line)
- Trans Canada Trail: Voyageur Trail (hiking) (Dashed blue line)
- Trans Canada Trail: Great Lakes Waterfront Trail (cycling) (Dashed green line)
- Trans Canada Trail: Lake Superior Water Trail (paddling) (Dashed purple line)

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