

The Amazing Lake Superior Half-Circle Tour

Here is an idea for those of us riding out of Thunder Bay that would still like to go for a great bike ride but would prefer NOT to ride down to the U.S. I'm thinking instead of doing a full Lake Superior Circle Tour - - doing a Lake Superior HALF-CIRCLE Tour instead.



An easy ride from Thunder Bay will take you to Wawa. And, depending on what time you arrive in Wawa you may want to stay overnight. The Big Goose is worth a picture, Tim Horton's has good coffee, and the Wawa Motor Inn is a good place to stay and they have a decent restaurant as well. That would also give you time to explore what little there is of the town, but Young's General Store is a must-see.

Another must-see in Wawa is the scenic Maggie High Falls. The turnoff from Hwy 17 is just one kilometer south of the Wawa turnoff heading west towards the Maggie River.



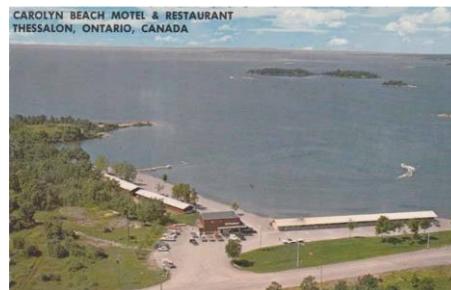
If you head south from Wawa you're into the Lake Superior Provincial Park, where there is Old Woman Bay, and lots of beaches and further south is the Agawa Rock Pictographs. If you keep following Hwy 17 south there are more beaches and provincial parks, and the highway will take you to Sault Ste. Marie.



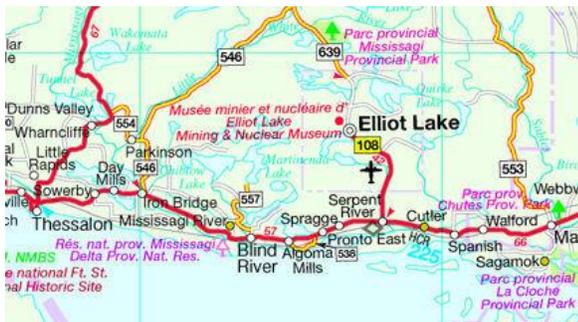
The Agawa Rock pictographs are one of the most famous pictograph sites in Canada. The majority of the paintings at this site are thought to date from the 17th and 18th centuries.

But that's not all there is to see.... If you head east from Wawa on Hwy 101 it will take you to Chapleau, which is an interesting little mining/forestry town out in the middle of nowhere. From there you can grab Hwy 129 and head south towards Thessalon. If you decide to overnight in Thessalon I would recommend the Carolyn Beach Motel and Restaurant – the rooms are clean and decent, and the

food at the restaurant is great. The motel is situated right on Lake Huron and the sunsets are spectacular.



If you're still feeling adventuresome, from Thessalon you could head East on Hwy 17 towards Serpent River and then cut north on Hwy 108 and visit the interesting retirement town of Elliot Lake. And it is an interesting place, it's something to see. If you do get to Elliot Lake check your maps because there is a good gravel/chip-seal road loop that heads north out of Elliot Lake and then circles west and south to Iron Bridge. I did this loop once and it is really pretty in the summer time.



If you head west on Hwy 17 from Thessalon you could always grab Hwy 548 South and do a tour of St Joseph Island. It is a great place to tour by motorcycle. There is an interesting museum, lots of good restaurants, and there is the huge St Joseph's Island Bird Sanctuary at the south end of the island.

And of course: all roads lead back to Hwy 17 and Sault Ste. Marie. Which is worth a stop-over as well. If you're thinking of staying in the Sault I would recommend the Catalina Motel right on Great Northern Road. The owners Dean & Susanne are really nice, the rooms are clean, and they have free Wi-Fi.



From the Sault you can do a fairly easy ride all the way back to Thunder Bay; or break it up with another overnight along the way. Either way this would be a great three or four easy days of riding and sightseeing and it would keep you in Canada. But you want nice weather for this ride so check the long-range forecast before you start booking accommodations.

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