

Manitoulin Island: **6 Great Places to**

Here is a tour of Manitoulin Island you can take by car in a few days, with suggested places that you could visit. Be sure to leave enough time for detours and stops to enjoy unplanned opportunities that you come across, such as small museums, lighthouses, even a Powwow!

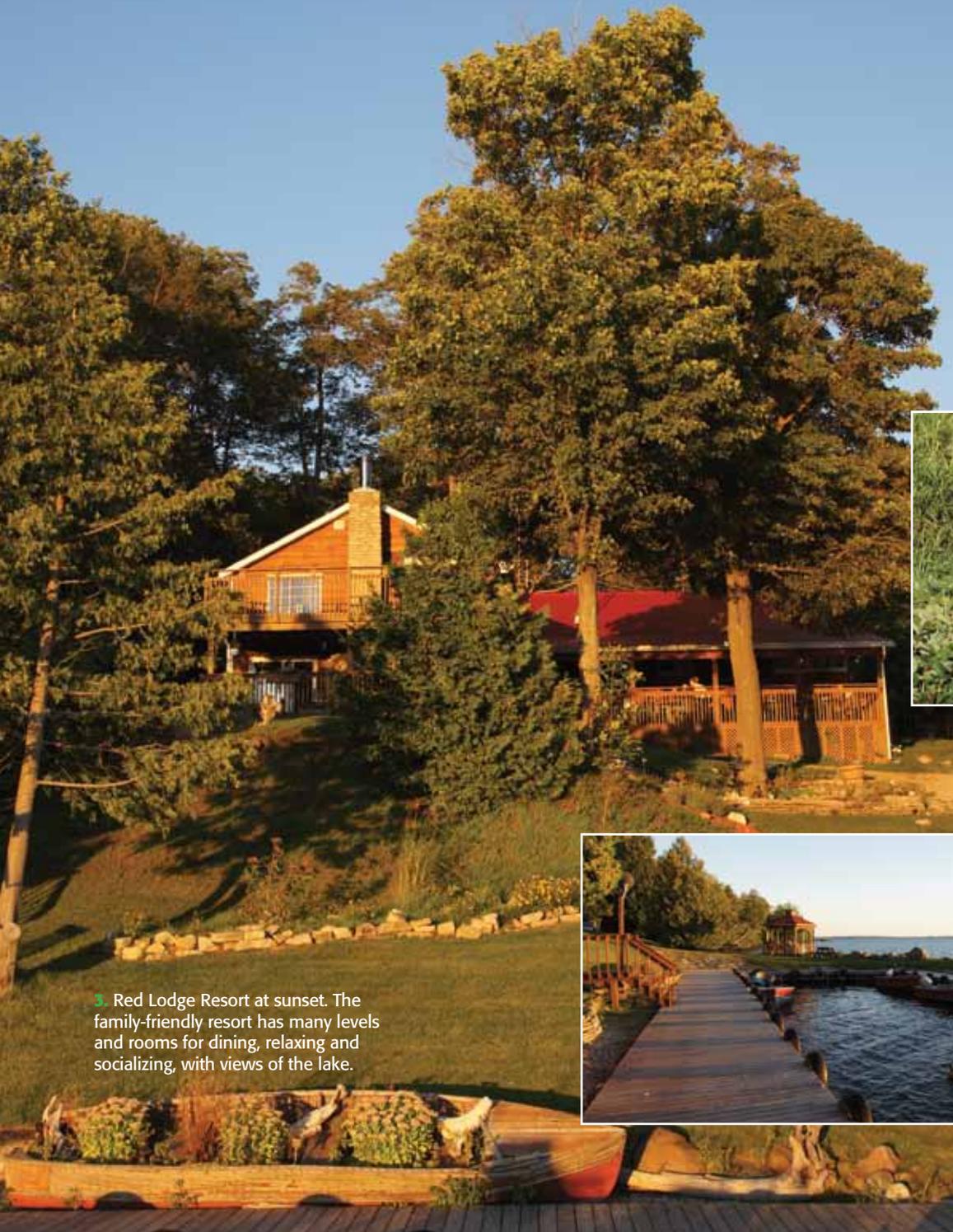
Visit

By Gloria Hildebrandt Photos by Mike Davis



1 Cup and Saucer Trail
When visiting Manitoulin Island, Escarpment lovers will want to see the views from the Cup and Saucer Trail, one of the most popular trails in all of Ontario. This is where the Niagara Escarpment is most dramatically visible on Manitoulin. The trail entrance is about 18 km west of Little Current, at the intersection of Hwy 540 and Bidwell Rd. There are 12 km of hiking trails to follow on several paths, so you can spend from 15 minutes to four hours, whatever suits you. Parts of the trail are very steep, but the views are worth it!

View from Cup and Saucer Trail, Manitoulin Island



3. Red Lodge Resort at sunset. The family-friendly resort has many levels and rooms for dining, relaxing and socializing, with views of the lake.



2. Caught in the act: Rose Diebolt on her time off, listening to an audio book, picking strawberries for The Garden's Gate Restaurant. "Our food menu is enhanced with our own herbs," she says.



3. The dock on Lake Manitou allows Red Lodge Resort visitors to go boating or to stay put and relax. Just beyond the gazebo is a small beach.

2. The Garden's Gate
As you leave the ferry at South Baymouth, go north to Tekhummah. If you time it right, and have reservations, you could be at The Garden's Gate restaurant for a meal freshly prepared by chef John with produce from their own large garden. Their flower gardens put on a great show, but their hard-working vegetable garden is a little hidden. This is where the aptly-named Rose likes to relax in her free time, by listening to audio books and weeding!
John & Rose Deibolt, Hwy 542, Tehkummah, 1.888.959.2088

3. Red Lodge Resort
Located on Lake Manitou, with a view of the Cup and Saucer Trail, this family-friendly lodge offers fishing, boating, a small beach and dining. Decks and a patio are prime locations for drinks at sunset. Vegetarians can be catered to with customized dishes. There is free dockage for guests' boats and resort boats are available for rent.
Dave & Theresa McDowell, 363 Red Lodge Rd., Sheguiandah, 1.877.553.5585



2. Visitors lining up to enter The Garden's Gate Restaurant. An original pre-century farmhouse, it now offers farm-to-table organic vegetables, greens, beef and locally harvested Lake Huron whitefish, supplied by Manitoulin family-run businesses. An enclosed deck overlooks gardens, wild birds and a stream.



4. Ursula Hettmann is an artist who waits for inspiration from her stones, amber and pearls. Only then does she create her unique jewellery.



4. Hettmann Studio displays the works of many Manitoulin artists. The studio is surrounded by gardens and beyond, a glittering sand beach.



5. Historic Meldrum Bay Inn, "your home away from home" as co-owner Shirin Grover likes to call it, faces Lake Huron. "It takes you to simpler times when we could take a moment and enjoy the wonder of nature," she says.

4. Hettmann Studio
 West of Lake Manitou is Hettmann Studio, packed with the creations of not only owner Ursula Hettmann, but other Manitoulin artists in all media. Hettmann paints with acrylic in a watercolour style, makes unique clothing and is a renowned jewellery designer, creating pendants, pins, bracelets, necklaces and cuffs out of silver, amber, stones and pearls. Her jewellery has organic, natural shapes, inspired by her stunningly beautiful surroundings that include her garden and a wide sand dune beach complete with picnic tables for visitors to use.
Ursula Hettmann, 3 Dominion Bay Rd., Spring Bay, 705.377.4625

5. Meldrum Bay Inn
 From Spring Bay, take Hwy 540 west to the end of Manitoulin Island, to "the end of the rainbow," to Meldrum Bay Inn. This is a welcoming, comfortable, relaxing inn right at the water's edge,

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known for breathtaking views of the sun and moon rising over Lake Huron. Yet the most surprising thing is the hummingbirds. Hundreds of them feed at the many feeders on the extensive verandah. The tiny birds fly across Lake Huron and arrive at Meldrum Bay Inn tired and hungry. Shirin Grover, co-owner of Meldrum Bay Inn, says "We have to put up the feeders before Mother's Day or they tap at the windows. They want to feed and mate." Visitors enjoy attempting to photograph them.

Shirin & Bob Grover, 25959 Hwy 540, Meldrum Bay, 1.877.557.1645

6. The Queen's Inn
Heading back east to the northern central part of the island takes you to Gore Bay and The Queen's Inn. Named for Queen Victoria, this 1880 structure is an impressive white-columned building with a striking view of yachts in the harbour. Furnished with antiques including a massive bar in the former saloon, now serving hot breakfasts daily and high tea on special occasions, the inn just may have a ghost. "I let my guests experience that for themselves," says co-owner Susan Mathia.

Susan & Robert Mathia, 19 Water St., Gore Bay, 705.282.0665



6. One of the eight beautifully appointed, antique-filled guest rooms of The Queen's Inn. This one is called Victoria.



6. A large, gracious balcony on the second storey of The Queen's Inn provides an inviting place to relax, read, enjoy the view of harbour and bluff, or to unwind with an evening cocktail.



5. The view from the wraparound verandah of Meldrum Bay is onto the docks of Meldrum Bay, where a family of otters has regularly been spotted. Hummingbirds feed directly above the head of guests.

Useful When Visiting Manitoulin Island

Black Rock Resort – cottages, boat rentals, tent and trailer park about 20 minutes from the ferry dock. See manitoulin-island.com/blackrock or call 705.859.3262.

Chi-Cheemaun – the ferry between Tobermory and South Baymouth. Dogs allowed on side decks. Definitely a pleasure cruise! For schedules and reservations, see ontarioferries.com or call 1.800.265.3163.

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy – doing great work to preserve natural lands and create hiking trails on Manitoulin. Their free hiking map is available at tourist offices in Tobermory and Little Current, on the Chi-Cheemaun and at the ferry terminals. Their new *Manitoulin Hiking Guide* is \$20 from the Manitoulin tourist office, Chi-Cheemaun, Turners in Little Current, and The Garden Gate, Tehkummah. More information is at escarpment.ca/manitoulin.html or at 416.960.8121.

Island Spring Cottages – a quiet family resort with a sandy bay for swimming, canoeing and boating, on the Ketchankookem Trail, popular for walking and cycling. 705.377.4075.

Manitowaning Mill Home Hardware – if you need things for hiking, camping, picnicking, cycling, driving or cottaging. Say hello to Larry Karn, a former resident of Limehouse down south! 705.859.3105.

Mindemoya Foodland – all-in-one grocery store, pharmacy, LCBO and Beer Store. Check this issue of *Escarpment Views* for a valuable coupon. 705.377.6200.

Rockville Inn – a lovely large B&B on Lake Manitou, the largest fresh water lake on an island in the world! About five minutes away from the Cup and Saucer Trail. See manitoulin-island.com/rockvilleinn or call 705.377.4923.

Steele's Home Hardware – Mike Steele's hardware store in Gore Bay is convenient for the western and central parts of the island and for boaters coming in from the North Channel. 705.282.2433.

Turners – the big shop in Little Current that's worth visiting for its history, as it goes back to 1879! Something for everyone, from clothing to collectibles and home décor. See turners.ca or call 1.877.368.2150.

Wikwemikong – residents are proud to say they're an Unceded Reserve, which means they never gave up their right to be a nation, and they never agreed to a treaty giving away their land. There's a big powwow and cultural festival every summer. For details, see wikwemikongheritage.org or call 1.888.801.9422.

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