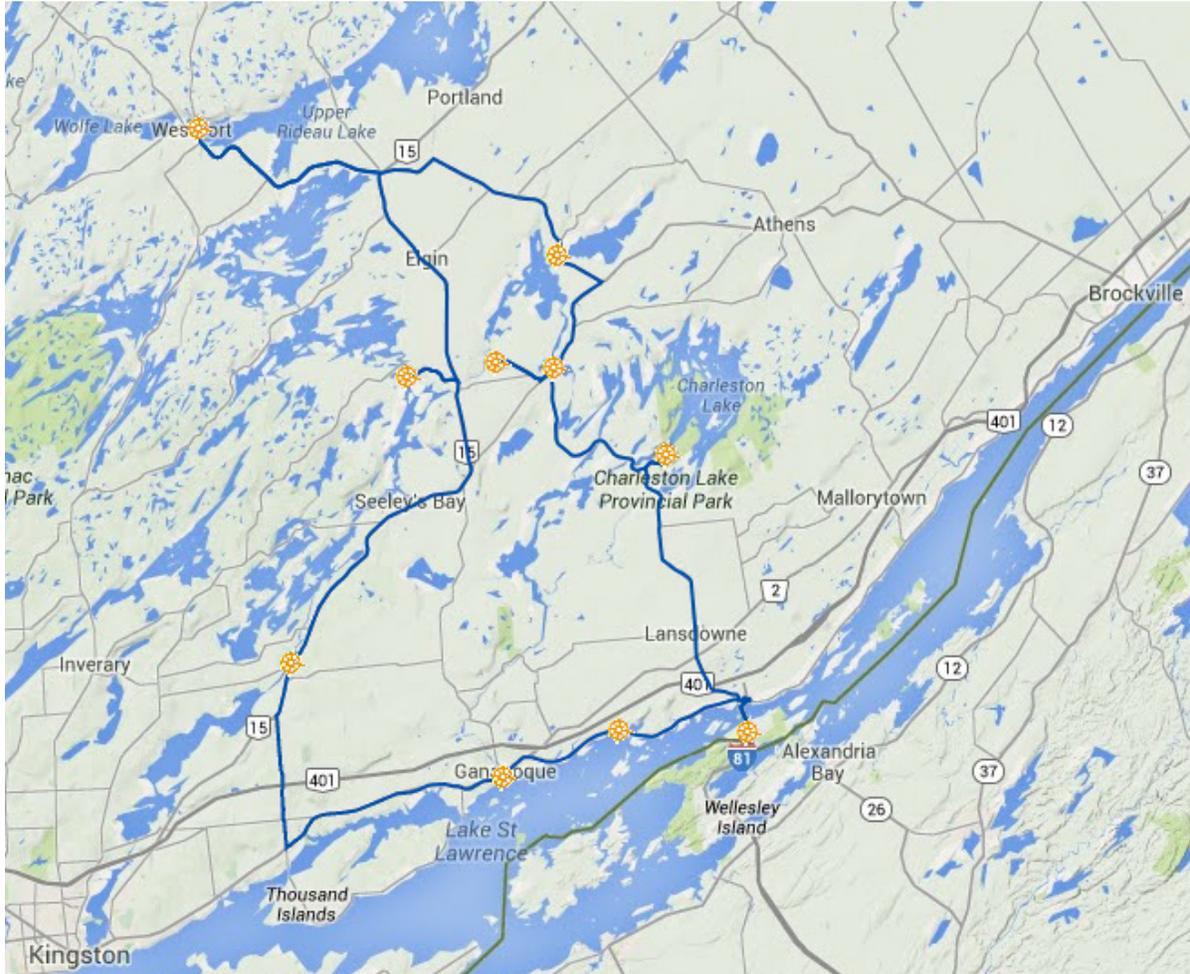




# FAB EXPERIENCES

Eastern Ontario, Canada

## Gananoque Signature Tour



### Tour Description

Gananoque in itself is a snapshot of how many small communities on the Frontenac Arch have evolved. An ideal location, on the transportation routes of the St. Lawrence, with the powerful waterfalls of the Gananoque River into the St. Lawrence, and with rich, productive lands all around, this was a place enjoyed by First Nations peoples for millennia, and by settlers since the late 1700s. Using Gananoque as a starting point, enjoy some highlights of the FAB Region in this tour. You will see some fantastic vistas, local food, and incredible history.

Tour from the FAB Gananoque Gateway

[fabgananoque.ca](http://fabgananoque.ca)

## 1. Gananoque

Lat: 44.327557  
Long: -76.164582

### Notes:

Gananoque in itself is a snapshot of how many small communities on the Frontenac Arch have evolved. Over the past two centuries, it has been a hub for the farm community, a centre for small but thriving industry, and a centre for tourism. An ideal location, on the transportation routes of the St. Lawrence, with the powerful waterfalls of the Gananoque River into the St. Lawrence, and with rich, productive lands all around, this was a place enjoyed by First Nations peoples for millennia, and by settlers since the late 1700s. The small town of Gananoque has a remarkable place in the story of Canada. It was key to prosperous settlement in the late 1700s, an impressive manufacturing centre in the mid 1800s, and the gateway to the Thousand Islands' burgeoning tourism development in the early 1900s. Today, Gananoque is still a regional tourism site, and a hot spot for arts and local food. Start your town tour at the waterfront at the Arthur Child Heritage Museum and the park and harbour. Be sure to mark the artist's locations on your itinerary. To see the islands from the very best angle, rent a kayak at 1000 Islands Kayaking. Download a walking tour map at [www.gananoque.ca/sites/gananoque.ca/files/Walking-Tour-Brochure-guided.pdf](http://www.gananoque.ca/sites/gananoque.ca/files/Walking-Tour-Brochure-guided.pdf)

*Driving directions: To Landon Bay, follow King Street east through town, under the east gate, and exit left to merge onto the Thousand Islands Parkway. Landon Bay Centre is 6.2 km. east from the town gate, on the left/north side of the Parkway. Ask about the trails at the small store, just inside the property. No entrance fee; donations accepted.*

## 2. Landon Bay Centre

Lat: 44.353291  
Long: -76.076258

Tel: 613-382-2719

Email:  
[landonbay@1000island.net](mailto:landonbay@1000island.net)

### Notes:

The Landon Bay Centre, just east of Gananoque is a great place to view the fabulous nature of the Frontenac Arch, and views of the Thousand Islands. The property is owned by Parks Canada, with programs offered by the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Foundation. For this tour, take the Lookout Trail, starting just past the green washroom building. It's a relatively easy half km. walk to the lookout, through the richly diverse woodlands. The lookout view is towards the southeast. You can see both spans of the Thousand Islands Bridge. Beyond, at the horizon on a clear day, are the Adirondack Mountains where the southern arm of the Frontenac Arch ends. The view of the Thousand Islands is the stuff of postcards, and it's easy from here to see how the St. Lawrence River floods and flows around ancient granite hilltops as it spills from Lake Ontario, at the western edge of the horizon.

*Driving directions: To the Thousand Islands Bridge, continue east approx. 7.5 km. on Parkway; exit left on ramp to Thousand Islands Bridge/Hill Island, .5 km.; park in the lot on the right, just before the toll booth. No fee to walk across the bridge's walkway, on the west side of the bridge. You could continue walking another half kilometer past the bridge to the Thousand Islands Tower, or walk back to your car to drive to the tower, if you wish (toll \$2.75).*

Explore more at: [frontenacarchbiosphere.ca](http://frontenacarchbiosphere.ca)

### 3. Thousand Islands Bridge & Thousand Islands Tower

Lat: 44.352716  
Long: -75.979333

#### Notes:

The centre of the Frontenac Arch is in the fleet of islands just east of the village of Ivy Lea, and where the Thousand Islands Bridge island-hops to span the St. Lawrence River. Cross the bridge, and park roadside on the right, just past the last section of bridge. Take the walkway over the bridge for a treetop view of the islands and river. To the west is the east end of Lake Ontario; and to the east is the St. Lawrence River, which literally begins under your feet. Here, the water flows over the top of the Arch, through channels narrowed by numerous islands, and begins its seaward race by plunging down an underwater chute that is 1 1/2 half times the drop of Niagara Falls, and with twice the volume of water. Back to your vehicle, and just a couple of hundred metres further onto Hill Island is the 1000 Islands Tower, with the elevator ride to the top. A clear-day spectacular view of all of the Thousand Islands, east to west; and a view south into the Adirondack Mountains at the southern end of the Frontenac Arch. Look north to trace the rolling and ancient hills, all that remains of the ancient mountain chain, extending far north into the Canadian Shield.

*Driving directions: To Charleston Lake Provincial Park, from the bridge toll parking lot go north on Highway 137 approx. 200 meters to the second exit marked Thousand Islands Parkway west; drive approx. 1/2 km. west and turn right past the Frontenac arch Biosphere office onto County Road 3; continue north (through Lansdowne) 16.9 km. to turn right at the Ontario Parks sign onto Woodvale Rd.; in 1.2 km. turn left onto Charleston Lake Rd into the park area. A day use fee applies.*

### 4. Charleston Lake Provincial Park

Lat: 44.502734  
Long: -76.040565

#### Notes:

Charleston Lake is one of the larger Provincial Parks in Ontario, and one of the most popular. A large lake, nearly 100 meters deep in places, fed by many cold springs and rambling creeks, and with hundreds of islands, the Charleston Lake is a jewel. The provincial park is about 25 sq. km. in size, and cradles about a third of the lake area. Visit the nature centre and take one of the short trails - the boardwalk trail perhaps - to see the forest and terrain of the Frontenac Arch. A good beach for swimming, canoe rentals, and views from the docks at the boat launch at the end of the road help you further experience the region.

*Driving directions: To Wendy's Country Market, follow Charleston Lake Rd. and Woodvale Rd. back to County Rd. 3, turn right/north; continue 11.2 km. to where Cnty. Rd. 3 ends at County Rd. 33, turn left; go west on Cnty. Rd. 33 for .8 km.; turn right onto Briar Hill Rd., keeping right/straight through at the top of the hill onto the gravel road, the Old Briar Hill Rd. for 3 km. to the intersection with the Fortune Line Rd.; Wendy's is on the right across the intersection. (408 Fortune Line Road)*

Explore more at: [frontenacarchbiosphere.ca](http://frontenacarchbiosphere.ca)

### 5. Wendy's Country Market

Lat: 44.552795  
Long: -76.168935

At first glance, a small country market store—but so much more. This is where the tastes of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere come together. The former one-room school house is the hub of local food, with produce, cheeses, meats, baking - everything, in fact, that represents local food. A visit is next best thing to a farm tour. Open year 'round. There is a food stand serving fresh-from-the-farm local food.

*Driving directions: To Lyndhurst, the Old Briar Hill Rd. for 3 km. back to County Rd. 33, turn left; the Lyndhurst bridge is approx. 1.2 km. ahead. Park on the street just past the bridge to explore on foot.*

#### Notes:

### 6. Lyndhurst

Lat: 44.549699  
Long: -76.125601

A small village, but a past that was pivotal in the history of the region. Lyndhurst was originally called Furnace Falls. Before dams were put in place in the early 1800s, the waters of the Gananoque River system plunged down Lyndhurst Creek from Lower Beverley Lake, into Lyndhurst Lake, and powered timber and flour mills. It was also the site of Upper Canada's first iron foundry, where iron ore, though not of great quality, was turned into much needed implements - as well as arms and munitions for Fort Henry in Kingston. The mills and foundry are all but gone, though parts of foundations are still seen. The stone bridge in Lyndhurst is the oldest surviving stone bridge in Ontario. An excellent interpretive plaque in the park by the bridge illustrates the impressive past. Today, explore the village, stopping at the Green Gecko and Wing's Baits - local icons.

*Driving directions: To Delta and the Old Stone Mill, continue east through the village on Cnty. Rd. 33 for 6.3 km.; turn left at the intersection with County Rd. 42; continue 3.3 km. into Delta, and the mill, on the left. Turn left just past the mill to park.*

#### Notes:

Explore more at: [frontenacarchbiosphere.ca](http://frontenacarchbiosphere.ca)

### 7. Old Stone Mill, Delta

Lat: 44.61026  
Long: -76.122214

The village of Delta nestles between Upper and Lower Beverley Lakes. The short creek between the two lakes was key to a founding of a once thriving village. A dam built in 1810 backed up the waters of shallow Upper Beverley—barely more than a rich marshland—creating a head of water for the first mill on the site. This was vital to farms and rural people alike. A mill, a distillery, the site of the first temperance speech in Upper Canada—the mill is now a National Historic Site, and thanks to dedicated local volunteers, is working again, grinding heritage wheat into flour used in local bakeries. A must-see, the mill and exhibits encapsulate the story of early Biosphere communities.

*Driving directions: Continue north on County Rd 42 for about 28km, turn right on Rideau St., (which becomes Main St.) in Westport to explore the village. To get to Foley Mountain: Main St becomes County Rd. 10 out of Westport; follow Cnty. Rd. 10 approx. 1 km.; turn right at Foley Mountain Conservation Area sign, follow Foley Mountain Rd. approx. .5 km. to Spy Rock lookout parking area.*

#### Notes:

### 8. Westport

Lat: 44.678724  
Long: -76.394938

At the north-central edge of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere, the village of Westport thrives as a scenic, artistic community near the mid point of the Rideau Canal system. Westport was built on the early 1800s timber industry. The lake and rivers to the north and west floated millions of board feet of logs to the village, where they were milled or floated further to supply growing Bytown (today's Ottawa) to the north up the system, or south to Kingston. Westport is art, music and heritage together. Explore the galleries and art events. Visit the Chamber of Commerce office to see what's on. Go just west from Westport to Foley Mountain Conservation Area, for a tremendous view from Spy Rock over Westport and south down the Frontenac Arch. The steep cliff is the edge of an ancient fault line, where hundreds of millions of years ago, the land dropped a hundred metres, creating the basin for the Rideau Lakes to the east, and a chain of lakes to the west.

*Driving directions: Get back on County Rd 42, and travel southeast for 14 km, to Highway 15, turn right. After 14km, turn right onto Jones Falls Rd for 3.5km, then turn left onto Kenneys Rd to stop at Hotel Kenney and explore the locks.*

#### Notes:

Explore more at: [frontenacarchbiosphere.ca](http://frontenacarchbiosphere.ca)

### 9. Jones Falls

Lat: 44.54492  
Long: -76.236654

#### Notes:

There are 47 locks on the 202 km Rideau Canal system, from Kingston to Ottawa. If you were to visit one lock station to take it all in, Jones Falls is the place. While every lock station is wonderfully unique, Jones Falls has multiple locks, a turning basin, a loading station, defensible lockmaster's house and interpretive exhibit—a little of almost everything—and very scenic as well. The dam at the site of the former falls was, in its day, the largest engineering feat in the New World, and it still stands strong. Another story is told at the dam site, where you'll see three enormous barrel-like wooden tubes leading down the steep slope to a power generating station, still working after the better part of a century. Top off the visit with lunch at Hotel Kenney, a resort built in 1877.

*Driving directions: To Lower Brewers Lock, return 3.5 km. back to Highway 15, turn right/south; continue 22.6 km. to Washburn Rd, and sign for the lock; turn right and in 300 meters, the canal crosses under the road. Park and explore - everything is within 300 meters.*

### 10. Lower Brewers Lock

Lat: 44.389597  
Long: -76.325435

#### Notes:

Art, history, local food and local energy merge at Lower Brewers Lock Station. This is the second lock station on the canal - a single lock with a small lift, but important in raising the water level enough for boats to get to the next station north, Upper Brewers, and saved having to dredge through a marsh. There is a lot to see here. In addition to the lock is one of the amazing innovations to get wagon, and now car traffic across the canal. First built in 1827, the swing bridge is made of heavy timbers, but balances on a central pivot point. It can be turned by hand by just one person, when the lockmaster needs to let boats to pass through the lock. The big iron rods and turnbuckles are used to "tune" the bridge, because with temperature changes the ends may lift or sag, and not touch down properly at each end. There are just five such bridges left on the canal. On the west side of the bridge is a hydro-electric generating station. The waterflow can be diverted into the barrel-like wooden tubes to spin a turbine, part of a local power grid since 1939. Also on the west side of the canal is the Doner Studio, where metal artist Randall and jewelry artist Darlene fashion very creative works, displayed in both their studio gallery and in a museum setting and delightful grounds. Nearby, on the east side of the canal, is Waddell Apples - an orchard and store with not-to-be missed farm baking and tasty treats..

*Driving directions: To Gananoque, return to Highway 15, turn right/south; in 3.2 km. turn left onto Joyceville Rd.; continue 8 km. south to intersection with County Rd. 2, turn left; continue 14.5 km. into downtown Gananoque. The alternative route at a Joyceville Rd. intersection is to Gananoque on Highway 401 may be a couple of minutes shorter - but the County Rd. 2 route is more scenic.*

Explore more at: [frontenacarchbiosphere.ca](http://frontenacarchbiosphere.ca)