

GROUP OF SEVEN CONTINUES

Greater Toronto Area

Gallery to Landscapes Discovery Route



TIPS

- Book ahead to avoid disappointment, and double-check date-specific experiences, as well as hours and dates of operation, as many stops are seasonal.
- Use this itinerary as a starting point on your Group of Seven journey to learn more about the artists, and also about the landscapes you want to explore on the other itineraries throughout Ontario.
- Consider taking the [Parkbus](#), which offers transportation, day and overnight trips to and from Toronto and Ottawa, Algonquin Park, Killarney Park, Georgian Bay and Tobermory.
- Plan day trips to visit some or all of these stops in and around Toronto.

Be sure to discover two major galleries in the region which will provide you with an incredible opportunity to connect the art on the walls by the Group of Seven with the landscapes on the ground.

Toronto and the surrounding area is where these artists came together as a Group, and for six of the original seven, where their lives ended. The Greater Toronto Area is where the Group worked as graphic artists by day and landscape painters by night, completing paintings they captured during their travels in studio.

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KEY STOPS, ATTRACTIONS AND LANDSCAPES IN TORONTO AND AREA

1 Lawren Harris Park, Toronto

A small park near Yonge Street on the south side of Rosedale Valley Road, features a plaque that displays one of Lawren Harris's works and a short biography.

Known for their depiction of the remote Canadian wilderness, members of the Group of Seven still sketched and painted outdoor urban scenes. Lawren Harris's work *Early House*, c. 1913 McMichael Canadian Art Collection and MacDonald's *Humber River at Baby Point*, c. 1910 Art Gallery of Ontario can be seen on display in 2018.



Lawren Harris
Early House, Toronto, 1913, MCAC

2 The Studio Building

Next to Lawren Harris Park, you will see the Studio Building (a National Historic Site) which was the home and working studio of several of the Group of Seven artists. Can you imagine renting studio space in this building for just \$22/ month?

Arthur Lismer's painting *Our Garden, Bedford Park Ave. Toronto*, c. 1922-1923 McMichael Canadian Art Collection, and J.E.H. MacDonald's *Thornhill- Pine Trees and Fields*, c. 1924 Ottawa Art Gallery, show how artists still found nature within bustling urban locations.

3 Arts and Letters Club of Toronto

Wander past the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, near Yonge and Dundas Square. This is where Group of Seven members met for lunch frequently in the 'Great Hall' during their time as commercial graphic artists at Grip Ltd. Photo of J.E.H. MacDonald at work

Other examples of commissioned works by Group of Seven members in Toronto include Arthur Lismer's large scale mural *Explorers and Builders of Canada*, c. 1927-1932 housed inside HumberSide Collegiate in Etobicoke.



J.E.H. MacDonald, *Grip Ltd.*, MCAC

4 Art Gallery of Ontario

Formerly the Art Gallery of Toronto, this is the site of the first exhibit as a Group in 1920. See the Canadian Collection, which features multiple works of art the Group of Seven members painted while exploring Toronto and the rest of the province. The retail store is a great place to find unique gifts, books and souvenirs that showcase the Group and their art.

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Look: Forward, is an exciting reinstallation (currently in progress) of the AGO's permanent collections. Throughout 2018, experience *Tom Thomson's Spring, Canoe Lake* c. 1916, A.Y. Jackson's *Georgian Bay*, *Summer Clouds* c. 1913 or Harris' *Winter afternoon, City Street Toronto* c. 1918.



Lawren Harris
Winter Afternoon, 1918, AGO

5 Ontario College of Art & Design- University

Most of the Group of Seven artists were students, instructors, or administrative staff when it was known as the *Ontario College of Art*. A modernist addition to the original historic building is known today as the A. J. Casson Wing.

6 Concourse Building, 100 Adelaide St West

Situated in the heart of the urban landscape of downtown Toronto, a colourful mosaic created by Group of Seven member J.E.H. MacDonald in 1928 greets visitors as they approach the two-story entranceway to the Concourse buildings at 100 Adelaide Street West in Toronto.

7 St. Anne's Anglican Church

You will find St. Anne's Anglican Church, a National Historic Site, just north of Dundas St. West at 270 Gladstone Ave. Three Group of Seven artists within the Group (MacDonald, Varley and Carmichael) were commissioned to paint murals in this church in 1923. These are the only known religious works of the Group of Seven. One-hour guided tours are available on the first Sunday of each month.

8 Group of Seven Bike Trail

(Vaughan to Kleinburg)

Depart from the north end of Toronto to Kleinburg, to enjoy this bike trail. Stop and rest while you explore the world-renowned McMichael Canadian Art Collection, home to iconic paintings by the Group of Seven and contemporary painters.

Though not a member of the original Group of Seven painters, see if you can determine where A.J. Casson's painting entitled *Kleinburg* c. 1929 (on display at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection) took inspiration from during your scenic bike ride through the community on your way to the city.

9 McMichael Canadian Art Collection

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is an integral page in the Group of Seven narrative. Learn about the artists, their inspirations and the profound mark they've left permanently on the landscape of Canadian art.

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Programs and Events
at McMichael in 2018 Include:

9a The Art of Canada: Director's Cut (December 9 2017- November 18 2018)

This exhibition showcases the beauty, diversity, and artistry of Canadian art. The Director's Cut highlights classic favourites, but also some that have rarely been seen, and some that might surprise even an audience familiar with Canadian art.

Weaving together a palette of colours creates an ultra-rich tapestry of Canadian art. These colours are evident in Franklin Carmichael's *October Gold*, c. 1922, Lawren Harris' *Red Maples* c. 1920 and Tom Thomson's *Black Spruce in Autumn*, c. 1915 all of which are on display as part of McMichael's permanent collection in 2018.

9b J.E.H. MacDonald: Up Close (June 2 - September 16 2018)

J.E.H. MacDonald: Up Close exhibit will celebrate the art and method of J.E.H. MacDonald's artistic practice. The exhibit highlights his fondness for small studies and microscopic photographs.

The details of autumn are captured in MacDonald's *Leaves in the Brook*, c. 1919 McMichael Canadian Art Collection. Experience the colours of Autumn in Algoma, as part of the Algoma & North Shore of Lake Superior Group of Seven Discovery Route where you'll find this painting featured on a Moments of Algoma interpretive installation outside the Algoma Central Railway train station.

9c Gallery Shop

Be sure to make time to browse and buy in the Gallery Shop with its extensive Group of Seven merchandise, including exhibition souvenirs.

9d Thomson Shack

The original Thomson shack was located next to the Group of Seven's studio building near Rosedale subway station in Toronto. Visit a reconstruction of the shack on the grounds of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

9e Group of Seven Artist Cemetery

Initially conceptualized by Jackson and Casson in 1967, this cemetery on the grounds of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection is the final resting place for six of the seven members and their spouses.

Slabs of granite blasted from northern road construction were transported to the cemetery so that the Group of Seven members would always have a piece of the north with them on their journey.

A cairn and tombstone memorializing Tom Thomson can be found in Leith, Ontario and within Algonquin Park. Find out why there are multiple memorial sites when you experience the other Group of Seven Discovery Routes.



McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg