

BUFFALO AUDUBON
— SOCIETY —



Algonquin Park

January 13th through 15th 2024





ALGONQUIN PARK

Founded in 1893, Algonquin Park is the oldest Provincial Park in Canada. Over 2400 lakes and 1200 kilometers of streams are located within the 7653 square kilometers of the park. Algonquin Park is comparable in size to Yellowstone National Park in the United States, but only a small portion of the park is accessible by Highway 60, which cuts through the south-east corner of the park. The rest of the park is accessible only by canoe.

Algonquin Park is considered the gateway between Northern and Southern Ontario. With 1200 campsites across 8 campgrounds along Highway 60, it is a popular destination for the people of Toronto, Ottawa, and the rest of Ontario to spend time in pristine wilderness.

Algonquin is home to 278 Bird species, including boreal forest specialties such as Canada Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Spruce Grouse. Algonquin is also home to Moose, Black Bears, and Wolves. Known as Eastern or Algonquin Wolves, they are smaller than Gray Wolves of other parts of North America. The ancestry of Algonquin Wolves is still up for debate, and some consider them as subspecies of Gray Wolves. Algonquin Wolves are elusive and difficult to see, but can be heard during summer Wolf Howl programs led by Park Rangers.



Experience the winter wonderland of Algonquin Park up close and personal with Buffalo Audubon! Search for boreal birds such as Canada Jay and Spruce Grouse with Buffalo Audubon Naturalist Tom Kerr. Find flocks of nomadic winter finches as they move south in search of winter seed crops. Enjoy Canadian wildlife, with possible sightings of moose, wolves, and pine martens.



Target Bird Species

- Canada Jay
- Common Raven
- Ruffed Grouse
- Spruce Grouse
- Black-backed Woodpecker
- Common Redpoll
- Hoary Redpoll
- Pine Siskin
- Red Crossbill
- White-winged Crossbill
- Evening Grosbeak
- Pine Grosbeak

Other Wildlife

- Pine Marten
- Moose
- Algonquin Wolf
- River Otter



Canada Jays in Algonquin



One of the most charismatic birds in North America, Canada Jays are found in boreal forests and at high elevations. Inside Algonquin Park, Canada Jays start nesting in winter. To make sure they have enough food for their nestlings, they will take food from wherever they can find it and cache it for later. This includes taking handouts from people. Normally it is discouraged to feed wildlife, but this is considered part of the Canada Jay's natural behavior.

As a part of a long-term study, most of the Canada Jays in Algonquin Park are banded with a unique combination of colored bands on their legs. This allows individuals and families to be studied year to year without having to recapture them to read their leg bands. Most Canada Jays are banded before they leave the nest.

These color bands also allow park visitors to find the same birds taking handouts of peanuts year after year.





Winter Finches in Algonquin



Every winter, nomadic populations of winter finches move across North America in search of food to carry them through the winter. The amount of food available to them can vary from year to year, so different trips to Algonquin parks can also vary from year to year. The Winter Finch forecast, made famous by Ron Pittaway, is released every year by Tyler Hoar.

Birdfeeders are maintained throughout the winter at the Algonquin Park Visitor's Center. Evening Grosbeaks are regular visitors every year, with potential sightings of Pine Grosbeaks and both Crossbills.

Red-Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills actually start their nesting season during the winter, when their food sources of seeds are most abundant.



Algonquin Park Itinerary

January 13th – 15th 2024

Saturday, January 13th

- 7:00 AM – Meet at AAA Offices on 100 International Dr. in Williamsville
- 7:30 AM – Depart for Algonquin Park
- 9:30 AM – Break at ONroute King City
- 12:30 PM – Arrive at Algonquin Park Visitor's Center (Lunch Break and Birdfeeder Viewing)
- 2:00 PM – Birdwatching at Spruce Bog Boardwalk (Spruce Grouse, Canada Jays, Crossbills)
- 4:00 PM – Depart Algonquin Park for Huntsville
- 5:00 PM – Check in at Holiday Inn Huntsville/Muskoka
- 6:00 PM – Dinner at Huntsville Brewhouse
- 8:00 PM – Return to Holiday Inn Huntsville/Muskoka

Sunday, January 14th

- 6:30 AM – Breakfast in Hotel
- 7:00 AM – Depart for Algonquin Park (Highway 60 Wildlife Viewing)
- 8:00 AM – Spruce Bog Boardwalk (Spruce Grouse, Canada Jays, Crossbills)
- 9:00 AM – Big Pines Trail (Black-backed Woodpecker)
- 12:00 PM – Lunch and Birdfeeder Viewing at Visitor's Center (Grosbeaks, Crossbills)
- 1:00 PM – Opeongo Road (Canada Jays, Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Martens)
- 3:00 PM – Logging Museum Area (Canada Jays)
- 4:00 PM – Depart Algonquin Park for Huntsville
- 5:00 PM – Return to Holiday Inn Huntsville/Muskoka
- 6:00 PM – Dinner at East Side Mario's
- 8:00 PM – Return to Holiday Inn Huntsville/Muskoka

Monday, January 15th

- 6:30 AM – Breakfast in Hotel
- 7:00 AM – Depart for Algonquin Park (Highway 60 Wildlife Viewing)
- 8:00 AM – OPEN FOR MISSED TARGET BIRDS
- 10:00 AM – Mew Lake Campground (Canada Jays, Pine Martens)
- 12:00 PM – Lunch and Birdfeeder Viewing at Visitor's Center (Grosbeaks, Crossbills)
- 1:00 PM – Depart Algonquin Park
- 3:00 PM – Break at ONroute Vaughn
- 6:00 PM – Return to AAA Offices on International Dr. Williamsville

Trip itinerary is subject to change based on weather, notable bird sightings in and around the park, and other unforeseen circumstances. Changes in the itinerary are at the leader's discretion.



Single Occupancy: \$1145.00
Double Occupancy: \$975.00

Travel Packages Include:

- Two-night hotel accommodations at Holiday Inn Express & Suites Huntsville/Muskoka
- Transportation via passenger van
- Dinners at local restaurants

Daily hiking distances will be up to 5 miles. January temperatures in Algonquin Park range from 30 degrees Fahrenheit to -20 degrees Fahrenheit. Proper outdoor winter gear is required.

For more information and registration email tom@buffaloaudubon.org
Registration due by Friday, December 1st, 2023

Upon registration, participants must provide a photo copy of their US Passport or NYS Enhanced Driver's License. Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis. This trip is limited to eight participants. Additional interested participants will be placed on a waiting list. If waiting list reaches an additional eight participants, another van will be added and trip capacity will be raised to sixteen participants.



Travel Packages Include:

- Two-night hotel accommodations in Huntsville, Ontario
- Transportation via passenger van
- Dinners at local restaurants

Single Occupancy: \$1145.00

Double Occupancy: \$975.00

Payment due by December 1st, 2023

Email tom@buffaloudubon.org to register
