



# ONTARIO BY BIKE RIDE WATERLOO GUELPH EXPLORER



## SELF-GUIDED RIDE ITINERARY

**Total Ride Distance:** 115km

**Suggested Ride Time:** 2 Days / 1 Night

**Experience Level:** Moderate

**Route Surface:** This route features a mix of paved roads and off-road multi-use trails with different surfaces varying from stone-dust, gravel and paved sections.

**Suggested Ride Start Location & Parking:**

- This is a looped route. Start from any location you choose along loop.
- This ride itinerary uses start location: [Riverside Park](#), 709 Woolwich St, Guelph.
- For overnight parking permission contact and request permission from the Parks and Recreation department from the City of Guelph by calling in advance 519-837-5678.
- Other Guelph start locations include: Walmart on Woodlawn Road W (overnight parking allowed) or at pre ride accommodations (with permission).

**Your Bike:** Suitable for hybrid and mountain bikes, as well as cross or gravel bikes

Ensure you arrive to start with a bicycle in good working order, appropriate outerwear and refreshments. Helmets are strongly recommended.

**Suggested overnight Accommodations:** Find a variety of Ontario By Bike certified bicycle-friendly accommodations in Waterloo Region [HERE](#) or visit [Explore Waterloo Region](#) to find out more.

**Digital Route Map:**

It is highly recommended that self-guided riders make use of a navigational device on this route.

- **Full Route:** [www.ridewithgps.com/routes/34213345](http://www.ridewithgps.com/routes/34213345)
- **Day 2:** [www.ridewithgps.com/routes/34231874](http://www.ridewithgps.com/routes/34231874)

Disclaimer – This route is a suggested route only. The route incorporates both multi-use trail and on-road riding. All cyclists are responsible for their own safety, must use both trails and streets with caution and do so at their own risk. Always wear the proper safety gear when cycling, ride sensibly and abide by all laws. Each route should be evaluated by each individual cyclist based on their level of experience, comfort level in cycling on trails and roads, weather conditions, time of day, and any road obstacles. Ontario By Bike / Transportation Options and all others involved in the development of this route do not assume any liability whatsoever for cyclists using this information and travelling upon this route.

## Day 1: Guelph to Waterloo - 62km

**Ride Start Location:** [Riverside Park](#), 709 Woolwich St, Guelph or see above.

### Day 1 Ride Recommendation:

- Public washroom facilities are available at the Riverside Park.
- If you are starting your ride on a Saturday, you may want to visit the Guelph Farmers Market, open 7am to 12pm located at 2 Gordon St, Guelph.

### 17km Off-trail Detour to West Montrose Covered Bridge (Kissing Bridge)

- At 17km there is a required detour that leaves the trail, as no bridge crossing from direct trail.
- Take stairs with bike trough/wheel runners up to Katherine St N.
- Turn left onto Katherine St N. Follow signs for Kissing Bridge for 700 metres and turn right onto and follow Rivers Edge Dr. directly to the famous Kissing Bridge.
- Follow the signs after bridge, making a right turn on to Covered Bridge Drive.
- Caution crossing busy road Line #86, and proceed straight, with road renamed to Middlebrook Rd. The trail is just past the intersection. Turn left onto trail, towards Elmira.

### 19km – West Montrose Covered Bridge (Kissing Bridge)

- Stop at the oldest covered bridge in Canada for a hydration break and some scenic vistas over the Grand River.

### 26.5km – Elmira – Lunch Stop Suggestion

- A variety of cafés and restaurants are available in Elmira such as [Kitchen Kuttings](#). At 26.5km leave the trail and follow Arthur Street south (0.5km) to downtown area.

### 34.5km – Wallenstein – Yatton Side Road

- Turn left off trail and onto road. Continue on road route a mix of paved and gravel surfaces.
- Enjoy scenic farmland, valleys and rivers of Woolwich Township.

### 49km – Town of St Jacobs

- Stop at the Town of St Jacobs to visit the St Jacobs & Aberfoyle Model Railway.
- Have a freshly brewed coffee and the bicycle-friendly EcoCafe or cycle down King St and learn more about Mennonite history in the area.

### 53km – St Jacobs Farmers Market

- Visit this famous farmers market where you can find lots of locally produced foods, drinks and arts & craft.
- Regular market days are Thursday and Saturday. Check [www.stjacobsmarket.com](http://www.stjacobsmarket.com) for opening hours.
- Exercise caution on route near market as on market days there can be heavy road traffic.

### 62km - Downtown Waterloo - Ride Finish Day 1

- Enjoy the end of your first ride day in Downtown Waterloo and stay at one of the many great places the city has to offer. Find bicycle friendly [accommodations](#) here, or check out [Explore Waterloo Region](#) for more options.

## Day 2: Waterloo to Guelph – 53km

### **Iron Horse Trail Entrance**

- If you are heading south from Downtown Waterloo towards Kitchener, the Iron Horse Trail entrance is located off of Caroline St.
- The trail entrance will be on the right after the intersection of Caroline St S and Allen St W

### **22km – Riverside Park – Cambridge**

- Enjoy a rest stop and refreshment at Cambridge's largest community park before heading onto the Mill Run Trail.
- Public washrooms are located at the Riverside Park Splash Pad.

### **27km – Jacob's Landing Park, Hespeler - Lunch Stop Suggestion**

- Leave Mill Run Trail and proceed over to Jacobs landing park follow Sheffield Road to the right and then right on Guelph Ave.
- Enjoy a relaxing lunch stop in the quiet little town of Hespeler. Sit at the shore of the Speed River for a picnic or stop at the close by Four Fathers Brewery patio and restaurant.

### **53km – End of Ride – Return to Parking, Guelph**

- Follow the suggested road route towards Guelph and connect onto the city's path system once getting into Guelph.
- Return to start and parked car.
- We hope you have enjoyed the Ontario By Bike Waterloo Guelph Explorer.

# Visitor Information – Kitchener-Waterloo

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The two cities of Kitchener and Waterloo offer some big city excitements without losing small town charm. Explore the rich culture of the area and it's Germanic roots, or enjoy numerous restaurants, bars and stores. Use the cities great network of cycle paths and trails to get around or hop on the newly opened ION light rail train.



For additional visitor information about the area, visit:

- Explore Waterloo Region – Kitchener [www.explorewaterloo.com/kitchener](http://www.explorewaterloo.com/kitchener)
- Explore Waterloo Region – Waterloo - [www.explorewaterloo.com/city-of-waterloo](http://www.explorewaterloo.com/city-of-waterloo)

For additional cycling info and certified bicycle friendly businesses visit [www.ontariobybike.ca/great-places-to-cycle/waterloo-region](http://www.ontariobybike.ca/great-places-to-cycle/waterloo-region)

## **WHAT TO DO:**

### **Uptown Waterloo – [www.uptownwaterloobia.com](http://www.uptownwaterloobia.com)**

The urban heart of Waterloo, the uptown area is home to over 450 businesses as well as a busy public square. UpTown Waterloo offers a vibrant area to explore shopping and food options.

### **Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery – [www.theclayandglass.ca](http://www.theclayandglass.ca)**

This place is dedicated to exhibiting and collecting ceramic, glass, enamel and stained glass works of art. Featuring newly renovated gallery spaces, it is a popular destination for art enthusiasts of all ages

**Location:** 25 Caroline Street North, Waterloo

### **St Jacobs Farmers Market – [www.stjacobsmarket.com](http://www.stjacobsmarket.com)**

Canada's largest year round farmers market lets you stroll through hundreds of local vendors inside three main buildings and in an outdoor area that swells as the growing season progresses.

**Location:** 878 Weber Street N, Woolwich

### **Homer Watson House & Gallery - [www.homerwatson.on.ca](http://www.homerwatson.on.ca)**

This Kitchener Heritage House showcases the life and work of Homer Watson, one of Canada's first internationally recognized artists. It is also a creative domain for artists, featuring exhibition space where regional artists can showcase their work.

**Location:** 1754 Old Mill Road, Kitchener

**Opening Hours:** Sat 10-4:00pm

### **Schneider Haus National Historic Site - [www.schneiderhaus.ca](http://www.schneiderhaus.ca)**

Kitchener's oldest surviving building, located in downtown Kitchener including a museum focusing on Germanic culture. The museum features folk and decorative objects from Waterloo Region, as well as other German settlements in Canada.

**Location:** 466 Queen Street S, Kitchener

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**Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum - [www.waterlooregionmuseum.ca](http://www.waterlooregionmuseum.ca)**

The largest community museum in Ontario tells the story of Waterloo Region and showcases local and travelling exhibits from around the world. Cyclists can refill their water bottles and use washroom facilities at the museum. Bike parking is available.

**Location:** 10 Huron Road, Kitchener

**WHERE TO EAT (Waterloo):**

**Wildcraft Grill + Long Bar - [www.wildcraft.ca](http://www.wildcraft.ca)**

Upbeat, contemporary Canadian grill with diverse wines, creative martinis & a large patio.

**Location:** 425 King St N

**Telephone:** (519) 885-0117

**Beertown Public House Waterloo - [www.beertown.ca](http://www.beertown.ca)**

This modern beer bar features a comprehensive list of different craft beers and food items ranging from classic bar food to vegetarian/vegan and Asian food.

**Location:** Town Square, 75 King St S

**Telephone:** (613) 543-3145

**Ethel's Lounge - [www.ethelslounge.com](http://www.ethelslounge.com)**

Relaxed long-running tavern with a retro vibe, offering burgers, Tex-Mex staples & a long beer list.

**Location:** 114 King St N

**Telephone:** (519) 725-2361

**WHERE TO EAT (Kitchener):**

**Abe Erb Brewing Company Kitchener - [www.abeerb.com](http://www.abeerb.com)**

Local Brewpub chain that serves a variety of craft beers and classic comfort food options.

**Location:** The Tannery, 151 Charles Street West

**Telephone:** (519) 954-0151

**Northern Thai - [www.northernthai.ca](http://www.northernthai.ca)**

Family-run nook since 1997 with a warm ambiance preparing homemade Thai meals to eat in or take out.

**Location:** 95 Queen St S.

**Telephone:** (519) 745-4451

**Pupuseria Latinos - [www.facebook.com/pupuserialatinos](http://www.facebook.com/pupuserialatinos)**

Casual restaurant offering Salvadoran pupusas & other Central American comfort food.

**Location:** 25 Eby St S.

**Telephone:** (519) 743-7985

**BIKE SHOPS:**

**East Side Cycle and Sports**

**Location:** 1264 Victoria St N, Waterloo

[www.eastsidecycle.com](http://www.eastsidecycle.com)

**Telephone:** (519) 824-9371

**Grand River Cycle**

**Location:** 410 Hespeler Road, Cambridge

[www.grandrivercycle.com](http://www.grandrivercycle.com)

**Telephone:** 519 624-5814

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## Visitor Information - Guelph

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Located in the heart of Wellington County, Guelph offers its visitors critically-acclaimed restaurants and accommodations, entertaining and educational activities, and a wide variety of shopping. Spend some time before or after the ride to explore this charming Town.



For additional information in the area visit:

- Visit Guelph Wellington – [www.visitguelphwellington.ca](http://www.visitguelphwellington.ca)

### WHAT TO DO:

**Downtown Guelph** – [www.downtownguelph.com](http://www.downtownguelph.com)

The Downtown Guelph Business Association is made up of over 500 businesses in the city's downtown core. Stroll through the city center and find lots of places to eat sleep and shop.

**Guelph Farmers Market** – [www.guelphfarmersmarket.ca](http://www.guelphfarmersmarket.ca)

With a history of over 180 years, the Guelph Farmers market is one of the oldest and most active markets in Southern Ontario. Open every Saturday from 7:00am till 12:00pm you will find lots of locally farmed and produced products.

**Location:** 2 Gordon St, Guelph

**Guelph Civic Museum** – [www.guelphmuseums.ca](http://www.guelphmuseums.ca)

The Guelph Civic Museum showcases Guelph's history through permanent and changing exhibits. Located in the recently renovated Loretto Convent, the museum is home to a collection of over 30,000 artifacts that bring Guelph's past to life.

**Location:** 52 Norfolk St, Guelph

**Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate** - [www.basilicaofourlady.com](http://www.basilicaofourlady.com)

Elaborate Gothic Revival-style church dedicated in 1883 & featuring imposing twin towers.

**Location:** 28 Norfolk St, Guelph

**Art Gallery of Guelph** – [www.artgalleryofguelph.ca](http://www.artgalleryofguelph.ca)

The Art Gallery of Guelph is one of Canada's premier public art spaces, engaging audiences with innovative artists and ideas from around the world. Through a rigorous and collaborative artistic program, the gallery supports social exchange and shapes public discourse. Admission Free

**Location:** Located in University of Guelph 358 Gordon St

## WHERE TO EAT (Guelph):

### **The Boathouse** – [www.theboathouseguelph.com](http://www.theboathouseguelph.com)

A wide selection of teas join salads, sandwiches & breakfast in a loftlike space by the Speed River.

**Location:** 116 Gordon St., Guelph

**Telephone:** (519) 822-5692

### **Earth to Table Bread Bar** - [www.themillrestaurant.ca](http://www.themillrestaurant.ca)

Buzzy cafe & bakery dishing out pizzas, shared plates & desserts with a fresh, seasonal focus.

**Location:** 105 Gordon St., Guelph

**Telephone:** (519) 767-2999

### **Brothers Brewing Company** - [www.brothersbrewingcompany.ca](http://www.brothersbrewingcompany.ca)

Brothers is a brewery, a bar, a bottle shop, and a communal hub. With 12 taps of house-brewed craft beer, they host communal workshops, food pop-ups, and local bands and entertainment as well.

**Location:** 15 Wyndham St N Unit A, Guelph

**Telephone:** (226) 790-3767

### **Mijidaa** - [www.mijidaa.ca](http://www.mijidaa.ca)

Cheerful eatery offering international comfort grub amid whimsical artwork, plus an outdoor patio.

**Location:** 37 Quebec St, Guelph

**Telephone:** (519) 821-9271

### **Artisanale French Country Cooking** – [www.artisanale.ca](http://www.artisanale.ca)

Quaint, classy resource for French-inspired cuisine made with thoughtfully sourced ingredients.

**Location:** 214 Woolwich St, Guelph

**Telephone:** (519) 821-3359

## BIKE SHOPS (Guelph):

### **Speed River Bicycle**

**Location:** 135 Wyndham St N, Guelph

[www.speedriverbicycle.com](http://www.speedriverbicycle.com)

**Telephone:** (519) 824-9371

### **Guelph Cycle Therapy**

**Location:** 113 Northumberland St

[www.facebook.com/guelphcycletherapy](http://www.facebook.com/guelphcycletherapy)

**Telephone:** (226) 500-0300