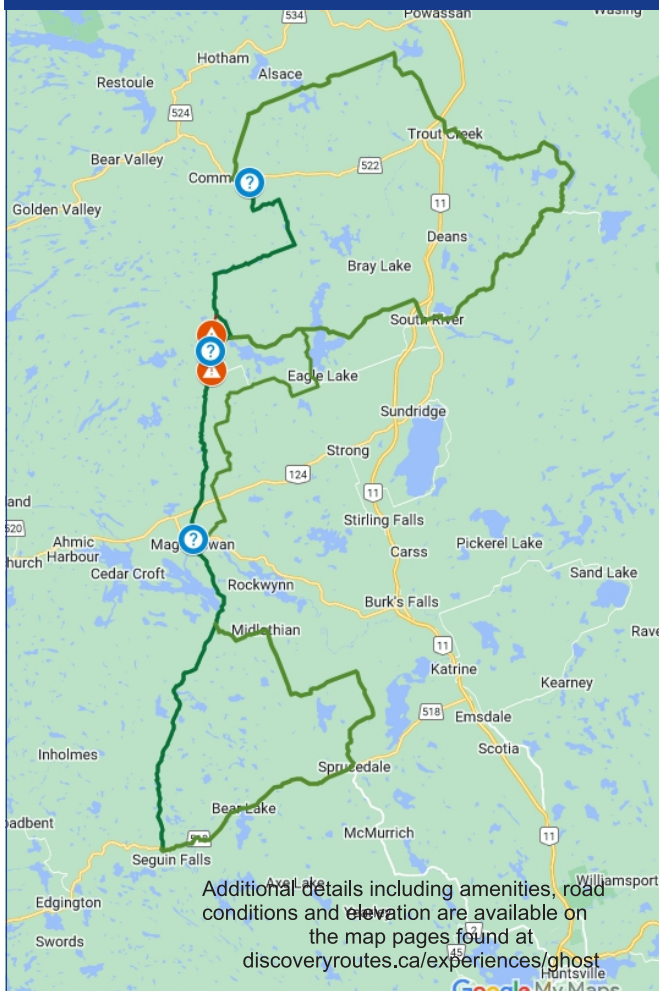


RIDE THE OLD NIPISSING GHOST ROAD

Be prepared for a cycling adventure that echoes with the whispers of the ghosts of early settlers lured by free land and the prospect of a better life in the wilds of Northern Ontario.

Ghost Gravel 2021, Chris Monette Photography

Cycling Route Overview



The old adage “by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail” has never been truer than with this cycling adventure on the Old Nipissing Road. From small hamlets to remote backcountry, the route presents a mix of terrain where bike packers will encounter ever changing and challenging conditions. The appeal for many cyclists is the remote and rugged nature of the old ghost road between Magnetawan and Commanda. The deep ruts of wagon wheels from a bygone era have been replaced by ATV tracks and nature’s unyielding power to reclaim the Northern Ontario wilds. With limited cell service and trails in every direction, it is easy to get off course. Matched with seasonal businesses with limited hours, wildlife encounters (big and small), and challenging terrain, makes the experience a true Northern wilderness adventure.

ROUTE BASICS

COMMUNITIES	Commanda, Magnetawan Seguin Falls, Sprucedale
ROUTE TYPE	bike packing
DISTANCE	77 + km
DIFFICULTY	advanced
ROAD/TRAIL CONDITIONS	gravel roads, backcountry trail
SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT	gravel bike



Discovery Routes is a not-for-profit organization that celebrates an expansive network of trails winding through the rugged landscapes of Ontario's Near North.

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OLD NIPISSING GHOST ROAD

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

Old Nipissing Ghost Road (77.1km)

Starting in the South, the route is a hilly, mixed gravel backroad for the first 30km heading into Magnetawan. Paved through Magnetawan this is the last of the smooth riding. The route transforms and facilities drop off, as does reliable road maintenance. Some sections are wide and well kept; others are little more than two ruts plunging into dark woods. The North end is also prone to washouts and floods making for a thrilling terrain with a few surprising (and muddy) technical challenges.

North/ Algonquin Loop (113.3km)

Touch the Northern edge of Algonquin Park with this loop. Roads on the loop are a mix of packed gravel of varying conditions with rolling hills, punchy climbs and sharp bends with poor sightlines. Witness the northern way of life with logging operations, private hunt camps and stunning wilderness.

Middle Loop (64.5km)

This is a shorter loop that allows riders to return along a different route on the way "home". The roads have variable surface conditions, from hard packed gravel, broken pavement and loose gravel.

South Loop (79.8km)

The loop includes some excellent and scenic paved and gravel connections.



Commanda Heritage Centre



Historic plaques line the Old Nipissing Road.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Commanda Heritage Centre** - built in 1885 during the boom years of settlement to serve as a supply centre for the pioneer lumbermen and farmers of the region. The building has been lovingly restored by local volunteers and acts as a hub in the community of Commanda.
- **Nipissing Colonial Road** - After the signing of the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850, the Nipissing Road was built to give lumber companies access to the area's vast tracts of timber-rich forest and to lure pioneers North with the prospect of free land. The old road's history is commemorated in plaques lining the route.
- **Magnetawan Locks & Dam** - Built in 1883, the historic hand operated dam and locks are located on the Magnetawan River are a great stop for a swim, picnic lunch and to discover a little bit of the history of the area.
- **Screaming Heads** - an outdoor art installation like no other. Located on the private property of retired art teacher Peter Camani, it is well worth a slight detour on the South Loop, of a few kms east on Midlothian Road.

DIGITAL MAPS AVAILABLE

Map My Ride

Old Nipissing Ghost Road

Google Maps

Old Nipissing Road



Chris Monette Photography

Ghost Gravel is soon to be the gravel ride of the summer.



Camping options incl Mikisew PP, private campgrounds, farmstay and Crown land.



Limited facilities. Plan accordingly.



Lake Bernard Bicycle Repair Shop, Sundridge. Outdoor DIY stands in Magnetawan, Sprucedale and Sundridge.