

# Escape from New York

Because even the most loyal New Yorker needs to flee the greatest city on earth sometimes.

## Muskoka, Ontario

### Eat well by the water

Cottage life used to mean forgoing the foodie spoils of the big city, but **Grand Electric** wanted to change that—so it brought its trendy downtown Toronto Tex-Mex offerings to the lake at its Muskoka location. You can't go wrong with the pork carnitas and a margarita (or a Mexican beer) while sitting right on the water on a hot summer day. And in Muskoka, you're never far from a cool dip in a nearby lake.

→ 2 James Bartleman Way, unit six, Port Carling (705-765-0381, [grandelectricmuskoka.com](http://grandelectricmuskoka.com))

### Get crafty

Head to lakeside **Muskoka Brewery** for a free tour of one of the region's many great suds hubs. Learn about the craft-brewing process, and sample a variety of the spot's many beloved beers, such as the Flagship Cream Ale, Kirby's Kolsch, Summerweiss and the award-winning Mad Tom IPA.

→ 1964 Muskoka Beach Rd, Bracebridge (705-646-1266, [muskokabrewery.com](http://muskokabrewery.com))

### Jam as the Canadians do

Seeing a show on the water at music venue **the Kee to Bala** has been a tradition for locals every summer since 1942. Get your fix of Canadian music staples with bluesy guitarist Kim Mitchell, the moody July Talk and rockers the Trews—all slated to perform this season.

→ 1012 Bala Falls Rd, Bala (705-762-3134, [thekee.com](http://thekee.com))

### Catch the wave

Frankies Surf Club—now a coffeehouse, clothing store, cocktail bar and music venue—was originally a penny arcade and dance hall throughout the '60s and '70s.

### INSIDER SECRETS

Locals give it to you straight.



"Scotch Whiskey ice cream from Belly Ice Cream Company is a summer must-try."  
—Dawn

"You're a short drive from amazing brewpubs like Sawdust City and Lake of Bays."  
—Victoria

"Cafe Wilgress is a charming spot with a European feel and an eclectic sharing menu."  
—Dave

"You can't come to Muskoka without a trip to Taco Stop."  
—Jan



Muskoka Brewery

### FUN FACT

Shania Twain's musical career began to take flight while performing at Muskoka's Deerhurst Resort in the late '80s.

The new owners resurrected the lakeside landmark, modernizing it while keeping the history alive. Didn't bring a bathing suit? No problem—pick one up from the impeccably curated boutique.

→ 2 James Bartleman Way, Port Carling (705-765-1287, [frankiesurfclub.com](http://frankiesurfclub.com))

### Rough it

**Algonquin Provincial Park** is famed for its idyllic natural setting; Bird-watching, biking, canoeing, fishing, hiking and swimming are all part of the appeal, and if you're looking to camp, both tents and cabins are available. You can also visit the on-site logging museum and art gallery. And you won't have to completely rough it. Flush toilets, rentals, a park store and even laundromats are available within the park.

→ Hwy 60 (705-633-5572, [ontarioparks.com](http://ontarioparks.com))

■ Lisa Lagace