



Upper Canada Village, near Cornwall, Ont., brings to life the 1860s. PHOTOS: ST. LAWRENCE PARKS COMMISSION

CHECKING IN

PIONEER VILLAGE ADDS TREE HOUSE GLAMPING



ROCHELLE LASH

Upper Canada Village is a living history museum that depicts life during the 1860s, on the eve of Confederation. The village recreates the pre-electricity era of the mid-19th century, and well before SIRI or AI, Netflix or GPS, when chores were done by hand and people travelled by horsepower. Upper Canada Village is a fun look at the past, with about 100 artisans and costumed animators bringing to life the work of blacksmiths, cobblers and cabinetmakers. The villagers chop their own wood and weave their own clothes. When the village opens for the season May 4, visitors will be able to explore more than 40 heritage buildings such as the schoolhouse, the church, farmhouses, a print shop, a bakery or three fully operational mills (flour, lumber and wool) powered by water. They can take horse-drawn rides or board a miniature train. In spring, the



Robin's Roost is a six-person tree house at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

newborn farm animals, especially the lambs and piglets, are an irresistible draw. Upper Canada Village also raises majestic Canadian horses, the country's national breed. They're a captivating sight when they are young and playful, and when they mature, at perhaps four years old, they go to work pulling the stagecoach or a plow. May is an exciting month, with

sheep shearing, Garden Days, Mother's Day festivities on May 13 and a Queen Victoria celebration on May 20. **Pioneer lodging:** Upper Canada Village is home to two charming sleeper options for lodging, in addition to several campgrounds. The Robin's Roost Treehouse, at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary, is a fun perch for six people. It's a new and rustic

IF YOU GO

Upper Canada Village is about 150 kilometres west of Montreal and 29 kilometres west of Cornwall. **Upper Canada Village:** May 4-Sept. 3, daily; Sept. 5-16, Wed-Sun.; adults, \$20, with discounts for seniors and juniors. 800-437-2233, 613-543-4328, [uppercanadavillage.com](http://uppercanadavillage.com); 13740 County Rd. 2, Morrisburg, Ont. Extra fees apply for some activities. Watch for themed weekends and Pumpkinferno in October and Alight at Night in December. **Robin's Roost Treehouse:** \$301 per night for up to six people, including use of BBQ, some kitchen facilities, private beach and larger beach access, canoe, nature trails, bike path, two passes to Upper Canada Village, with rides. **Montgomery House:** \$195 per night, for up to eight people. **Ontario Tourism, live chats at:** [ontariotravel.net](http://ontariotravel.net).

Robin's Roost has a BBQ, a microwave, a full fridge and a beautiful wraparound deck, ideal for morning coffee or al fresco suppers under the trees. You'll have a small private beach on the St. Lawrence (near the larger campground beach) for swimming and a canoe for paddling, plus eight kilometres of walking trails through nearby forests, fields and around wetlands and open water. Another lodging option is Montgomery House, an authentic 19th-century cabin on the edge of Upper Canada Village. It looks like the 1860s from the outside, but it is equipped with modern conveniences inside. Montgomery House has electricity, a full kitchen, two bathrooms with showers, a flat-screen TV and accommodations for six. **Dining:** Willard's Hotel serves lunch (and dinner during special evening events) with heritage-themed specialties such as the Ploughman's Lunch or the Tenant Farmer's Favourite Beef Stew. There are three more choices for casual fare: The Harvest Barn, a cafeteria, offers salads, sandwiches and a children's menu. The Café connected to the Village Store opens onto a veranda overlooking the village and a canal, so it's a picturesque spot. It's great for lemonade and grilled cheese sandwiches — with both the bread and the cheese made on site. You can also stop by the lively Cook's Tavern for a 19th-century-style sarsaparilla or ginger beer. (Cook's is a rather tame pub, without beer or wine. Only Willard's serves alcohol). **Beyond the Village:** Upper Canada Village is operated by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, an Ontario government agency that manages leisure facilities along the St. Lawrence River from Lancaster, Ont., near Cornwall, to Kingston. The Cornwall area includes the Upper Canada Golf Course, the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary, the scenic Long Sault Parkway, Farran Campground, Riverside-Cedar Campground and Upper Canada Village. From Montreal, boaters can cruise west along the St. Lawrence and dock at the Cryslar Park Marina. Cyclists, too, are in heaven here. The Great Lakes Waterfront Trail stretches more than 2,100 kilometres from Sault Ste-Marie in the west to the Quebec border at its eastern tip.

The scenic trail, mostly car-free, runs near the shore of the St. Lawrence River, winding through 114 communities and past farms, beaches and natural fields, wetlands and forests. [rochelle@rochellelash.com](mailto:rochelle@rochellelash.com) [twitter.com/rochellelash](https://twitter.com/rochellelash)

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