

An aerial photograph of a coastal property. In the foreground, a large, multi-story house with grey siding and a grey shingled roof is visible. The house features a prominent sunroom with a glass roof and large windows. A white deck with a railing surrounds the sunroom. The house is situated on a sandy area with several evergreen trees. In the middle ground, a rocky beach stretches along the coast, with a small inlet or cove. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a deeper blue further out. The sky is clear and blue.

CASOLENA

CASA DEL SOLE E DELLA LUNA · TOBERMORY

Long Weekend on the Bruce

The unhurried three-day plan we give our own friends: the Grotto done right, Flowerpot Island, Singing Sands at golden hour, and the slow mornings in between.

Three bookings, one grocery run

- **Reserve Grotto parking** the moment your dates are set. From May 1 to October 31, Parks Canada requires a parking reservation for the Cyprus Lake area: a 6-hour slot per vehicle, checked in at least two hours before the slot ends. Book through the official Parks Canada reservation service, and remember there are no changes, only cancel and rebook. Full guide: casolena.ca/grotto-parking-guide.html
 - **Book the Flowerpot Island boat** for a fair-weather morning. Blue Heron Cruises and Bruce Anchor Cruises both run glass-bottom trips from Little Tub Harbour; landing on the island adds a small Parks Canada fee at checkout.
 - **Do the big grocery shop on the drive up**, in Owen Sound or Wiarton. Selection thins out past Wiarton, and you'll want dinners covered.
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DAY ONE

Arrive and downshift

4:00 pm

Check in. Open every blind. Negotiate rooms; our money is on whoever claims Cielo first.

Late afternoon

Walk the shoreline. All 250 feet of it, slowly, twice.

Golden hour

Singing Sands, 15 minutes away: warm shallow water over long sand flats, a boardwalk through orchid habitat, and a sunset that shows off. Bring dinner or come back to the BBQ; the propane is on us.

Night

First campfire. Starter firewood is waiting by the pit, and the pit faces the bay on purpose.

DAY TWO

The famous stuff

Morning

Grotto day. Take the earliest slot you could reserve, arrive at the start of your window, and walk the Georgian Bay Trail to Indian Head Cove and the Grotto (30 to 45 minutes each way, proper shoes required). Swim if you dare; the water is unforgettable either way.

Lunch

Fifteen minutes north to Tobermory. Fish and chips at Little Tub Harbour is the traditional move.

Afternoon

Option A: the Flowerpot Island boat: shipwrecks through the glass bottom, then a couple of hours to hike to the flowerpot rock stacks and the lighthouse. **Option B:** stay ashore, wander the shops and dive culture of Little Tub, and walk out to the Big Tub lighthouse.

Evening

Home for a slow dinner. The kitchen has oils, spices and pans covered; the record player has the ambience covered.

DAY THREE

One more hour of lake

Early

If the water is calm, kayak morning: four singles and vests wait by the shore, June to September. Coffee first, paddle second, or the reverse.

10:00 am

Check-out. We know. The housekeeping schedule runs this house, not us.

Southbound

Stop at Lion's Head, 30 minutes along, and walk to the lookout over the white cliffs. It sends you home with the postcard.

VARIATIONS

- **Rainy day:** board games, vinyl, and the great room windows doing storm theatre.
- **With kids:** Singing Sands twice. No regrets.
- **Winter version:** no reservations needed at the park; see casolena.ca/tobermory-winter-guide.html

FROM OUR DOOR

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Singing Sands Beach | 15 min |
| Tobermory Harbour | 25 min |
| The Grotto | 30 min |
| Lion's Head | 30 min |

SLEEPS 8

4 BEDROOMS

250 FT OF SHORE