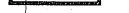
Trave



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Pointe Pelee

Ontario's national park is a naturalist's escape

WAS RAMBLING around southern Ontario with a group of Canadian travel writers last week. Most of them were from other parts of Canada and had never seen the great around Windorb before. As often happens, I rediscovered a lot of things rea around will core before the Society of American Travel Writers. They spent a week driving around that section of the southwestern area that many of the show so well: Tombe and London, Windows and Sarnia yrith a lot of stops in between.

We blinde them for only 24 hours, overrulpting at Whoels Inn in Chatham, triving through the Jarm country of triving through the Jarm country of

irving through the farm country of Easer Country, exploring Point Pelee National Park, and having lunch in

relations fars, and naying inner in Exemington.

Two done it all before, but when we drarted adding up the years it was too long ago to count. There is a soft green and blue look to plastro in spring, pale blue and white lettle over furred green fields surround-dy young crops and the water lowers of small towns.

IT'S TOO carly for the juice of fresh

trist Point Peice.

We approached it through the old red
frick village of Learnington, which
frore a sign over the street saying
"Learnington Welcomes Rirders" and
then followed Lako Eric, with its



1-of-a-kind traveler iris Jones contributing travel editor

lighthouses and small wooden summer cottages to the park.

The road runs past the park gate through a tunnel of trees between Lake Erie and the marsh, a world of wildflowers, cyclists, picnic tables and a sign that reads "Turtles Crossing." A carpet of purple Waterleaf ran away under the trees.

Point Pelos National Park is one of the 29 national parks in Canada, but it is the only one formed on the basis of its natural history. Its the most south-erly point of Canada, on the same lati-tide as northern California, so it's the only place in Canada where many of the plants and animals native to a southern climate are found.

AT LEAST two-thirds of the six square mile area of the park, smallest national park in Canada, are estail marshes. The marsh was even larger once but it was drained in the nine-teenth century to make room for the onion fields that still bloom outside the gates.



nature lovers delight in peering across the marsh from a positivelik observation point, and there's always the chance to Early settlers named this little pen-iasula Pt. Pelee, French for Bald Point, because it looked so barren when ap-proached from the lake. A film in the park museum shows the homesteads that once stood here and how tourism started early, when bathing suits came down to your knees and you had to crank cars.

The Point Peles national park offers many opportunities to

enjoy nature. Fishermen like the quiet and the wealth of fish.

Naturalists recognized the distinctive birds and southern plants by the turn-of-the-century, and by 1918 it was a park, although the tourists still came in bordes until the 1980s when the environment won out over the tourists.

Of course you can still bathe and fish and plenic there, but the park is really

preserved for the hundreds of plants, birds and animals that give this park its reputation in Canada.

TORTUES

There are a lot of exciting moments in the park but the moment when the voices rise is on the wooden observa-tion tower that looms above the marsh.

FROM HERE you can see the board-

Of course, you can still bathe and fish and picnic there, but the oark is really preserved for the hundreds of plants. birds and animals that give this park ito reputation in Canada.

wak stepping across the water littles of the marsh, the canoes winding though the cattalls and the T-shirts

he most popular time to visit Point Pepe National Park is in early spring, with birdwatchers photographing the birds on their northern migration, and in eptember when the Monarch butterlies cover the trees like blossoms.

terlies cover the trees like blossoms. I plan to come back to the area when the wonderful southern Ontario fruits and vegetables are in season, a great im to have a corn roast and a feed of freb peaches. At that time I would like to filow that sign that says "Ferry to Sanjusky" and take my first trip to Sanjusky" and take my first trip to Pele Island. Meantime, I follow my Canadian frieds to the Learnington Dock Restauthd, a rambling wood building restord at the end of a dock, where we will watch Lake Erie rumble and roll as we cat lunch and sip wine from the nearly Collo winery.

TAAT'S ANOTHER thing I'm going to dethis summer, take a wherey tour. I'm itso going to revisit Colosantis greehouse, watch the Canada goose mightion into Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuarjin Kingsville, and other woodrous thing on a warm day in southern Ontario.

tario.

Newby locations like that are like old Itends. Sometimes you don't see them for a long time and you forget how much fun they are.

For information contact the Canadian Government Office of Tourism in Detroj at 1900 First Federal Building, 1001 Woodward, Detroit 48226 or telephone 83-8866.

travel notes

If you have traveled across the border to Windsor, lately, you may have noticed a new hotel on the skyline. The 22-story Windsor Hillon opened on Riverside Drive in James, From the ding room and adjacent upstairs bar, an environment of blonds wood and black lacquer chairs, you look across a sheen of night water to the lighted skyline of Detroit.

of night water to the lighted skyline of Detroit.

The disting room specializes in Canadian food, it is coe of the finest dising rooms in the area now, with both food and service first-class. If you consider the exchange on the American foliar, prices are reasonable.

That exchange also makes the week-end getaway a good boy; \$49 per commodations (Friday or Saturday axrival), and no charge for up to two children who share the room.

Regular rates are \$49 a night single

and so charge for up to two children who share the room.

Regular rates are \$40 a night single or double \$40 a night riday, Saturday or Sunday.

You can now call a toll-free number for information about the many programs offered by the American Institute for Foreign Study, 192 Greenwich Are, Greenwich, Conn. 68130.

The Institute provides hundreds of yeaching copions, ranging, from one-week mini-towns to four-to-eight week campus and travel programs is Europe and the Orient, decinding homestay, crusies, college-livel programs.

Most programs are destined for promp people but learning programs are also available for adults. Call follows 1-20-243-245 from 0 am 6 am 6 by media.

Pleaze note that I said consider, which means that you should start checking the financial pages of your newspaper and taiking to your favorite bank advis-

and talking to your rawons... or.

They could go up. My rule is, check it out but "If in doubt, don't." By the way, I am a member of the American Automobile Association and therefore get all my travelor's checks free. Consider that too. It's one of mady advantages to AAA membership.

One of the best buys in the airline business is Republic Airline's \$15 Business Coach. For ten dollars above the regular coach class rate, you can fly Business Coach, which is as close to the old First Class as you'll find on most demostic airlines today.

Coach Class is three sents across You pay for our drinks. Business Class is compared and the drinks are free. The care and the same first the drinks are free. The care and the same free the drinks are free to th

The Ford Employee Recreation Asan (FERA), which represents all Ford Motor Company employes, offers travel programs that are often open to

the general public. If you are interested in any of the following Air Only rates, contact FERA at \$22.4155 or the travel agency of Hamilton, Miller, Hudson and Fayne at \$57.5145.

You can fly to Florida, for \$198 round trip, Palm Springs on special days at \$419.59 round-trip, Los Angeles or San Diego, Callif, for \$289 round-trip and Pheenix, Artiona on special dates for \$249 and up, round trip.

June through August 11 rates are \$245 to London or Frankfurt, \$305 to Munich, all one-way. August 25 through Sept. 28, one-way rates go up to \$230, London and Frankfurt, and \$285, Munich.

Not all of these trips are available to the public, but you can find out easily tenough by calling one of the above numbers.





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⊕ Pav Vallev