



One of the most underrated drives in Canada is along the north shore of Lake Superior between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay, Ontario. I have traveled this 700km stretch many times in the last 30 years. My home in Marathon being centralized, gives me the flexibility to venture east or west within half a day's drive.

Magnificent landscapes twist and turn between the few towns and First Nations reserves along the shoreline. You could easily take a month to travel this route exploring provincial park systems to name a few, Lake Superior, Neys, and Sleeping Giant. One hidden jewel along the way is Pukaskwa National Park, a world of its own. There is much to see and photograph within the local trail

system close to the camp grounds at Hattie Cove. Many folks use this as a jumpstart to kayak heading south 70km along this rugged shoreline with many secluded coves and sandy beaches to explore. Others can be dropped off by boat at the Parks boundary and backpack along the coastal trail system.

I keep more to the local trails in the area taking with me a Nikon D800,

Gitzo/Manfrotto tripods along with three lens, Nikon 17-35mm, 24-70, 70-200, all 2.8's. I find for the shooting I do this range of gear will cover most of my needs. Weather is a factor along Superior's coastline, which can change in an instant. It is best to dress according to the seasons, wind, rain, heat, bugs, snow and fog can be overwhelming at times. Taking care of your gear is just common sense in these elements, so ensure you invest in good quality camera bags and backpacks for peace of mind.

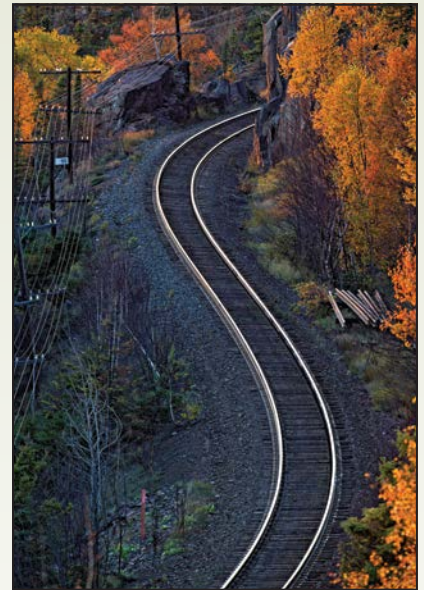
Speaking of fog, which can blanket the coastal shores for days during the summer this can be a great occasion to get creative. In these situations I work with "Off Camera Flash" (OCF) to give a



lighting edge to my imagery within foggy dull landscapes. There are a couple of approaches you can take either using a manufacturer's intelligent Speedlight strobe with either one or two flashes. With the Nikons you can use an on camera flash or the popup one if it is available as master and the (OCF) set to remote. This flash setup on a stand away from the camera will create a strong directional light creating a sunlight source on a dull day. You will have to do some research within your manual to set this up properly and experiment.

The other approach is to use all manual settings with the camera and strobes. Purchase at least two remote triggers, Pocket Wizards or equivalent. Set one on





your camera's hot shoe and the other connected to your (OCF) will trigger once the shutter is released. A good hand light meter is a must to get accurate ambient and strobe exposure readings. The possibilities are endless as to how you want to shape your image using (OCF) adjusting ambient and flash to extremes.

As you travel along the north shore make it a priority to visit the communi-

ties and stay in the area for a few days if possible. Most locals are open to giving tips as to where you will find unique places to photograph which could be historical for the region. Just west of Marathon (15km) just off the HWY is Mink Falls. This is a beautiful location to test your skills, using a tripod to create long exposures to get that fluid look of water from the falls and creek. Close to

Dorion is Ouimet Canyon, a large gorge cutting through the landscape which can be a challenge to photograph. Taking multiple images and stitching them together in your photo editing software to create a panoramic will make this a worthwhile visit.

From Wawa towards Sault Ste. Marie you travel through Lake Superior Provincial Park, hugging the coast with



some of the best scenery along the north shore. Katherine Cove, Sand River, Montreal River, Pancake and Batchawana Bays are worthwhile stops along the way with their own personalities.

Moose and deer are abundant around dusk by the HWY during the spring to fall seasons and can be quite hazardous if you do not maintain your alert. Winter along the north shore can be very rewarding, shaping the landscape into a high key pallet and working with its unforgiving moods. Be cautious when traveling this time of year with sudden flash freezes, whiteouts, and extreme cold fronts, preparation is in ones best interests.

The last couple of winters have seen Lake Superior freezing over, making it a paradise for ice caves, huge drifts and sculpting formations as far as the eye can see. Dressing in layers for warmth and protecting your camera and batteries is essential when photographing in these extreme environments. On clear cold days you can capture the warm colour of the setting sun piercing on shards of ice while living the moment out here on the Great Lake. ❄️



Born and raised in Stratford, Ontario, photography has been a passion for most of his life. Since the late 80's, Doug has been residing in Marathon on the north shore of Lake Superior. "The Canadian north shore of Lake Superior is one of the most rugged, moody and breathtaking landscapes anywhere, I am quite fortunate to call this backyard my home".

Doug's ability to express his vision is portrayed by understanding and capturing these decisive moments. His photographs have won several national and international awards over the years and have been featured in several publications. As a full time professional photographer he also is commissioned for industrial, commercial and portrait photography.

[www.dgphoto.com](http://www.dgphoto.com)

[www.doug-gibbons.artistwebsites.com](http://www.doug-gibbons.artistwebsites.com)