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Temagami shows visitors a really wild time

Europeans just didn't believe Caryn Colman when, during a recent holiday, she mentioned the wildlife known to saunter across her property.

"I told them we have bears here, sometimes in our backyard," says Colman, co-owner of Smoothwater Outfitters & Ecolodge in Temagami near Ontario's Finlayson Point Provincial Park. "We have moose in the backyard, and I've seen wolves."

Adventurers to the region often go in hopes of seeing some of these animals for themselves. And while no eco-tour guarantees spotting that kind of larger wildlife, Temagami is a near-north destination that attracts visitors from around the globe for its authentic wilderness experiences.

"Temagami, in terms of North America, is still very wild," Colman says. Smoothwater is among many facilities in the province's near north that arrange eco-touring of all kinds, as well as providing a base for those who want to fish or hunt. Colman and her husband, Francis Boyes, offer guided tours, including a four-night mother-and-daughter group outing in canoes. Costs run from about \$100 a day per person.