



## SARNIA, ONTARIO AREA INFORMATION

[Sarnia, Ontario](#) is the largest city on Lake Huron, and it's no wonder this place has been referred to as blue water land for centuries. Situated on the shores of Lake Huron where it meets the St. Clair River, Sarnia is Ontario's hub for the traditional petro chemical industry and the emerging bio chemical and clean energy economy. Sarnia is a community propelled by leading science and innovative collaboration.

Home to a population of 72,000 residents, the City of Sarnia offers a great quality of life with affordable living, excellent schools and healthcare facilities, and a thriving arts and culture scene together with exceptional recreation and leisure services. Sarnia strikes a balance between the feel of a close-knit community and a community on the move. It's easy to see why home is where the heart is, as Sarnia provides loved places and spaces with an international flavor, on spectacular blue water.



## Transportation

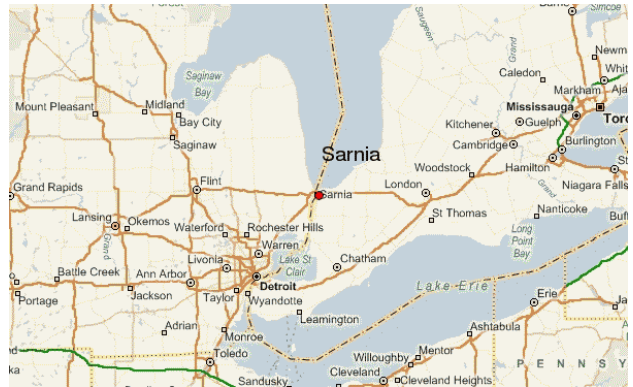
By rail, air, road and water, Sarnia is accessible to major markets and communities in Canada and the U.S.

### By Car

Getting around Sarnia by car is fairly easy. Most residents have a car, especially for weekend road trips.

### By Bike

Sarnia is a great city to explore by bike, whether cycling along the river, trails, or on our city streets. The city is committed to enhancing safe active transportation routes in the community.



The city of Sarnia [website](#) will help you understand how to use the cycling infrastructure whether you are riding your bike or driving your car.

### By Bus

Plan your trip using Sarnia Transit Route Maps & Timetables [here](#).



### By Boat

Sarnia is one of Ontario's busiest marinas and [recreational boating](#) is a pastime enjoyed by both locals and visitors alike.

### By Air

Air Canada has daily flights scheduled from [Sarnia Chris Hadfield Airport](#) with connections to all Air Canada destinations. As an option, [Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport](#) is approximately an hour and a half drive.

### By Train

The Toronto-Sarnia train is your best choice for travel in southwestern Ontario, allowing you to avoid traffic tie-ups and arrive safely, no matter the weather. Service throughout Canada provided by [Via Rail Canada](#).



## Schools

### Education in Public Schools

Canada is one of the few countries in the world that has a high public education standard making it possible to enroll your child into a public school. Primary education covers grades 1 – 6 and children will attend from the age of 4 to the age of 11. In secondary school, the education covers grades 7 – 12 in the majority of provinces. Children are obliged to attend school until the age of 16, although the mandatory leaving age in Ontario is 18. Those who graduate with a high school diploma in Canada will find that many countries worldwide will accept this as a qualification.

The school year begins in September and runs until June, with breaks for Christmas and Easter. The school usually starts between 8 am and 8.30 am and finishes between 2.30 pm and 3 pm. The schools have a wide variety of extra-curricular activities such as sports and crafts. Most schools offer programs to educate children in native studies, combat racism and involve members of the community in educating the children about their history and culture.

The vast majority of public schools have programs which offer support to international students, teaching French or English as a foreign language as required. The country has a program of offering education in both English and French and some schools will have lessons taught in both languages.

Sarnia's [Lambton Kent District Public School](#) serves over 22,000 elementary and high school students and offers a [French Immersion Program](#).

### Private Schools

- [Sarnia Christian School](#)
- [St. Clair Catholic Schools](#)

### International Schools in the area

Foreign System Schools, or International Schools, offer you the opportunity to pursue an education similar to the one in your country of origin. Registered with the Ministry of Education, they follow guidelines and curriculum identical to those in their home country. While there are no International Schools or IB Programs in Sarnia, there are others [here](#) in nearby Ontario cities.

**Contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.**

### Colleges/Universities

- [Lambton College](#)



*Lambton College*

## Area Recreation

Sarnia enjoys one of the warmest climates in Canada. The great outdoors awaits in this 4-season city where residents enjoy swimming at public beaches in the summer, strolling through woodland trails in the fall, snowshoeing in winter, and visiting our gardens and parks in the spring. When you're ready for a different pace – set your sights on downtown Sarnia for some craft beer, funky riverside eateries, and unique boutique shopping before hanging out on a patio and watching the sun melt into the St. Clair River.

- [Tourism Board of Sarnia](#)
- [Festivals](#)
- [Things to do in Sarnia](#)
- [Farmer's Markets](#)
- [Bluewater Trails](#)



*New Year's Eve in Sarnia*

## Registration

### Obtaining a Driver's License

As a foreign national you are able to use the license that was issued in your own country but for a limited period of time. Ontario allows you to drive on your own license for up to **60** days, but then you will need to make arrangements to exchange it for a Canadian license. If there is an agreement between Canada and your home country the exchange can be fairly straightforward, although there are some issuing countries which are not accepted by Canada so you will need to take a driving test there.

When you exchange your driving license you will need to do so at the provincial offices. You will need to show that you are a current resident of the area and should show visa documentation to support this. Ontario regulations will expect you to have an eye test, show that your current license is valid (and if this is not already in French or English then it will need to be translated), show proof of ID, proof of address, pay the relevant fee and if you have been driving for less than a couple of years then you may need to take a knowledge test. Each province deals with their own documentation so enquiries should be made to the ministry of transportation.

If you need to take a Canadian driving test then you should make yourself aware of the regulations in your particular province, as these vary across the country. You will need to apply for a novice license and this can be done from the age of 16. Drivers will find that most states have a graduated licensing program which encourages drivers to slowly build on their driving skills. You will be asked to take an eye test and a theory test on road signs, driving regulations and safe driving. Some provinces will expect a driver to take more than one practical test before a full license is issued.

Detailed information for Ontario can be found [here](#).

**Your IOR Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.**