

# Lake Ontario Facts

- Lake Ontario is the 14th largest lake in the world in terms of surface area.
- Its maximum length is 311 kilometers (193 miles) and its maximum width is 85 kilometers (53 miles).
- Lake Ontario is the smallest of all the Great Lakes in surface area (18,960 square kilometers / 7,340 square miles), but its waters run deep.
- Lake Ontario holds about four times the water volume (1,640 cubic kilometers / 393 cubic miles) as Lake Erie, although it is similar in width and length.
- It ranks fourth among the Great Lakes in maximum depth (244 meters / 802 feet), but its average depth (86 meters / 283 feet) is second only to Lake Superior.
- Lake Ontario has an elevation of 74 meters (243 feet) above sea level; 99 meters (326 feet) lower than its neighbor upstream (Lake Erie).
- Lake Ontario has a retention time (the measurement of time that water spends in a particular lake) of about 6 years.
- The drainage basin covers 64,030 square kilometers (24,720 square miles).
- The meaning of Ontario is Lake of Shining Waters based on Huron or Wyandot language.
- The province Ontario was named after the lake, and not vice versa.
- Babe Ruth hit his first major league home run at Hanlan's Point Stadium in Toronto. It landed in Lake Ontario and is believed to still be there.
- A lake on Saturn's moon Titan is named after Lake Ontario. It's called "Ontario Lacus."