

Exploring the Depths of Brockville's Scuba Paradise

领略潜水天堂——布罗克维尔之美

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When I first embarked on my diving journey in Canada's province of Ontario, it wasn't the cold, murky waters that beckoned me, but rather my insatiable love for the underwater world. As a passionate scuba diver, my thirst for underwater adventures led me to Brockville, an unassuming Canadian gem, approximately 47 miles south of Ottawa, the capital city of Canada.

踏上这趟安大略潜水之旅，吸引我的不是冰冷混浊的水域，而是我那永不满足的、对水下世界的热爱。我热爱水肺潜水，这次布罗克维尔的水下冒险亦因此而生，位于加拿大首都渥太华以南 75 公里的布罗克维尔是一颗低调的明珠。



Tucked along the majestic north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, the city of Brockville is a destination that promises more than meets the eye. Situated in the heart of the Thousand Islands region, this unsung city boasts a rich history dating back to the late 18th century when it served as a vital hub for trade and transportation along the river. Today, visitors can explore its historic downtown, adorned with elegant Victorian architecture, and immerse themselves in vibrant festivals and cultural attractions. The surrounding area features lush forests, serene lakes, and the enchanting charm of one of the largest archipelagos in the Americas—the chain of islands straddling northern New York and Canada.

布罗克维尔座落于秀丽的圣罗伦斯河北岸，这里可不只有美丽的风景，位于千岛地区的中心地带，这座城市源远流长的历史可以追溯到 18 世纪末。在当时，这里是沿河贸易和交通的重要枢纽；如今，游客们能够在历史悠久的市中心游历探索，欣赏优雅的维多利亚式建筑，或是沉浸在各种节庆、文化景点里。周边能见到森林蓊郁、碧波浩渺，还能静静观赏美洲最大群岛——横跨纽约到加拿大的岛链，感受自然魅力。



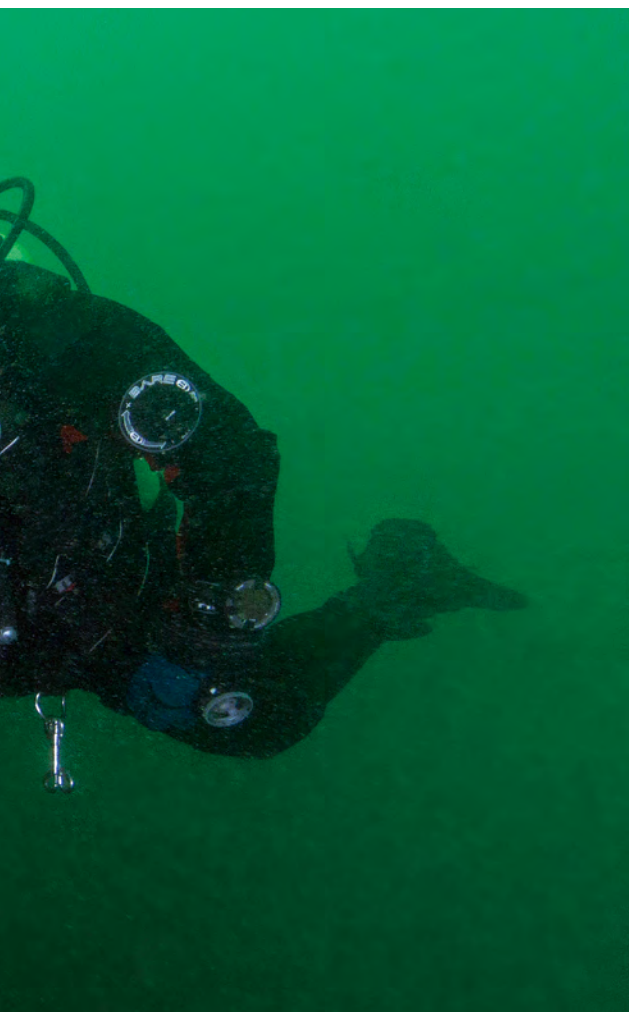
Brockville often plays second fiddle to its better-known Ontarian counterpart, Tobermory - the wreck capital of the world. Yet, this unsung city harbours a secret world beneath its waters, a world brimming with sunken vessels waiting to tell their tales. As an avid wreck diving enthusiast, the prospect of diving in Brockville filled me with excitement.

On our very first day of diving, we embarked on an exploration of the *Rothesay*, a historic 193-foot wooden side-wheeler that had navigated the river's waters from its construction in 1868 until its unfortunate sinking in 1889. The journey to reach the *Rothesay* took us approximately 15 minutes as we swam through the weedy shallows, where invasive gobies darted about. Upon reaching the 30-foot mark, the imposing wooden stern gradually emerged from the murky depths, revealing a shipwreck that had been significantly transformed over time. The combined effects of water, looters, and demolition exercises by the Royal Military College in Kingston had taken a toll on its once-grand

structure, rendering it almost unrecognisable as a ship.

Exploring the *Rothesay* led us over and under heaps of wooden boards and metal rigging. Looking into the vessel's nooks and crannies we discovered a thriving ecosystem of freshwater sponges, mussels, snails, and the occasional walleye. Finding other elusive fish, such as perch and small baitfish, took some tactful searching. It was as if nature had reclaimed this sunken relic, weaving new stories amid the wooden remnants.

The following day, our itinerary included a visit to the *Conestoga*, affectionately known as the 'Connie', a 253-foot wooden passenger/package steam freighter with a storied history. This ship, which first set sail in 1878, met its fiery end in 1922 when it succumbed to a devastating fire while navigating an upstream lock. In a bid to safeguard the locks, the decision was made to flush the *Connie* into the river, where it has remained ever since, resting beneath the shallow waters.



Exploring the wreck of the Robert Gaskin and enjoying the plethora of encrusting freshwater life
探索 Robert Gaskin 号沉船时，可以欣赏到大量的硬壳淡水生物

说到安大略，大部分人可能会首先想到有“世界沉船之都”的托伯莫里。然而，默默无闻的布罗克维尔水底下蕴藏着一个秘密世界，无数船骸沉于水底，等着和世界分享它们的故事。我一向热爱潜水，一想到这趟布罗克维尔潜水之旅，我的潜水狂热因子都兴奋了起来。

我们潜水之旅的第一站是 Rothesay 号，这是一艘历史悠久的木制轮船，58.8 公尺长，1868 年建成，持续航行到 1889 年不幸沉没。我们游了 15 分钟才看见 Rothesay 号，途中穿越杂草丛生的浅滩，看见外来种虾虎鱼四处游动。下潜到约 9 公尺时，我们慢慢能在混浊的海水中看见一段宏伟的木质船尾，继续前进，饱经风霜的 Rothesay 号出现在我们眼前。然而，在历经海水和掠夺者的摧残、金斯顿皇家军事学院的拆除后，它几乎面目全非。

我们在成堆的木板和金属缆绳中来回穿梭，想将 Rothesay 号看个透彻。在角落里，我们看见了一个欣欣向荣的生态圈：有淡水海绵、青口贝、蜗牛，时不时还能见到几尾梭鲈，再细细搜寻一番，我们也看到平时少见的鲈鱼和小饵鱼等——这感觉就像大自然改造了这片沉没的遗迹，在船骸间用生机写下新的篇章。

第二天，我们前往昵称“康尼号”的 Conestoga 号，长 77.1 公尺，这是一艘木制的货客两用蒸汽轮船，于 1878 年首次启航。1922 年，康尼号经过上游船闸时被火舌无情吞噬，为了保全船闸，只能将康尼号冲入河中。从此，它便停留于那浅水之下。



The various tones of green in plant-filled shallows of the Rothesay dive site
Rothesay 潜点浅滩中的植物呈现各种绿色调



Fighting the current to illuminate a waterlogged gear on the Conestoga shipwreck
抵抗着水流，以便照亮 Conestoga 沉船中浸水的齿轮

Fully equipped, we launched into the water and set off into the swirling current. Descending to the riverbed, we propelled ourselves along the port side of the ship. We whizzed by planks and the wooden hull structure, catching glimpses of fish darting through the water. It felt like an exhilarating descent, akin to a skydiver accelerating toward Earth.

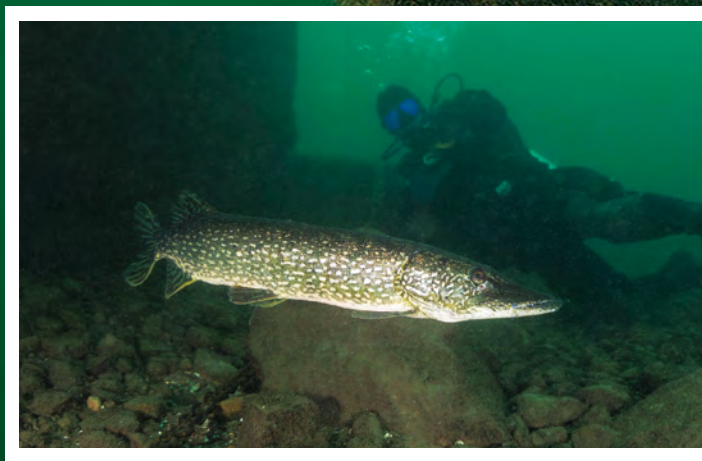
Our journey culminated at the stern of the ship, where we were treated to a real-life Planet Earth scene. Here, a school of walleye, valiantly swimming against the current, found themselves under siege by a grumpy-faced pike. In a flash, the walleye scattered like bullets, leaving the pike in hot pursuit of an elusive meal. Returning our focus to the Conestoga, we found ourselves captivated by its massive four-blade propeller, an intricate piece of machinery that still lay preserved beneath the river's surface. It offered fantastic photo opportunities, and my dive buddies and I couldn't resist exploring this colossal fragment of metal, partially buried in the sand. It was, without a doubt, the most captivating aspect of the shipwreck.

Our last dive in Brockville was to the Robert Gaskin, a vessel steeped in history dating back to its construction in 1863. After enduring numerous sinkings and salvage attempts, the Gaskin met its final fate on 18th September 1889. Now the ship rests on the riverbed in 60-feet of water.

穿戴完全部装备，我们潜入湍急的水流。下潜到河床后，我们沿着康尼号的左舷前进，从船舷旁快速经过时，能瞥见几只鱼在水中穿梭，所有人都心潮澎湃，仿佛跳伞运动员加速下坠一样令人兴奋。

这一潜的高潮发生在船尾，我们见到了最现实的自然生态。一群梭鲈坚毅地逆流而上，却发现自己被一群凶神恶煞的白斑狗鱼围攻。一瞬间，所有鲈鱼子弹般四散奔逃，白斑狗鱼在后紧追不舍，不让眼前佳肴就这样溜走。回到 Conestoga 号，巨大的四叶螺旋桨吸引了所有人的目光，这样精密的机械装置还留在河面之下，给了我们极佳的拍照机会。我们忍不住想更靠近，再多探索这一部分已经被泥沙掩埋的大家伙。这毫无疑问，就是沉船最大的魅力。

我们在布罗克维尔的最后一潜来到同样历史悠久的 Robert Gaskin 号。它于 1863 年建造，经历多次沉船、打捞之后，还是在 1889 年 9 月 18 日永远地留在水深 18 公尺的河床上。



A curious pike darted out between divers as we pulled our way up the current, along the side of the Conestoga ship
一只好奇的狗鱼在我们顺流而上时，沿着 Conestoga 号沉船的侧边穿过潜水员之间



Bass and perch swimming along at the base of the Conestoga shipwreck
在 Conestoga 沉船底部游动的鲈鱼



Scuba diver Joey peeking through a porthole on the Rothesay shipwreck
潜水员 Joey 从 Rothesay 号沉船的舷窗中窥视

To reach the Gaskin, we relied on a local charter to reach this offshore wreck. As we descended into the depths, a strong surface current challenged us, making the anchor line our lifeline. Fortunately, as we delved deeper, the current subsided, revealing all 113-feet of the Gaskin on the mucky riverbed. Exploring its deck revealed picturesque wooden railings, robust timber structures, and a relatively preserved hull. Surprisingly, the Gaskin had fewer fish swimming around its entity, an intriguing deviation from our previous wrecks. It was almost haunting to have such a barren wreck amidst the St. Lawrence's ghostly green backdrop. Finishing up our dive, we returned to the bow, encountering more striking features — a substantial hull breach and a rusty old anchor.

Visiting and scuba diving in Brockville left an indelible mark on my soul. In this city where the land meets the river, I uncovered a world where time stands still, and history is preserved in the silent depths. This enchanting destination didn't just nurture my love for underwater critters; it ignited

a fervent historian's fire, yearning to learn more about the enigmatic tales of yesteryears. **EZ**

我们找了当地的包船带我们靠近这艘离岸沉船，下潜时，突然一道强劲的表面流迎面而来，一瞬间，锚线成为了我们的生命线，幸好随着我们继续下潜，表面流随之减弱，这才得以看清水中景象——Gaskin 号长达 113 英尺（约 34 公尺）的身躯静静地躺在泥泞的河床上。我们在甲板上看见华美的木质栏杆、坚固的船体结构和相对保存完整的船体。然而，和前两艘船不同，Gaskin 号周围几乎没有什么鱼，一艘了无生机的沉船加上圣罗伦斯河鬼魅般的绿色河水，所有人都有些毛骨悚然。结束潜水后，我们回到船头，又有了新发现——船体上的巨大缺口和锈迹斑斑的船锚。

布罗克维尔的旅程为我的灵魂添了一笔浓墨重彩，在这座陆河交汇的迷人城市，我看见了一个时间静止的世界，寂静的水下世界保存着过去的故事。这趟潜水之旅不只培养了我对水下生物的热爱，更燃起了我对历史的热情，我开始渴望了解这些船骸、这片水域的背后究竟藏着什么样神秘的故事。|



Brockville

✈ Getting There 交通

Travellers can reach Brockville by flying into Toronto, Ottawa or Montreal international airports and taking ground transport from there. There are several ground transportation options available. Renting a car at the airport is a convenient choice, as it allows for a 1.5 to 3.5-hour drive to Brockville. Alternatively, Via Rail provides train services to Brockville from Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

先乘飞机抵达多伦多 / 渥太华 / 蒙特利尔国际机场，再乘坐地面交通工具前往布罗克维尔。机场提供租车服务，开车约 1.5 ~ 3.5 小时就能抵达布罗克维尔，十分方便。或是搭乘火车，Via Rail 有从多伦多 / 渥太华 / 蒙特利尔到布罗克维尔的火车班次。

🗣 Language 语言

The official languages of Canada are English and French. Ontario, being one of the provinces of Canada, is a bilingual province, and both English and French are recognised as official languages. However, the majority of the population in Ontario primarily speaks English.

加拿大官方语言为英语、法语，安大略省亦同，但主要说英语较多。

💰 Currency 货币

The currency used in Canada is the Canadian Dollar, abbreviated as 'CAD' or represented by the symbol '\$'.

加拿大使用货币为加拿大元，会简称为 CAD 或以符号 \$ 代替。

🤿 Dive Operator 潜水业者

Scuba divers can fill their tanks, rent gear or hire a boat charter with the dive outfitter Dive Brockville Adventure Centre.

Dive Brockville Adventure Centre 提供填充气瓶、租借装备、包船等服务。

🛂 Visa 签证

The visa or travel document you need to visit Canada depends on your citizenship and the purpose of your visit. Here are some common types of visas and travel documents for Canada:

1. Visitor Visa (Temporary Resident Visa): If you are from a visa-required country, you will need a Visitor Visa to enter Canada for tourism, visiting family or friends, or for business purposes.
2. Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA): Some travellers, including those from visa-exempt countries, may need to obtain an eTA to fly to Canada.
3. Transit Visa: If you are passing through Canada on your way to another country and your country of citizenship requires a visa, you may need a transit visa..

签证或旅行证件取决于旅客国籍和旅游目的，以下为加拿大常见的签证及旅游证件类型：

1. 停留签证：来自非免签国家的旅客如果想要来加拿大观光旅游、探访亲友、商业出差，则需在入境前申请停留签证。
2. 电子旅游观光签证 (eTA)：特定国家（包括免签国家）的旅客需要申请 eTA 才能够入境加拿大，申请后会经电子系统与护照相连，发行日起五年，或护照过期时失效。
3. 过境签证：来自非免签国的旅客，若需于加拿大中转则需申请过境签证。

💡 Electricity 电源

In Canada, the standard electricity supply is 120 volts AC (alternating current) at a frequency of 60 Hertz (Hz). This electrical system is similar to that in the United States. Canadian electrical outlets typically have two flat, parallel pins (Type A or Type B plugs) or three pins, including a grounding pin (Type B plugs).

120V/60HZ，和美国类似。插座为两脚扁型 / 两脚扁 + 圆型接地脚。