

## MISSION

**Preserving a ribbon of wilderness,  
for everyone, forever.**

## VISION

The Bruce Trail secured within a permanently protected natural corridor along the Niagara Escarpment.

## VALUES

Commitment | Integrity | Stewardship | Collaboration | Respect



Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

# Tips on hiking the Bruce Trail End-to-End

Hosted by Ruth Moffatt

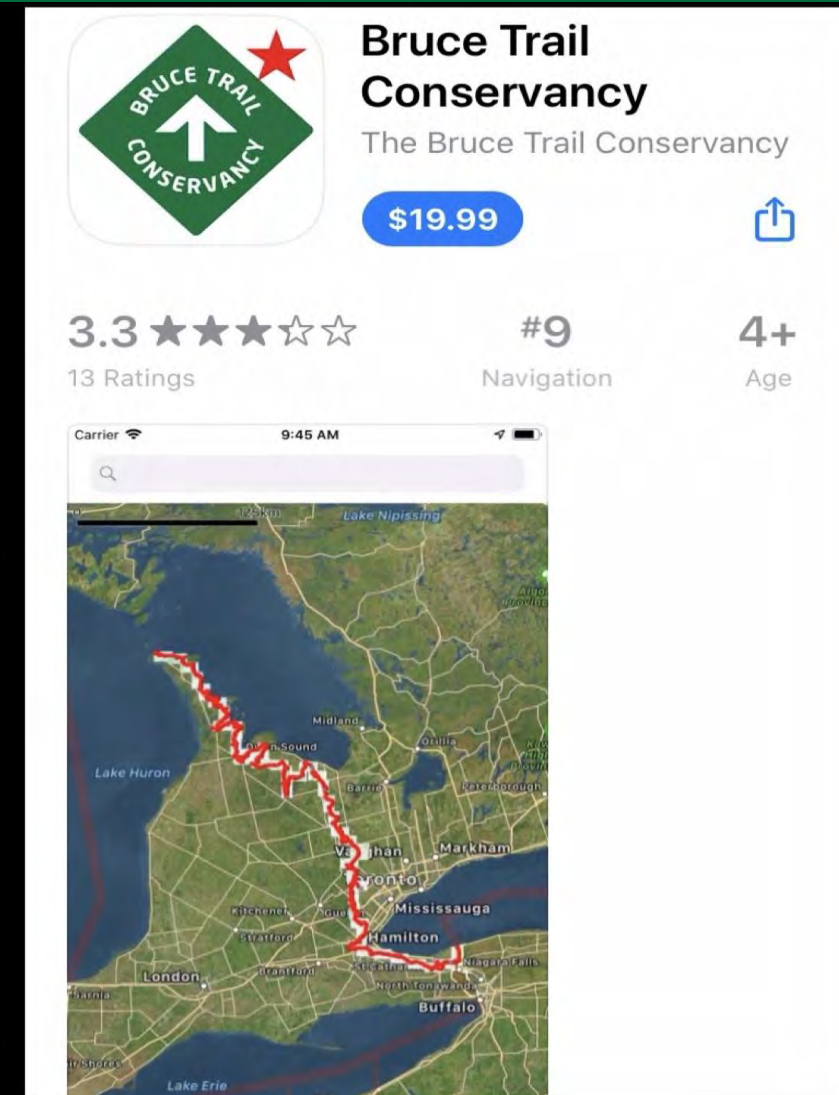
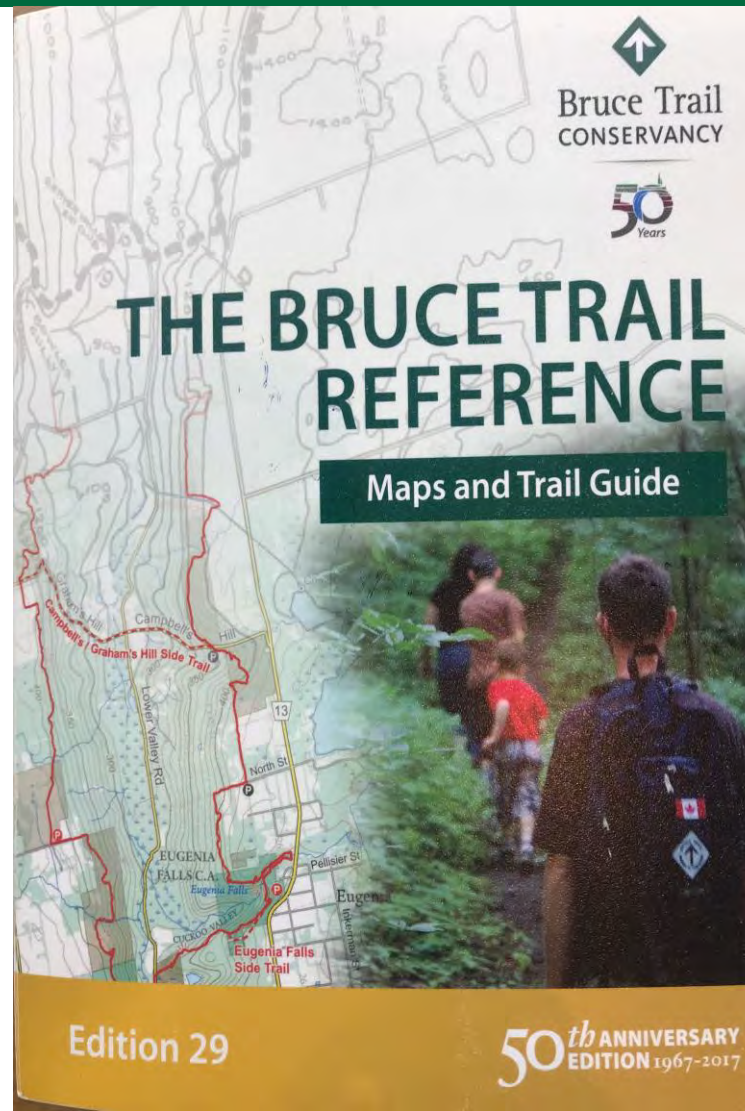
Webinar May 7, 2020



# Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY

## Resources

- <https://bruce-trail.org>
- Club websites
- Maps and Apps
- Membership:  
<https://bruce-trail.org/pages/get-involved/membership>
- On-line Hike Schedule  
<https://bruce-trail.org/pages/explore-the-trail/hike-schedule>





- <https://brucetrail.org/pages/explore-the-trail/hike-schedule>

< June		< 2019 > July				August >	
Month	List	Week	Day	Posterboard			
Sun June	1 Ganaraska Trail End to End Rouge Valley Radial Trail, Hamilton	2 Ganaraska Trail End to End Willey Road – Short Hills Easy Nature Ramble Tuesday Evening Not-the-Bruce Trail Hike	3 Malcolmson Park IE2E: Davidson Blvd ST 55.1 to Old Guelph Side Trail 66.0 Good Companions – Felker's Falls Walk for Health and Fun – West Hamilton	4 Jordan Spring Valley Jersey Side Rd	5 NOTL Loop Burlington Waterfront Evening Hike	6 Niagara End to End #4 Quarry Road to Staff Avenue ORTA Pine Farms Orchard Waubesaushene to Midland Woodend Conservation Area Crain Lake to Halfway Dump.	
7 Mike and cherry&plum picking Peninsula: Best Loop Hike. Beldine/Cedarvale Ravine Lindenwood Loop Youth Hike – Decew More events	8 Limehouse Loops Radial Trail, Hamilton Rotary Park STONEY CREEK PIZZA Extended Evening Walk	9 Willey Road – Short Hills Tuesday Evening Not-the-Bruce Trail Hike	10 Lock 3 Loop Hikers R Us – Scotsdale Farm/Silver Creek 13807 Trafalgar Rd N. Georgetown Good Companions – Dundas Rail Trail Walk for Health and Fun – West Hamilton An evening walk in Owen Sound	11 Jordan Hiking the Sixteen Mile Creek Valley The Palisades Loop	12 NOTL Loop Burlington Waterfront Evening Hike	13 Scenic hike and beach (Awenda) Niagara End to End #5 Grimsby Kinsmen Park Mulmer Loops Cotswold Way & Bruce Trail Friendship Trail More events	
14 Louth Conservation Area	15 Happy Wanderers – Mountsberg Conservation Area Radial Trail, Hamilton Brick Works for lunch	16 Willey Road – Short Hills Easy Nature Ramble Tuesday Evening Not-the-Bruce Trail Hike	17 Merrit Island Grimsby 0.0 to Lewis Road Side Trail 11.1 (A) Iroquoia Bruce Trail End to End in 11 parts Good Companions – Dundas Valley CA/Sanctuary Park Walk for Health and Fun – West Hamilton	18 Jordan Limehouse Combo Loop Chris Walker Loop	19 NOTL Loop Burlington Waterfront Evening Hike	20 Ganaraska Trail End to End Conservation Trail #1- Allegany State Park Avon Trail End to End Part 1 Cave Springs Witch Hunt Twelve Mile Creek Loop More events	
21 Ganaraska Trail End to End Memorial Forest Lock #1	22 Radial Trail, Hamilton Happy Wanderers – Niagara Gorge	23 Willey Road – Short Hills Silent Valley/Bognor Marsh Beaver Springs Side Trail Loop Tuesday Evening Not-the-Bruce Trail Hike	24 Rotary Park Hikers R Us – Tiffany Falls to Dundas Trail Centre Good Companions – Waterfalls to Dundas Valley CA Walk for Health and Fun – West Hamilton An evening walk in Owen Sound.	25 Jordan Dundas Peak	26 NOTL Loop Burlington Waterfront Evening Hike	27 Hardy Lake, Muskoka & Ribfest Woodend Conservation Area Dump to Dump	



## **Why hike the Bruce Trail End-to-End?**

- For the beauty - the flora, fauna and scenic views
- Photography and birding
- For the sense of accomplishment
- For the badges
- For the camaraderie of group hikes
- For physical and mental health



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Scenic views...



Inglis Falls, Sydenham Bruce Trail  
Photo: A. Smith



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Camaraderie...



First ever Steeltown Stomp – March 26, 2016



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For the badges...



<https://brucetrail.org/pages/explore-the-trail/badges>





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Photo: J. Borley



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## The Bruce Trail Distances Section by Section

Niagara 83.3km

Iroquoia 121.8

Toronto 50.3

Caledon 71.3

Dufferin 56.3

Blue Mountains 67.3

Beaver Valley 119.9

Sydenham 174.4

Peninsula 167.0

**Total 911.6\***

\*Allowing for about 20-25km per day, the entire trail will take a person 35-45 days.

\*Allowing for about 10-15km per day, the entire trail will take a person 60-90 days.



## Considerations and Logistics for Hiking an End to End

<p><b>WHEN/ABILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What time of the year</li><li>• Multi-day / multi week or non-stop</li><li>• What time of the day</li><li>• Seasonal considerations</li><li>• Is your fitness level ready for hiking?</li></ul>	<p><b>DISTANCE/TRANSPORTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily trail distance</li><li>• Getting to and from the trail each day</li><li>• Group hike or solo</li><li>• Available parking</li></ul>
<p><b>ACCOMMODATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Camping/tent/trailer</li><li>• Motels</li><li>• Bed &amp; breakfasts</li><li>• Air B&amp;B</li></ul>	<p><b>HIKING WITH OTHERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-line hike schedule</li><li>• Hikes are led by certified hike leaders</li><li>• Hike leader certification is available through many of the clubs*</li></ul>

\*Offered in cooperation with Hike Ontario

## **Sample 15 Day Plan for the Peninsula Section Using Bruce Trail Reference Ed. 29**

- Day 1. Warton to Mallory Beach Side Trail (10.4km + ST)
2. Mallory Beach Side Trail to Coveney's ST (11km +ST)
3. Coveney's ST to Cape Croker Park Gate (11km +ST)
4. Cape Croker Park Gate to Hope Bay (10.9km)
5. Hope Bay to Jacksons Cove Road (8km)
6. Jacksons Cove Road to Rush Cove Road (9.8km)
7. Rush Cove Road to Barrow Bay (6.2km)
8. Barrow Bay to Lion's Head(13.9km)
9. Lion's Head to Cape Chin South Rd(16.4km)
10. Cape Chin South Rd to Cape Chin North Rd(10.3km)
11. Cape Chin North Rd to Lindsay Rd 40(12.4km)
12. Lindsay Rd 40 to Crane Lake Rd (7.9km)
13. Crane Lake Rd to Halfway Dump Rd(14.1km +ST)
14. Halfway Dump Rd to Little Cove Rd (16km +ST)
15. Little Cove Rd to Tobermory(8.1km)

Always check  
[brucetrail.org](http://brucetrail.org) for trail  
updates, re-routes  
and closures before  
embarking on a hike.



## Trail Comparisons

	<b>Bruce Trail</b>	<b>Appalachian</b>	<b>Pacific Crest</b>	<b>Continental Divide</b>
<b>Length</b>	911km	3,500km	4,265km	4,989km
<b>Highest Elevation</b>	540m	2,025m	4,009m	4,352m
<b>Average time to hike</b>	30 – 60 days	5-7 months	5 months	6 months



## How long is the Bruce Trail?

- 911km

## How far is the drive from Queenston to Tobermory?

- 377km

## Where can I stay?

- Plan to stay in one spot and commute from your accommodations. For the entire trail, this could be accomplished by staying in six or seven spots.





## **Accommodation**

## **Section of Trail**

### **Location**

Grimsby

Niagara, Iroquoia and Toronto

Orangeville

Caledon and Dufferin

Collingwood

Blue Mountain and one day of Beaver Valley

Flesherton

Beaver Valley and one day of Sydenham

Owen Sound

Sydenham

Lion's Head

Peninsula



## Hiking the trail end-to-end.

- **Club organized end-to-ends**

Each of the nine clubs run their own end-to-ends. In this manner, you drive to the a meeting place where a bus will take you to the start of the hike. You will hike back to your vehicle. These club event hikes are typically \$20 or \$25 per day and are self-paced. There are checkpoints along the way where you can replenish your water and often have a snack. These end-to-ends are for experienced hikers, are often 25km or more and sell-out very quickly.



## Hiking the trail end-to-end with others.

- **Using one vehicle** - Drop your hiking partner(s) at the start **point a**. Drive the vehicle to the end where it will be parked at **point b**. The first group hikes towards **point b**. The second group, after parking the car, will hike towards the start **point a**. When the two groups meet on the trail, they will pass the keys to the group that is heading toward the vehicle at **point b**. When that group arrives at **point b** they will drive the vehicle to **point a** to pick up the others.
- **Using two vehicles** - All hikers meet at **point a** and carpool in one or more vehicles to **point b**. Everyone hikes back to **point a**. One or more drivers will then take the earlier drivers back to their cars at **point b** to pick up their vehicles after the hike is finished.





## Hiking the Trail Solo

- **Hiking Solo** – If you are on your own, you may choose to hike an in/out of the trail thus completing it twice.
- **Trail Angels** – Many of the clubs have volunteer trail angels who will meet you and others and drive you to your starting point. Check the specific club website for details on trail angels.
- **Taxi** – Most larger towns have a taxi service or Uber.
- **Bicycle** – Ride your bike to your starting point and hike back to your vehicle.
- **B&B Hosts** – Sometimes, your hosts will be willing to help out with getting you or your group to your start. There is sometimes an added fee – check in advance



## Hiking with Children

- Several of the clubs offer badges for children – Niagara, Iroquoia, Caledon and Peninsula Clubs. Aim to achieve the goals of the badge before embarking on a section end to end. This will give everyone a taste of what it is like.
- Keep the distances shorter 5-7km
- Hike once a week closer to home and when you are further away, make a vacation of it. Make hiking part of each day.
- Go on one of the club-organized hikes for children
- Avoid bad weather hiking if possible.



## Club Websites and Trail Angels

- <http://niagarabrucetrail.club> 
- <http://www.iroquoia.on.ca> 
- <http://www.torontobrucetrailclub.org>
- <http://caledonbrucetrail.ca> 
- <https://dufferinbrucetrailclub.org> 
- <http://www.bmbtc.org> 
- <http://beavervalleybrucetrail.org/index.html> 
- <https://www.sydenhambrucetrail.ca/the-club>
- <https://www.pbtc.ca>

## On-line Hike Schedule

- <https://hikes.brucetrail.org>



**Camping** - There is a list of campgrounds found on the Bruce Trail Conservancy website.  
[https://brucetrail.org/system/downloads/0000/1196/Bruce\\_Trail\\_Campground\\_List\\_2018-09.pdf](https://brucetrail.org/system/downloads/0000/1196/Bruce_Trail_Campground_List_2018-09.pdf)

**Things You Need to Know about Camping on the Trail:**

- Camping along the Trail not in the designated campgrounds is considered trespassing.
- The Bruce Trail runs through land that is owned by over 1000 different landowners, thanks to generous agreements with those land owners. Those agreements can be jeopardized when the Trail is not used appropriately, and in some cases trail ends up being re-routed, often along roads.

**Help us keep the Trail along the Niagara Escarpment. Please camp only in designated campgrounds.**

Through-hikers need to consider other options for accommodation

Pursuing a full End-to-End of the Bruce Trail as a through-hike using only camping for accommodation is not realistic given how few and far between the campgrounds are.

**One of the strategies for the Bruce Trail Conservancy is to create more overnight rest areas (ORA's) along the trail.**



## Challenges Along the Way and Hiking With Dogs

- Dogs must be leashed at all times.
- Stiles can be challenging for your dog to get over.
- Parts of the trail do not allow dogs primarily where there is livestock – please obey all signage as failure to do so could result in loss of access.
- Electric fences are fairly common and if your dog gets a shock, it could bolt.
- Presence of wildlife could present a concern.
- Accommodation could be a concern with a dog. Check with owners.
- Poison ivy is very common throughout the trail.
- Ticks
- Mosquitoes, black flies
- Ice, snow and mud.



## Sample Log

A simple log is all that is required. Indicate on a spreadsheet or a piece of paper the section of trail, the date and where your started/stopped. Use one page for each section of trail. You can do a piece of one section and jump over to another. However you complete the trail is entirely up to you.

Examples:

### **Iroquoia Trail**

January 4/20 Started in Grimsby at Gibson St/ Finished at the top of Woolverton Rd

January 5/2- Started at the top of Woolverton Rd/Finished at the Devil's Punchbowl.

### **Iroquoia Trail**

January 4/20 Started in Grimsby at 0.0km Finished at 4.7km

January 5/ 20 Started at 4.7km Finished at 19.4



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The Beginning at the Cairn in Queenston



The End at the Cairn in Tobermory (signs are optional)



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It's a good hike when someone brings butter tarts for the morning snack...or to enjoy after the hike...or at the end...or....



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## VISION

The Bruce Trail secured within a permanently protected natural corridor along the Niagara Escarpment.

[brucetrail.org](http://brucetrail.org)

 [TheBruceTrailConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/TheBruceTrailConservancy)

  [@brucetrail\\_btc](https://www.instagram.com/brucetrail_btc)

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