

## Pretty River Valley Loop Hike

Approximately 6 km

Degree of Difficulty: Strenuous

Time: 3 hrs.

**Driving Directions:** Leaving Collingwood, travel south on Hurontario St/County Road 124 through Nottawa. Turn right at Nottawasaga 33/34 Sideroad and follow this road west. Approximately 400 meters past the Blue Mountains-Clearview Townline, you will notice a parking lot on your left. Leave your car in the parking lot and follow the road west for approximately 400 m. As you come around the second bend in the road you will notice a small clearing on your right as well as a white blaze and a Bruce Trail sign. Your hike begins here.

On the main trail you cross a stile and skirt a field, heading west. You climb steeply through scrubby growth with views to the south over the Pretty River Valley. The trail enters a transition forest and descends a steep hill. A piece further on the Pretty River Side Trail exits to the right. Follow the blue blazes north through mixed bush to Sundown Lake, a suitable place for a picnic. Shortly after leaving the lake, the trail turns right onto an old logging road. It leaves and crosses the track several times, crosses a streambed and heads through overgrown fields. The trail heads uphill into the bush and ends at the Main Trail. When you reach the Main Trail turn left and head southeast down hill. You will cross the stream several times on your way down. As you near the bottom of the valley the Trail makes a "U" turn and heads north through the cedars back to where you entered the Pretty River Side Trail. Continue east on the Mail Trail (white blazes) to the starting point of the hike.

## FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The main trail is marked with white blazes on trees, fence posts, stiles, and rocks.



Double blazes indicate turns.

Left



Right



Side trails are marked with blue blazes and some lead to lookouts, water, and campsites.

Hike only along the blazed trail especially on farmland. Do not take shortcuts.

Leave the trail clean and carry out all litter.

## JOIN THE BRUCE TRAIL CLUB

Application for Membership

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Bruce Trail Association  
P.O. Box 857  
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3N9

Phone 1-800-665-HIKE (4453)

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



# HIKE and SNOWSHOE the BRUCE TRAIL in BLUE MOUNTAINS and COLLINGWOOD AREA



The Bruce Trail winds its way through this area past some of the most spectacular scenery and lookouts.

You are welcome to join the Blue Mountain Bruce Trail Club on any of its organized hikes, which are scheduled throughout the year. You will find a hike, that appeals to you, led by a club member who knows the Trail. You will also meet some great people. Family groups are welcome.

**HIKERS USE  
THE BRUCE TRAIL  
AT THEIR OWN RISK**

## **Standing Rock & Caves Side Trail Loop Hike**

**Option A)** 2.2 km **Time:** 1 hr.  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

**Option B)** 3.0 km **Time:** 2 hrs.  
Degree of Difficulty: Strenuous

**Driving Directions:** Leaving Collingwood, travel south on Hurontario St/County Road 124. At Duntroon turn right onto County Road 91 and travel west to the end. Turn right (north) at the Osprey - Clearview Townline. 1 km past the "No Exit" sign is a parking lot at the north end of the road.

Your hike begins as you step into the forest. Turn right on to the white blazed trail. Follow the main trail through mature forest for about 1.5 km before you will notice the blue blazed sign for the 200 ft long Singhampton Side Trail on the left. You follow the side trail until you come to the main trail:

### **Two Options:**

- A)** You turn left on to the white blazed trail, which follows the top of the escarpment and you will see the large crevices of the Standing Rock Caves from above. And if you keep going on the white trail, you return to the parking lot.
- B)** You turn right on the white blazed trail and you descend through a cut in the cliff and drop steeply to a stream at the base of the escarpment. There you will see a blue blazed Side Trail sign for the 700 m long Standing Rock and Caves Side Trail. Soon you will enter the rock crevices and climb large boulders up the escarpment, where you rejoin the Main Trail. Here you keep to the right and in 500m you are back to the parking lot.

## **Margaret Paul Side Trail Loop Hike**

Approximately 4.5 km  
Degree of Difficulty: Moderate  
**Time:** 2 hrs.

**Driving Directions:** Leaving Collingwood, travel west on Mountain Road to Mountain Drive. Turn left here and turn left again onto Scenic Caves Road and follow this road to the top of the escarpment. Continue west on 15th Sideroad through Banks to the 6th Line. Turn right onto the 6th Line and drive north to the end of the road. You can park your car here.

The Main Trail proceeds down a steep hill to a foot bridge that crosses Indian Brook. Follow the main trail up the hill where it winds north easterly along the north side of the ravine. Watch for a small flowerpot-shaped rock formation created by the waves of an ancient glacial lake. The Main Trail winds its way through hardwood bush and follows a small stream until it emerges in an open field. Follow the trail north along the edge of the field for approximately 1 km. After entering more hardwood bush and climbing a steep, but short, embankment you will emerge onto 18th Sideroad. Turn left and follow the road west along the Margaret Paul Side Trail (blue blazes). At the 6th Line the trail turns left and follows the unopened roadway south. Continue to follow the blue blazes, which wind their way through a short stretch of hardwood forest and open fields before rejoining the Main Trail. When you reach the Main Trail turn right and proceed down the ravine, across the bridge, up the other side and back to your car. Hope you had a great hike!

## **Osler Bluff - Russ McConnell Side Trail Loop Hike**

Approximately 3 km  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy  
**Time:** 1 hr.

**Driving Directions:** Leaving Collingwood travel west on Mountain Road. Turn left onto Grey Road 19 to drive up the mountain. At 4th Line turn left and turn left again at the 6th Sideroad at Gibraltar. (From this point it is dirt road only) During snowplowing season you are forced to stop after approx 4 km at the side of the road and you must walk/snowshoe for another 1/2 km till you see a Bruce Trail sign on the right side: Russ Mc Connell Side Trail. During the other seasons you drive for approx 4 1/2 km and park the car on a makeshift parking area on the right side of the dirt road just past the Russ McConnell Side Trail.

If this is your first time here, follow the blue blazed Russ McConnell Side Trail through mature maple and pine forest for approx. 1km to the Main Trail. Here you turn left on to the white blazed main trail, which climbs onto a ridge. Soon the trail nears the escarpment edge and follows along the Osler Bluffs, with look-outs over the Pretty River Valley, Nottawa, Wasaga Beach, Georgian Bay and if you are lucky Christian Island. Before you come to the road, you might hear the water flowing in the spring below the ground, also in this area you experience some large crevices on the right... Finally you come to the 6th Sideroad. At the road turn left and follow the white blazes and they will lead you back to the parking lot.