The theme for the 2019 Bruce Peninsula Daytrip Companion is: PLAN AHEAD! Don’t waste your vacation trying to get to places that are already full!

Don’t waste your vacation trying to get to places that are already full!

The whole point of taking a holiday is not having to plan and schedule everything. We get it.

But if it’s the Saturday of a long weekend and you don’t have reservations, you probably won’t be able to get in at the Grotto. Parking at the Grotto can be reserved online (see article page 3) and most summer weekends will probably be entirely booked in advance. Before you leave your driveway, make sure you’ll be able to get in (parkscanada.gc.ca/grotto is the best way to check).

On long weekends, even Tobermory’s boat tours are often booked solid. The secret is: PLAN AHEAD and book online. On windy days, check on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook to make sure the tourboats are running.

For the village of Tobermory and everywhere else on the peninsula, it’s business as usual, even on long weekends — planning not required. There may be lineups at restaurants, especially at Tobermory and Sauble, but you’ll always find a place to lay your towel at Sauble and a place to park your car in Tobermory and Wiarton.

You wanted to go the Grotto, but the parking spaces are already booked for the day. Do not despair. Your trip is not ruined.

Almost as Cool as the Grotto
Grotto Booked? Don’t Despair. Your Trip is Not Ruined.

Challenging to get to. Here are our favourites:

• If you’re looking for a spectacular lookout you won’t forget, be sure to take a trip to Lion’s Head Provincial Nature Reserve (see photos at left and page 10). If you hike the trail along the escarpment any day during the summer you might be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of climbers enjoying the cliffs. The park is also known for the presence of nationally and provincially rare plant species as well as ancient white cedars found along the cliff’s edge. Parking is available at the Bruce Trail parking lot at the S bend on Moore Street. Then use the Moore Street side trail to meet up with the main Bruce Trail. Best on weekdays; may be overcrowded on long weekends.

• Jones Bluff Loop (Bruce Trail) on Cape Croker. A long, easy walk (over 7km) around a bluff with many scenic lookout offering stunning views of Cape Croker, Georgian Bay and various islands. No facilities; not enough signage, but gorgeous (see photo page 10).

• Devil’s Monument, located just off the Bruce Trail, between Cape Chin and Dyers Bay. Devil’s Monument is the largest of the peninsula’s flowerpots (see photo page 2). It’s about 75m inland from the shore, in a forest. A few metres away, a sizeable underwater stream explodes out of a cliff. A challenging, slippery trail leads down to pristine cobble/bedrock Georgian Bay shoreline. Access via Borchardt Road parking lot (Cape Chin North Road) or Dyers Bay parking lot.

The lookouts at Lion’s Head Provincial Park are well worth the hike. A rock climbing hot spot, you might even be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of some adventure seekers in action.

The lookouts at Lion’s Head Provincial Park are well worth the hike. A rock climbing hot spot, you might even be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of some adventure seekers in action.
The Best Kept Secrets Of The Bruce Peninsula

1) The Corran. Free. At Spirit Rock Conservation Area, just north of Wiarton. The romantic ruin of a 19th century stone mansion. While you're there, it's a 1.2 km walk along the Bruce Trail to the Spirit Rock Lookout and 2.8 km total on the Spirit Rock Loop Trail.

2) Devil's Monument. Free. The largest of the Bruce Peninsula's flowerpots, Devil's Monument is impressive to see (but hard to photograph because it's surrounded by trees). A steep, slippery trail leads from the sea stack down to pristine Georgian Bay shoreline. Accessible by the Bruce Trail either north of Cape Chin North (less than 1 km from the free Borchardt Road parking lot), or south from the large free parking lot on Dyers Bay Rd (7 km loop). Warning: unattended small children or the unwary could wander off thirty-metre limestone cliffs. Uneven, rocky terrain requires sturdy footwear and strong knees.

3) Lion's Head Beach Park. Free. Wide, sandy beach. Clean washrooms. Playground. Picnic tables. Lots of shade trees. Ample parking, no traffic, gorgeous view. 3 minute walk to a pub, a restaurant and a supermarket. To where you can pick up picnic food. Lovely Bruce Trail ramble leaves right from the Park.

3) The Night Sky. The Bruce Peninsula has less light pollution than anywhere else in Southern Ontario. The Milky Way and all the constellations are clearly visible (except in local pockets of light pollution at Tobermory and Wiarton). See article page 19.

4) Sandy Beach at Black Creek Provincial Park, Stokes Bay. Free. A quarter mile of broad, sheltered sandy beach in a wilderness setting, miles from nowhere. No amenities other than pit toilets. Ever wondered what Wasaga and Sauble were like in the 19th century? (May be overcrowded on summer weekends).

5) Bluewater Park in Wiarton. Free. A clean sandy beach, spacious grounds with washrooms and picnic facilities, not to mention a century old train station and Wiarton Willie.

6) The Bruce Trail between Tobermory and Wiarton. It’s a free, public footpath, not just for dedicated hikers. Many sections are rough and challenging, but there are also a number of easy walks through stunning scenery. The many access points lead to a variety of impressive lookouts, caves and rock formations. See the Bruce Trail pages in this publication or online at www.daytripcompanion.ca. You should probably buy the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club’s Loop Hikes Guide (in local bookstores) or Bruce Trail phone apps.

7) The Viewing Tower at the National Parks Visitor Centre. National Park permit required. Sunrise or sunset or any time in between, the tower offers a stunning view of Georgian Bay, from Cabot Head to Manitoulin Island.

9) Backroads, because Highway Six is boring. Check out the Scenic Drives on page 20.
The centrepiece of the marvelous National Park Visitor Centre at Tobermory is the 14,000 sq foot theatre and exhibit gallery. Nearby is the 65 foot (20m) observation tower, offering a panoramic view of both Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park. From the base of the tower, a very smooth trail takes you down to the shoreline cliffs are part of the Niagara Escarpment, which rises 40 metres out of Georgian Bay, then gently slopes westward into Lake Huron. Inland from Georgian Bay are maple groves and cool, dark cedar forests surrounding many lovely lakes. The park is unique in Canada for its variety of wildflowers and other plant life.

Little Cove offers a lovely rock and cobbled beach on Georgian Bay. Little Cove is at the end of Little Cove Road, 4km south of Tobermory. Free parking. Hint: park at the top of the hill and walk to the shore. Cypress Lake Campground has campsites for tents and trailers. Cypress Lake offers trails lead to the shoreline where they intersect the Bruce Trail. Many people turn this layout into a loop hike (includes some difficult, uneven terrain). Plan for three to four hours to view the beauty of Indian Head Cove, the Natural Arch and the Grotto. These trails penetrate remote areas, so take precautions at all times. A sturdy pair of shoes is a must! Parking by permit only — see sidebar Head of Trails parking. Reserve before you come — thousands are turned away.

Halfway Log Dump: a relatively easy hike goes from the parking area at the end of Emmett Lake Road to a beautiful rock beach on Georgian Bay. It’s an excellent trail through an “enchanted forest” of rock, trees and moss. Follow Hwy. 6 to Emmett Lake Road, then follow the signs leading to the Halfway Log Dump parking lot. (Pay & Display; parking lot fills up on busy summer days. Plan an alternative.)

On the west side of the peninsula, the Lake Huron shore is rimmed with rock, sand, and fen wetlands. There is no vehicle access to the park on the Lake Huron side except at Singing Sands (Dorcas Bay), where there is a sand beach with shallow water, a picnic area and public washrooms. This is the most extensive public sand beach in the area. Singing Sands also features trails through habitats renowned for unusual wildflowers. (Pay & Display; parking lot fills up on busy summer days. Plan an alternative.)

Encompassing 112 sq. km. Fathom Five National Marine Park consists of 20 islands, a large area of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay and a 130 hectare land base near Tobermory. Fathom Five’s ecosystem extends to a depth of over 100 metres, encompassing everything from kelp to fish to plankton.

Flowerpot Island, with its picturesque sea stacks, is the marine park’s biggest attraction and the only island with facilities for the public. Flowerpot offers biking trails, a picnic shelter and a 2D sound and visual display. Take the wooded trail, past both flowerpots, to the island’s historic lightstation and visit the volunteer lightkeepers who maintain this site.

Flowerpot Island is only accessible by boat. Most Flowerpot boat cruises leave from Big Tub Harbour, where you can see two historic shipwrecks. If you disembark at Flowerpot Island, allow a minimum of 4 hours for the boat tour and an island walk.

Fathom Five National Marine Park offers amazing places to explore for SCUBA divers and snorkelers. There are 21 shipwrecks and fascinating geological formations lying below the surface of the park’s waters, with opportunities for all levels, beginner to advanced.

Each diver must register in person at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre before diving in the park. There is a diver registration fee.

For more information on the National Parks, phone 519-596-2233, or check out Parks Canada on the web at www.pc.gc.ca.

Indian Head Cove is on a busy summer day, with the Grotto just around the corner. You should see it in the spring when the water is impossibility clear or the winter when Georgian Bay is frozen out of sight...
What If It’s Raining?
Things To Do On A Rainy Day

Tobemory
The National Park Visitor Centre offers a world class experience with displays and dioramas, interactive presentations and a big screen theatre showing a movie about the area.
Visit the St. Edmunds Bruce Peninsula Museum where you can see how original settlers lived many years ago. (Limited hours; see ad page 5.)
The Tobemory Legion Branch 290 houses a pool table, big screen TV and shuffleboard (Bingo and dart also offered at scheduled times - see Bruce Peninsula Press for more info.)
The Sweet Shop on the south side of Little Tub Harbour offers gourmet fudge and brittle, hand-made chocolates, ice cream, and a candy counter that will remind you of your childhood (see ad page 3).
There are also many stores, restaurants and galleries to explore.

Central Bruce Peninsula
Lion’s Head has gift shops, galleries, clothing stores and restaurants.
The Handicraft House on highway 6 north of Wiarton (see ad page 19) is a great place to explore. Get your picture taken with the 1,600 pound stuffed Kodiak bear that has greeted visitors to the Handicraft House for close to 50 years. There is also a playground and picnic area for when it’s not raining.

Southern Bruce Peninsula
There are stores, galleries and restaurants in Wiarton, Hepworth and Sauble Beach. The Bruce County Museum at Southampton is a museum so good it will eat a whole rainy day all by itself. A museum so good it’s worth visiting on a sunny day...
While you are in the south, visit the Point Clark Light, one of the original Imperial Lighthouses from the 1850’s, at Point Clark, Ontario, south of Kincardine.

Get up close with displays and dioramas, interactive presentations and a big screen theatre showing a movie about the area at the The National Park Visitor Centre in Tobemory.

Bruce County Library has locations in Tobemory, Lion’s Head, Wiarton and Sauble with various programs offered throughout the summer - a great way to spend a few rainy hours. Internet access and computer workstations are offered for a small fee.

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Revision #
Publication Date
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Bruce Peninsula Bucket List

You Have To Experience Sauble Beach, The Grotto & Flowerpot Island

If you only have 36 hours on the peninsula, what should be on your bucket list?

✔ You have to see Sauble Beach. One of the greatest freshwater beaches in the world. Miles of broad, sandy, public beach and a variety of unique shops and boutiques. Beach access is free but street parking costs $3 per hour or $15 per day. Beach parking $15-820/day. Sauble fills up to capacity only on long weekends.

✔ You have to walk around Tobermory. It is tiny, but unbelievably pretty. It will be difficult not to spend time in the shops, restaurants and pubs.

✔ While you’re in Tobermory, you’ll kick yourself if you don’t take a Boat Tour. Flowerpot Island, a view of Cove Island Lighthouse and any number of shipwrecks await you. Sunset cruises along the shoreline cliffs are unforgettable. RESERVE AHEAD — cruises are often fully booked, especially on weekends.

✔ In Bruce Peninsula National Park you will want to see Indian Head Cove, the Grotto and the Arch. Let’s face it — if you don’t see them, your friends will roll their eyes at you. WARNING — IF YOU DON’T RESERVE AHEAD, YOU PROBABLY WON’T GET IN. Parking passes can be reserved online (see the Grotto Parking sidebar on page 3) and once those passes are gone, all vehicles are redirected. Thousands of vehicles will be turned away. Plan an alternative activity. Next year: Plan ahead — get a reservation.

✔ You have to see Lion’s Head. A tiny village, hemmed in by cliffs only three minutes off the boring highway. The gorgeous sand beach, yacht harbour and pleasant village centre are flanked on all sides by stunning cliffs which can be explored on the Bruce Trail. Ask five locals which part of the cliffs is the lion’s head — you’ll get five different answers (arguably all correct...)

✔ You have to see Wiarton. A sleepy little village that used to be — 150 years ago — a major port and home to two newspapers. The movers and shakers of the Ontario frontier built their houses in Wiarton. The automobile and the Trans-Canada Highway changed the country’s trade routes but the century-old homes and streetscapes are still standing proud.

✔ And on your way home, turn east at the Tim Hortons intersection in Wiarton. Follow the shoreline road around the bay to Owen Sound. Stop frequently for scenic lookouts and ice cream cones. This is one of Canada’s finest scenic drives.

Sauble Beach offers miles of Sandy Beach with a variety of unique shops and restaurants.
Dunks Bay Beach just south of Tobermory offers the closest sandy beach to town. (Parking Free Unless Otherwise Noted)

SAND BEACHES
GEORGIAN BAY SIDE
DUNKS BAY offers a broad sand beach, but only a narrow road allowance is public. There are no amenities except a seasonal portable toilet. Becomes extremely crowded on weekends. Capacity: dozens of people.

LION’S HEAD BEACH PARK offers a broad, sheltered sandy beach with flush toilets, shaded picnic area and a small playground. Two blocks from restaurants, supermarket & drugstore. Capacity: hundreds of people.

HOPE BAY located at the end of Beech Street, has one of the peninsula’s finest sand beaches with shallow water. A public parkette offers new washrooms, parking and picnic tables. Rental kayaks and canoes are available at the campground store. Capacity: dozens of people.

SINGING SANDS at Dorcas Bay is part of Bruce Peninsula National Park. It is a broad sand beach with a very gentle slope, perfect for very small children. There are picnic tables and flush toilets. Nature trail and fen boardwalk share the same parking lot, across Dorcas Bay Road. Parking is $11.70 per day but parking lot may be full, especially on summer weekends. Everyone is turned away when lot is full. No nearby street parking. Capacity: hundreds of people.

INLAND
BERFORD LAKE has a Municipal Park with a sand beach, washrooms, picnic area and a small playground. Capacity: dozens of people.

CYPRUS LAKE offers a sand beach with washrooms and picnic area. Parking lot will probably be full. Capacity: hundreds of people but you probably can’t get in unless you reserved a permit ahead of time. See National Parks story, page 3.

OTHER SHORELINE ACCESS AREAS
A good deal of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay shoreline falls within National, Provincial, County and Municipal Parks and Preserves. The sandy beaches

Continued on next page

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Chi-Cheemaun makes three turnarounds each day. She arrives at 10:55am or 11:20am. She arrives at 3:15pm in the afternoon and departs at 3:40pm. The evening turnaround involves a 7:35pm departure.

During July and August the Chi-Cheemaun has undergone a face lift with colourful decals and updated fixtures. It’s a very long walk but it’s worth it. No amenities. Accessible only by the Bruce Trail. Capacity: a few people. Please pack out all garbage and build no fires.

ROCK YOUR WORLD!

The Largest Passenger Ferry on the Great Lakes

The Chi-Cheemaun is 364 ft long and has capacity for 648 passengers and 143 vehicles, including room for large vehicles such as buses and transport trucks. “chi-cheemaun” means “big canoe” in Ojibwe.

The Manitoulin Island Ferry Service has been the Gateway to Northern Ontario since the 1930s. The current vessel, MS Chi-Cheemaun, was purpose-built for the route in 1974 at the Collingwood shipyards — one of the last hulls built at that historic facility.

The Chi-Cheemaun has been everything her owners and crew could have wanted — comfortable, efficient, seaworthy, dependable. She is the largest passenger ferry on the Great Lakes.

She has become a huge part of the culture of the two ports she serves — Tobermory on the Bruce Peninsula and South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island.

Over the last several years the Chi-Cheemaun has undergone a face lift with colourful decals and updated inside decor celebrating First Nations heritage.

If you want to see her in action, the best places to watch from are the dock itself or across the harbour on the east/south side of Tobermory Harbour. During July and August the Chi-Cheemaun makes three turnarounds each day. She arrives at 10:55am or so every morning and departs again at 11:20am. She arrives at 3:15pm in the afternoon and departs at 3:40pm. The evening turnaround involves a 7:35pm arrival and an 8:00pm departure.

Come out and watch — or ride — the largest passenger ferry on the Great Lakes.

Both are adjacent to the Community Centre in Tobermory. Washrooms available at the Community Centre. Small playground at Schoolbell Park. There are also a few picnic tables along the south side of Tobermory Harbour where you can watch harbour activity and the Chi-Cheemaun dock. Some free parking but mostly $3 per hour with a 3 hour limit. Peripheral lots and streets are also $3 per hour but with no time limit; all-day parking is $8.15.

CRANE RIVER PARK has an extensive picnic area with portable toilets and few fire pits.

FERDIALE PARK offers picnic tables, a large picnic shelter, a playground and washrooms. The tourist info centre has all the literature you need to plan your day.

MAR PICNIC AREA offers picnic tables and portable toilets.

WIARTON PICNIC AREA offers picnic tables in a small shoreline park — on Bayview Street, past the marina.
The abundance of 19th century shipwrecks along the Bruce Coast (especially around the shoals and islands off Tobermory) testifies to the need for navigation aids. An ambitious program was undertaken in the 1850s to build six Imperial Lighthouses, four of which are in our area. Cove Island (1858) was the first of these to become operational, followed the next year by Point Clark. Chantry Island and Griffith Island. When built, they were by far the tallest structures on the upper Great Lakes, yet they were built by hand, in remote, uninhabited locations, with men and materials brought in by sailing vessels.

Many more lighthouses and other navigational aids were added in succeeding decades, but none have the majestic feel of the Imperial Lighthouses.

When visiting lighthouses, watch the weather. Visits to some sites are weather dependent.

Admission fees vary for each location. For all island locations, tour boat or charter fees apply. Most of the manned sites are maintained by volunteers. Please support their efforts by leaving a donation or ask about signing up.

Visit a lighthouse and get a sense of what the nineteenth century was like along the Bruce Coast.

**Lighthouses of the Bruce:**

- **Point Clark Lighthouse** located on Lake Huron near Point Clark, Ontario. Started flashing in 1859. The lighthouse stands 87 ft. (26.50 m) high. Point Clark is the only imperial tower located on the mainland and accessible by road.
- **Kincardine Light** on Highway 21 in Kincardine, Ontario. An Imperial Tower first lit in 1859. Tours of the lighthouse and keeper’s quarters are available from Victoria Day weekend until the end of September. Details on the tours are available at www.chantryisland.com.
- **Cove Island Light** located on a pier at the mouth of the Saugeen River in Southampton, Ontario. An Imperial Tower first lit in 1859. Tours of the lighthouse and keeper’s quarters are available from Victoria Day weekend until the end of September. Details on the tours are available at www.chantryisland.com.
- **Saugeen Front Range Light** is located on a pier at the mouth of the Saugeen River in Southampton, Ontario. The first light was established in 1853. The Southampton Marine Heritage Society has set up guided tours. These tours will be booked out of the present tour base located at the river mouth.

- **The Big Tub Lighthouse** in Tobermory was built in 1886. The grounds are open to the public and the shoreline is a popular swimming and diving site.
- **Flowerpot Island Light** was established in 1897. The original lighthouse was destroyed and pushed from the cliff in 1969 after being replaced by the steel tower still at the site. The lighthouse has been lovingly restored by citizen volunteers on behalf of the Friends of Bruce District Parks, Big Tub Light is just a short drive (2.5km walk) from downtown Tobermory. This is a very popular SCUBA diving and snorkeling site due to the shoreline’s immediate and drastic drop off. Be wary of boating traffic entering Big Tub Harbour.

Lovingly restored by citizen volunteers on behalf of the Friends of Bruce District Parks, Big Tub Light is just a short drive (2.5km walk) from downtown Tobermory. This is a very popular SCUBA diving and snorkeling site due to the shoreline’s immediate and drastic drop off. Be wary of boating traffic entering Big Tub Harbour.

Lion’s Head Lighthouse is located at the marina in Lion's Head, just a short walk from the beach.
The spectacular limestone caves at Greig’s Caves have been a popular attraction for more than 50 years.

There’s a lot you can do for FREE! on the Bruce Peninsula. You just have to work a little harder.

**FREE: The Bruce Trail**

The most obvious example is The Bruce Trail -- a free, public footpath that runs from Niagara Falls to Tobermory. The trail sections between Wiarton and Tobermory offer incredible scenery, pristine shorelines and breathtaking cliffs. (See article, page 10)

You have to walk to see them, but the effort you invest makes the reward that much sweeter.

There are many FREE parking lots where the Bruce Trail crosses roads (see centre fold map). Please remember you are walking with the landowner’s permission. Please stay on the marked trails, build no fires and leave no garbage.

**FREE: Public Parks, Reserves and Beaches**

A quick glance at the centrefold map in this publication shows how much of the land on the Bruce Peninsula is owned by various levels of government for recreational and conservation purposes.

The Province of Ontario, the County of Bruce and the Municipalities of South and Northern Bruce Peninsula own many kilometres of sandy beach and pristine rocky shoreline on both Lake Huron and Georgian Bay and vast tracts of wilderness. Think of it -- these lands belong to us, the taxpayers! See Beaches, Shoreline Access and Picnic Areas, page 18.

**FREE: Road Tour of Historic Lighthouses**

Many of the Bruce Peninsula’s historic lighthouses are accessible by road; they offer a fascinating insight into life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. See Lighthouse Tour article, page 8.

**FREE: Sightseeing and Scenic Drives**

You can walk around Wiarton’s historic train station for free and marvel at its art-deco design. You can cycle around Wiarton admiring the 19th century mansions or drive around the Bruce Peninsula getting a sense of the wilderness. It’s all FREE!

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The Bruce Trail is a National Treasure
(and it’s not just for serious hikers!)

On the Bruce Peninsula, the Bruce Trail is the best way to experience the wilderness up close and personal. Pristine forests and shorelines, amazing lookouts, natural peace and adventure, far from the nearest road, away from noise of “civilization” – and sometimes even out of cell phone range.

Safety first! Hike prepared. If you venture out, be aware that there are hazards: patches of poison ivy, cliff edges (with no guardrails), deep crevices, and sometimes steep slopes, slippery when wet. Remember it is a hiking trail, not a garden path. Wear proper gear. Don’t hike alone. Carry a map and compass, bug spray, sun block, as well as lots of water. Do you know how to use the GPS function of your smart phone? Be aware it may not work in remote areas. Rarely seen are remnant populations of black bears and massasauga rattlesnakes. Remember, this is their home – you are the visitor.

Rules for hiking are very simple:
- stay on the marked trails, respect the property and privacy of people who live along the Trail; pack out everything you pack in; do NOT start any fires; keep dogs under control, take nothing but photographs, leave only your thanks.
- watch your step! Hikers should be very aware of their edge. Using the Bard Side Trail will shorten the loop to under 5 km.
- Devil’s Monument Loop: Park at the Bruce Trail parking lot at the end of Borchardt Rd. You may use the easy Minihmick Side Trail or the broad Bruce Trail to reach the famous inland ‘flowerpot’ formation. A very challenging but rewarding descent to the shoreline is possible here. Wear sturdy footwear and use caution. Use either the main Bruce Trail or side trail to return to parking. 3km total.
- LION’S HEAD AREA
  - White Bluff Loops: Park at the Bruce Trail area on 40 Hills Rd. and take the Richardson Side Trail to begin. There are several possible loops available, ranging from 5.6 km to 9.2 km (visiting Reed’s Damp and returning via Alan Fowler Side Trail). Lookouts at White Bluff look across Isthmus Bay to the Lion’s Head cliffs to the south. Lion’s Head Lookout: A fairly easy walk past famous potholes takes you to north facing cliff top lookouts. Access via McCurdy Rd. Parking lot off Moore St. using Moore St. Side Trail to meet the main Bruce Trail. Also, an inland loop using the Warder Side Trail is a pleasant walk through mature forest. (There are several loop possibilities; it would be good to buy a Bruce Trail map.)
- CAPE DUDDANS
  - Two short Loop trails are worth visiting. Bruce Trail Parking is provided.
  - 1. Rush Cove: Park at far end of Rush Cove Rd. and explore the Chris Walker Lookout. Watch for poison ivy. The Side Trail is a pleasant inland loop using the main Bruce Trail, the Richardson Side Trail to begin. There are several possible loops available, ranging from 5.6 km to 9.2 km (visiting Reed’s Damp and returning via Alan Fowler Side Trail). Lookouts at White Bluff look across Isthmus Bay to the Lion’s Head cliffs to the south.
  - 2.5 hours.
- CAPE DUNDAS
  - Spirit Rock Loop: Park at the Spirit Rock Conservation area, just north of Wiarton, off Highway 6. The combination of Spirit Rock Side Trail and main Bruce Trail allow visits to the historic 19th Century ruins of the Corran estate and the Spirit Rock Lookout of native legend. Allow 1.5 hrs. for the 2.8 km loop.

DT Insider’s Tip
The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club invites you to sample and share the many treasures of the Peninsula. For more information see www.pbtc.ca.

Dylon’s Head cliffs to the south.
Lion’s Head Lookout: A fairly easy walk past famous potholes takes you to north facing cliff top lookouts. Access via McCurdy Rd. Parking lot off Moore St. using Moore St. Side Trail to meet the main Bruce Trail. Also, an inland loop using the Warder Side Trail is a pleasant walk through mature forest. (There are several loop possibilities; it would be good to buy a Bruce Trail map.)

CAPE CROKER
Jones Bluff Loop: Park at the Bruce Trail area on Boundary Rd. Jones Bluff is a long haul 7.1 km but is a relatively easy hike offering numerous lookouts over Sydney Bay and Cape Croker. Allow at least 3 hours and bring lots of water.

MALCOLM BLUFF
Use the parking lot at the corner / bend of Wright’s Crescent. Follow the Purple Valley Access trail to the main Trail on the escarpment. Turn left and pass many fine lookouts. Complete the loop by using the Light and Malcolmb Bluff Side Trails back to Wright’s Crescent. Allow 3 hrs. for the easy 6.7 km loop.

WIARTON
Spirit Rock Loop: Park at the Spirit Rock Conservation area, just north of Wiarton, off Highway 6. The combination of Spirit Rock Side Trail and main Bruce Trail allow visits to the historic 19th Century ruins of the Corran estate and the Spirit Rock Lookout of native legend. Allow 1.5 hrs. for the 2.8 km loop.
Sauble Beach is well-known as a summer party town. The wide variety of shops, stores and restaurants makes it a friendly destination for everyone. There are many family-friendly activities and events, including a speedway and, of course, many miles of world-class sandy beaches.

There are five main centres on the Bruce Peninsula, each with a distinctive character:

**HISTORIC WIARTON**

The largest and oldest of the Bruce Peninsula communities is Wiarton. A major port in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Wiarton was also a railroad hub, back when there were railways. All that’s left now is the station. Built in 1904, the station was recently designated under Ontario Heritage. Wiarton is worth exploring for its architecture alone. When it was a major port, it was home to many of the movers and shakers of the Ontario frontier. Those families built beautiful homes along the edge of the escarpment; many of them are still standing proud. It is well worth taking a couple of hours to drive, cycle or walk around the town.

**Sauble Beach**

A pedestrian-friendly town, Wiarton offers a variety of street parking options. There are two large all-day lots within a three-hour walking distance. Both lots are located just across the Highway from downtown — turn west on Hay Bay Road, then right on Legion St for the Legion St lot or stay in Hay Bay Rd another 500m to the Hay Bay Road lot. Prices for these lots (and for peripheral street parking) is $3 per hour or $15 per day.

**LION’S HEAD**

One visit to Lion’s Head and you will want to make it a regular stop. The views are nothing less than stunning. The limestone cliff rises from the turquoise Caribbean coloured waters; at sunset and sunrise they turn an amazing pink with the sun’s reflection.

One of the must-do’s in Lion’s Head is the Bruce Trail. You can park at Moore Street, see the Indian Potholes and Lion’s Head Point. Loop trail options can extend this to an all-day hike including a visit to McKay’s Harbour. (No amenities — take proper hiking shoes, water, maps, compass.)

Lion’s Head is a designated Dark Sky community. On Friday and Saturday nights in July and August be sure to take in Bayside Astronomy (see www.bpha.ca).

Lion’s Head is small but mighty. It offers almost every amenity you could want — grocery store, hardware, bank, LCBO/beer store, hospital, pharmacy, garage, chiropractor, dentist, restaurants and some great shopping — all within easy walking distance. There are also artists’ studios and regular events throughout the summer season.

**TOBERMORY**

Tobermory began life as a port and fishing village and retains the character and picturesque charm. Over the last half century, Tobermory has become something else as well.

With two National Parks, the largest car ferry on the great lakes, world-class boat tours and much more, Tobermory has become a major tourist destination. It has dozens of shops, a pioneer museum and a National Park Visitor Centre. It is the SCUBA diving capital of Canada, with several vessels taking diving and snorkel groups out to historic shipwrecks.

Tobermory’s restaurants offer everything from fast food to fine dining. In case of doubt, order Whitefish — it has the great facts!

Ferndale is home to three large wind turbines. They are situated at the narrowest part of the Peninsula to catch the wind between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.

Tobermory harbour is a great place to walk around or grab an ice cream cone and people-watch from one of the many benches around the harbour area — there are shops, restaurants, historical plaques and displays.

**COOL FACTS!**

Insider’s Tip

Plan a fall trip to the Bruce Peninsula to take advantage of the end of season sales at local retailers.

Ferndale Flats were drained to produce new farmland for farming and grazing cattle. In 2002 an entrepreneur saw the potential of the area and created three large wind turbines at the narrowest part of the Peninsula to catch the wind between Georgian Bay and Lake Huron.

Tobermory is also a very pleasant place to walk around, with benches, picnic tables, monuments, interpretive stations and a boardwalk.

Getting rid of your car can be a challenge. Parking downtown is 83 per hour with a three-hour time limit. There are two large all-day lots within a three-minute walk of downtown. Both lots are located just across the Highway from downtown — turn west on Hay Bay Road, then right on Legion St for the Legion St lot or stay in Hay Bay Rd another 100m to the Hay Bay Road lot. Prices for these lots (and for peripheral street parking) is $3 per hour or $15 per day.

**SAUBLE BEACH**

Sauble Beach is the consummate summer party town, and has been for over 60 years. The stores and shops sell everything a beach party (or a beachfront cottage) could possibly need.

Sauble offers a variety of sit-down and take-out food, a speedway and, of course, many miles of world-class sandy beach.

Parking fees may apply. See photo caption on page 6 or visit http://www.southbrucepeninsula.com/en/townhall/Paid-Parking.asp for more info on parking fees.

**FERNDALE**

Located at the intersection of roads to Lion’s Head, Stokes Bay and Tobermory, Ferndale is the perfect place to fill up your gas tank… and your belly. Once marshaland, the Ferndale Flats were drained to produce new farmland and grazing cattle.

In 2002 an entrepreneur saw the potential of the area and created three large wind turbines at the narrowest part of the Peninsula to catch the wind between Georgian Bay and Lake Huron.
Things To Watch Out For
Rattlesnakes, Bears, Poison Ivy, Wild Parsnip

Poison Ivy
Poison Ivy can make you break out in blisters if the plant’s juice comes in contact with your skin.

Black Bears
Black Bears can weigh 200kg (440 pounds) or more. They are unbelievably strong and can run much faster than you can. If you are lucky, you might see one. As long as you don’t do something stupid, they are not a threat. They do eat meat if it’s easy to get, but their favourite food is apples.

Bears: Four Things Not To Do
• Don’t keep food in your tent. Leave all food, garbage that smells like food, and cookery in your car.
• Don’t try to approach a bear. Make noise while you are hiking so that they can hear you coming.
• If you do find yourself too close to a bear, hold your jacket over your head to make yourself look bigger (they don’t see very well), make noise and back away slowly. Don’t run from a bear. That’s how they tell food from not-food — food runs away.
• Don’t feed the bears. Ever. Don’t do anything to make bears associate the smell of humans with food.

The Bruce Peninsula is Southern Ontario’s largest patch of wilderness. There are vast tracts of forest, rock and water. Animals outnumber people. The peninsula offers a chance to see many plants and animals that only live in the wilderness.

There are a few species you should know about — Black Bears, Massasauga Rattlesnakes, Poison Ivy and Wild Parsnip. You don’t need to worry about them, but you should be wary of them.

The Bruce Peninsula is a year-round vacation spot famous for the snowmobiler’s friend - the snow squall. The snowmobile trails are great for long or short trips. Due to the extensive Trans Ontario Provincial (TOP) and local trail systems, you can do loops of 50-300 kilometres (30-190 miles).

The Bruce also offers great cross country skiing to challenge every skier.

But the biggest change in recent years is the rise of the high-tech snowshoe. The new small-footprint designs incorporate metal teeth so they are perfectly at home in icy, crusty conditions. Suddenly there are snowshoeing opportunities everywhere.

Snowshoeing on the Bruce Trail is particularly popular. You can get to some amazing places.

You can even be sure of finding a parking space at Bruce National Park.

Some motels, B&Bs, restaurants and stores are open all year round on the Bruce. Join us for shoulder season and winter activities. Be aware that many businesses close Saturday at 5:00pm or 6:00pm and are not open Sunday.

For more information on things to do and what’s open in the shoulder seasons and winter, check out www.brucenationalpark.ca.
Massasauga Rattlesnakes

There are about a dozen species of snakes on the Bruce Peninsula. All but one of them are harmless.

Massasauga Rattlesnakes use their venom mainly to make mice hold on tight. Their venom is less potent than that of other snakes.

They will usually rattle their tail (a quick rattling sound) if you get too close. Their striking range is half their length and they only grow to a metre or so. They will almost always retreat into cover when people are around.

So if you're lucky enough to see one, keep your distance.

Massasauga Rattlesnakes are a protected species under provincial law.

Wild Parsnip

And then there is Wild Parsnip and its big brother Giant Hogweed. The juice of these plants contains a substance which makes your skin extremely light-sensitive, so much so that you can burn in a matter of minutes. The resulting raised sores can look a lot like poison ivy. As with poison ivy, the oil can be washed off with soap and water and the symptoms should stop developing at that point.

Wild Parsnip is abundant along roadsides, mainly in the Ferndale and Stokes Bay areas. Giant Hogweed is much less common. Both species look a lot like parsley: Wild Parsnip can be up to six feet tall, Giant Hogweed can be fifteen feet tall with leaves the size of newspaper pages.

Invasive Species

There are over 180 aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes basin. Some that you may have heard of include quagga and zebra mussels, round gobies and European common reed. The problem with invasive species is that they displace native species and take much of the energy and nutrients for themselves. To keep the lakes of the Bruce Peninsula healthy and free of invasive species requires preventative action from everyone that uses them.

Invasive species are spread by “hitchhiking” or attaching themselves to boats, paddles, life jackets and snorkels in one body of water and are then transported and introduced into the next body of water without you even knowing! Even a thin film of water that appears to be free of any “hitchhikers” could be harbouring mussel larvae, tiny plant seeds, invasive zooplankton or fish viruses!

To help keep the Bruce waters free of invasive species make sure any boats, etc that have been used in another water body are checked, cleaned and dried accordingly. This means inspect your vessel for obvious hitchhikers, wash it (preferably with a high pressure rinse) and ideally, make sure it has been dried (preferably for 24 hours).

Together let’s keep our lakes natural and amazing!

A Cycling Paradise

Don’t Forget To Bring Your Bike

If you are staying in, or near, the towns of Sauble Beach, Wiarton, Lion’s Head or Tobermory, it is probably easier to get around on a bike than in a car because parking is never a problem for bikes.

The peninsula’s scenic drives (page 20) are mostly even better on a bike, with the following caveats:

• The shoreline road from Wiarton to Owen Sound has excellent bike lanes over some sections; other sections are narrow and scary with poor sight lines. Might be a harrowing ride on a busy weekend.
• Highway 6 can be especially busy when the Chi-Cheemaun unloads a full load of cars and they all head in the same direction. Some drivers don’t leave enough space between you and their handle bars and their car mirror. If you can avoid the highway in July and August, it would make for less stressful riding.
• Here are a few favourite bike routes around the area:
  - Dyers Bay Route
  - Dyers Bay just north of Miller Lake
  - Length: approx. 30km • Difficulty: Easy

Park at the lot off Hwy 6 and Dyers Bay Road. This route takes you through farmland towards the rocky shore of Dyers Bay. Caution should be taken as the road is narrow in spots and may be busy during peak times. This route is paved and mostly flat.

Lindsay Tract Trails

On Hwy 6, 10km north of Ferndale
• Length: 8km • Difficulty: Easy to difficult • Surface: Hard-packed

With more than 7,000 acres of mixed forest, the Lindsay Tract has 8km of single-track trail suitable for mountain biking and hiking. Well marked and with ample parking, this is a nice location for both fitness and recreation. Free for all visitors. The trailhead parking lot is visible off Hwy 6 on the west side of the road. There are no stores here so be sure to pack some snacks and refreshments.
2019 SUMMER FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
Victoria Day to Thanksgiving on the Bruce Peninsula

Festivals & Events

May 19 - Lion's Head, Pancake Breakfast, Rotary Hall, 9-11am.
May 31-June 2 - Tobermory, Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival, Ferndale Info Centre, www.orchidfest.ca.
June 7-9 - Tobermory, Annual Chi-Cheemaun Weekend Festival, Ball Park. Chi-Cheemaun Fireworks Cruise (Saturday night) Cardboard Boat Races on Saturday, kids events, see Bruce Peninsula Press for details.
June 8 - Wiarton, Air & Auto Extravaganza, aircraft displays, helicopter rides, classic car and motorcycle exhibits, live music, outdoor markets, great food, aviation museum and much more. Wiarton Kippel International Airport, 10am-4pm.
June 8 - Wiarton, 5th Annual Amazing Race. Registration Required. Regal Point Elk Farm, visit wiartonrotary.com/amazing-race-5/ for details and registration
June 22 - Sauble, Grand Opening of New Town Square, between 2nd Avenue North and Lakeshore Boulevard North, family events, entertainment, 8am (sponsored by Town of South Bruce Peninsula).
June 29-30 - Tobermory, Geocaching in the Forest, Parks Canada Visitor Centre, Hunt for treasures on park trails to earn a prize.
June 30 - Lion's Head, Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Beach Pavilion (rain location Rotary Hall), 9-11am.
June 30 - Sauble Beach: Canada Day Fireworks 6th Street at dusk.
July 1 - Lion's Head, Canada Day Celebrations, Beach Pavilion, 7pm, Pancake Breakfast, Fish Fry, BBQ, Vendors, Kids Zone, Music, Horseshoe, Broomball and Fastball Tournament, free cake and ice cream 6:30, Fireworks at dusk.
July 1 - Sauble Beach, Canada Day Celebrations, (see local papers for details).

MONDAY

July 1 - Tobermory, Canada Day Celebrations, Tobermory Community Centre. Canada Day Cake 11am, Free Kids Activities 1-4pm, Fireworks (harbour at dusk).
July 1 - Wiarton, Canada Day Pancake Breakfast, Bluewater Park, Pancake Breakfast, All Day BBQ, Evening Fish Fry, Various Family Events, Activities and Entertainment, Fireworks at dusk.
July 6 & 7 - Lion's Head, Yard Sale, Hospital Auxiliary fundraiser, Lion's Head Arena, July 6-8am, July 7 10am-Noon.

TUESDAY

July 1 - Tobermory, Canada Day Fireworks 6th Street at dusk. FREE. Weather dependent.

WEDNESDAY

Warton - Cruise Night - Car/Truck/ Bike Show, Bluewater Park, Every Wednesday, 6-9pm, starting Victoria Day wknd to Sept 18.
Miller Lake - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, Summer/Beach Work (on the beach), Wednesdays July 3-Aug 28) at dusk. FREE. Weather dependent.

THURSDAY

Sauble Beach - Cruise Night, Show ‘N Shine, Classic Car Parade. Every Tuesday night 6pm-sunset from June 25 - September 17, 50/50 Draw, Prizes & more.

FRIDAY

Festivals & Events

August 3 - Tobermory, Annual Chicken BBQ (church fundraiser), Silent Auction, 5-7pm, Tobermory Arts Centre.
August 3 - Lion's Head, Homecoming Street Dance (daycare fundraiser), Band Horseshoes and Hungunderes, local headliners, Main Street, 8:30pm-1am, rain or shine.
August 3 & 4 - Tobermory, Celebrate F a t h o m F i v e, discover mysteries beneath the waves with activities all around the town including the first National Marine Park (see Bruce Peninsula Press for details).
August 4 - Lion's Head, Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Beach Pavilion (rain location Rotary Hall), 9-11am.
August 4 - Lion's Head, Homecoming Weekend festival, Horseshoe Tournament, Bands, Competitions, Fireworks (dusk at the field behind Haynes apartments/ Arena).
August 10 & 11 - Tobermory, Remarkable Reptiles Exhibit, Parks Canada Visitor Centre, see and feel real live snakes, take a selfie (see Bruce Peninsula Press for details).
August 10 & 11 - Sauble Beach, Sandfest, Sandcastle Building Competition, Fireworks (dusk at the field behind Haynes apartments/ Arena).
August 20 - Sauble Beach, Sunset Festival, Workshops, Lessons, Performances, email info@saubleguitartfest.com.
August 24-25 - Tobermory, Monarch Butterfly Festival, Parks Canada Visitor Centre (see Bruce Peninsula Press for details).
August 24 & 25 - Lion's Head & Area, 23rd Annual Bruce Peninsula Artists Studio Tour, 10am-5pm, over 40 local artists, info and maps available at brucepeninsulaaart.ca/ studio-tour/
September 1 - Lion's Head, Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Beach Pavilion (rain location Rotary Hall), 9-11am.
September 20-22 - Wiarton, 151st Agriculture Fall Fair, Farmer’s Livestock Centre, Food Booth, Cook Off, Horse Show, Antique Tractor & Monster Truck Show. Email wiartonfallfair@gmail.com for more info.
September 20-22 - Tobermory, “Run The Edge” Trail Race Weekend, info@tobermorytrail.wordpress.com.
Visit brucepeninsulapress.com for updated events and festival details.

2019 SUMMER FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
Victoria Day to Thanksgiving on the Bruce Peninsula

Regular Weekly Events (Canada Day to Labour Day)

Lion's Head - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, FOD (Pendin Observation Deck) at the marina, Fridays and Saturdays (June 28-Aug 31) at dusk. FREE. Weather dependent.
Lion's Head - Harbourside Music, free concerts at the beach, every Friday night 7-9pm Canada Day - Aug 23rd.
SUNDAY

Tobermory - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, Singing Sands (on the beach), Sundays (June 30-Aug 25) at dusk. FREE. Weather dependent.
Warton - Vendor's Market, Handicrafts, Soup Suppers, 8am-4pm, limited area available, Takeout food available. Victoria Day to Thanksgiving.
Warton - Agricultural Society Funday Sundays, 10am-2pm at Bluewater Park. May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug 18, Sept 22.

Lion's Head - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, Pole Star Observation Deck) at the marina, Fridays and Saturdays (June 28-Aug 31) at dusk. FREE. Weather dependent.

Lion's Head - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, Pole (Pendin Observation Deck) at the marina, Fridays and Saturdays (June 28-Aug 31) at dusk. FREE. Weather dependent.

Lion's Head - Bayside Astronomy, guided stargazing, Singing Sands (on the beach), Sundays (June 30-Aug 25) at dusk. FREE. Weather dependent.
Don’t drive to Bruce Peninsula National Park on the assumption you can get in to see the Grotto. On a long weekend, you won’t get in unless you are reserved ahead. It will be fully booked. Visit parkscanada.gc.ca/gotto

Don’t drive to Tobermory on the assumption you can get a spot on a boat tour. Call ahead or reserve online. Most long weekend trips are booked ahead.

Plan an alternative. Here are a few suggestions:

Wrought: It’s free and there’s always room for one more, even on the August long weekend when the Rotary Club hosts the Village Fair. Don’t miss it this weekend when the Rotary Club hosts the Village Fair. Call ahead or reserve online. Most long weekend trips are booked ahead.

An Insider’s Tip

THE LEAST CROWDED PLACE ON A LONG WEEKEND: Your Cottage: If you are staying at a pleasant spot on the Bruce Peninsula, why not stay home? Avoid the crowds and traffic jams. Kick up your feet, pour a beverage and fire up the BBQ. Things will be a lot less crowded on Tuesday.

A Dark Sky Sky Preserve

The Night Sky Like You’ve Never Seen It

Don’t make the common assumption that the Milky Way is difficult to see. In fact, the greatest problem is light pollution. About 90% of the light pollution is from vehicles and home lighting. This leaves only five per cent of the sky visible in many urban settings.

The Bruce Trail parking lot at Dyers Bay is on the left, near the top of the hill where the road dives down into Dyers Bay. Park there for some of the best hiking on the peninsula. Follow the Bruce Trail southward on a two hour loop hike which offers several gorgeous lookout spots along the way, including the one shown here.

Places You Can Fish From Shore

There are three places on the Rankin River where bridges and docks offer fishing opportunities: the bridge on Red River where bridges and docks offer fishing opportunities: the bridge on Red River, the bridge and boat launch on Bruce Road 13 (between Wiarton and Oliphant) and Rankin Bridge Road (see centrefold map).

You can fish from the Government Docks at: Wiarton, Colpoys Bay, Dyers Bay, Stokes Bay, Howdenvale, Red Bay and Oliphant. You can also fish from docks, wharves and harbour walls in Lion’s Head and Tobermory.

Fishing on the Bruce Peninsula

Insider’s Tip

THE BAYSIDES ASTRONOMY PROGRAM OFFERS GUIDED STARGAZING, COMPLETE WITH TELESCOPES, AT THE PENINSULA OBSERVATION DECK (POD), LOCATED AT THE MARINA IN LAKE HURON. EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (JUNE 28-AUG 31) AT DUSK. WEEKEND PROGRAMS AT OTHER LOCATIONS ARE OFFERED FROM JUNE 30-AUG 28. VISIT WWW.BPBA.CA FOR MORE INFO OR PICK UP A COPY OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA PRESS.

Northern Bruce Peninsula has been designated a Dark Skies Community and the two national parks are now Dark Sky Preserves. Streetlights are few and have been replaced with Dark-Sky-compliant models that only shine light downwards. While you’re on the peninsula, don’t forget to look up!
Here is a sampling of Peninsula Gardens you can visit, from Wiarton to Tobermory. Please note that some Gardens are by appointment only. For details on times, entrance fees and directions, pick up the Rural Gardens brochure at local tourism offices or visit www.ruralgardens.ca.

**Earthbound Gardens and Greenhouses**

At 14 Hea Rd., Red Bay, South Bruce Peninsula. Tended by Brenda Sutherland, John Close and Judy Larkin. 519-534-2483, www.earthboundgardens.com, earthboundgardens@gmail.com. Known as “The Lily Ladies”, Brenda and Judy cultivate thousands of lilies and daylilies in bloom all summer. Earth Bound specializes in plants native to the Peninsula and is a Monarch Biodiversity Waystation.

**Keppel Croft Farm and Gardens**


**Birds Nest Garden Farm**

Tucked along 79 Crooked Toe Road, South Bruce Peninsula, on the way to Cape Croker. 519-534-3533, birdsnest@bmts.com. You will find living roofs perched atop an eco-friendly, off grid homestead. This home of Erin Grundy, Peter Allemand and Talia Allemand is surrounded by ornamental and vegetable gardens, pastured chickens, fields and forests, and the Niagara Escarpment. Great hiking throughout.

**Burly Road Gardens - Serendipity**

At the corner of Nicholas and Brook Streets (5 min walk from Little Tub Harbour) in Tobermory. Owned and operated by Joni and Pete Regan, 519-506-2589, jpregan@amtelecom.net. Nestled in the cedars you will find a tranquil, mostly shaded garden. This naturally sculpted garden, at the tip of the Peninsula, is a sanctuary for birds and butterflies.

**SPECIAL BONUS:**

Visit Rural Roots Nature Reserve at 645 Northacres Road just West of Wiarton. Owners Tom and Dee Ashman have created a special place that goes beyond just gardens. Nature Trails lead to crevice caves, a favourite for both kids and grown-ups. There are two Labyrinths, a Spirit Walk, and Sound Garden, with plans to add a Zen Garden. Open daily 10am-4pm from Mothers Day through Labour Day. 519-534-2522, ruralroott@gmail.com. Entrance by donation.

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**The Finest Scenic Drives on the Bruce Peninsula**

Rankin Bridge Road is a narrow, twisting gravel road leading east from Sauble Falls (you'll need a map). The hardwood trees meet overhead.

**PART ONE: PAVED ROADS**

**Highway Six** offers the straightest, flattest, fastest route from Owen Sound to Tobermory.

**1. The East Road** (Bruce County Road 9) from Colpoys Bay (just north of Wiarton) to Caudle Sideroad, north of Lion’s Head. The East Road offers a less travelled and more scenic alternative to the Queen’s Highway #6. Special care is needed on Isthmus Hills Road”. Warning: 40 Hills Road. Occasionally narrows to a single lane and has extremely tight corners. Not suitable for motorhomes or trailers.

**2. Rankin Bridge Rd.** is a narrow, twisting gravel road leading east from Sauble Falls (you’ll need a map). The hardwood trees meet overhead; there are views of the Sauble River and a bridge over the Rankin River.

**3. Island View Drive (Grey County Rd. 1)** When you are leaving the Bruce Peninsula, take a few extra minutes for one of the finest drives in Canada. Turn east at the Frank Street light in Wiarton (by the Tim Hortons), and follow the shoreline road around to Owen Sound. There are several parks, public docks and scenic lookouts. We promise you won’t be disappointed. (From the other end, follow 2nd Ave West northbound out of Owen Sound.)

**4. The Forty Hills Road** from Caudle Sideroad to Dyers Bay Road. When the East Road meets Caudle Sideroad (see Paved Roads), you have a choice. A left turn on Caudle Sideroad offers a paved route out to Highway 6. The alternative is to go straight ahead onto the unpaved and aptly named “40 Hills Road”. Warning: 40 Hills Road.

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**FOR THE ADVENTUROUS: UNPAVED ROADS**

**1. The Forty Hills Road** from Caudle Sideroad to Dyers Bay Road. When the East Road meets Caudle Sideroad (see Paved Roads), you have a choice. A left turn on Caudle Sideroad offers a paved route out to Highway 6. The alternative is to go straight ahead onto the unpaved and aptly named “40 Hills Road”.

**2. Rankin Bridge Rd.** is a narrow, twisting gravel road leading east from Sauble Falls (you’ll need a map). The hardwood trees meet overhead; there are views of the Sauble River and a bridge over the Rankin River.

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**COOL FACTS!**

The Bruce Peninsula is home to 44 species of orchids, but the botanical richness of the Bruce extends well beyond orchids. A large diversity of wildflowers can also be found, including globally rare species such as Lakeside Daisy and Dwarf Lake Iris.

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**INSIDER’S TIP**

Visit www.ruralgardens.ca for details on times, entrance fees, directions and if an appointment is required.

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**EARTHBOUND GARDENS**

Red Bay Bruce Peninsula

Plant Sales, Landscape & Design, Gift Shop, Metal Art, Sunday Concert Series, Workshops

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**EARTH BOUND GARDENS**

Red Bay Bruce Peninsula

Plant Sales, Landscape & Design, Gift Shop, Metal Art, Sunday Concert Series, Workshops

519.534.2483
www.earthboundgardens.com
Indian Head Cove – A typical spring afternoon.

For experienced divers, the "must-see" shipwreck is the "Arabia", a barque that foundered off Echo Island in 1884. This site is recommended for advanced divers only, under the careful direction of a dive master.

All divers in Fathom Five National Marine Park MUST register at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre before entering the water. Full details about diving in the park and surrounding area are available upon registration. A dive shop, charter dive vessels and glass bottom tour boats are all available in Little Tub Harbour. Tobermory is also home to a Hyperbaric Chamber located at the Medical Facility on Highway 6.

Snorkeling: Mask + Flippers = Underwater Sightseeing
Snorkeling has become one of the most popular activities on the Bruce Peninsula. It's a great alternative to diving and no experience is necessary.

Getting out on Georgian Bay and Lake Huron have been favourite family activities for generations. Many people bring their own boats; many others bring or rent canoes and kayaks (and Stand-Up Paddleboards and kite-surfers and...)

Getting out On The Water
Explore the Crystal Clear Waters of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Bruce Anchor Cruises offers at least 15 cruise departures per day. All cruises visit Flowerpot Island (most offer optional drop-off on the island) as well as the historic shipwrecks in Big Tub Harbour. Reserve on-line and a free parking space will be waiting when you arrive. Or visit either of the Bruce Anchor booths on Hwy 6 in Tobermory. (See ad on back cover)

Tobermory Wave Adventures specializes in Eco-tours — longer trips to special places you've probably never heard of. Check their website for daily departures and destinations. (See ad on page 7).

Bruce Peninsula Boat Tours offer small group guided tours (including cruise visiting Flowerpot Island and the Grotto, Reserve on-line and a free parking space will be waiting when you arrive. Or visit their ticket booth on Hwy 6 in Tobermory. (See ad on page 6).

Tobermory Cruise Line offers 6 speedboat departures per day with each cruise visiting Flowerpot Island and the Grotto. Reserve on-line and a free parking space will be waiting when you arrive. Or visit their ticket booth on Hwy 6 in Tobermory. (See ad on page 6).

Windy Day?
Catch A Glimpse Of Amazing Waves on the Bruce

If life gives you lemons — make lemonade.

If your Bruce Peninsula vacation gives you a couple of days of high winds and you can't get out on a tour boat go wave-watching instead.

You are unlikely to see anything as exciting as these pictures — they were taken after Hurricane Sandy — but a good blow will make for exhilarating waves.

The winds come out of the north, things will get exciting at any headland on the Georgian Bay shore between Cabot Head and Tobermory.

If the winds are from the east or northeast, there can be impressive rollers at any exposed headland south of Cabot Head, including Dyers Bay and Lion's Head.

A sustained west wind will bring crashing waves to Sauble Beach and all the exposed headlands along the Lake Huron shore.

And then there are the kite-surfers at Lake Huron beaches, especially Oliphant, the kite-surfing capital of Ontario.

For other things to do when the weather is not perfect see “Things To Do On A Rainy Day” on page 4.

Indian Head Cove – After Hurricane Sandy.
Canoes, Kayaks and SUPs
For the Adventure Enthusiast

— on a calm day, novices are fine if they stay close to shore. Otherwise: moderate to expert.

Colpoys Bay - Launch at the government dock. Free. Parking and a porta-pottie on site. Easy to expert, depending on the wind and waves.

Tobermory offers three excellent places to start. Big Tub Harbour Resort offers watersport rentals but does not offer public launching. On Little Tub Harbour, Tobermory Cruise Line rents kayaks from their EZ-launch at Lee’s Wharf Cruise Centre (53 Bay St). The Little Tub public boat launch is excellent but is very busy and nearby parking has a three-hour limit. Drop your vessel off and then drive out to one of the peripheral parking lots where you can park all day for $15. You can walk back to the boat launch in about 3 minutes. Dunks Bay beach is a great place to launch but it too can get crowded so you may have to carry your vessel for 100m or more. Skill level: Big Tub Harbour — novice if you stay in the harbour. Little Tub Harbour — moderate to expert depending on traffic in the harbour and how far out of the harbour you venture. Dunks Bay — novice to expert, depending on the wind.

Canoing, Kayaking and Stand Up Paddle Boarding among the Tobermory Islands (some of the best paddling in Canada) is for experienced people only. The weather can whip up a lot faster than you can get to cover. That’s why there are all those shipwrecks out there. If you’re not comfortable in three foot waves, don’t venture out of the harbour.

Safety Tips From A Paddling Pro

• If you haven’t paddled before, take a lesson from a certified instructor, or hire a local guide.
• Wear your lifejacket.
• Lake Huron and Georgian Bay are wide open and COLD! Weather is always changing. Be prepared with proper thermal and safety gear.
• Rules of the waterways: Know the regulations www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety
• Safety Check — Paddle with a partner, leave a float plan with someone on shore, and observe the local weather & wind forecasts prior to heading out.

• Showers  •  Flush toilets  •  Laundromat • Firewood • Ice • Propane refill station  •  Playground  •  Bruce Trail • Hydro
• Open May to Thanksgiving  •  Seasonal sites available  •  Fire rings
• 519-534-0571  •  www.capecrokerpark.com
• Check us out on Facebook & Instagram under Josie’s of Wiarton

Hope Bay offers a sand beach launch site with free parking, washrooms, and picnic tables at the adjacent parkette. The campground across the road rents kayaks, canoes, SUPs and paddle boats. Perfect for novice to expert.

Lion’s Head — Launch at the beach. Free. Parking and washrooms. Beginners are fine in the inner harbour. The more adventurous can paddle along the shore to the east at the foot of the cliffs. Moderate to expert depending on the wind.

Sandy Beach/Black Creek Provincial Park - Launch at the beach. Free. Parking and vault toilets. Explore Knife Island, Lyal Island and Stokes Bay. Moderate to expert, depending on wind and waves.

Stokes Bay - Launch at the Government Dock. Skill level: easy to expert depending on the weather.

Miller Lake - Skill level: novice unless it’s windy. It rarely gets rough and it’s impossible to get lost. Canoes/kayaks can be rented at Summer House Park. Fees may apply for launching your own canoe or kayak.

Cyprus Lake/Cameron Lake - Launch your own canoe, kayak or SUP from Adams Park on Cameron Lake (free) or from the beach at Cyprus Lake (National Park pass required). Canoe and Kayak rentals are available at Cedar Grove Cottages on Cameron Lake. Skill level — novice unless it’s windy.

Further down the river you can rent a canoe, kayak, or SUP board from the Sauble River Marina & Lodge Resort.

The Rankin River - Launch from Isaac Lake or the portage access on Road 13. Both offer washrooms and parking. Free. Skill level — relatively easy. You can go from the dam south of Boat Lake all the way up to Sky Lake.

The Fishing Islands - Launch at Howdenvale or Oliphant. Skill level — novice to expert depending on the wind and waves.

Sauble River at Sauble Falls Provincial Park - moderate skill required; the river has a significant current. Launch your canoe, kayak or SUP for free, but you have to pay for parking. They also rent canoes and kayaks by the hour.

A few of the best places to launch are:

Sauble River at Sauble Falls Provincial Park - moderate skill required; the river has a significant current. Launch your canoe, kayak or SUP for free, but you have to pay for parking. They also rent canoes and kayaks by the hour.

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The Tobermory Information Centre on Chisintebde Road has public washrooms and porta-potties that are available for use by visitors to the park.

**South of Tobermory**
- Dunks Bay Beach offers a seasonal portable toilet.
- The St. Edmund’s museum just south of Tobermory offers a seasonal portable toilet.

**Cape Chin/Miller Lake/ Dyers Bay**
- The Municipal office on Lindsay Rd 5, approx 5 min north of Ferndale offers free, clean, public washrooms. Open Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm.
- Dyers Bay Dock offers seasonal portable toilets.
- 334 Barney’s Blvd., in Miller Lake offers a seasonal portable toilet.
- Bruce Trail Parking Lot at the end of Borchardt Road offers a seasonal portable toilet.
- Bruce Trail Parking Lot at the south end of Forty Hills Road offers a seasonal portable toilet.

**Stokes Bay**
- Sandy Beach at Black Creek Provincial Park has a waterless pit toilet & change rooms.
- The Ferndale ball diamond has seasonal public washrooms.
- The Ferndale ball diamond has seasonal portable toilets.

**Lion’s Head**
- Bruce County Library - Lion’s Head branch at 90 Main Street offers washrooms for customers.

**Insider’s Tip**
Visit Bruce County’s Webpage for Wheelchair Accessible Public Washrooms on the Bruce: http://maps.brucecounty.on.ca/washrooms/