Your Guide to Huron County Hiking

Ontario’s West Coast
HURON COUNTY • CANADA
Hiking Guide

www.ontarioswestcoast.ca
Welcome to Huron County . . . Ontario’s West Coast! Discover the enjoyment of the outdoors for pleasure and improved health through walking, cycling and cross country skiing. Located in Southwestern Ontario, Huron County offers trail enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels a variety of terrains from natural paths to partially paved routes. Come and explore!

Huron County is a vacation destination of charm, culture, beauty and endless possibilities! Contact the address or number below and ask for your free copy of the *Ontario’s West Coast Vacation Guide* to help plan your hiking adventure!

For the outdoor recreation enthusiast, Huron County also offers a free *Cycling Guide* and a *Fish/Paddle* brochure. For information about these and additional conservation areas and heritage walking tours, contact us.

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For your complete Huron County travel information package contact: tourism@huroncounty.ca or call 1-888-524-8394 Ext. 3  
County of Huron, 57 Napier St., Goderich, Ontario • N7A 1W2  
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This Guide Book is designed as a quick and easy guide to hiking trails in Huron County. Each trail is numbered on the Reference Map on the next page (more detailed driving directions are included with each trail description). Use the Map Reference Number to locate the page where the corresponding trail description is located. Each trail description and corresponding map provides additional information on trail distance, level of difficulty, trail use, trail hazards, trail surface and cost (if any). If you encounter “on the ground” trail marker issues, please contact the associated trail contact (on page 4).

**Level of Difficulty:**
- Level 1 - easy, for family with young children
- Level 2 - moderate, wear comfortable and sturdy shoes
- Level 3 - some hills, natural path
- Level 4 - hilly, for more experienced hikers

**TRAILS**
- Maitland Trail
- GART
- Main Trail
- Alternate Trail
- Side Trail
- Unblazed Trail

**ROADS**
- Provincial Highway
- County Road
- Municipal Road
- Private Road

**MAP ELEMENTS**
- Contours
- Railway
- Watercourses
- Wooded Areas

**POINTS OF INTEREST**
- Walking or Hiking
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Cycling
- Wheelchair Access
- Pets (on leash)
- Birdwatching
- Fishing
- Exercise Station
- Scenic Lookout
- Point of Interest
- Parking
- Washrooms
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Camping

**Trail User’s Code**
1. Hike only along marked routes.
2. Use the stiles where provided.
3. No motorized vehicles permitted.
4. No camping or fires permitted.
5. Walk along the edge of fields, not across them.
6. Protect, and do not disturb wildlife or plant life.
7. Take nothing but photographs and memories.
9. No cutting or marking bridges or trees.
10. No hunting. Do not disturb wildlife.
11. Pets on leash only. Clean up after your pet.
12. Remember to carry adequate drinking water for your journey.

Note: All trails are used at your own risk. Any trail coordinates are provided as an assistance for orientation and geocaching.

Aerial photos of these trails and larger versions of the maps in this guide are available on: www.ontarioswestcoast.ca
Thank-you to members and staff of these groups for their assistance in compiling and editing this Guide; also special thanks to staff of Huron County Economic Development Services and Geographic Information Systems, in particular Rachel Martin, Nick Courtney and Erin Norsworthy.
**Scenic View from the CNR Bridge**

The Wingham Community Trail runs from east to west, meandering along the old abandoned rail bed, crossing the Maitland River and then it makes a loop around the Turnberry Flood Plain Conservation Area to take you back.

Several benches are placed along the trail on the east side of the river. A covered gazebo is at the east end of the trail. Enjoy the scenic view of the river from the old CNR Bridge and the natural growth and plantings along the trail. North Huron Recreation Department is trail contact.

**Distance**  
2.5 km loop, 1.1km east of Josephine St.

**Difficulty Level**  
Level 1 - east side of river  
Level 3 - west side of river

**Trail Use**  
Walking, Cycling, Skiing, Wheelchair Accessible, Pets on leash

**Trail Hazards**  
None evident

**Trail Surface**  
Paved/brick, natural surface, recycled plastic decking on bridge

**Cost for Using Trail**  
None

**Driving Directions**  
Several trail access points. The trail crosses the main street, Josephine Street, near the railway tracks.
Cedar Lowlands and Hemlock Forest

The Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area, location of the Wawanosh Nature Centre, is an area highlighted by a scenic 3 km trail loop. The trail crosses the Belgrave Creek, passes through meadows with hedgerow plantings and down a steep hill to the cedar lowlands at the river.

A boardwalk leads through the hemlock forest to the upland hardwoods or red pine plantation. Follow the edge of the forest back to the parking lot area. Maitland Valley Conservation Authority is the trail contact.

Distance 3 km loop

Difficulty Level Level 2-moderate, wear comfortable, sturdy shoes

Trail Use Walking, Skiing, Pets on leash

Trail Hazards Poison ivy along the creek and river. Trail west of Nature Centre, bridge out November-May

Trail Surface Natural surface, some boardwalks

Cost for Trail Use None

Driving Directions County Rd. #4 (London Rd.) North of Blyth to Nature Centre Road, turn left (west). About 7 km on right.
A Stone Arch and a Fisherman’s Trail

The development of this trail has been a community project including a walking trail, a fitness trail and a fish habitat improvement area. The trail is situated on the former CPR rail line and runs adjacent to the Blyth Brook. Along the trail, hikers will see wood duck nesting boxes as you enjoy the spectacular vista view of the countryside. The trail ends at a unique stone arch bridge built by the Grand Trunk Railway. Parking is available just east of the bridge. The trail runs east and west of the bridge located on County Rd. #4 in Blyth. North Huron Recreation Department is trail contact.

**Distance**
- 1.37 km with 0.46 km loop

**Difficulty Level**
- Level 1 - easy, for family with young children
- Level 2 - moderate, wear comfortable, sturdy shoes

**Trail Use**
- Walking, Cycling, Skiing, Wheelchair Accessible, Pets on leash

**Trail Hazards**
- None evident

**Trail Surface**
- Natural surface, wood chips

**Cost for Using Trail**
- None

**Driving Directions**
- Blyth is located on County Road #4 (London Rd.) half way between Clinton and Wingham.
A Spectacular Natural Waterfall

This trail offers hiking in a beautiful natural setting along the Maitland River. The trail starts from the entrance parking lot. Follow the road past the fish pond to the start of the trail. The trail leads down the steep hill behind the wind mill and follows the wide shallow river to the scenic Benmiller Falls.

Continue on the Maitland trail (white blazes trail, then follow the blue blazes trail) back to the pond. The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority is the trail contact; Falls Reserve Contact - 519-524-6429

Distance
3.2 km loop

Difficulty Level
Level 2 - moderate, wear comfortable, sturdy shoes
Level 3 - some hills, natural path

Trail Use
Walking, Skiing, Pets on leash

Trail Hazards
Poison ivy along the river

Trail Surface
Natural surface, Groomed ski trail (winter)

Cost for Using Trail
Day use fees posted at gatehouse

Driving Directions
From Goderich go 6 km east on Highway #8 to County Rd. #1, turn left to Benmiller then follow the signs. The Falls Reserve is located just west of Benmiller, off County Rd #31.
Point Farms Provincial Park hosts a diverse trail network. In all, 7km of trails will take you through open fields, a climax forest, down and along the bluff to see limestone outcroppings of Lake Huron. There are many branches off of the trails so that a shorter hike may be enjoyed. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails. A map is available at the park office during the camping season (mid May to Thanksgiving).

Point Farms Provincial Park is the trail contact: 519-524-7124.

Distance 7 km

Difficulty level Level 1 and 2 (easy - moderate)

Trail Use Walking, Cycling, Skiing, Pets on leash

Trail Hazards None evident

Trail Surface Natural surface

Cost for using trail Day use fees posted at park office.

Driving Directions 7km north of Goderich on Hwy #21 on the left. When the park is open, park in the parking lots ($); during the off season, park at the Hwy #21 entrance.
The Goderich Waterfront Boardwalk extends 1.5 km from the main beach at the mouth of the harbour to the Rotary Cove. This incredible waterfront boardwalk stretches along three of the finest beaches in Huron County; it offers a glimpse at the history of the harbour through the Marine Heritage Walking Tour (available at the Tourist Information Centre). Enjoy sunsets on Ontario’s West Coast, picnic areas, playgrounds, rest stops and the waterfowl as you take a leisurely stroll.

Tourism Goderich is the trail contact: 1-800-280-7637

**Distance**
1.5 km linear

**Difficulty Level**
Level 1- easy, for family with young children

**Trail Use**
Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, No bicycles or dogs permitted on boardwalk. (Dog friendly area on part of St. Christophers beach and free run area south of Rotary Cove.)

**Trail Hazards**
None evident

**Trail Surface**
All boardwalk

**Cost for Using Trail**
None

**Driving Directions**
Take West Street, from The Square in downtown Goderich, to the Main Beach, St. Christopher’s Beach and Rotary Cove.
Scenic River Lookout

In the August 2011 tornado, the network of trails between the Goderich Cemetery and the Maitland River was completely flattened. In an effort to rehabilitate the area, groves of trees, bushes and wildflowers have been purchased and planted by sponsoring organizations, communities, families and individuals. Come explore the rebirth of a once beautiful pine and maple forest while walking on wood chipped damage that the F3 tornado left behind. Enjoy the spectacular look-out view of the rapids at Pipers Dam eighty feet below. (Please stay on trails, as others lead to private property). The Town of Goderich is the contact.

**Distance** 2 km  
**Difficulty Level** Level 1 and 2  
**Trail Use** Walking  
**Trail Hazards** Steep drop-off at riverbank, unmarked trail, steep slope on NW path  
**Trail Surface** Loose natural with exposed roots and wet areas and some wood chips  
**Cost for Using Trail** None  
**Driving Directions** Entrance to the Maitland Cemetery is located on Highway #8, just east of the Town of Goderich between Mill Road and Orchard Line.
Magnificent Views and Heritage

The Tiger Dunlop Heritage Trail starts at the former location of the CPR Station, at the Goderich Harbour (Harbour St.). It crosses behind the elevators to North Harbour Road to the Menesetung Bridge where there is a magnificent view of the Maitland River; The Menesetung Bridge was built as a railway bridge in 1907. Beyond the bridge, it follows the abandoned CPR line to the Tomb of Tiger Dunlop, one of Huron County’s colourful historical figures.

The blue Sifto Loop starts at the North end of the bridge, turning west, and features the Heritage Oak Tree. The Menesetung Trail (yellow blazes) goes east of the Menesetung Bridge along the north side of the river.

The Maitland Trail and Menesetung Bridge Associations are the trail contacts.
**Menesetung Trail**

**Distance**
3.2 km linear - links to Maitland Trail and G.A.R.T.

**Difficulty Level**
- Level 1 - easy, for family with young children
- Level 2 - Blue Trail

**Trail Use**
Walking, Cycling, Skiing, Pets on leash; Wheelchair Accessible (from North Harbour Road parking lot to Menesetung Bridge to below Tiger Dunlop’s Tomb)

**Trail Hazards**
None evident; do not throw items from the bridge; no fishing or swimming from Menesetung Bridge; stay on marked trail.

**Trail Surface**
Natural surfaces, stone dust, wood planks on bridge

**Cost for Using Trail**
None; donation box on site beside map board at North Harbour Rd.

**Driving Directions**
Several access points. See map.
Serene Hiking on the South Edge of Goderich

The Maitland Woods Trail is a lovely serene trail on the south edge of Goderich. It is rich in its variety of trees, plant life and birds, and includes creeks and ponds.

Boardwalks are in place in the wet areas to protect the plant life. This trail offers walking, hiking and skiing in some sections. Pets, on leash, allowed. Tree Identification signage in place. The Maitland Trail Association is the trail contact.

Distance
Perimeter length = 3.3 km, with shorter loop options

Difficulty Level
Level 1- easy, family with young children
(occasionally some wet areas)

Trail Use
Walking, Skiing

Trail Hazards
Poison Ivy in area near Huckins St. entrance

Trail Surface
Natural surface, boardwalks and gravel surface in wet areas

Cost for Using Trail
None

Driving Directions
Main entrance off Parsons Court at the Columbus Centre. Alternative entrance at the end of Huckins St:Bayfield Road south (Hwy. #21), just past Suncoast Mall, take Huckins Street, trail entrance at end of the street. Walk in trail entrance beside Fire Hall.
River Valley Vistas

Dramatic vistas, intimate woods and expansive floodplain – all couched on the southern bank of the Maitland River Valley. Highway 21 to Nelson Street Access – This challenging section is sculpted into the most precipitous face of the river valley and affords an unusual view of some river rapids. Nelson Street to Mill Road – This more moderate section descends into the Proudfoot Historical Tract and the extensive Maitland River Valley flood plain. Proceeding upriver, enjoy the panorama of the valley before climbing to the top of the river bank. The Maitland Trail Association or Tourism Goderich is the contact.

Distance & Difficulty Level
Hwy. #21 to Nelson St. access - 1 km / Level 3
Nelson St. to Mill Road - 2 km / Level 2

Trail Use
Walking, Pets on leash

Trail Hazards
Trail is hilly with terracing and boardwalks; steep slopes and exposed tree roots. Stay on the marked trail and walk with caution.

Trail Surface
Natural surface, some boardwalks and bridges.

Cost for Using Trail
None

Driving Directions
Park at east end of Nelson Street or park on northwest side of Hwy. #21 Bridge over Maitland River and walk south over highway bridge to start. Alternate entrance and parking at gate on Mill Road.
The Naftel's Creek Conservation Area trail leads through mixed conifer plantations, hardwood and wetland areas. Boardwalks allow visitors to enjoy the wetland. Watch for trout as you cross the Naftel’s Creek. Follow trail markings, as there are many side trails.

In the winter Naftel’s Creek Conservation Area is a popular trail for cross country skiing. There are 3 side trails and a common trail covering 49 hectares of beautiful forests. The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority is the trail contact.

**Distance**  
3.2 km loop

**Difficulty Level**  
Level 2 - moderate, wear comfortable, sturdy shoes

**Trail Use**  
Walking, Skiing, Pets on leash

**Trail Hazards**  
Poison ivy in wet areas, steep hill on blue trail

**Trail Surface**  
Natural surface, some boardwalks

**Cost for Using Trail**  
None

**Driving Directions**  
Located about 7 km south of Goderich on Hwy. #21. Parking is available just off Hwy. #21 at the trail access point - # 79152. Between Union Rd. and Kitchigami Rd.
An Extensive Trail System

The Maitland Trail follows the north side of the Maitland River Valley. Varied terrain from flat sections, gentle slopes, to steep climbs. Hike along ridges, to down along river flats. Sometimes rugged. Many beautiful vistas and rewarding hiking.

A rich variety of plant and bird life can be seen. These trails offer walking, hiking and snow shoeing, plus skiing in some sections. Please respect privacy where trail crosses landowners’ property. The Maitland Trail Association is the trail contact.

Distance: 49 km with some optional side / blue loops
Difficulty Level: Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4 - conditions vary widely depending on section.
Trail Use: Walking, Skiing (in some sections), Pets on leash
Trail Hazards: Some steep cliffs, if you stray off the trail; some road sections
Trail Surface: Natural surface
Cost for Using Trail: None (end to end badges available for purchase)
Driving Directions: Several access points. See map on next page.

(Call 1-800-280-7637 to purchase The Maitland Trail Guide with detailed maps.)

Scenic Ponds and Sharpes Creek

G.A.R.T. is a pastoral route through Ashfield, Colborne, Wawanosh Township. It passes two scenic ponds, crosses over Sharpes Creek and ends at the intersection of the Maitland Trail. The former rail line does extend east beyond the intersection of the Maitland Trail; however, the original railway bridge near Auburn is out - only the bridge abutments remain.

G2G Inc. (Goderich to Guelph trail) is working on opening the former rail line trail - watch www.g2grailtrail.com for updates.

Snowmobiling is allowed on east 9km; no motorized vehicles otherwise allowed. Horseback riding is permitted along the trail. The Maitland Trail Association or North Huron Trail Grooming Inc. are the trail contacts.

Distance: 13.35 km linear, Goderich to near Auburn
Difficulty Level: Level 1 - easy, for family with young children
Trail Use: Walking, Cycling, Skiing, Pets on leash, Horseback riding Wheelchair accessible for the first 4 km from North Harbour Road entrance in Goderich. No ATVs or motorized bikes.
Trail Hazards: None evident
Trail Surface: Natural surface, stone dust. Menesetung Bridge - plank surface
Cost for Using Trail: None
Driving Directions: Several access points. See detailed map on next page.
For detailed maps of the Maitland Trail and associated trails, please purchase "The Maitland Trail Guide"

Visit the Maitland Trail Association website at http://www.maitlandtrail.ca

Trail locations may be subject to change; please check website and follow signs.
A Pine Plantation and Old Orchards

The George G. Newton Nature Reserve is a 40 hectare former farm property that is owned by Ontario Nature (formerly the Federation of Ontario Naturalists). The nature trail winds through an old pine plantation and the remnants of the farm’s orchards.

A side trail takes you through a white cedar forest and along a stream valley where it stops at an old dam where a sawmill once stood. Parking (3 or 4 cars) is available at the access point for the trail. Ontario Nature’s local rep, Tom Lobb is the trail contact.

Distance 1.3 km - white pine loop; 0.6 km cedar side trail (one way)

Difficulty Level Level 3-some hills, natural path

Trail Use Walking, Pets on leash

Trail Hazards Trail and steps can be slippery. Old building foundations near trail.

Trail Surface Natural surface

Cost for Using Trail None

Driving Directions On Hwy. #21 between Bayfield and Goderich, take Kitchigami Rd. East. The Reserve is located just past Porter’s Hill Line, on the south side of road at - # 35913.
Experience History on a Riverside Trail

The Lobb farm is a heritage property. The Lobb trail is a beautiful well-groomed trail with several river side locations, some hills, scenic rest stops and some heritage interpretation plaques. The nature trail winds over an old pottery kiln and through a homestead area.

North of the picnic area at the embankment is a Carolinean forest with flora and fauna typical to this type of habitat.

Distance  Approximately 7 km through mature woodlots with a variety of tree species.

Difficulty Level  Level 3-some hills, natural path

Trail Use  Walking, Pets on leash, Skiing, Mountain Biking, Snowmobiling and Snow Shoeing

Trail Hazards  Bridges may be slippery when wet. One steep embankment - gradual hills in two sections.

Trail Surface  Natural surface and bridges

Cost for Using Trail  None

Driving Directions  Located on Maitland Line, Turn north/north east at Holmesville off of HWY#8 on to Sharpes Creek Line. Turn north/north east on to Maitland Line; Parking at intersection of School House Rd.
A Study in Nature

Enjoy a 2.5 km trail through an arboretum and woodlot. The trail is well marked with arrows and is a beautiful natural setting that offers an opportunity to see concrete examples of ecological concepts taught in science. There is a large variety of trees, shrubs and plants; approximately 120 native species trees are identified with comparative types. There are many opportunities to view woodlots, meadow and wetlands. The north end consists of a loop which crosses the #12 fairway in two places. Teachers and their students are welcome with advance bookings. Contact is Woodlands Links - (519) 482-7144 email golf@woodlandlinks.ca

Distance 2.5 km

Difficulty Level Levels 1 and 2

Trail Use Walking, Cross-Country Skiing

Trail Hazards Use caution when crossing golf course fairways

Trail Surface Natural surface

Cost for Using Trail None - donations are welcome

Driving Directions Located 3 km west of Clinton on north side of Highway #8 at the Woodlands Links Golf Course.
Hike in a Spectacular Wildlife Habitat

Strategically located on the paths of two major waterfowl flyways, the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area is one of the most spectacular wildlife habitat developments in Eastern Canada. The 18 km of dyke tops and 13 km of established trails are great for hiking, cycling and horseback riding. The trails meander through interior forests, native grasslands, meadows and flood plains, while the dykes and viewing stands allow for an elevated view of the ponds and wetlands. Clubs or groups are asked to coordinate their activities by calling ahead. The Friends of Hullett is the trail contact - (519) 482-7011 (Detailed Guide and map available at: www.hullettmarsh.com)

Distance
13 km of trails / 18 km of dyke tops / 7 colour coded trails

Difficulty Level
Levels 1 and 2

Trail Use
Walking, Snowshoeing, Cycling, Skiing. Pets can be leash free; No motorized vehicles. Hunting is permitted in the area in season as provincially regulated.

Trail Hazards
Seasonal Wet Spots

Trail Surface
Natural surface; self guided, open for public day use year round

Cost for Using Trail
None - donations are welcome

Driving Directions
Several roads access the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area off of Highway #8 and County Road #4.
Pleasant Walking and Pavilion for Reunions

The Clinton Conservation Area is located on the south side of Clinton. The trail offers a pleasant walk along the Bayfield River and through the Commemorative Woods site. Exercise stations are also available along the trail system.

A picnic pavilion provides shelter and is a popular place for families. Playground facilities are also available.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority is the trail contact.

Distance 2 km loop
Difficulty Level Level 1 - easy, for family with young children
Trail Use Walking, Skiing, Pets on leash, Some Wheelchair Access
Trail Hazards None evident
Trail Surface Natural surface
Cost for Using Trail Donations accepted by the Lions Club or Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Driving Directions Located on Highway #4, just south of Clinton, next to Highway bridge. (77960 London Rd.)
Early Morning Walks Prove Rewarding

The Bannockburn Conservation Area is located on Bannockburn Line (east of Varna). Early morning walks will reward you with sightings of deer, grouse and numerous song birds. Bannockburn is home to six different natural communities: wet meadow, white cedar, deciduous forest, marsh, old field and aquatic. Download an audio guides are available.

Hunting and motorized vehicles are not permitted. Partially wheelchair accessible. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority is the trail contact.

Distance 1.9 kms

Difficulty Level Level 3-some hills, natural path

Trail Use Walking, Pets on leash, Wheelchair access. (some sections)

Trail Hazards None evident

Trail Surface Natural surface, some boardwalks, stairs.

Cost for Using Trail Donations accepted by Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Driving Directions Located on 76249 Bannockburn Line - 1st side road east of Varna off County Rd. #3 (Mill Road).
Bayfield

Group guided walking tours available by appointment starting from the Archives and Heritage Centre at 20 Bayfield Main St. You can also enjoy Bayfield’s heritage district, tree-lined streets, and harbour views with the new self-guided booklet. Booklet available ($5) at Archives or at Village Bookshop on Main St.

Lake Huron has played a vital role in the history of Bayfield. In 1832, Baron van Tuyll van Serooskerken, a Dutch nobleman, purchased large holdings in the Huron Tract including 388 acres at the mouth of the Bayfield River for a settlement. The hamlet developed first as an agricultural supply centre.

In the 1840’s Bayfield was a busy shipping port for the export of grain. After rail arrived in the 1860’s, the town became a fishing centre. As the community prospered, hotels, stores and many fine residences were built. Many remain. For more information visit: www.bayfieldhistorical.ca or call 519-440-6206.

Brussels

Although Brussels officially became a village in 1872, it began as the village of Ainleyville in 1855. William Ainlay, a surveyor for the Canada Company, first came to the area in 1852 and felt the waterpower provided by the Maitland River and the rich, deep, untouched soil beneath the canopy of trees made the site a good one.

The village of Ainleyville, so named after Ainlay, began in the southeast part of the present day village. Brussels soon grew into a prosperous community with its own railway station, many local industries, several churches and community groups, and a main street of fine brick blocks.

Many of the commercial blocks, which presently line its main thoroughfare, Turnberry Street, were constructed after more than one devastating fire swept through the village. We invite you to tour our quaint historic downtown and stunning residential areas. Tour map can be downloaded at: www.huroneast.com

Exeter

A leisurely stroll down Exeter’s Main Street will tell the stories of the first “entrepreneurs” who recognized the community’s retail potential; some of whom hung out their “Open For Business” signs more than a century and half ago. Many of the original 19th century buildings with their Victorian facades still remain as viable business establishments, creating a wonderful historic streetscape for Exeter’s Main Street while allowing shoppers to take a step “back in time” whenever they walk through the doors. These stately structures are still admired and remain a legacy to their former owners who, at the end of a busy working day, called them “home”.

A “must see” on the tour is located at the corner of Main and Sanders Street in the midst of Exeter’s downtown heritage streetscape - the original Town Hall. Self-guided walking tour brochures are available at South Huron Welcome Centre or call 226-423-3028.

Goderich

Goderich is fortunate to have hundreds of beautiful and unique locations of natural/cultural heritage significance. Stroll the historic streets and waterfront of this port town following one or all of the Heritage Walking Tours.

The “4 Heritage Walking Tours” docket covers magnificent harbour and river mouth views; 19th and 20th century properties, 2 railway stations, historic commercial area; and many architecturally and historically significant locations. “Historic Downtown Goderich” is a brochure map covering 65 acres of urban hiking surrounding a central park and octagonal town square. Twenty-eight blocks make up 6 kilometers of compact streetscape for this shopping, business, civic, arts and entertainment hub. Explore the boardwalk and port’s marine past and present by following the “Marine Heritage Walking Tour.” Walking Tours can be downloaded at www.goderich.ca

Seaforth

Seaforth is a quintessential small Ontario town, dating back to the Victorian period during the years 1850-1853. Anticipating the construction of the railroad, Christopher and George Sparling acquired most of the present site of Seaforth, situated along Provincial Hwy 8, also referred to as the Kitchener-Stratford-Goderich corridor.

We invite you to take a tour of Seaforth beginning at Victoria Park and circling through Town, finally ending at the Cardno Music Hall and Clock Tower on Main Street. Along the way, you will pass sixteen municipally-designated heritage properties and take in Seaforth’s Downtown, one of the oldest designated Heritage Conservation Districts in Ontario. Tour map can be downloaded at: www.huroneast.com
Follow the Path of the Pioneers

This walk features a range of historical and natural points of interest. Naturalists will enjoy the changing terrain, varied plant life and the telltale signs of abundant wildlife.

The trail starts out on the first pioneer path east of Lake Huron leading from the first ford or crossing point on the Bayfield River. It is likely that this shallow crossing was used for centuries before European settlers came to this area. In the early 1840s, a dam for the first pioneer grist mill in the area around Bayfield was built. It was also used as the first bridge and you can still see the pattern of stones in the river indicating where it was located. The contact for this trail is the Bayfield River Valley Trail Association.

Distance 1.67 km

Difficulty Level Level 2

Trail Use Walking, Pets on leashes.

Trail Hazards None

Trail Surface Natural surface

Cost for Using Trail None

Driving Directions On Highway 21, just north of the bridge in Bayfield, turn right on Old River Road and proceed ½ kilometre and turn right at Sawmill Road, the first stop sign. The trail entrance is at the end of this short cul de sac.
History and Heritage in a Historic Village

Follow the footsteps of the pioneers around the historic village. Meander along Bayfield’s tree lined Main Street until you reach the breathtaking Lake Huron lookout at Pioneer Park.

Descend the stairs to the sandy beach and follow the shoreline and head north toward the largest and most scenic recreational boat harbour on Lake Huron’s east coast. If the time is right, you may see one of the last fishing fleets on Lake Huron returning home with their catch. The contact for this trail is the Bayfield River Valley Trail Association.

Distance
2.4 km

Difficulty Level
Level 1 - (note alternate 0.3 km wheelchair route)

Trail Use
Walking, Pets on leash

Trail Hazards
None

Trail Surface
Paved (except on beach route)

Cost for Using Trail
None

Driving Directions
This trail starts in Clan Gregor Square at the heart of Bayfield on Highway 21 at the Main trail sign at the southwest corner of the Clan Gregor Square near the children’s playground.
**Village to Vistas**

From the Main trail sign at the southwest corner of the Clan Gregor Square near the children’s playground, walk east through the beautiful village green, carefully cross Highway 21, follow the trail signs and stroll past churches, an old boatyard and many of the early village homes until you reach the edge of the woods at Sarnia Street.

Once in the woods, you will enjoy the scenic beauty of the ravines, old pastures and glacial hills as you walk along old gravel quarry roads, lumber paths and deer trails. The contact for this trail is the Bayfield River Valley Trail Association.

*Important Note: By agreement with our landowner partners, this trail is closed during gun hunting seasons. The dates will be posted on: the trail; on the main trailhead Sign in Clan Gregor Square and on www.bayfieldtrails.com*

**Distance**  
5 km

**Difficulty Level**  
Level 3

**Trail Use**  
Walking, Pets on leashes

**Trail Hazards**  
None

**Trail Surface**  
Some paved, but natural surface in the woods.

**Cost for Using Trail**  
None

**Driving Directions**  
This trail starts in Clan Gregor Square at the heart of Bayfield on Highway 21.
Woodland Trail

The Klopp Woodland trail is located in one of Southwestern Ontario’s largest wetland/woodland areas - the Hay Swamp.

The parking lot has been established along with a commemorative garden, a walking path in the meadow and a hiking trail through a lowland forest.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority is the trail contact.

Distance 1 km loop

Difficulty Level Level 1 - easy for family with young children

Trail Use Walking, Skiing, Pets on leash, Hunting

Trail Hazards None evident

Trail Surface Natural and granular surface


Driving Directions On County Rd. #84 between Parr Line and Babylon Line.
**Mavis Trail**

On the Mavis Trail, walkers begin in a quiet pine meadow and after crossing a 65 foot bridge, will then meander along a heavily wooded path that eventually leads to a lovely, tranquil lookout over the charming Bayfield River. This trail is named after Mavis Govier.

The Bayfield River Valley Trail Association is the trail contact. (For Taylor Trail, see next page)

**Distance** 2.5 km

**Difficulty Level** Level 3

**Trail Use** Walking, pets on leashes, limited cross country skiing.

**Trail Hazards** None

**Trail Surface** Natural surface

**Cost** None

**Driving Directions** These looped trails start at the Stanley Recreation Complex, 1.6 kilometers west of the village of Varna on County Rd #3.
Taylor Trail

This interesting and varied trail is hard surfaced with compacted gravel so that individuals with all abilities, including those in wheelchairs and strollers, will be able to experience the joy of a stroll in the woods. The gentle slopes and variety of landscapes will delight trail users of all ages.

The Bayfield River Valley Trail Association is the trail contact.

Distance 1 km

Difficulty Level Level 1

Trail Use Walking, wheelchairs, baby strollers, cross country skiing, pets on leashes

Trail Hazards None

Trail Surface Compacted gravel

Cost None

Driving Directions These looped trails start at the Stanley Recreation Complex, 1.6 kilometers west of the village of Varna on County Rd #3.
Hike Along the Ausable River

This all-season trail winds through the picturesque Ausable River Valley between MacNaughton Park in Exeter and Morrison Dam Conservation Area on Morrison Line. The trail passes through towering hardwood and pine forests, skirts along the Ausable River and gives a bird’s eye view of the river valley at several lookouts. It’s also one of the best places to see the area’s unique white squirrels.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority is the trail contact.

Distance 4 km loop

Difficulty Level Level 1 and 2

Trail Use Walking, Skiing, Pets on leash, Cycling, Wheelchair Access (south trail)

Trail Hazards None evident

Trail Surface Granular surface, some natural, some boardwalk

Cost for Using Trail Donations accepted by the Exeter Lions Club and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation

Driving Directions In Exeter, from Hwy. #4 (Main Street), turn east at Hill Street to MacNaughton Park; or, from Cty. Rd. #83, turn south on Morrison Line (entrance is across from Morrison Dam Conservation Area)
Enjoy Fishing, Hiking and Picnicking

Enjoy the scenery, while hiking, fishing, picnicking, or cross-country skiing. Morrison Dam Conservation Area provides many amenities and a variety of ecosystems including hardwood forest, pine plantation, wetlands and field succession.

Motorized vehicles and hunting are not permitted. Walking and skiing are encouraged.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority is the trail contact.

Distance  
5 km loop

Difficulty Level  
Level 2 - moderate, wear comfortable, sturdy shoes

Trail Use  
Walking, Skiing, Pets on leash, Wheelchair Access (some sections).

Trail Hazards  
None evident

Trail Surface  
Natural surface, granular surface, some boardwalks

Cost for Using Trail  
Donations accepted by Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Driving Directions  
From Exeter, take County Rd. #83 (Thames Rd.) east for 2.2 km, turn right (south) at Morrison Line - trail entrance 500 m ahead. (71042 Morrison Line)
Just Off Donnybrook

Featuring upland maple forest and towering white pines, the 150 acre Redmond Tract offers year 'round hiking and skiing opportunities. As a "working forest", the Redmond Tract provides sustainable harvests of wood products while providing prime fish and wildlife habitat.

Located just north of the scenic village of Auburn, the Redmond Tract, a County forest, is just off the Donnybrook Line on Westfield Road.

Distance: Main Loop - 1.9 km, Hardwood - Loop - 0.54 km

Difficulty Level: Level 2 and 3

Trail Use: Walking, Pets on leash, Cross-Country Skiing, Snow Shoeing

Trail Hazards: Trails can be slippery, Small bridge only suitable for 1 person at a time

Trail Surface: Natural Surface

Cost for Using Trail: None

Driving Directions: Located on Westfield Road, from Donnybrook Line turn onto Westfield Road heading east. There is a main parking area on the south side of the road.
A River Runs Through It

Explore a piece of Ontario’s reforestation legacy on the beautiful mixed forest trails of the 200 acre Stevenson Tract. Purchased by the County in 1951, this property was part of a province-wide effort to reforest fragile lands for the improvement of water quality, reduction of flooding and conservation of soil. Bi-sected by the Maitland River and the Sunshine Creek, the Stevenson Tract features prime fish habitat, scenic canoeing, and some of the best hiking trails in the middle of the county.

Distance
- West Main Loop - 2.32 km
- East Main Trail - 0.54 km

 Difficulty Level
Level 2 and 3

Trail Use
Walking, Pets on leash, Cross-Country Skiing, Snow Shoeing

Trail Hazards
Some areas with steep slopes, may be slippery.

Trail Surface
Natural Surface

Cost for Using Trail
None

Driving Directions
Located on County Road #16 (Morris Road) half way between London Road and the village of Brussels just east of Clyde Line. Parking areas located on East and West side of bridge.
There is a wide variety of opportunity to walk both indoors and outdoors in Huron. Indoor walking provides an all year round, temperate controlled, safe spot for walking.

**Maitland Recreation Centre (Goderich - Huron YMCA)**
(519) 524 – 2125
190 Suncoast Drive East
Goderich, ON, N7A 4N4
**Website:** www.ymcaswo.ca
**Details:** Daily fee to use the track. 200m track.

**Day Fee:**
- $8.50 adult
- $7.00 student
- $5.00 child
- $16.75 family pass

Or free with membership

**10 use Passes:**
- $70.00 Adult
- $55.00 Student
- $130.00 Family

**Central Huron YMCA (Clinton)**
(519) 482 – 3655
239 Bill Fleming Drive
Clinton, ON, N0M 1L0
**Website:** www.ymcaswo.ca
**Details:** No fee to use the walking track. 200 metre track.

**Day Fees (for the rest of the YMCA) are:**
- $8.00 adult
- $6.00 student
- $4.00 child
- $15.00 family pass

**Huron Ridge Acres**
74101 Bronson Ln.
RR# 2 Zurich, ON
N0M 2T0
Contact is Carol Steckle. (519) 565 – 2122
**Email:** info@huronridge.ca
**Website:** www.huronridge.ca
**Details:** No fee to use. Use the sidewalks in the greenhouses during the winter months! February and March you can walk in the greenhouse between 10am and 4pm.

**Suncoast Mall**
397 Bayfield Rd. (Hwy. 21 South)
Goderich, ON
**Phone:** 519-524-8300
**Details:** No Fee to use. Use the mall corridors during mall hours!
Healthy Hiking Tips
from the Huron County Health Unit

- Know how long the trail is and wear proper footwear.
- Check for heat alerts before you head out.
- Bring lots of water and healthy snacks.
- Wear sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat.
- Use an insect repellent approved by Health Canada. Infected mosquitoes may carry West Nile virus. Some ticks may carry the bacteria that cause Lyme disease.
- Apply sunscreen first and then insect repellent. Follow manufacturer’s directions on applying the products.
- Recognize and avoid harmful plants such as giant hogweed, poison oak and poison ivy.

Congratulations, you’re exploring Huron County using active transportation! Active transportation, or using your body to get from here to there, is a great way to improve physical health and reduce stress.

Learn more about active transportation and these tips at huronhealthunit.ca.