

# BRUCE PENINSULA



Surrounded by the waters of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, Bruce Peninsula lies along the Niagara Escarpment and contains Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park. These two magnificent national parks abound in natural wonders. **Bruce Peninsula National Park** is the main attraction with its turquoise waters, dramatic cliffs, coves, spectacular beaches and large tracts of unspoiled forest. It is an extremely popular hiking destination. The park is also home to beautiful, rare orchids and several species of wildlife including black bears, reptiles and amphibians. **Fathom Five National Marine Park**, off the coast of the charming town of Tobermory, features more than 20 shipwrecks and several islands. You're sure to love it!

THE TURQUOISE WATERS OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA

## WHAT TO DO

### BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK ★★★

#### VISITOR CENTRE



A stop at the Visitor Centre is a must as the starting point of your visit. In addition to advice and a wealth of information on the peninsula's two parks, you can watch the feature film "Life on the Edge", explore the exhibits, climb to the top of the **lookout tower**, and take a first short hike. The 1-km **Little Dunks Trail** ★ will take you less than 30 minutes and leads through lush cedar forest to a viewing platform overlooking Little Dunks Bay, a secluded and scenic cove of Georgian Bay. If you are travelling with children, ask for the Explorers booklet which features games and activities.

CHI SIN TIB DEK ROAD, TOBERMORY

### TOBERMORY ★★

At the northern tip of the peninsula is the charming, picturesque **fishing village** of Tobermory. Tobermory has two ports with the delightful names of **Little Tub and Big Tub Harbours**. These are very popular with tourists during the summer season. Near Little Tub you will find good restaurants as well as several boutiques and shops. The town is easy to explore on foot. There is free parking in many streets and large public parking lots. If you are travelling by **!!!RV!!!** go to the public parking lot on **Legion Street**.

### BRUCE TRAIL ★★★



This famous trail is the **most popular** in the park. It stretches over **890 km** from the town of Niagara Falls, Ontario to Tobermory at the northern tip of the peninsula. Within the park, the trail, which follows the **Niagara Escarpment**, is often rugged and uneven. From the cliffs, you will have **breathtaking views of Georgian Bay!** The Bruce Trail is marked with painted rectangles (blazes) to guide hikers. Allow 30 minutes for every kilometer you walk. This trail is rated **moderate to difficult**. You can access the trail at several locations and turn back whenever you want. Don't forget your camera!

### BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK ★★★ AND FATHOM FIVE NATIONAL MARINE PARK ★★

**Season:** Open year-round. Park facilities and services are limited in winter, with some self-serve options.

#### Visitor Centre:

Located in the town of Tobermory, the visitor centre is open every day from mid-May to late October from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Admission fee:** \$7.90/person. Admission is free for youth 17 and under. An annual Parks Canada Discovery Pass is \$69.19/adult.

[www.pc.gc.ca/fr/pn-np/on/bruce](http://www.pc.gc.ca/fr/pn-np/on/bruce) / [www.pc.gc.ca/fr/amnc-nmca/on/fathomfive](http://www.pc.gc.ca/fr/amnc-nmca/on/fathomfive)



BRUCE TRAIL IN BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK

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#### AUTHENTIK TIP

The peninsula is very busy during tourist season. **Plan your parking** ahead of time, especially if you are travelling by **!!!RV!!!**. Some parking lots are limited and fill up quickly, so it's best to arrive early to get a space.

#### HIKING

Bruce Peninsula is a true **paradise for hikers** and offers many spectacular trails. However, the terrain is rugged in many places and can be hazardous, especially in bad weather. Always allow enough time to get back before dark. Wear appropriate footwear and be sure to bring along enough water and snacks.

#### THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

The Niagara Escarpment is a long escarpment that runs east-west through Canada and the United States in the Great Lakes region. It is named for the **cliff over which the Niagara River plunges at Niagara Falls**. The Escarpment is a **UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve** and has the oldest forest ecosystem and trees in eastern North America. Its Canadian portion is 725 km long, crossing Ontario from Lake Ontario (near Niagara Falls) to the tip of Bruce Peninsula, on Georgian Bay.

## GROTTO ★★★

To visit this popular spot, you must **have a parking reservation** or spend the night at the **Cyprus Lake Campground**. Parking space is limited and reservations are required. From the parking lot, you will have **several scenic trails** to choose from. The **Georgian Bay Trail** is the most direct route to the Grotto and is approximately 25 minutes each way. It is 1.5 km long and is rated as easy. Area highlights include the **Grotto, Indian Head Cove and Natural Arch**. To reserve your parking space, call **1-877-737-3783** or visit : [reservation.pc.gc.ca/BrucePeninsula](http://reservation.pc.gc.ca/BrucePeninsula)

## SINGING SANDS ★

As the name suggests, Singing Sands is a **sandy stretch of shoreline**. It has a small, natural beach where you can swim in Lake Huron, and a **picnic area**. There is also a short **boardwalk** through rare **fen and dune** ecosystems, which are home to several species of **carnivorous plants and orchids**. You can walk along the boardwalk or take the 1.3 km **Wild Garden Trail**, classified as easy (about 45 minutes).

DORCAS BAY ROAD, TOBERMORY

## HALFWAY LOG DUMP ★★

To reach this area of the park, you will need to take the long, winding **Emmett Lake Road**. Drive slowly along this gravel road, taking the time to admire the **lush forest and marshland** along the way. The short **Log Dump Trail** ★★ (1 km, 30 minutes) leads from the parking lot to a cobble beach. You will enjoy impressive views of the blue crystalline waters of Georgian Bay and its majestic cliffs. From there, you can continue along the **Bruce Trail** ★★★ or explore the rugged shoreline. Wear good walking shoes and bring snacks or a picnic, as you could easily spend a large part of the day here.

EMMETT LAKE ROAD

## LITTLE COVE BEACH ★

This small rocky cove is nestled in a magnificent setting. You can relax on a flat rock or, if you're brave enough or don't mind the cold, do some **swimming or snorkelling** in the **calm, crystal-clear waters**. It is less popular than some of the park's other beaches, but due to its easy access, it can still be busy. Bring your water shoes.

LITTLE COVE ROAD

## PADDLE SPORTS

You can take a **canoe ride** on the calm waters of **Emmett Lake, Cameron Lake or Cyprus Lake**. Ask at the Visitor Centre for more information. You can also explore the **Marine Park** by **kayak or SUP** (stand up paddle). The water is so clear that you can easily see the bottom of the lake. Depending on the chosen route, you will have the opportunity to observe shipwrecks and a lighthouse. You will need to get a permit from the Visitor Centre. Several private companies in Tobermory rent watercraft and offer guided tours.

ON THE WATER KAYAKS :

53, BAY STREET S, TOBERMORY  
519-596-2626

BIG TUB RESORT BOAT RENTALS :  
236, BIG TUB ROAD, TOBERMORY  
519-596-2219  
[WWW.BIGTUBRESORT.CA/WATERSPORT-RENTALS/KAYAK-RENTALS](http://WWW.BIGTUBRESORT.CA/WATERSPORT-RENTALS/KAYAK-RENTALS)

## BIG TUB LIGHTHOUSE ★

The number of shipwrecks offshore testify to the dangerous waters of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Originally constructed in **1885, Big Tub Lighthouse has long played an important role** guiding ships into the harbour and is still in use today. It is also a very popular tourist attraction. You can take some lovely pictures there and go for a walk along the rocky point. Limited parking available.  
**264, BIG TUB ROAD, TOBERMORY**  
[VISITTOBERMORY.CA/PROFILE/BIG-TUB-LIGHTHOUSE/2276/](http://VISITTOBERMORY.CA/PROFILE/BIG-TUB-LIGHTHOUSE/2276/)

## POISON IVY

Poison ivy is commonly found in the park. Sap from any part of the plant can cause a **severe itchy, blistering rash**. The severity of the rash depends on the person's sensitivity and the amount of sap they are exposed to. Do not touch leaves growing in groups of 3! If you suspect you have come into contact with poison ivy, wash the area immediately with cold water and soap.

## BEWARE WHEN SWIMMING

The **clear turquoise waters** of Georgian Bay are extremely inviting, even if they are **very cold!** It is possible to swim, but it is important to note that all swimming in Bruce Peninsula National Park is unsupervised. Swimming is not recommended everywhere. **Stick to designated swimming areas**. It is also extremely dangerous to jump or dive off the cliffs; although some people do it, it is strongly discouraged. Use caution at all times.

## THE SAUGEEN OJIBWAY

The two national parks are on the traditional territory of the **Saugeen Ojibway First Nations, Algonquin tribes** from the Great Lakes region. This **Anishinaabe people** has occupied the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula for a very long time. The Ojibway agreed to share part of their land, but are still actively involved in protecting the territory and its beautiful natural environment.



GROTTO



INDIAN HEAD COVE



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FATHOM FIVE PARK WRECKS

## FATHOM FIVE NATIONAL MARINE PARK ★★

**Fathom Five National Marine Park** is a National Marine Conservation Area located in the sparkling waters of Lake Huron, off the coast of Tobermory. It is a beautiful, unique freshwater ecosystem that features about **twenty islands**, rock formations millions of years old, lush cliff-edge forests, several species of orchids, and **22 shipwrecks**. The Visitor Centre in Tobermory serves both Fathom Five National Marine Park and the Bruce Peninsula National Park.

**Tobermory Wave Adventures** is a good company that offers interesting tours in the marine park from Tobermory (Little Tub Harbour, Bay Street / 226-974-1880 / [www.tobermorywave.com](http://www.tobermorywave.com)).

## DIVING

There is lots to explore and enjoy under the water, whether you're a novice or an advanced diving

enthusiast. **Fathom Five National Marine Park** offers some of the best freshwater diving opportunities in the world. Clear, clean water, submerged **geological formations** and more than **20 historical shipwrecks** offer a variety of underwater experiences. Before diving you must register and purchase a dive pass from the Visitor Centre or a local dive shop. Diver's Den offers various diving tours and full equipment rental in Tobermory (3 Bay Street / 519-596-2363 / [www.diversden.ca](http://www.diversden.ca)).

## FLOWERPOT ISLAND ★★★

Flowerpot Island, the jewel of **Fathom Five National Marine Park**, can be reached only by boat. This small island is named for two vase-shaped rock stacks off its eastern shore, the iconic **Flowerpots**. Several private tour boat companies offer return trips or observation tours of the island. If you choose to get



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FLOWERPOT ISLAND

off on the island, you can hike along the shore and around the island. There are **4 hiking trails on the island**, ranging from easy to difficult. The trail leading past the flowerpots is rated easy. It is 1.3 km long and will take you about 30 minutes. You can

also see a cave, a lighthouse, and possibly some beautiful orchids. Boat tours leave from Tobermory. You can book a seat with **Blue Heron Cruise** (24 Carlton Street, Little Tub Harbour / 519-596-2999 / [blueheronco.com](http://blueheronco.com)).

**SOUTH OF THE PARK**

**DEVIL'S MONUMENT LOOP TRAIL** ★★ 

**Distance (round trip):** 4.2 km loop  
**Time:** 1.5 hours  
**Level:** Moderate

This site is a little out of the way and is not part of the national park, but it is worth the detour. Devil's Monument is a rocky formation similar to the flowerpots of Flowerpot Island. You will also see a lovely waterfall. Be sure to hike all the way down to see the waves

breaking on the rocky beach. A beautiful spot, and not very busy. **BRITAIN LAKE ROAD, MILLER LAKE**

**GREIG'S CAVES** ★★

This privately owned hiking trail features **10 limestone caves** you can explore. You will need a **flashlight** for some sections of the caves and will also have to do some **climbing**. The hike will take you one to two hours. Wear good hiking shoes as the wet rocks can be slippery. Open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in tourist season. Admission is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children aged 2 to 12 (cash only).

**407, SCENIC CAVES ROAD, LION'S HEAD**  
**519-377-8762**  
**WWW.GREIGSCAVES.CA**

**LION'S HEAD LOOKOUT** ★★ 

**Distance (round trip):** 5.3 km  
**Time:** 3 hours  
**Level:** Moderate to difficult  
**Elevation gain:** 114 metres

**Lion's Head Lookout** is a 5.3 km trail (round trip) along **Bruce Trail** outside the national park. The trail begins between **Lion's Head Provincial Nature Preserve** and the small town of the same name, named

for a rock formation along the Niagara Escarpment that from a distance resembles the profile of a lion. The full **Lion's Head Trail loop is 15 km**, but many people choose to hike out to the magnificent lookout and back, without doing the complete loop. You will see beautiful wildflowers, many birds, and **sweeping views of Georgian Bay** from 200-metre cliffs. The parking lot on McCurdy is small and fills up quickly. Open from May to October.  
**2-8, MCCURDY DRIVE, LION'S HEAD**



© shutterstock\_1491364721-NatureNS

VIEW ON LION'S HEAD LOOKOUT



SUNSET ON THE GEORGIAN BAY

© shutterstock\_625396838-Facto Photo

## WHERE TO EAT

### THE SWEET SHOP (\$-\$\$)

This candy store is a must if you're travelling with kids! For more than 40 years, the Sweet Shop has been producing fine confections in the old-fashioned way, one small batch at a time. They have a wide selection of candy, fudge, ice cream, sorbets, milkshakes and frozen yogurt for all tastes. Their caramel popcorn is heavenly! Friendly staff. Open daily in summer.

**18, WARNER BAY ROAD LITTLE TUB HARBOUR, TOBERMORY**  
519-596-2705  
WWW.SWEETSHOP.CA

### LITTLE COVE BAKERY (\$-\$\$)

Butter tarts are a classic in the region, and this bakery makes some of the best in town. Pastries, brownies, apple fritters, cinnamon buns... you will also have many other sweet treats to try. You can even get good sandwiches here. Picnic tables outside. Open daily in summer.

**4, WARNER BAY ROAD, TOBERMORY**  
519-596-8399

### BEAVERTAILS (\$\$)

Another Canadian classic! A beavertail is something you must try at least once. This is the perfect place for a typically Canadian dessert or a high-energy snack

before or after a hike! Open in summer only, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**24, CARLTON STREET, LITTLE TUB HARBOUR, TOBERMORY**  
WWW.BEAVERTAILS.COM

### SHIPWRECK LEE'S OF TOBERMORY (\$-\$-\$)

A real pirate bistro in the heart of the village! The fish and chips is especially popular. Quick service and friendly staff. You can eat on the outdoor patio or take it to go and eat at a picnic table in the Little Hub harbour. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. in summer.

**2, BAY STREET, TOBERMORY / 705-888-5946 / SHIPWRECKLEES.COM**

### TOBERMORY BREWING COMPANY AND GRILL (\$-\$-\$-\$)

This brew pub offers an interesting selection of craft beers. As the place is very popular, you may have to wait a little, but you won't be disappointed. The pub-style menu is delicious. For a tasty burger, ribs or poutine, accompanied by a good beer, you're in the right place. Open daily in summer from noon to 8 p.m.

**28, BAY STREET S, TOBERMORY**  
519-596-8181  
WWW.TOBERMORYBREWINGCO.COM

\*\*\* Hours may vary \*\*\*



Microbrewery

\$ Inexpensive   \$\$ Moderate   \$\$\$ Upscale   \$\$\$\$ Fine dining