



Region: Ontario

**Duration:** 6 Days

**2022 Dates Double Single** September 18 \$2,175 \$2,875

# **Bruce Trail North**

The best of the Bruce Trail, from Tobermory to Blue Mountain.

Ontario's Bruce Trail is Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath, and this is a "Greatest Hikes" tour along the northern sections, stretching from Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula to the Village of Blue Mountain just outside Collingwood. These hikes will also be supplemented with cultural stops and regional attractions.

### Why This Tour Is Great

#### **Complicated Logistics Made Simple**

The rugged and remote nature of the northern sections of the Bruce Trail make it complicated and time consuming to link hikes together. DeLuxe Hiking takes care of the details, so hikers don't have to waste their time trying to figure it all out and then waste their energy by unnecessarily retracing their steps.

#### **Local Guides Make a Big Difference!**

While most of the trails hiked are on public lands, the presence of knowledgeable local guides converts experiences from Do-it-Yourself, "black & white" hikes into "Technicolor" guided tours by providing loads of information about regional flora & fauna, and fascinating stories of the Indigenous people and local history.

#### Ontario's Backyard

While most hiking tours start far from our Ontario home base, this DeLuxe Hiking option is nearby in central Ontario. This means that for many Ontario residents (and their visitors!) getting to the start of the tour, instead of being an arduous journey, it is a manageable drive, thus saving time and money.

Fitness Scale: <u>H</u> Difficulty: <u>H2</u>

## **Tour Starting Point:**

The Blue Mountains, ON

## Highlights

- Spectacular Vistas
- Flowerpot Island (if available)
- Caves & Crevices
- Vineyards & Apple Orchards
- Tobermory
- Blue Mountain Village

#### Price Includes

- Parking for personal vehicles and private coach transportation
- 5 nights of accommodation Meals: 5-B, 3-L, 3-D.
- 5 days of hiking the Bruce Trail
- Ferry to Flowerpot Island (if available)
- Visit Bruce National Park
- Local professional guides and all entry fees and park passes
- Services of DeLuxe Hiking Tour Director

Prices are in Canadian dollars, they are per person, and include HST.



# **DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY**



# **Bruce Trail North**

#### Day 1

Guests arrive before noon at the Blue Mountain Village, where they will leave their cars before boarding the private coach. First stop is Silent Valley Nature Reserve near Owen Sound with a local guide who literally 'wrote the book' on the place. Second stop is the Handicraft House Trading Post north of Wiarton for Indigenous crafts and gifts. The day will end in Tobermory with a Welcome Dinner at Shipwreck Lee's Dockside Restaurant.

Stay: Bruce Anchor Motel,

Tobermory (1 of 2)

**Meals:** D

#### Day 2

The day begins with a tour highlight, a hike in Bruce National Park along the Georgian Bay shore that ends at the Grotto. After lunch in town, the group takes a ferry to Flowerpot Island for another hike and vistas over Lake Huron. If Flowerpot Island is not available, an alternate hike in the area will be offered. Guests will enjoy a free evening in Tobermory.

Stay: Bruce Anchor Motel, Tobermory (2 of 2)

**Meals:** B

#### Day 3

After check-out, the group heads south to Lion's Head for a second hike along the spectacular shore of Georgian Bay, including a picnic lunch on the trail. Next up is a visit to a local estate for an environmental presentation. After arriving in Blue Mountain, the group will enjoy a group dinner at the Firehall Pizza Company.

Grand Georgian Resort, Blue Mountain Village

(1 of 3)

Meals: B, L, D

#### Day 4

First up is a short, guided hike at **Duncan Escarpment Provincial** Park. Afterwards, we'll head to the Loree Forest for a hike and picnic lunch overlooking Georgian Bay. After lunch, we'll hike along the Bruce Trail to the top of Blue Mountain where we'll stop for wine and cheese before walking back to the Village for a free evening.

Grand Georgian Resort, Blue Mountain Village

1-888-716-5523

(2 of 3)

Meals: B, L

#### Day 5

Today's feature hike is in Pretty River Valley Provincial Park. After lunch at Mylar & Loreta's in Singhampton, guests will enjoy a visit to the Georgian Hills Vineyards before returning to Blue Mountain Village for a Farewell Dinner.

Grand Georgian Resort,

Blue Mountain Village

(3 of 3)

Meals: B, D

#### Day 6

On the final morning together, guests have options. They can join the Tour Director for an early morning hike up Blue Mountain, or, they can book a spa treatment in the Village, or, they can simply relax at the hotel and possibly enjoy some last-minute shopping. While the formal tour ends at check-out. guests are welcome to take advantage of DeLuxe Hiking's special deal at the Scenic Caves and try out the suspension bridge, the hiking trails, the trail through caves and caverns, or perhaps the ziplining course.

Stay: Check out of

**Grand Georgian Resort** 

Meals: B



# LIST OF HIKES Bruce Trail North



#### HIKES & WALKS

#### <u>Day 1</u>

#### 1. Silent Valley Trail, Bogner Ontario

(H2/Moderate – 5.5km/120m) This loop trail features fascinating geology, fossils and a plane crash site. Terrain is uneven with loose rocks. Proper footwear required.

https://www.alltrails.com/trail/canada/ontario/silent-valley-trail

https://brucetrail.org/pages/land-conservation/silent-valley

#### Day 2

#### 2. Bruce Trail, Halfway Log Dump to Cypress Lake, Bruce National Park

(H3/Difficult – 7.7km/190m) This challenging trail offers spectacular views of Georgian Bay and varied terrain.

https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/canada/ontario/bruce-trail-halfway-log-dump-to-the-grotto

https://www.brucepeninsula.org/the-grotto

#### 3. Flowerpot Island Loop Trail, Tobermory

(H1/Easy – 2.6km/80m) This hike is short on distance but long on scenery and vistas.

https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/canada/ontario/flowerpot-island-loop-trail

https://explorethebruce.com/explore/your-flowerpot-island-experience/67/

#### Day 3

#### 4. Lion's Head Loop, Lion's Head to Barrow Bay

(H3/Difficult – 10.5km/320m) This marquis hike along Georgian Bay is challenging but rewarding. (Note: we hike point-to-point rather than completing the 18k loop.)

https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/canada/ontario/lions-head-loop-via-bruce-trail

https://gripped.com/gripped-outdoors/adventures-with-b-lions-head-loop-via-bruce-trail-hike/

#### Day 4

#### 5. Duncan Caves, Duncan Escarpment Provincial Park

(H2/Moderate – 4.0km/50m) This is a short version of the hike, in and out to the caves.

https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/canada/ontario/duncan-caves-trail

http://naturelover.ca/hike-duncan-caves-trail/

#### 6. Loree Forest via Bruce Trail to Blue Mountain to the Village

(H2/Moderate – 10.0km/80m) This hike begins with the Loree Forest Loop, then continues along the Bruce Trail to the top of Blue Mountain.

https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/canada/ontario/loree-forest-loop

https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/canada/ontario/bruce-trail--14

https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/canada/ontario/village-way-trail



# LIST OF HIKES Bruce Trail North



#### Day 5

#### 7. Pretty River Valley Loop, Pretty River Provincial Park

(H2/Moderate – 4.2km/175m) This hike follows the Pretty River. Not long, but plenty of elevation changes.

https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/canada/ontario/pretty-river-valley-loop--2

https://brucetrail.org/system/downloads/0000/0941/BTC Inspirational Hike 6 Blue Mountains Pretty River.pdf

#### Day 6

#### 8. OPTIONAL - Blue Mountain Hikes

(H2/Moderate) These self-guided hiking loops explore the trails on the Blue Mountain property.

https://www.bluemountain.ca/things-to-do/activities/hiking

#### 9. OPTIONAL - Scenic Caves Trails

(H1/Easy) These self-guided hiking loops explore the grounds at the Scenic Caves and include their suspension bridge and zipline options.

https://sceniccaves.com/products/hiking-trails-and-lookouts





# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Bruce Trail North



## Highlights

#### **Spectacular Vistas**

One advantage of hiking along the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay shore is that Instagram-worthy vistas and views are on display every day.

#### Ferry to a Hike

DeLuxe Hiking rarely offers the opportunity to take a ferry to hike on an island. In this case, guests will take <u>the ferry</u> from Tobermory to Flowerpot Island to explore that isolated and scenic place, famous for its natural sea stacks known as "flowerpots."

#### **Caves & Crevices**

The <u>Niagara Escarpment</u> is riddled with fascinating <u>caves</u>, <u>crevices</u>, and rock formations that reveal the geological history of central Ontario, which makes for some slow-moving hikes!

#### Vineyards, Apple Orchards & Rolling Farmland

The Beaver Valley and surrounding area offer a micro-climate perfect for growing apples, and for cultivating specific <u>varieties of grapes</u>. So, in addition to fresh fruit, this also means that wine making and <u>cider</u> production are part of the fall harvest.

#### **Tobermory**

At the northern tip of southern Ontario, <u>Tobermory</u> feels more like a charming coastal fishing town than central Canada. This <u>"8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of Canada"</u>, with crystal turquoise waters and the rugged, natural beauty of the Niagara Escarpment offers a delightful combination of interesting geology, local culture, and village shops and galleries.

#### **Blue Mountain Village**

Visit Ontario's smaller version of what Intrawest Resorts made famous in Whistler and Mont Tremblant. Pedestrian-friendly <u>Blue Mountain Village</u> is chock full of perfect places for *après hike* treats, cafes and restaurants, and plenty of great shopping.

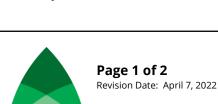
#### Accommodations

#### **Bruce Anchor Motel (2 nights)**

Located in the heart of Tobermory, within walking distance of everything, the simple but well-managed <a href="Bruce Anchor Motel">Bruce Anchor Motel</a> has been hosting DeNure Tours guests for more than 30 years.

#### The Grand Georgian Resort (3 nights)

Recently refurbished, <u>The Grand Georgian</u> is a luxury hotel located in the centre of The Blue Mountain Village. Rooms include a full kitchen and access to a fitness facility, sauna, outdoor pool, and many facilities, including a nearby Starbucks!





# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Bruce Trail North



### Important Info for This Tour

This DeLuxe Hiking tour offers hiking on a surprising variety of terrains and provides a steady stream of spectacular vistas. In most cases, these hikes are made difficult by uneven ground and difficult footing, rather than long or steep climbs. As such, good hiking boots and poles are highly recommended, and hikes of a given length will take longer than usual.

### **Optional Additions**

This tour starts and concludes in The Blue Mountains, Ontario. While some guests may be able to drive to the starting point, guests can join this tour from anywhere in the world! Transfers from an airport (for example, Toronto Pearson, YYZ) are not included, but are available for an additional fee. Please contact us to discuss your airfare and pre-and post-tour accommodation options.

The Day 6 afternoon visit to the <u>Scenic Caves Nature Adventures</u> is an optional addition, an opportunity to be further immersed in the beauty of the escarpment. Included with the park pass is access to take in breathtaking views from Southern Ontario's longest suspension bridge, to explore well-marked hiking trails that vary in length and degree of difficulty, and to step back through time by following the self-guided network of trails through a labyrinth of caves and caverns.



