



Bruce Peninsula
National Park

Fathom Five
National Marine Park

Visitor Guide



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parks.canada.ca/bruce-publications



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Biindigen, welcome!

These areas administered by Parks Canada are within Saukiing Anishinaabekiing (Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory), where ancestral lands and waters meet.

Come prepared to safely enjoy these two special parks, both designated as Dark Sky Preserves and part of the most ecologically diverse UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in Canada.

The Anishinaabek have cared for and lived in close relationship with this place since time immemorial. As you enjoy your visit, walk gently and respectfully. Help protect this sacred place for generations to come.

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Note, the content of this guide is subject to change. For current operating hours, park updates and fees, visit parks.canada.ca/bruce.

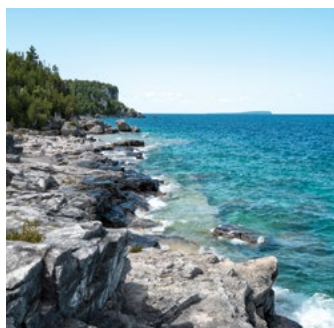
Reserve ahead

Don't risk missing out, advance reservations required May-October



Cyprus Lake, including Indian Head Cove and the Grotto

- 4 hour time slots
- 1-877-737-3783



Halfway Log Dump

- 6 hour time slots
- 1-877-737-3783



Little Cove

- 4 hour time slots



Visit:

parks.canada.ca/bruce-parking

Reservation holders:

- Must arrive at least 2 hours before permit expiry to gain entry.
- Arriving after this cut-off time will be denied entry because there is not enough time to return safely.
- Can use their parking permit on the same day at Singing Sands and the Parks Canada Visitor Centre subject to availability.

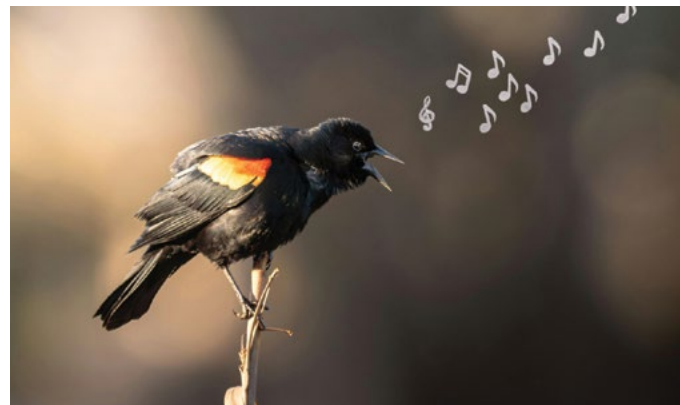
Show kindness

The Saugeen Peninsula community values kindness and respect. Help protect this special place by taking a few thoughtful steps. Disrespectful behaviour toward team members or wildlife may result in denied entry or removal from the parks.



Love this place? Leave no trace!

- Human food and litter are harmful to wildlife, bring a bag to pack out waste for you and your pet.
- Dispose of and recycle all waste at signed locations near the parking lot.



Shhh... let nature continue undisturbed

- Loud noises can force animals to abandon hunting, feeding, resting and caring for their young.
- Take delight in hearing the sounds of nature by speaking softly and avoiding loud noises and devices.



Prevent wildfire & give back

- Use a FREE reusable pocket ashtray available at entry points to keep your cigarette butts.
- Every 1lb butts recycled contributes \$1 to charity for conservation.
- Only gas or propane stoves and barbecues are permitted in picnic areas.



Leave what you find

- Improperly removing bark from a tree can seriously harm or kill trees.
- Observe from afar and take photos of feathers, acorns and bark. These are homes for microorganisms, nesting materials for birds, food for small mammals and are the foundation of the soil.

For the Anishinaabek, trees are living relatives who give us our life's breath, provide food and medicine, comfort and beauty. Please protect them by leaving the bark and branches undisturbed.



Keep yourself safe on the Saugeen Peninsula



Prepare for a safe hike:

- There are no public transport or ride share services available locally. Plan a return trip to your vehicle.
- Check the weather forecast, adjust clothing and plans accordingly.
- Pack your bag with the essentials. Visit www.adventuresmart.ca for packing lists.
- The terrain can be hazardous, wear closed toe and heel shoes with good grip to prevent injuries.
- Stay hydrated and prevent waste. Water refilling stations are available at all trail entry points except Flowerpot Island.
- Clean your boots before and after hiking to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- Note daylight hours. It gets dark in the forest quickly, plan to return to your vehicle before dark.



Cell reception is not reliable in the parks.



Visit www.adventuresmart.ca for tools to help prepare for your trip

Know your way:

- Select destinations, routes and seasons that match your group's goals and abilities.
- Rescue and emergency services are far away. It takes a long time to respond to this remote location.
- Download what3words, making it easy to find and share your exact location with emergency responders.
- Download a trail map or take a photograph of your chosen route.
- Understand how to read trail routes and blazes at different locations.

Stay on trail:

Delicate plants, rare orchids and ground nesting wildlife thrive here. Ancient lichens and microscopic communities live on the surface of the rocks. By staying on the trail and keeping dogs on leash, you:

- See the best points of interest and prevent getting lost.
- Avoid contact with poison ivy, ticks, bears and other wildlife.
- Protect fragile habitats and root systems from damage.
- Access facilities including rest areas and washrooms.
- Prevent spreading invasive species.
- Prevent accidents and injuries.
- Keep away from dangerous cliff edges.

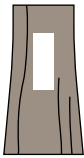
Looking for a souvenir? Visit the Cyprus Lake Office and Visitor Centre for cool collectibles.



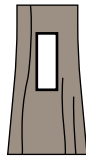
National park trail types

● Easy ■ Moderate ◆ Difficult

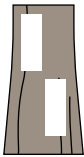
Bruce Trail Main Blazes



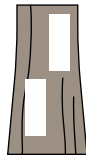
White Blaze
Represents a straight ahead hiking path



Tuxedo Blaze
Emphasizes white blaze

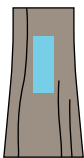


Left Turn
Indicates a noteworthy directional change in the Trail

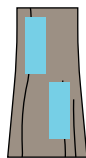


Right Turn
Indicates a noteworthy directional change in the Trail

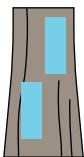
Bruce Trail Side Blazes



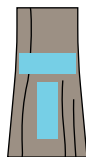
Blue Blaze
Straight ahead on a Side Trail



Left Turn
Indicates a noteworthy directional change on a Side Trail



Right Turn
Indicates a noteworthy directional change on a Side Trail

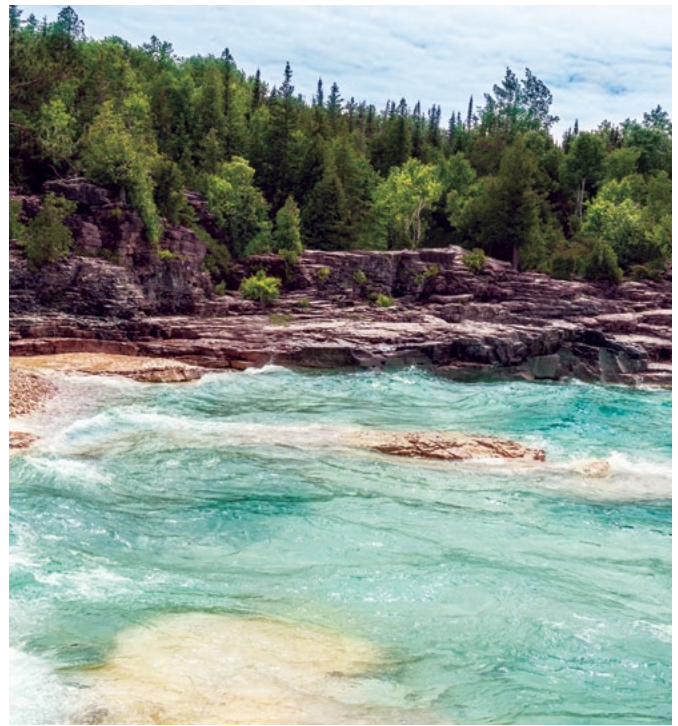


End Blaze
Represents the end of a Side Trail

Blazes can be found on: trees, fence posts, t-bar posts, stiles, bridges, rocks, hydro poles, etc. **Please stay on the Blazed Trail.**

Hug a tree if you get lost!

1. Always tell someone where you are going
2. If you are lost, hug a tree, stay put
3. Call 911 for help
4. Keep warm & dry
5. Answer searchers' calls



nibi (water) safety

There have been over 20 water related deaths in the park since 2000. There are over 22 shipwrecks in the park alone. Water conditions are extremely dangerous. Swimming is NOT recommended along the Georgian Bay shoreline. This is a remote natural place and there are no lifeguards.

The water is cold all year. You are close to the coldest water in all of Lake Huron. Water depths change suddenly from shallow to very deep.

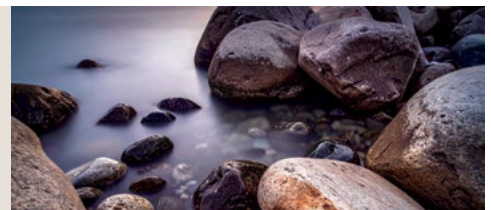
- You are responsible for your safety, look out for everyone in your group at all times.
- Stay alert as weather and water conditions change quickly.
- Wearing a life jacket or personal flotation device can prevent drowning and is:
 - Strongly recommended if you decide to enter the water,
 - Essential when enjoying offshore water sports.



Download the Fathom Five Paddling and Diving Guides here: parks.canada.ca/fathomfive-publications

Shoreline cobblestones prevent erosion and provide critical spawning habitat for many species. Do not remove or stack stones.

Inukshuuk are not culturally appropriate in Saukiing Anishinaabekiing. Building these stone cairns deface the shoreline and can potentially destroy a cultural site.



Grotto and Cyprus Lake area



Welcome to Head of Trails at P1 parking. From May-October, visitors must reserve a parking space in advance. See page 2.

Trails to Georgian Bay Shoreline

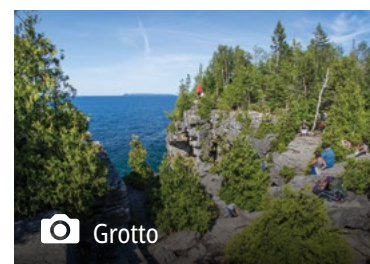
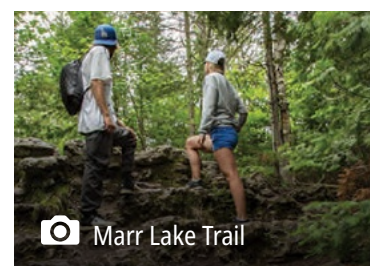
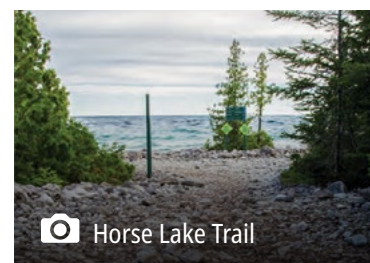
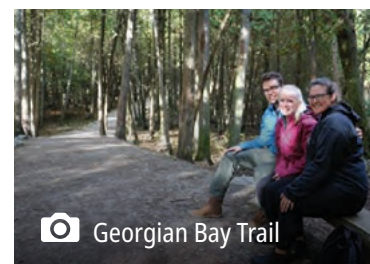
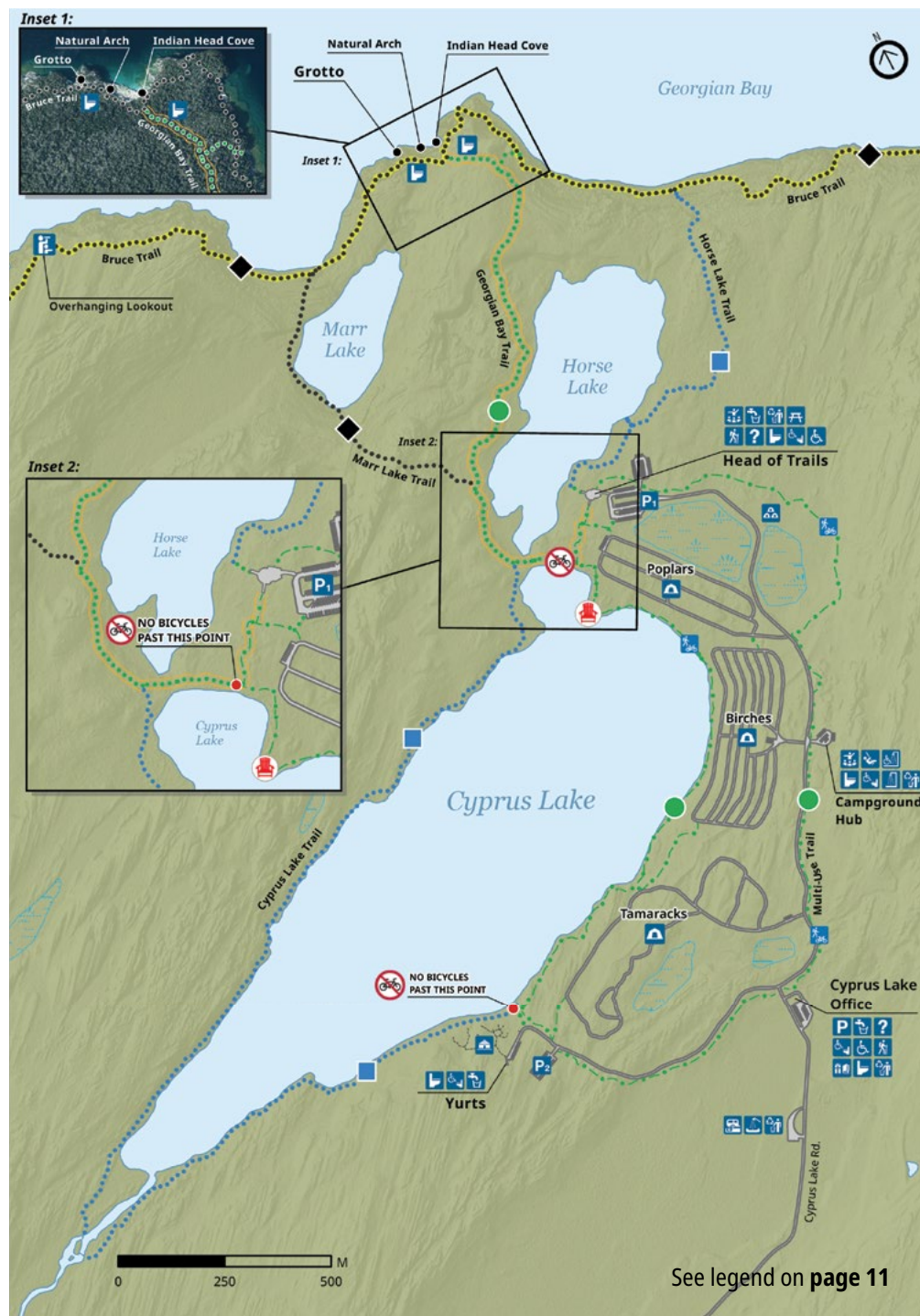
From Head of Trails you can take 3 routes that connect to the Bruce Trail for clifftop views of the iconic Georgian Bay shoreline.

Trail	Time	Distance	Terrain
 Georgian Bay Trail (GBT) to Grotto 	45 min one way	1.5 km one way	Easy. First 850 m through the forest is 3 m wide packed stone. This ends at the GBT washroom before the shoreline. Continue from here to the Bruce Trail.
 Horse Lake to Grotto 	1 hour one way	2.1 km one way	Moderate. 1-1.5 m wide. First 900 m is mulch, crushed stone, boardwalk and packed natural surfaces with exposed rocks and roots. Seasonally wet to flooded sections. Join the Bruce Trail at the shoreline. Shoreline to Georgian Bay Trail is loose, uneven, cobblestone with some packed soil and exposed tree roots.
 Marr Lake to Grotto 	1 hour one way	1.5 km one way	Difficult. 1-1.5 m wide. 12.36 m elevation gain. First 350 m is crushed stone. Next 1.1 km to shoreline is packed natural surface, slick exposed rock, tree roots and mud.
 Bruce Trail to • Indian Head Cove • The Grotto • Overhanging Lookout 	Plan for 30 minutes per km		Difficult. The Bruce Trail is beyond the GBT washroom. 1m wide, rugged natural rock trail along the Niagara Escarpment. Uneven footing, slippery when wet/icy. Some rough climbing along cliff ledges and over large rocks. No handrails or guardrails. Subject to high winds. Inaccessible to strollers/wheelchairs.

Trails around Cyprus Lake Campground

Enjoy these trails through the forest and along the lakeshore for a quieter and less rugged all-season experience.

Trail	Time	Distance	Terrain
 Cyprus Lake Loop 	2.5 hours	5.2 km	Moderate. 1 m wide. Packed natural, uneven forest floor with exposed rocks and roots, muddy sections. Boardwalks and bridges over streams. Relax in the iconic Parks Canada red chairs and enjoy spotting turtles from lookouts.
 Multi-Use Loop 	2 hours	4.3 km	Easy. Explore the campground on the only trail suitable for bicycles in the parks. 2-3 m wide. Packed stone chip, boardwalk. Minimal exposed stone and roots.



Drive cautiously: the loss of one life may risk an entire species

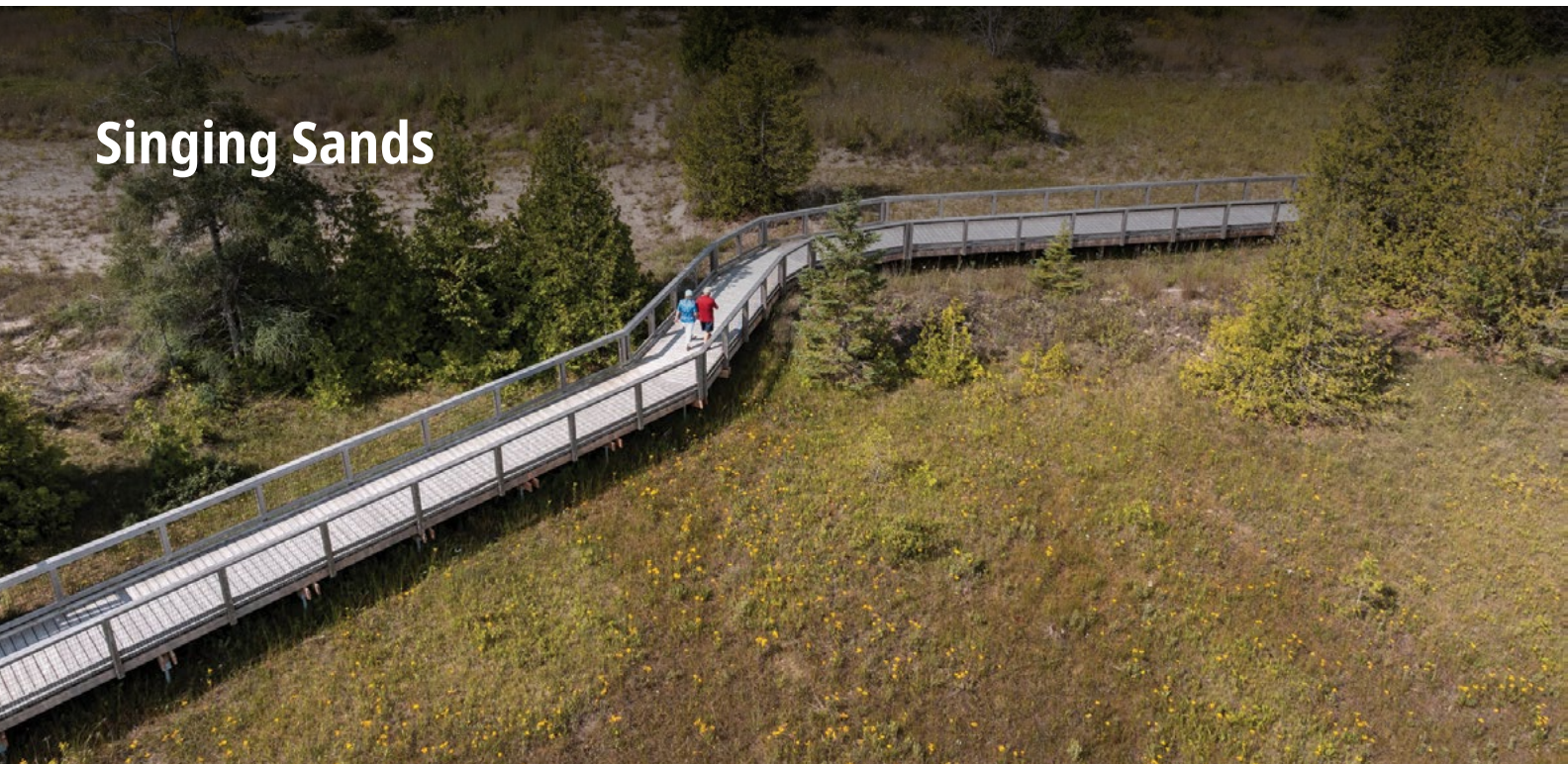
Did you notice driving over the ecopassage entering Cyprus Lake Road today? Ecopassages are tunnels installed under the road to allow wildlife to cross safely. The “On the Road to Recovery” conservation project helps to protect rare snakes, salamanders, turtles and frogs. But, it’s not enough.

How you choose to drive through their home makes the biggest difference. Stay within the speed limit. Drive cautiously. Enjoy watching for wildlife while giving them time and space to cross the road safely.



1,866 turtle hatchlings released into their wetlands (2018-2025)

Singing Sands

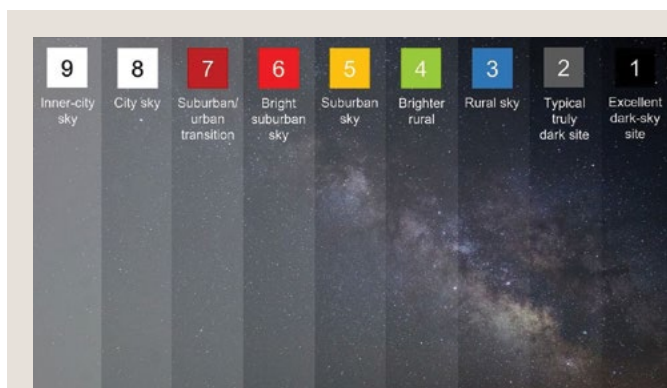
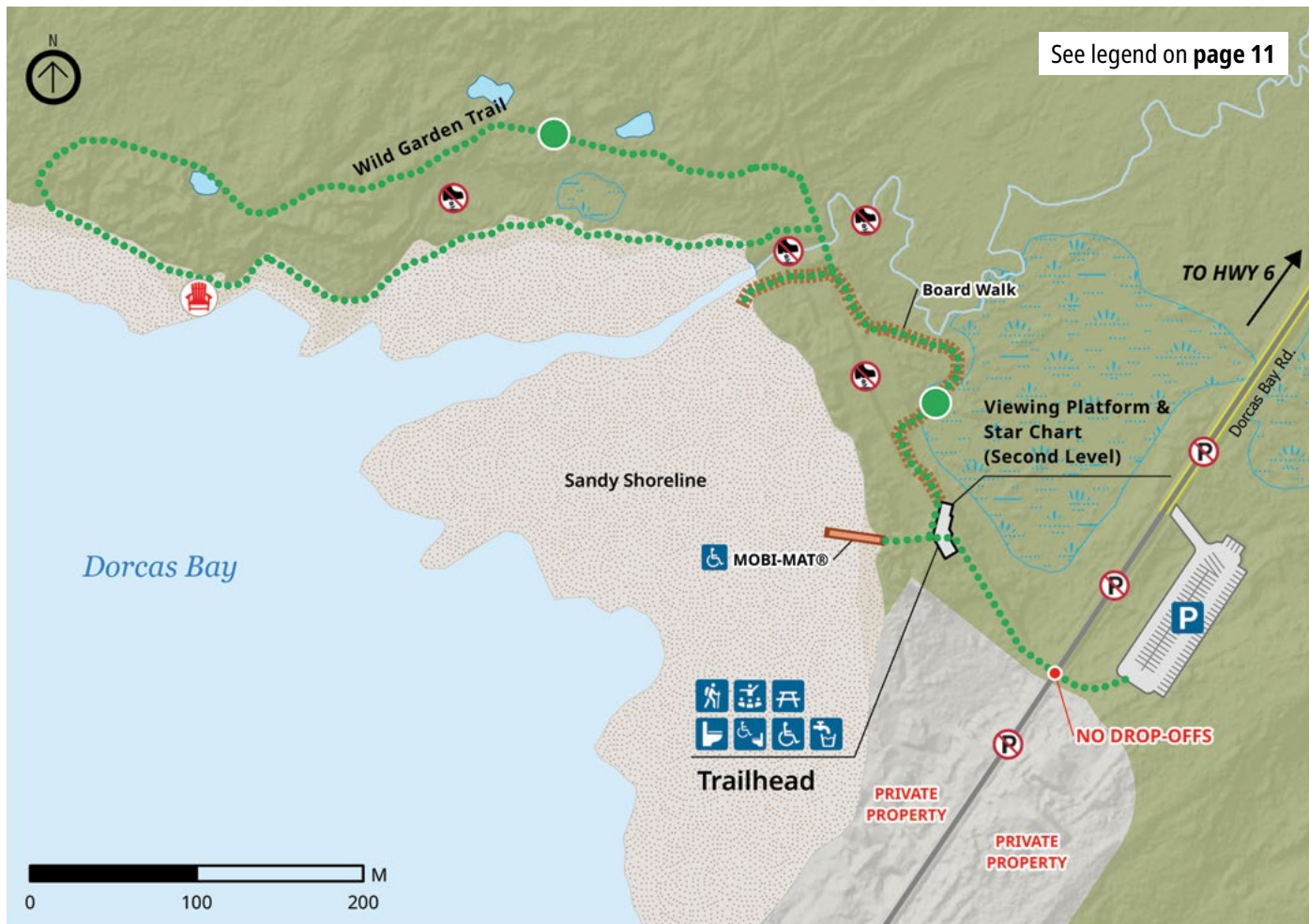


Relax in the iconic Parks Canada red chairs and enjoy observing this beautiful sandy shoreline, home to a wide variety of rare plants and animals. Visitors can explore the regenerating dune and fen habitats from a raised boardwalk, a successful example of ongoing ecological restoration. You can help by staying on trail, keeping dogs on leash and staying out of the stream, a fragile spawning habitat for fish species at risk.

Parking and entry

- Permits can be purchased on-site on a first come, first served basis.
- During the summer months, the parking lot fills quickly in the morning.
- Valid for unlimited same day parking at Singing Sands and the Visitor Centre subject to availability.
- No overnight parking or camping is permitted, no open fires.

Trail	Time	Distance	Elevation Gain	Terrain
● Accessible Boardwalk ♿	10 minutes one way	270 m one way	0.3 m	Easy. 3 m wide. Raised wooden boardwalk. 30 m mobi-mat onto sandy shoreline.
● Wild Garden Loop	30 minutes	1.1 km	6.8 m	Easy. Boardwalk, packed forest floor, seasonally wet and muddy. Natural, loose sandy shore.



TOP TIP: Give your eyes 15 minutes to adjust to total darkness. Wherever possible, use red lights to preserve your night vision and avoid disturbing nocturnal wildlife.

Help to keep a stellar experience

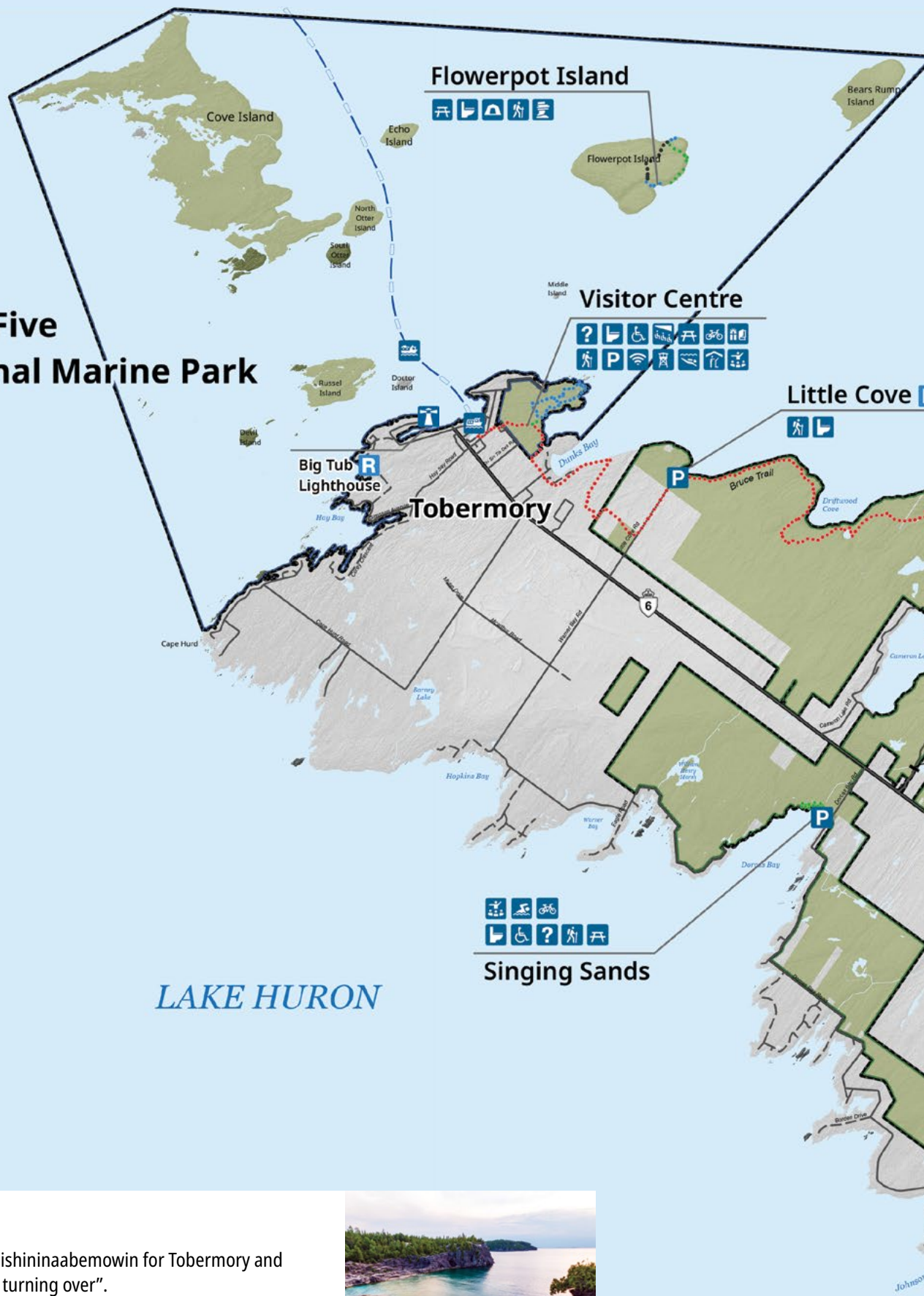
You are in a designated dark sky preserve, a rare habitat that is quickly disappearing due to light pollution. These natural skies support life sustaining behaviours in birds, bats, insects and plants.

The Anishinaabek have gazed at this night sky for millennia. It plays a deep cultural and spiritual role, with constellations of stars symbolizing our interconnectedness and relationship with the universe.

Use the star map on the rooftop stargazing deck at Singing Sands to guide your journey across the sky. On a clear night, you can see the milky way, planets, constellations and Andromeda, our closest galactic neighbour.



Fathom Five National Marine Park



Did you know:

Chi sin tib dek is Anishininaabemowin for Tobermory and it means "big rocks turning over".

- Chi as in "Chi Cheemaun" means "big"
- Sin is the shortened word for asin meaning "rock"
- Tib dek is "turning over"



GEORGIAN BAY

Cyprus Lake & Grotto



LEGEND

- Easy Trail
- Moderate Trail
- ◆ Difficult Trail
- Multi-use Trail
- ... Hiking Trails
- ... Bruce Trail
- Paved Road
- - Gravel Road
- Highway 6
- Ferry Route
- National Park Land
- Private Land
- Fathom Five National Marine Park Boundary
- BPNP Boundary

- ? Information
- P Parking Area
- Washrooms
- Accessible Washrooms
- Showers
- Accessible Showers
- Hiking
- Accessible
- Camping
- Group Camping
- Yurts
- Picnic area
- Swimming
- Water station
- Lookout
- Backcountry Camping

- R Parks Canada area requires reservation
- R Municipal area requires reservation
- Lighthouse
- Sea stack
- Viewing tower
- Wi-Fi
- Theatre
- Interpretation Centre
- Diver registration
- Dump Station
- Recycling
- Bike Rack
- Multi-use Trail
- Canoeing
- Playground
- Garbage and Recycling Bins
- Gift Shop
- Boat Tours
- Car ferry to Manitoulin
- No Parking
- No Bicycle Access
- No Pedestrian Access
- Red Chairs
- Bruce Trail Club Cairn

Stormhaven



Halfway Log Dump



High Dump



Bruce Peninsula National Park

SAUGEEN OJIBWAY NATION HUNTING GROUNDS

Cabot Head Provincial Nature Reserve Park



Flowerpot Island



Surrounded by the cold clear waters of Georgian Bay, Flowerpot Island is a part of Fathom Five National Marine Park, the first national marine park in Canada. To access this location, book a reservation with a local boat tour service on the mainland in Tobermory. It is not possible to walk to the island.

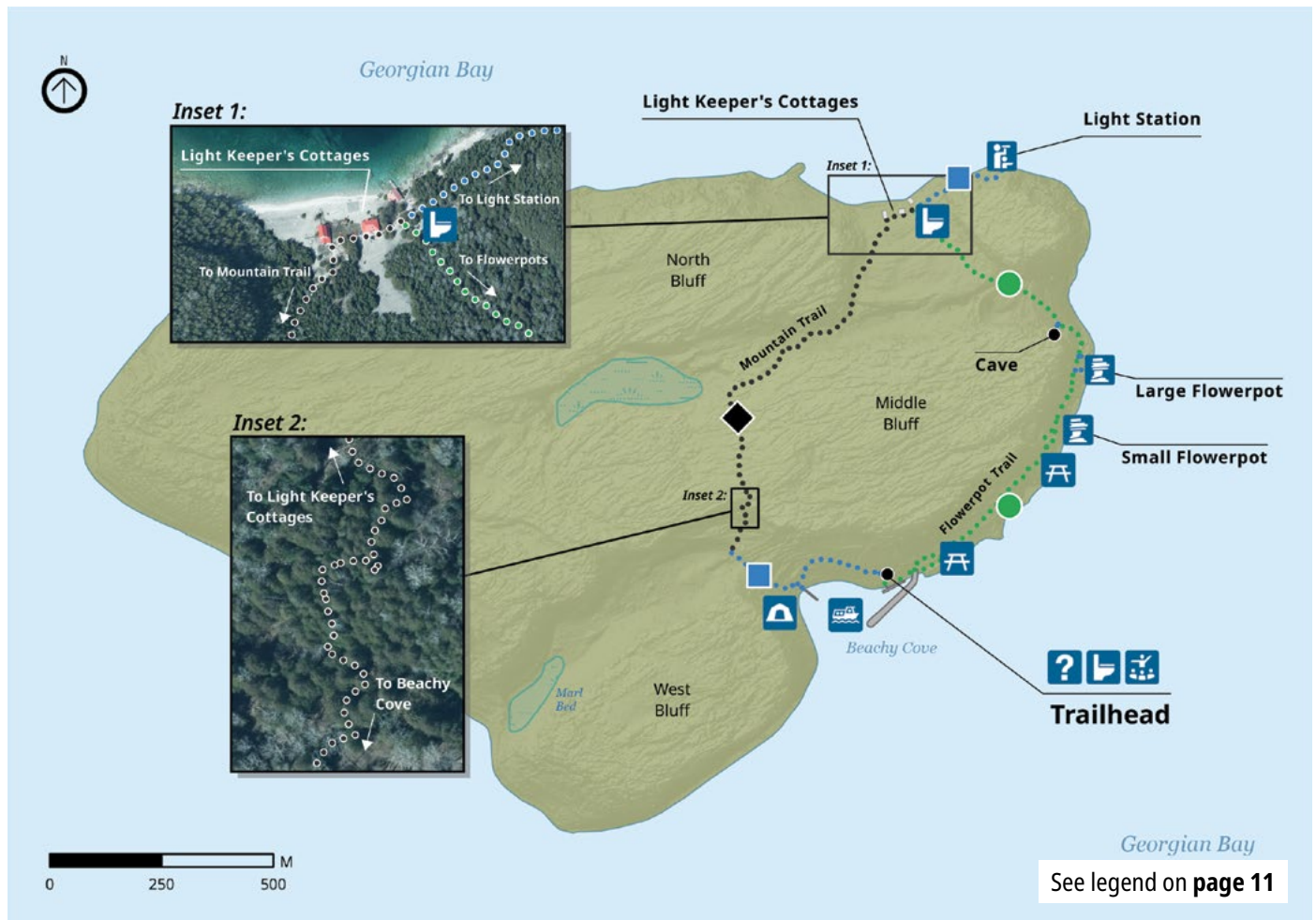
Trail	Time	Distance	Elevation Gain	Terrain
● Flowerpot	30 minutes one way	1.3 km one way	44.5 m	Easy. 3 m wide. Packed stone chip, 2 sets of stairs. Some exposed rocks and roots. Access to Flowerpot is a scramble across natural rocky shoreline.
■ Lightstation Lookout	10 minutes one way	250 m one way	13.7 m	Moderate. 1 m wide concrete, uneven in sections, overhead hazards. Walkway to museum.
◆ Mountain	45 minutes one way	1.5 km one way	54.8 m	Difficult. 1 m wide. Packed natural forest floor, uneven, some exposed rocks and stones. Stairs.

Anishinaabek teachings remind us that nibi (water) is a relative that sustains life. Please act with respect, care and humility when near the water.



Visit Flowerpot Island respectfully

This place is remote and fragile. There are no garbage facilities. Bring only what you need and take back everything you bring, including food scraps, dog bags and recyclables. Visitor trash is the biggest pollutant on the island. This threatens the survival of a diverse range of species at risk that live here. That's why this place is protected. Globally rare and extremely sensitive limestone-based alvars, forests, and shoreline are habitats that support migrating and nesting birds, pollinators, amphibians, fish, plants such as orchids and more. Stay on trail, listen to nature's sound and watch for snakes!



Elder Teaching

As a longtime employee for this incredibly beautiful park, I have had the privilege of welcoming and taking visitors out on the land, through the trails, and sharing with them aspects of Anishinaabek history and cultural perspective, with hopes that these settlers and newcomers can experience an interconnectedness with the land and water, thus leading them to more effective stewardship for the land and water, and allyship with Anishinaabek.

Lenore Keeshig (Anungo-Kwe) is an Elder and Knowledge-keeper for the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

RESERVE AHEAD

Halfway Log Dump



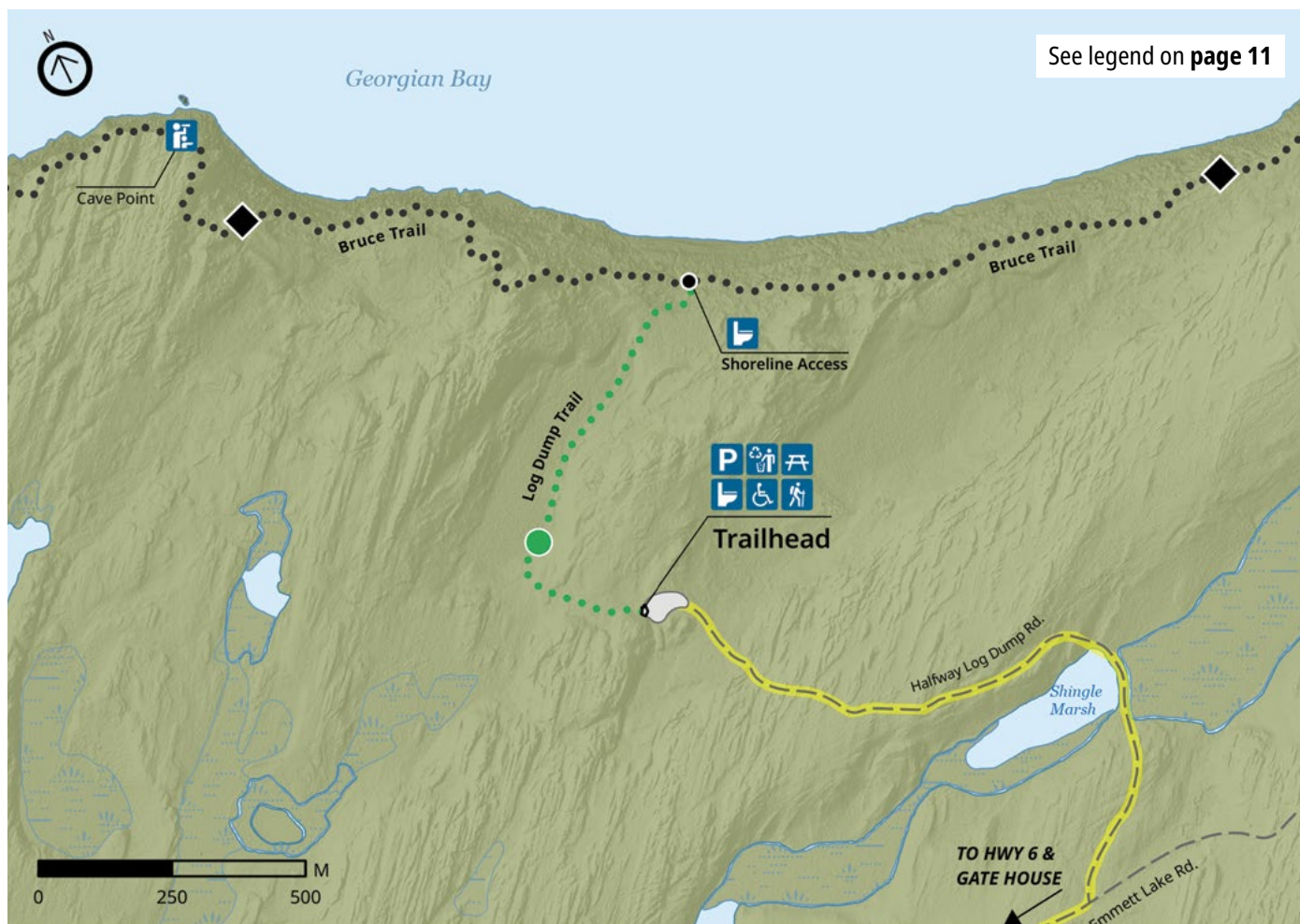
From June-September visitors must reserve a parking space in advance. Reservations last for 6 hours from 7am-1pm or 2pm-8pm. Register your arrival at the gatehouse on Emmett Lake Road before driving 7.3 km slowly along a winding loose gravel road to the parking lot and trail head. Drive cautiously, give wildlife time and space to cross safely.

Trail	Time	Distance	Elevation Gain	Terrain
● Log Dump	1 hour return	1.8 km return	23.5 m	Easy 3-4 m wide. Packed stone chip for the first 900 m to washrooms. From washrooms down to shore, steep, slick stone. Cobblestone shoreline. Rough, cold, deep water.
◆ Bruce Trail to Cave Point Lookout	3 hours return	3 km return to Log Dump	89 m	Difficult. Trail follows the cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment. Rugged and rocky. Uneven and slippery underfoot. The cave is only visible from the water and is not accessible from the trail. This is the highest point in the parks.
◆ Bruce Trail to Grotto	5.5 hours return	10.4 km return to Log Dump	253.2 m	Difficult. This is amongst the most challenging sections of the Bruce Trail. For experienced hikers with correct equipment. Visitors who arrive more than 2 hours after reservation start time must NOT attempt to complete this return hike. There are no public transport or ride share services.

Help preserve the past

The name Halfway Log Dump refers to its use in the late 1800's as a staging area where cut trees were brought from the logging areas down to the shoreline. Logs were dumped into the water and floated or towed to sawmills for processing. The wood was used to make homes and furniture.

This has been a place of shelter for the Anishinaabek for over ten thousand years. Help to protect the past by staying on trail and leaving what you find.



Enhance your experience

Jump into self-serve activities for all ages at each arrival point, connect with our friendly team at drop-in nature stations, or join a guided cultural or nature experience.

See options and schedules at parks.canada.ca/bruce-activities.

RESERVE AHEAD

Little Cove

From May-September visitors must reserve a parking space up to 14 days in advance. Municipal parking and park entry fees are paid to the Municipality of North Bruce Peninsula. Reservations are for 4 hours. See page 2. This is not a Parks Canada parking area.

There is no safe access to the Grotto from this location:

- A return hike to the Grotto can take over 12 hours.
- This includes some of the most difficult, technical hiking on the entire Bruce Trail.
- The trail is dangerous for inexperienced hikers.
- There are no public transport or ride share services available.

Trail	Time	Distance	Elevation Gain	Terrain
 Bruce Trail from Parking to shoreline	15 minutes one way	0.37 km One way	17.36 m	Moderate. Steep paved decline to shore. Loose cobblestone shoreline.



Who's here? Become a community scientist!

Use the free iNaturalist app to record the wildlife you encounter.
Upload your photographs to the park's project: BrucePeninsulaFathomFiveNP.



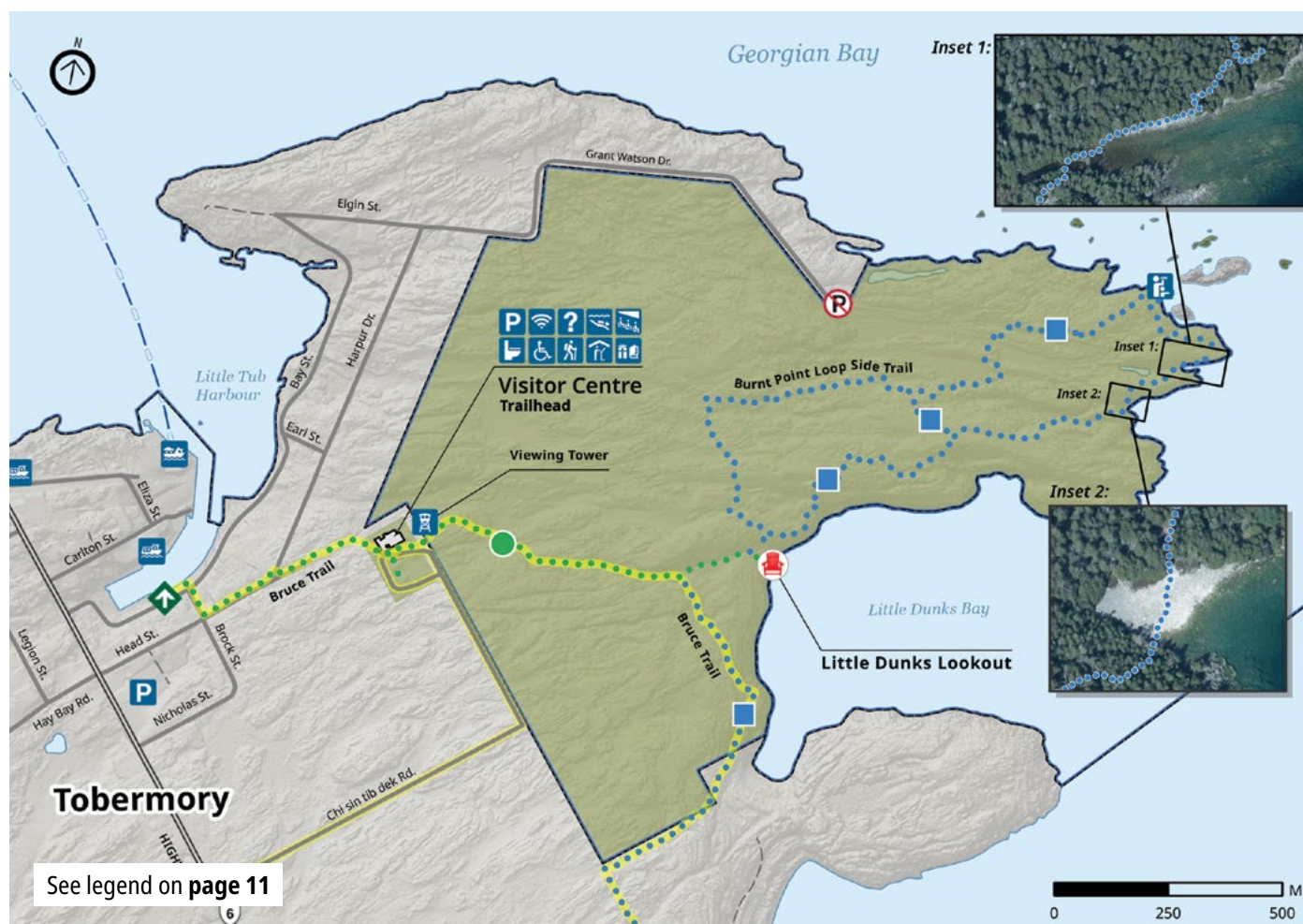
iNaturalist

Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre is a great way to start your safe and memorable experience at Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park. Visitors without advance same day reservations can pay for parking and entry at the self-serve pay and display machines in the parking lot or in person at the front desk.

- Our welcoming team are ready to share the information you need to enjoy the parks and local area.
- Relax in the indoor lounge or make use of the outdoor covered picnic seating.
- Watch Life on the Edge, a short movie introducing this globally unique place.
- Explore exhibits about culture, geology, plants, animals and the pressures they face.
- Looking for a souvenir? Visit the park store for cool collectibles and amazing apparel.
- Climb 112 steps, above the largest remaining forest canopy in Southern Ontario for a stunning 360 view of the islands and waters of Fathom Five National Marine Park.
- There is no waterfront access at this location.

Trail	Time	Distance	Elevation Gain	Terrain
 Little Dunks	30 minutes one way	0.9 km one way	8.4 m	Easy. 1.5-2 m wide. Packed gravel. Packed natural forest floor.
 Burnt Point Loop	2 hours	3.4 km	41.4 m	Moderate. 1-2 m wide. Packed natural forest floor with exposed rocks and roots. Some natural step ups.
 Burnt Point Shortcut	45 min	1.6 km	41.4 m	



You are within Saukiing Anishinaabekiing Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory



Park regulations

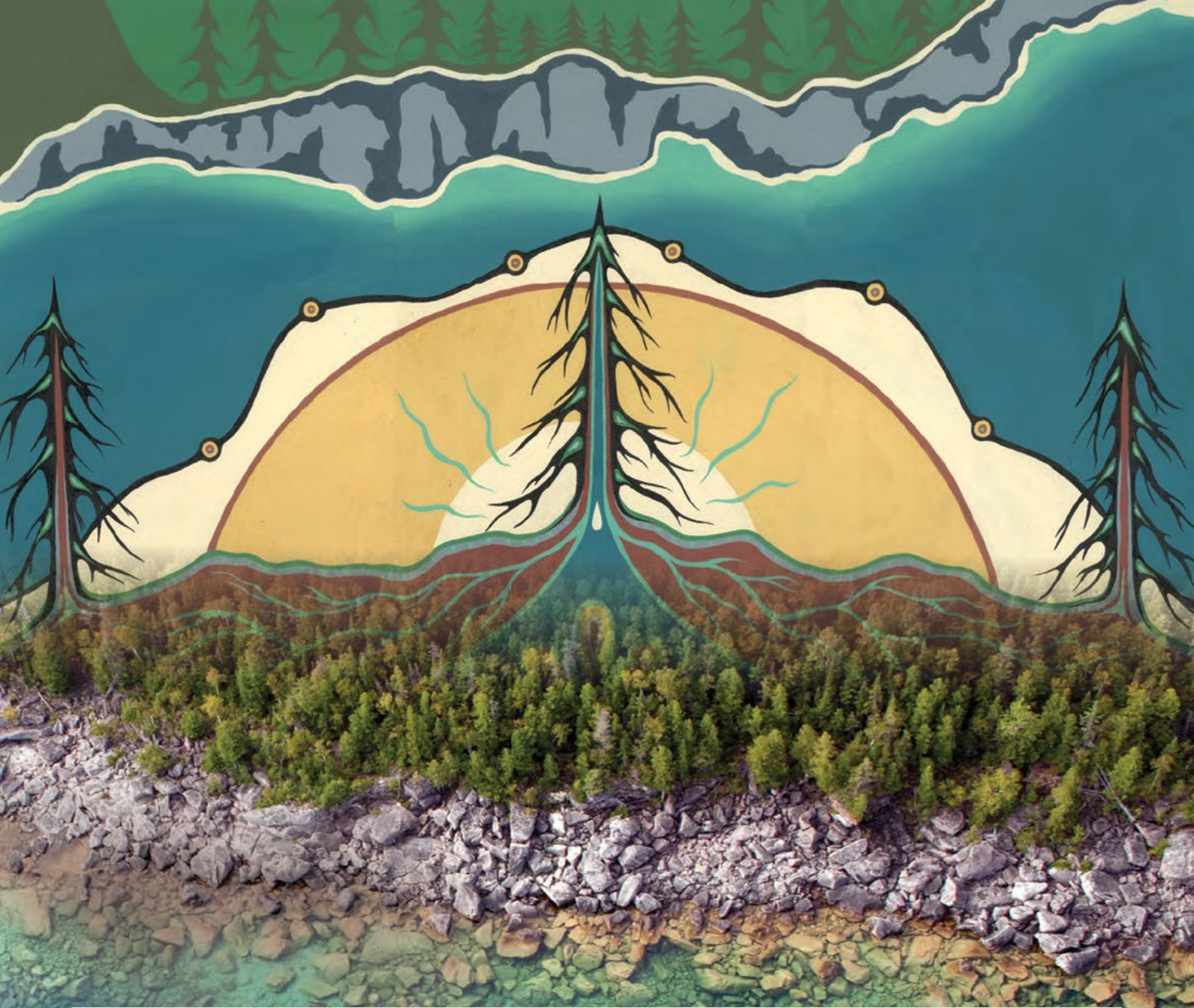


- | | |
|--|--|
|  Camping is permitted in designated areas only. |  Fireworks are prohibited. |
|  Fires are permitted in designated fire pits only. Fires are prohibited at backcountry sites and at the shore. |  Do not carve or write on rocks, trees, furniture or infrastructure. |
|  Please carry your garbage back to the trail head, where a garbage can is located. Do not litter. |  Hunting, harassing, disturbing, and possessing wildlife is prohibited. |
|  Drinkable water is available from the water taps throughout campground and at trail heads. Please use reusable water bottles. |  Alcohol is prohibited for all day use visitors. Campers may only consume alcohol on their campsite and must abide by the campground alcohol ban. |
|  All pets must be kept on a leash (3 m max.) at all times. Please clean up after your pet. |  Human foods, including fruits and vegetables, are harmful to wildlife. Feeding wildlife is prohibited. |
|  Firewood is at Cyprus Lake Campground. Collecting firewood from the forest is prohibited. |  Removal, damage, or disturbance of any natural, cultural, or scientific object is prohibited. |
|  Georgian Bay water is cold and often rough. Please use caution. |  Motorized boats and natural bait are prohibited in Cyprus Lake and Emmett Lake. |
|  Please stay on the trails to avoid unwanted wildlife encounters, including Poison Ivy and Black Bears. |  Bicycles and motorized vehicles are prohibited on all trails, unless otherwise authorized. |
|  Drones are prohibited in the park. |  Music from electronic devices is prohibited in all day use areas or on trails. |

Did you know:

Cigarette filters contain over 12,000 tiny strands of plastic. They are harmful to the soil, water, fish and birds who eat them. Use a FREE reusable pocket ashtray to retain your waste for disposal on the mainland.





We acknowledge the Territory of the Anishinabek Nation: The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomie Nations, and further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen and the Chippewas of Nawash, known collectively as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, as the keepers of this land and water.

The Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Parks Canada Agency have a shared vision to care for these lands and places, and are learning to walk together, guided by the Teachings of honesty, respect, truth, love, humility, bravery, and wisdom.

Together, we aim to protect and preserve the ecological, cultural and spiritual integrity of these places while welcoming visitors to enjoy, understand and connect with the natural, cultural and spiritual values of Bruce Peninsula National Park.

Artist: Emily Kewageshig Photo: Shari Chambers



In case of emergency call 911.

For campground disturbances or encounters with wildlife, call Park Dispatch 1-877-852-3100.



How was your experience?

Scan the QR code to share your feedback with our team. Visit **parks-parcs.**
[simplesurvey.com/f/I/Comment_Card](https://www.simplesurvey.com/f/I/Comment_Card)

