



Six Day Tour Itinerary

The Huronia district of Simcoe County is one of the most historic and scenic parts of Ontario. French explorers, led by Samuel de Champlain, made contact with the Huron Indians in 1615 near Penetanguishene. Jesuit missionaries subsequently moved into the area establishing many missions in their attempts to “convert the natives”. The Hurons were an agricultural tribe spread out in many villages across the region. Unfortunately, they were eventually all but wiped out by disease and the Iroquois.

Huronia covers the area of land between Penetanguishene, Midland, Orillia and Barrie. It is characterized by a variety of geological features including rolling forested hills, large freshwater lakes (including Georgian Bay), flat expanses of farm land and the Niagara Escarpment to the west. The cycling routes in this region provide great beauty along with great challenges.

Day 1 – Intro Ride (25 - 40 km optional)

The tour starts in Oro Medonte at Forks in the Trail B&B. Depending upon your arrival time, you can complete a short cycle loop before dinner. The routes are all on paved quiet country road passing through forests and agricultural land. There are many rolling short hills which can make even a short ride challenging.

After a swim in the pool, enjoy dinner at one of the local restaurants in the Horseshoe Valley or Coldwater area.

Day 2 – Horseshoe Valley to Barrie (65 km)

Today’s ride starts in the Oro Moraine with its hills and rolling paved country roads. The route travels south reaching flatter agricultural land passing a variety of farms and large homes.

You will ride east and then south towards Lake Simcoe connecting with Ridge Road (a favourite ride for local cycling clubs) or the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail (crushed limestone surface). Both routes are quite flat as they follow in close proximity to the lakeshore.

Continue east following Lake Simcoe until you reach Carthew Bay store, a good spot to stop from an ice cream. Complete a loop around 8 - mile point and then head back west towards Barrie.

Ride a combination of Lakeshore Road West and Ridge Road until eventually connecting with the Barrie waterfront trail which follows the lakeshore directly into downtown Barrie. There is approx. 5 km of waterfront park along Kempenfelt Bay.

There are several B&B options in Barrie (Richmond Manor or Three Wishes B&B), both located close to the many downtown restaurants.

Day 3 – Barrie to Mt. St. Louis (50 km)

Retrace your steps back out of Barrie along the Waterfront Trail and Ridge Road until you reach the 3rd Line. From here, travel on a variety of country roads running parallel to Highway 400 north including Line 3, Ski Trails Road and the Old Second Line.

You will reach the small village of Hillsdale with a few shops and variety store. Continue east along the Mt. St. Louis road with an uphill climb.

The old village of Mt. St. Louis is at the corner of the Line 4 where there is a church and community hall.

Turn right on Line 4 south and cross over Highway 400. Line 4 ends at the Ingram Sideroad. Turn left and MoonStone B&B can be found ahead on the left.

Day 4 – Crossing Huronia to Midland (60 km)

Today's ride covers a variety of terrain starting with paved roads in Oro-Medonte climbing up near Mt. St. Louis as we cross Hwy. 400 and head north toward the Village of Coldwater.

Coldwater is a quaint village with many interesting shops and a few good cafes for a coffee break or lunch. If the weather is good, enjoy lunch on the patio at the Mill Bistro right beside the Coldwater River.

Leave Coldwater and continue off-road on the lakefront Champlain/Tay Shore Trail passing many historic sites including Port McNichol (location of the S.S. Keewatin steam ship museum), Ste. Marie-Among-the-Hurons (the old Jesuit mission) and the Martyrs' Shrine Catholic Church (erected in memory of the Jesuit martyrs). The trail starts as crushed limestone in Coldwater but is paved from Waubaushene to Midland.

After checking in to your B&B, take some time to relax before enjoying one of the fine local restaurants. There are two B&B options - Tucked Inn the Harbour (located in Victoria Harbour) or The Captain's House Heritage B&B (located a few blocks from downtown Midland),

Day 5 – Midland to Horseshoe Valley (70 km)

After leaving Midland, head west to reach the beaches along the shores of Georgian Bay.

Follow the Tiny Beaches Road south past large sand dunes, country homes and cottages. Wasaga Beach, known for its long sand beaches and party atmosphere, is a good lunch stop.

The second portion of the route goes inland through agricultural land on a variety of paved country roads. Continuing south you will eventually come to the Horseshoe Valley Road where you head east to the Village of Craighurst. There are several good restaurant stops and gift/ art shops in Craighurst.

Leaving Craighurst it is short 10 km ride back to Forks in the Trail B&B for your final night.

Day 6 – Departure

For this final cycling day, enjoy a loop through the forested paved roads in Oro Medonte township. There are several options available depending on the desired distance (30, 50 or 70 km).

Pick-up your car for departure from Forks in the Trail B&B.