



Weekend Tour Itinerary (Midland)

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.

Huronian 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 (either Forks in the Trail B&B or MoonStone 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 – Crossing Huronia to Midland (60 km)

Today’s ride covers a variety of terrain starting with paved roads and rolling hills in Oro-Medonte. You then pass through flatter agricultural land as you 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 3 – Crossing Mt. St. Louis (40 km)

Retrace your path back east along the Tay Shore trail almost to Port McNicoll before turning inland to follow Rumney Road/ 4th Line. This road offers some rolling terrain and beautiful countryside. Eventually you will arrive at the old village of Mt. St. Louis. Follow Line 4 downhill crossing the bridge over Highway 400.

Follow the Ingram Sideroad which runs parallel to the Copeland Forest (a 4,000 acre provincial reserve).

Pick-up your car at the B&B where you started for your return home.