## Cycling in Southern Ontario

### Long Trails in Southern Ontario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amherstburg-Essex Greenway</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boler Mountain</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brant Tract County Forest</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce County Rail Trail</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyers Bay Cabot Head Lighthouse Route</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanshawe Lake Trail</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgian Bluffs Trail</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgian Trail</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail (GART)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanover Community Trail</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay Swamp</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickson Trail</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Watson Nature Trail</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lions Lake Trail, Floradale</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Valley Trail</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacGregor Point Provincial Park</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Run (Speed River) Trail</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Perth Trails</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owen Sound to Dundalk Rail Trail</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinery Provincial Park and Grand Bend Rotary Trail</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point Pelee Centennial Trail</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rondeau Provincial Park</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Clair River Trail</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys Trails</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saugeen Rail Trail</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thames Valley Trail</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tillsonburg Port Burwell</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Valley Trail</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans Canada Trail (TCT)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayham Trans Canada Trail Route</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brant TH&amp;B Trail</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge Trails</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge to Paris and S.C. Johnson Rail Trails</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatham-Kent Trans Canada Trail</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrysler Canada Greenway</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi Rail Trail</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tour 1. Chrysler Lake Erie Loop

- Elgin Trans Canada Trail                        | 9
- Gordon Gloves Memorial Pathway                  | 9
- Health Valley and Mill Race Trails              | 9
- Kissing Bridge Trailway                         | 10
- Kitchener-Waterloo Trails                       | 10
- Norfolk County Trails                           | 10
- Tillsonburg Trails                             | 10
- Wellesley Township Trans Canada Trail          | 10
- Township of Wellesley                           | 10
- Wildwood Lake Trail                             | 10
- Windsor Trails                                 | 10
- Woodstock “The Pines”                           | 10

### Tour 2. Pelee Island Lakeview Trail

- Tour 1. Chrysler Lake Erie Loop                  | 11
- Tour 2. Pelee Island Lakeview Trail              | 13

### Tour 3. Lake Huron Beach Tour

- Tour 3. Lake Huron Beach Tour                    | 17

### Tour 4. Thames River Explorer: London and Dorchester

- Tour 4. Thames River Explorer: London and Dorchester | 21

### Tour 5. Lake Erie Farm Adventure

- Tour 5. Lake Erie Farm Adventure                 | 26

### Tour 6. Shakespeare’s Stonetown: Stratford and St. Marys

- Tour 6. Shakespeare’s Stonetown: Stratford and St. Marys | 31

### Tour 7. Goderich Huron County Circle

- Tour 7. Goderich Huron County Circle             | 36

### Tour 8. Mennonite Country and Elora Gorge

- Tour 8. Mennonite Country and Elora Gorge        | 40

### Tour 9. Beaver Valley Circuit

- Tour 9. Beaver Valley Circuit                     | 44

### Tour 10. Triple Bay Shore Ride

- Tour 10. Triple Bay Shore Ride                   | 48

### Index

- Index                                             | 53

ulyssesguides.com
Southern Ontario stretches eastward from Windsor to Woodstock, the Dairy Capital of Canada, and from the Bruce Peninsula in the north to Pelee Island, the most southerly tip of Ontario. The region encompasses all the territory between the great lakes Erie and Huron. Urban centres include Brantford, Cambridge, Kitchener, London, Waterloo and Windsor. Parks in the region preserve Carolinian forest, oak savanna and sand dunes.

Heights of land include the northern section of the Niagara Escarpment near Tobermory, the Mount Elgin Ridges between London and St. Thomas, and the many moraines throughout the area, including Galt, Horseshoe, Ingersoll, Moffat, Norwich, Paris, Port Huron, St. Thomas, Seaforth, Tillsonburg, Waterloo, Westminster and Wyoming. Highlights on bicycle trails often occur when major waterways, such as Big Otter Creek or the Beaver, Grand and Thames rivers, cut through heights of land.

The rest of the territory is made up of flat sand, clay and till plains, much of which is ideal for grain, dairy, fruit and vegetable farming.

All this makes for easy, scenic cycling, especially on the many long off-road trails detailed in this chapter, many of which traverse former rail beds.

We've also outlined ten bicycle tours that take you past all the major cultural and natural attractions in the region.

Our Chrysler–Lake Erie loop follows part of the Chrysler Trail and a road along the north shore of Lake Erie to feature a winery visit, shady forests, scenic waterfront housing and a blueberry farm that serves delicious milkshakes.

Our second tour follows the popular Lakeview Trail on Pelee Island in the West Lake Erie Archipelago.

Our third tour features a Lake Huron shoreline ride between Sarnia and Grand Bend, through Pinery Provincial Park for a close-up view of oak savanna and sand dunes.

Our fourth tour features the city of London’s impressive bicycle paths through urban parks, forests and wilderness.

A loop between Tillsonburg and Lake Erie to explore the Big Otter Creek basin makes up our fifth tour.

We also outline a circle tour of the Stratford St. Marys area and a loop to and from Lake Huron over a wooden trestle bridge in our sixth and seventh tours.

A look at the Elora Gorge and the Grand River valley from above and a ride through Ontario’s only remaining wooden covered bridge are the highlights on our eighth tour.

A short loop through Flesherton and Durham and a longer visit to the Georgian Bay peninsula make up our ninth and tenth tours in Southern Ontario. The ninth tour provides a close view of the indent in the Niagara Escarpment made by the Beaver River, while the Tobermory tour offers a chance for cyclists to see the Niagara Escarpment at its highest point.
Long Trails in Southern Ontario

Many of the long trails in this region form the Trans Canada Trail, which touches Lakes Huron and Erie on its weaving path between Windsor and Brantford. The others follow former rail lines throughout the region. Most of the trails are relatively flat and easy to follow, although a few areas feature unimproved rippling or sandy surfaces and others demand climbs into or out of river valleys.

Amherstburg-Essex Greenway

The 26km (15.6mi) railway corridor between Amherstburg and Essex was donated to the Essex Region Conservation Authority in 2001. The greenway intersects the Chrysler Canada Greenway near Windsor.

Essex Region Conservation Authority
360 Fairview Ave. W., Suite 311
Essex
519-776-5209 or 888-487-4760
www.erca.org

Boler Mountain

Boler Mountain in London has 10km (6mi) of mountain biking trails for off-road enthusiasts.

Boler Mountain Bike Centre
689 Griffith St.
London
519-657-8822
www.bolermountain.com

Brant Tract County Forest

A 30km (18mi) trail system has been set up for mountain bikers and hikers south of Paisley, north of Walkerton.

Bruce Grey Trail Network
578 Brown St.
Wiarton
519-374-1933
www.brucegreytrails.com

Bruce County Rail Trail

The Bruce County Rail Trail runs for 80km (48mi) from the end of the Saugeen Trail in Port Elgin to the Bruce-Huron Line south of Mildmay with an extension from Port Elgin to Baie du Dore north of Inverhuron.

Mountain Bike The Bruce
800-268-3838
www.mtbthebruce.com

Dyers Bay Cabot Head Lighthouse Route

A 10km (6mi) gravel road leads from Dyers Bay near Tobermory along the shoreline of Georgian Bay to the Cabot Head Lighthouse.

Tobermory Chamber of Commerce
519-596-2452
www.tobermory.org

Parks Canada Visitor Centre
7374 Hwy. 6
Tobermory

Fanshawe Lake Trail

The 20km (12mi) loop around Fanshawe Lake, north of London, offers cyclists a chance to circle the reservoir created on the Upper Thames River in 1952.

Fanshawe Conservation Area
1424 Clarke Rd.
London
519-451-2800
www.thamesriver.on.ca

Georgian Bluffs Trail

A 13km (8mi) rail trail runs between Kelso Beach in Owen Sound, through Benallen and Shallow Lake to Park Head. This trail used to be two separate rail trails under the names Sarawak and Keppel.

Township of Georgian Bluffs
177964 Grey Rd. 18
Owen Sound
519-376-2729
www.georgianbluffs.on.ca

Georgian Trail

This 34km (20.4mi) trail runs along Georgian Bay between Meaford and Collingwood.

Georgian Cycle and Ski Trail Association
Collingwood
705-445-4209
www.georgiantrail.ca
Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail (GART)

This 48km (28.8mi) linear trail runs along the G.A.R.T. between Goderich and Auburn across the Menesetung Trestle Bridge and through various wooded areas.

Maitland Trail Association
Goderich
www.maitlandtrail.ca

Hanover Community Trail

The 11km (6.6mi) former rail trail along the Saugeen River to the east of Hanover is now a popular multi-use trail.

Hanover Parks and Recreation
519-364-2310
Hanover
www.hanover.ca

Bruce Grey Trail Network
578 Brown St.
Wartn
519-374-1933
www.brucegreytrails.com

Hay Swamp

Cyclists are welcome to use 38km (24mi) of snowmobile trails south of MacDonald Rd and west of Parr Line near Exeter.

Ausalbe Bayfield Conservation Authority
7108 Morrison Line
Exeter
519-235-2610 or 888-286-2610
www.abca.on.ca

Hickson Trail

This 12km (7.2mi) trail follows a former rail bed between Pittock Park in Woodstock and Hickson, although only the section south of Braemar Sideroad has been improved. No motorized vehicles are allowed.

Oxford Trail Council
580 Bruin Blvd.
Woodstock
519-539-9800, ext. 3355
www.oxfordcountytrailsccouncil.ca

Howard Watson Nature Trail

The Howard Watson Nature Trail in Sarnia is a 17km (10mi) multi-use path along the Lake Huron shoreline between the Exmouth neighbourhood in Sarnia and Camlachie.

The Corporation of the City of Sarnia
255 Christina St. N.
Sarnia
519-332-0330, ext. 202
www.bluewatertrails.com

Lions Lake Trail, Floradale

The Elmira Lions Club established a 7 km (4mi) trail around the Woolwich Reservoir in 1980. The land around the dam-created lake on the Grand River, sits within the town of Floradale, north of Elmira.

Township of Woolwich
24 Church St. W.
Elmira
519-669-6027
www.woolwich.ca

Lynn Valley Trail

This 10km (6m) trail runs along an old railway line between Port Dover and Simcoe next to the Lynn River. Four original wooden trestles and the ruins of an old woollen mill offer good photographs along the way.

Lynn Valley Trail Association
519-428-0229
www.lynnvalleytrail.ca

MacGregor Point Provincial Park

MacGregor Point offers cyclists 13.7km (8.2mi) worth of multiuse trails, including the 4km (2.4mi) Rotary Way that links the park with the Saugeen Rail Trail (see p. 8) along the shore of Lake Huron. Mountain bikers who don't mind an ungroomed trail are also welcome on the Nipissing Bluff Cross Country Ski Trail.

MacGregor Point Provincial Park
1593 Bruce Rd. 33
Port Elgin
519-389-9056 or 800-667-1940
www.ontarioparks.com
**Mill Run (Speed River) Trail**

This 5km (3mi) trail runs along the Speed River between King Street in Preston and Sheffield Street in Hespeler.

**Corporation of the City of Cambridge**
50 Dickson St.
Cambridge
519-623-1340
www.cambridge.ca

**North Perth Trails**

Three trails lead along former railway trails for 14km (8.4mi) from Atwood through Listowel to Gowanstown.

**Office of the Municipality of North Perth**
330 Wallace Ave. N.
Listowel
519-291-2950 or 888-714-1993
www.northperth.ca

**Owen Sound to Dundalk Rail Trail**

A 77km (46.2mi) trail runs along a former rail trail from Dundalk to Owen Sound. The surface is mostly large gravel and dirt and there are gates between sections.

**Grey County**
595 9th Ave. E.
Owen Sound
519-376-2205 or 800-567-4739
www.grey.ca

**Pinery Provincial Park and Grand Bend Rotary Trail**

Cyclists will appreciate the 14km (8.4mi) trail system at Pinery Provincial Park on the shore of Lake Huron just south of Grand Bend. After looping through the rare oak savannah in the park, you can then take the 9km (5.4mi) Rotary Nature Trail just south of Highway 21 to get to the sandy beach at Grand Bend.

**Pinery Provincial Park**
RR 2
Grand Bend
519-243-2220
www.ontarioparks.com
www.pinerypark.on.ca

**Grand Bend & Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism**
1-81 Crescent St.
Grand Bend
www.grandbendtourism.com

**Point Pelee Centennial Trail**

A 4km (6mi) trail runs along the Point Pelee Peninsula from the Park Visitor Centre to the Marsh Boardwalk.

**Point Pelee National Park**
RR1, 407 Monarch Lane
Leamington
519-322-2365 or 888-773-8888
www.pc.gc.ca

**Rondeau Provincial Park**

Three different trails lead through Carolinian forest, oak savanna and marsh for a 23km (13.9mi) ride.

**Rondeau Provincial Park**
RR1 (Hwy. 15)
Morpeth
519-674-1750
www.ontarioparks.com

**Friends of Rondeau**
www.rondeauprovincialpark.ca

**St. Clair River Trail**

The St. Clair River Trail is a 35km (21mi)-long linear pathway from Port Lambton to just north of Corunna along the St. Clair River, which links Lake St. Claire with Lake Huron.

**St. Clair Civic Centre**
1155 Emily St.
Mooretown
519-867-2655
www.xcelco.on.ca/~stclair/
St. Marys Trails
St. Marys has two trails on former railway lines that are suitable for cyclists. The 3.2km (1.9mi) Grand Trunk Trail between Thames Road and James Street North enables cyclists to cross the North Thames River via the newly renovated Sarnia Bridge. The 2.4km (1.4mi) Riverview Trail follows the North Branch of the Thames River from the Quarry Swimming Pool past Trout Creek to the Sarnia Bridge. The trails form a T-shaped bridge.

Town of St. Marys
175 Queen St. E.
519-284-2340, ext. 241
www.townofstmarys.com

Saugeen Rail Trail
The 25km (15mi) Saugeen Rail Trail runs along the former Wellington Grey Bruce Railway line between Port Elgin and Southampton that ran in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Cyclists usually loop back via North Shore Road to experience the beautiful Lake Huron shoreline.

Saugeen Rail Trail Association
Port Elgin
www.saugeenrailtrail.com

Thames Valley Trail
The 20km (12mi) portion of the Thames Valley Trail in London and the portion on the Fanshawe Lake Trail (see p. 8) are multiuse. The Thames River, Greenway Park, Warbler Woods and Storybook Gardens are highlights along the way.

Thames Valley Trail Association
Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Rd.
London
519-645-2845
www.thamesvalleytrail.org

Tillsonburg Port Burwell Otter Valley Trail
The Tillsonburg Port Burwell Otter Valley Trail runs along an old railway line from Tillsonburg to Port Burwell. The 22km (13.2mi) trail is unimproved; so much of the journey is on mud or grass. There are three places where the trail becomes difficult to follow. In Eden, the old railway bed has been removed for a corn field. A missing bridge at Black Bridge forces you to take roads instead, while another missing bridge at Froggets Corners forces you to climb a hardened sand hill. All in all, it’s a fabulous adventure.

Town of Tillsonburg
10 Lisgar Ave.
Tillsonburg
519-842-9200
www.tillsonburg.ca

Trans Canada Trail (TCT)
Much of the Trans Canada Trail in southern Ontario has been completed, although there are still gaps in the route between Ruthven and Port Alma, between Tillsonburg and Delhi, and between Elora and Elmira.

The Trans Canada Trail includes the following long trails.

Bayham Trans Canada Trail Route
The Trans Canada Trail follows roads through the Municipality of Bayham between Vienna Line, through Port Burwell, Wadger and Straffordville to Tillsonburg.

Municipality of Bayham
9344 Plank Rd.
Straffordville
519-866-5521
http://bayham.iwebez.com

Brant TH&B Trail
The newest Brant County Trail follows 12km (7mi) of the former Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo (TH&B) Rail Line between Jenkins Road in Brantford and Sheppard’s Lane in Mount Pleasant.

County of Brant
26 Park Ave.
Burford
519-449-2451 or 888-250-2297
www.brant.ca

Cambridge Trails
The Trans Canada Trail passes through Cambridge between Moffatt Creek and the bridge over Highway 401 via several
smaller trails for a total distance of 21km (12.6mi). The trails it uses include the Blair Trail, between the 401 and the town of Blair; the Grand Trunk Trail through downtown Cambridge and the 7.5km (4.7mi) Living Levee Trail.

Corporation of the City of Cambridge  
50 Dickson St.  
Cambridge  
519-623-1340  
www.cambridge.ca/community_services/trails_and_cycling

Cambridge to Paris and S.C. Johnson Rail Trails
The 18km (11mi) Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail and the 14km (9 mi) S.C. Johnson Trail between Brantford and Paris follow the former Lake Erie and Northern railway route that ran between Galt and Brantford from 1904 until it was closed in the late 1970s.

Grand River Conservation Authority
400 Clyde Rd.  
Cambridge  
519-621-2763 or 866-900-4722  
www.grandriver.ca

Chatham-Kent Trans Canada Trail
Several sections of the Trans Canada Trail have been marked on and off roads through the Chatham-Kent area. The name is confusing since the trail passes through neither Chatham nor Kent. Instead, it does a giant loop from the Elgin County Line just northeast of Ridgetown near Lake Erie, passes through Dresden and Wallacetown, then travels south along the shore of Lake Huron and east again towards Lake Erie.

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
315 King St. W.  
Chatham  
519-360-1998  
www.chatham-kent.ca

Chrysler Canada Greenway
The Chrysler Canada Greenway runs for 50km (30mi) between Ruthven, between Kingsville and Leamington, westward to Harrow and then northwards to Oldcastle, south of Windsor.

Essex Region Conservation Authority
360 Fairview Ave. W., Suite 311  
Essex  
519-776-5209 or 888-487-4760  
www.erca.org

Delhi Rail Trail
A 12.5km (7.5mi) abandoned rail trail runs between Simcoe and Delhi. Municipal authorities started improving it in October 2010.

The Corporation of Norfolk County
50 Colborne St. S.  
Simcoe  
519-426-5870  
www.norfolkcounty.ca

Elgin Trans Canada Trail
The trail through Elgin County includes several smaller off-road trails and on-road signed trails (Brouwers Line, CASO St. Thomas, Dutton/Dunwich, etc.) between Aylmer, Eagle, Port Burwell, St. Thomas and Wallacetown.

County of Elgin
450 Sunset Dr.  
St. Thomas  
519-631-1460, ext. 168 or 877-463-5446, ext. 168  
www.elgintourist.com  
www.elgin-county.on.ca

Gordon Glaves Memorial Pathway
This 25km (15.5mi) trail weaves through Brantford along the north and south shores of the Grand River. Highlights include the Alexander Graham Bell Homestead and several city parks.

The Corporation of the City of Brantford
100 Wellington Square  
Brantford  
519-759-4150  
www.brantford.ca

Health Valley and Mill Race Trails
These multi-use trails run along the Conestoga River for 6.6km (4mi) between Conestogo and St. Jacobs.

Township of Woolwich
24 Church St. W.  
Elmira  
519-669-6027  
www.woolwich.ca
Kissing Bridge Trailway
The Kissing Bridge Trailway traverses former railway beds between Guelph and Millbank. It gets its name from the West Montrose Covered Bridge, a major nearby highlight, although you have to go south on local roads to cross the bridge.

Grand Valley Trails Association
www.gvta.on.ca

Kitchener-Waterloo Trails
The Trans Canada Trail in Kitchener and Waterloo follows five trails—Avon, Homer Watson, Iron Horse, Laurel and Schneider Creek—for 20km (12mi) from Conestogo to the bridge over Highway 401.

Waterloo Regional Tourism Marketing Corporation
79 Joseph St.
Kitchener
519-585-7517 or 877-585-7517
www.explorewaterlooregion.com

Norfolk County Trails
These include two trails. The 6km (3.6mi) Waterford Heritage Trail runs between Thompson Road in Waterford and Townsend Concession 13 in Simcoe. The 3.7km (2mi) Sunrise Rotary Trail runs south from Concession 13 under Highway 3 and through the town of Simcoe.

Norfolk County Tourism & Economic Development
30 Peel St.
Simcoe
519-426-9497 or 800-699-9038
www.norfolktourism.ca

Tillsonburg Trails
The town of Tillsonburg contains 13.6km (8mi) of trails, of which 8.4km (5mi) make up the Trans Canada Trail route through the town. The other 5.2km (3mi) are the new Golf Course Trails.

Town of Tillsonburg
10 Lisgar Ave.
Tillsonburg
519-842-9200
www.tillsonburg.ca

Wellesley Township Trans Canada Trail
The Trans Canada Trail uses local roads (Temperance, Broadway, Hemlock and Three Bridges, Henry to follow the Conestogo River between the Kissing Bridge Trailway (see below) in Wallenstein and the Mill Race Trail (see p. 3) in St Jacobs.

Township of Wellesley
4639 Lobsinger Line, RR1
St. Clements
519-699-4611
www.township.wellesley.on.ca

Wildwood Lake Trail
The Wildwood Lake Trail circles around the reservoir, a 25km (15mi) loop, via trails and local roads.

Wildwood Conservation Area
3995 Line 9
St. Marys
519-284-2292
www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca

Windsor Trails
The City of Windsor operates 104km (65mi) of off-road trails, most of which are on former railway beds. The main trails at the moment include: the 3.6km (2mi) West Windsor Recreation way between California Avenue and Ojibway Park; the 5km (3mi) Riverwalk from the Ambassador Bridge and the 8km (2.4mi) Ganatchio Trail between Windsor and the Town of Tecumseh.

The City of Windsor
350 City Hall Sq. W.
Windsor
www.cyclewindsor.ca

Woodstock “The Pines”
The Woodstock Cycling Club operates 15km (9km) of mountain biking trails north of the city.

Woodstock Cycling Club
c/o Pedal Power, 590 Dundas St.
Woodstock
www.woodstockcyclingclub.ca

Oxford County Trails Council
www.oxfordcountytrailscouncil.ca
Tour 1. Chrysler Lake Erie Loop

Our first tour follows the Chrysler Trail between Ruthven and Harrow, then local roads to and along the Lake Erie shoreline for a pleasant day of cycling, terrace dining, winery visiting and blueberry picking. The trailside is home to rabbits, birds and butterflies, while the road offers glimpses of the lake, a beach stop and a side-trip to heritage designated Victorian-era estates in Kingsville.

Overview

- **Distance**: 57km (34mi) loop
- **Difficulty**: 🍁
- **Surface**: Stone dust, gravel, and pavement
- **Villages/Towns/Cities**: Ruthven, Kingsville, New California, Arner, East Harrow, Harrow, The Meadows, Comet, Colchester, Oxley, Cedar Beach, Cedar Island, Linden Beach
- **Access**: Parking lots are located on Concession Road 3 in Ruthven, at Kingsville train station on Landsdowne Avenue in Kingsville, at Schwab Farm on Arner Townline and on Queen Street in Harrow.
- **Washrooms**: Washrooms are available next to all the parking lots, and at Pleasant Valley Campground in Kingsville.

Itinerary

Start your tour at Colasanti’s Tropical Garden in Ruthven. Cycle southwest past the Point Pelee Winery, which makes a very pleasant European-looking picture along the way.

Continue into Kingsville, where a portion of the trail follows local sidewalks through a residential area, past the Kingsville Golf & Country Club and through Lansdowne Park.

Ride through the park. Consider stopping for a pulled pork sandwich with homemade barbecue sauce at Mettawas Station, the restaurant that Anthony and Janet DelBrocco have set up in the old Kingsville train station.

After the park, you’ll pass a local driving range before entering the Carolinian forests. On a hot sunny day, the cooling shade of the trees provides a pleasant respite. Cross Wigle Creek. Continue across McCain Sideroad and Arner Townline, then across Cedar Creek.

Pass Iler, McCormick and Ferris roads. The trail turns north at Queen Street. Detour north to visit the Colio Estate Winery, or turn left (south) to follow Queen Street to Regional Road 20.

Turn left (east), then right at the first intersection to walk south on Snake Lane. The road ends at Potlake Road. Turn right. Pass Ferris Road to get to Bell Road, turn right, then take Bell Road south to Oxley. This entire region is a popular farming region. You’ll see a dairy, a horse farm and an orchard as you travel south.

Turn left onto Heritage Road. You are now on the Lake Erie waterfront, although the water isn’t often visible among the many farms during the first part of this route and shoreline homes during the last part. Be sure to stop for a blueberry treat at Klassen’s. It’s also well worth visiting the John R. Parks Heritage Home.

In Kingsville, retrace the Chrysler Trail back to Ruthven.

Highlights

Note: all addresses Kingsville unless noted.

Colasanti’s Tropical Garden
1550 Rd. 3 E.
519-326-3287
www.colasanti.com

Colio Estate Winery
1 Colio Dr.
Harrow
519-738-2241 or 800-265-1322
www.coliowines.com

Cooper’s Hawk Vineyards
1425 Iler Rd., RR1
Harrow
519-738-6295
www.coopershawkvineyards.com

Extrait de la publication
Kingsville Golf & Country Club
640 Country Rd. 20
519-733-6561
www.kingsvillegolf.com

Kingsville Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (Heritage houses information)
www.kingsvilleheritage.ca

John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area
915 County Rd. 50 E.
Essex
519-738-2029

Pelee Island Winery & Vineyards
455 Seacliff Dr.
519-733-6551
www.peleeisland.com

Schwab Farms
1156 Arner St.
519-733-2042

Food

Klassen Blueberries
954 County Rd. 50 E.
519-738-6089
www.klassenblueberries.com

TOUR 1. Chrysler Lake Erie Loop

Southern Ontario - Tour 1. Chrysler Lake Erie Loop
Southern Ontario

Tour 2. Pelee Island Lakeview Trail

Our second tour follows the popular Lakeview Trail on Pelee Island. Pelee Island is Canada’s southernmost populated landmass. It is the largest of nine Canadian islands within a group of 22 known as the “Western Lake Erie Islands.” From the earliest times, the French referred to these islands as the “Isles des Serpents,” translated as Rattlesnake Islands. Pelee Island is perhaps best known for its famous wine, which has been produced on the island since 1866.

The Pelee Island Transportation Company transports people to the island via ferry from Kingsville and Leamington in the summer, from Leamington between April and mid-December and via small plane out of Windsor in the winter. The ferry trip takes an hour and a half, while the flight takes 15 minutes.

Upon disembarking at the west dock, you immediately get the feeling that time has stood still on this resort island. Much of the island’s history is intact, waiting to be discovered as you begin to explore its nooks and crannies.

Overview

- **Distance** 34km (20.4mi) loop plus two linear extensions, 7km (4mi) and 5.7km (3.4mi)
- **Difficulty** ⚽️
- **Surface** Asphalt and some gravel
- **Villages/Towns/Cities** Pelee Island, which can be reached from Kingsville, Leamington or Windsor
- **Access** From April 1 to August 1, the ferry departs from the city of Leamington; from August 1 to December 7, it departs from Kingsville. To get there from the north, take Highway 401 to Highway 77 South. From the east, follow County Road 20 or Highway 3, and from the west, take Highway 3. From the south, the island may be reached by taking a ferry across the lake from neighbouring Sandusky, Ohio.
  
  If you choose to take your car, there are parking lots at four spots along the Lakeview Trail around the island.
- **Washrooms** Washrooms are located at the junction of North Shore and Steward roads; on East Point Road, just north of Harris Garno Road; in the municipal campground on East Shore; in the Nature Conservancy of Canada land, west of Stone Road and at the Municipal Office on West Shore Drive.
Cautions The island’s roads are narrow and must be shared with motorized vehicles. Also, book your accommodations well ahead of time as the island’s many bed and breakfasts are in popular demand.

Itinerary

The Pelee Island Transportation Company ferry, the *M.V. Jiimann*, is the largest on the lake. It is 80m (262.5 ft) long, weighs over 6,350 kilograms (13,970 lbs) and docks at the island’s West Dock. Once you land, locate the tourist information booth north of the ferry dock in the municipal office (summer only), and stock up on information. Then stop by the Pelee Island Heritage Centre, operated by historian Ron Tiessen, located across from the ferry dock. If you are looking for a more formal island bicycle tour, it can be booked here. For more detailed historical information while cycling on the island, pick up a copy of *A Bicycle Guide to Pelee Island*, available at the Heritage Centre and elsewhere on the island.

By cycling the island in a clockwise direction, you will finish the day at the Pelee Island Winery pavilion and vineyards. The winery is one of only three “Designated Viticultural Areas” in Ontario, and boasts over 200ha (494 acres) of vines.

Several of the island’s sights are difficult to find and reach. One that is not to be missed is Vin Villa, the ruins of the first commercial winery on the island. It can be found through a grove of trees to the left of where Sheridan Point Road swings right and turns into North Shore Drive. Cycle through the natural gateway of overgrown trees, ride a few metres down the trail (which is, in fact, a private driveway; leave your bicycle by the road) and look to the left. Vin Villa was the home of the Thaddeus Smith family, who had a wine cellar built 3.5m (11.5 ft) into solid rock. Today, not much is left of the estate; some of the walls have collapsed and those that are still standing are held together by creeping vines. Be careful as you explore, as there is an open hole in the middle of the ruins that drops down into the old wine cellar. Entering the building is prohibited. At the end of the driveway, Huldah’s Rock rises out of the water.

As you continue your ride around the island on North Shore Road, you’ll see an empty field just opposite the circa-1898 Calvary Anglican Church. On the other side of the field is the lake, but note that the beach here is private. (Those who feel like a swim should instead head to Sunset Beach on the west side of the island, or East Park Campground, Lighthouse Point, Fish Point or Brown’s Point on the east side.)

A second must-see on the island is the former Scudder Granary (an old grain elevator), which lies a short distance down the road from Scudder Dock. While at the dock, take the time to ride your bicycle out onto the pier.

From the marina, follow Harris Garno Road to the Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve, just prior to Lighthouse Drive. Turn left at the multi-use trail and cycle north and then east again, through Lake Henry Marsh. The wetlands are filled with many wonderful sights, including hundreds of turtles sunning themselves on logs and numerous water snakes. If you want to see the renovated lighthouse, leave your bicycle at the top of the trail.

Riding south along the island’s East Shore Road, you will notice that all of the homes have been built on pillars that protect them from Lake Erie’s winter storms, known as nor’easters. Also along the east side of the island, a few kilometres north of the Glacial Grooves, are the warm sands of the island’s public beach.

After the Municipal Campground, follow East West Road to Stone Road and turn south. This road travels through the Stone Road Alvar, a rare savannah and prairie ecosystem. The territory to the east is owned by the Essex Region Conservation Authority, while that in the west is owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

At this point, you have two choices. To follow the shoreline as much as possible, continue to the bottom of the Stone Road Alvar and follow South Bay Road west to McCormick Road, where you’ll turn north. If you prefer an off-road multi-use trail, turn right just after the Ontario Nature Trail to cross Curry Duke and Steward roads inland. A southern link leads to the shore of Lake
TOUR 2. Pelee Island Lakeview Trail

Lake Erie

Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve

Fish Point Nature Reserve

Pelee Island Airport

West Dock

Pelee Island Heritage Centre

Sheridan Point

Scudder Dock

Clutton Rd.

Parsons Rd.

Henderson Rd.

Browns Rd.

Brown’s Point

Lake Henry Marsh

Sanctuary (U.S.A.)

Optional Off-Road Trail

Extrait de la publication
Erie, while the trail itself leads to West Shore Drive between the winery and the heritage centre.

The day will pass quickly as you zigzag across Pelee Island. Remember to pack extra water as East Shore Road is long and water is scarce. If you happen to run out, however, the locals will be glad to help out. Make sure to leave yourself enough time to hike some of the trails in the Fish Point Nature Reserve before finishing off the day over a glass of fine wine and a “self-cooked” meal at the Pelee Island Winery.

**Highlights**

Note: all addresses Pelee Island unless noted.

**Lighthouse Point Nature Reserve**
Wheatley Provincial Park
Wheatley
519-825-4659
www.ontarioparks.com

**Pelee Island Heritage Centre**
1073 West Shore Rd.
519-724-2291
www.peleeislandmuseum.ca

**Pelee Island Bird Observatory**
Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve
519-724-2829
www.pibo.ca

**Pelee Island Transportation Company**
1060 West Shore Rd.
519-724-2115 or 800-661-2220
www.ontarioferries.com

**Pelee Island Winery**
20 East West Rd.
519-733-6551 or 800-597-3533
www.peleeisland.com

**Stone Road Alvar Conservation Area**
Carolinian Canada Coalition
Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Rd.
London
www.carolinian.org

**Food**

Conorlee’s Bakery and Delicatessen
5 North Shore Dr.
519-724-2321
www.conorlee.bravehost.com

Pelee Island Co-operative & Postal Outlet
(groceries, fuel, hardware, farm supplies and postal services)
corner West Pump Rd. and Centre Dyke Rd.
519-724-2910

Scudder Beach Bar and Grill
325 North Shore Rd.
519-724-2902
www.scudderbeach.com

Westview Tavern
1075 West Shore Rd.
519-724-2500

**Accommodations**

Anchor & Wheel Inn
11 West Shore Rd.
519-724-2195
www-anchorwheelinn.com

**Camping**

East Park Campground
1362 East Shore Rd.
519-724-2200

**Bicycle Shops**

Comfortech Bike Rental and Retail Store
1065 West Shore Rd.
519-724-2828
www.comfortechbikerental.com

**Visitor Information**

Township of Pelee
1045 West Shore Rd.
519-724-2931
www.pelee.org

Pelee Island Transportation Company
1060 West Shore Rd.
519-724-2115 or 800-661-2220
www.ontarioferries.com

Extrait de la publication
Tour 3. Lake Huron Beach Tour

Our second tour links the Howard Watson Nature Trail, the Pinery Provincial Park Trails and the Grand Bend Rotary Nature Trail to follow the shoreline of Lake Huron past world-renowned kettle concretions, sandy beaches and sand dunes. You’ll definitely want to carry a bathing suit and towel for this trip, and hiking shoes too! Consider extending your tour over two or even three days to take full advantage of the freshwater swimming, sandy shores and wetland trails.

You’ll begin your trip in Sarnia, a city that the Chippewa First Nation people knew as “The Rapids” in 1831. From there, you’ll wind your way north along local roads, passing the Bonnie Doon, Aberarder, Highland, Shashawandan, and Mud creeks and Ausable River along the way. Then you’ll enter Pinery Provincial Park, where the former Ausable Channel makes a smooth canal.

Overview

- **Distance**: 77.5km (46.5mi) linear
- **Difficulty**: 🌵
- **Surface**: Asphalt, gravel, stone dust
- **Villages/Towns/Cities**: Sarnia, Blackwell, Brights Grove, Camlachie, Blue Point Bay, Blue Point, Gallimere Beach, Ipperwash Beach, Port Franks, Southcott Pines, Grand Bend
- **Access**: The Howard Watson Nature Trail begins on Confederation Line, near Lambton College in Sarnia, and ends on Egremont Road in Camlachie.

You can also join this tour anywhere along Lakeshore Road between Camlachie and Rawlings roads, or between Ipperwash and Outer roads.

In Ipperwash Beach, there are parking lots on West Parkway or East Parkway drives. This tour can also be accessed from Grand Bend Beach or from the cycling trail in Pinery Provincial Park.

- **Washrooms**: Public washrooms are available at Grand Bend, Ipperwash and Pinery Park beaches.

Itinerary

This tour begins at the entrance to the Howard Watson Nature Trail, just west of Sarnia on London Road between Pontiac Drive and Lambton Mills Road. Follow the trail north under Highway 402. After crossing Michigan Avenue, the trail turns east towards Blackwell. The large water bodies to the north of the trail are within Logan’s Pond Wildlife Reserve, which used to be a gravel pit.

Cross Modeland Road, and Blackwell and Telfer side roads. You’ll then pass Macklin’s Farm, which has a store onsite.

Cross Jamieson and Lewis lines to get to Brigden Road. Here, our tour turns south and continues to Old Lakeshore Road on the shore of Lake Huron. Turn left (east) and continue past Wildwood Park. Be sure to stop in the park and visit the circa-1875 Faethorne House, in which the Gallery on the Grove is located. Old Lakeshore Road turns into Egremont Road.

If you crossed Brigden Road and continued on the trail, you will pass the Huron Oaks Golf Course before crossing Waterworks, Mandaumin, O’Brien and Fleming roads. The improved Howard Watson Trail ends on Egremont Road.

Continue eastwards on Egremont to the new Lakeshore Road, which is also Highway 7.

Follow Lakeshore Road northeastwards along the shore of Lake Huron. The Charles J. McEwen Conservation Area appears on the right.

Continue past Douglas Line to Highland Glen Conservation Area and Gallimere Beach.

Follow Lakeshore Road north and then east away from Lake Huron and then north again past Townsend Line, Cedar Point Road, Proof Road and Thomson Line.
At West Ipperwash Drive, you'll take the first of three diversions towards the Lake Huron shoreline. Turn left into the Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nations reserve. Turn left again on Indian Line. Continue to Lake Road and turn right to get to Kettle Point Beach. This is where you'll see the egg-shaped rocks known as kettle concretions. There are lots next to the road and in gardens throughout the area.

Cycle along Lake Road to London Road. Turn right and continue to West Ipperwash Road. Turn left towards Lake Huron. Turn right on West Parkway Drive and continue past Ipperwash Road, where it turns into East Parkway Drive. The beach south of this entire area is **Ipperwash Beach**.

Continue to Army Camp Road. All the land to the northeast of this road used to be the Stony Point Reserve. It was then divided into two and remains divided to this day. The land between Lake Huron and Matheson Road used to be known as Ipperwash Provincial Park, which was created in 1936. The rest of the 906.9ha (2,240 acre) territory was expropriated by the Canadian Government in 1942 for a military training camp. After the war, it became known as the Ipperwash Range and Training Area.

In 1993, local Aboriginals occupied the territory in order to emphasize their land claim. It was here that Anthony O’Brien (known as Dudley) George was shot by police on September 6, 1995. The provincial government handed it over to the local Aboriginal population in 2009. A monument to Dudley George’s life was placed here by his brother, Pierre George-Mandoka, on October 15, 2010. At the same event, the government announced that 1,200 year old remains were found on the site; archaeological studies continue. There are roads through the area that lead to Outer Drive and Port Franks, but they aren’t currently accessible.

In the meantime, follow Army Camp Road south to Highway 21. Turn left and continue northeast to Outer Drive. Turn left again to follow the road north past the L-Lake Management Area until it turns south along the Ausable River and becomes Riverside Drive in Port Franks.

Pass the marina and the Ausable River shoreline until you reach Huron Street. Turn right here to get to the 56.3ha (139 acre) **Port Franks Wetland and Forested Dunes ANSI** (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest). This Nature Conservancy of Canada property is managed by Lambton Wildlife.

Return to Riverside Drive and continue southwest until it turns into Whatman Road. You’ll see a sign for the **Karner Blue Sanctuary**, although the butterfly this reserve tried to protect no longer lives in the region.

Continue until the road ends at Port Franks Road. Turn left.

Follow Port Franks Road south past the entrance to the 230.8ha (570 acre) **Lambton County Heritage Forest**, which contains more than 100 significant oak savannah and Carolinian forest species, including dwarf hackberry.

Continue south to Lakeshore Drive/Highway 21. Turn left again and follow the highway to the entrance of **Pinery Provincial Park**. Eventually, this section will include a trail at the edge of the highway after locals extend the Rotary Trail.

Finish your tour following the **Grand Bend Rotary Trail**, a paved pathway along Highway 21 that leads from the Pinery to **Grand Bend Beach**.

**Highlights**

**Ausable River Cut Conservation Area**
9984 Northville Cr.
Thedford
519-235-2610 or 888-286-2610
www.abca.on.ca

**Charles J. McEwen Conservation Area**
between Bonnie Doone and Blue Point

**Highland Glen Conservation Area**
between Blue Point and Gallimere Beach
St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
519 245-3710
www.scrca.on.ca

**Gallery in the Grove**
2700 Hamilton Rd.
Brights Grove
519-869-4643
www.galleryinthegrove.com
Grand Bend Beach
Main St.
Grand Bend
519-243-1400 or 866-943-1400

Huron Oaks Golf Course
2587 Lakeshore Rd.
Brights Grove
519-869-4231
www.huronoaks.com

Ipperwash Beach
Ipperwash Provincial Park
Ipperwash Range & Training Area
Kettle Point Beach
Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
6247 Indian Lane, RR2
Forest
519-786-2125
www.kettlepoint.org

Lambton Heritage Museum
10035 Museum Rd.
Grand Bend
519-243-2600
www.lclmg.org

L-Lake Management Area
Port Franks Wetland and Forested Dunes ANSI
Lambton Wildlife Incorporated
519-542-7914
www.lambtonwildlife.com

Logan’s Pond Wildlife Reserve
Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee
www.suwc.org/logans_pond.htm

Macklin’s Farm
(open May to Nov)
2153 New Lakeshore Rd.
Sarnia
519-869-4255

Pinney Provincial Park
RR2
Grand Bend
519-243-2220, 800-667-1940 or 888-668-7275
www.ontarioparks.com

Friends of Pinney Park
519-243-1521
www.pinneypark.ca

Port Franks Harbour and Marina
7574 Biddulph St.
Port Franks
519-243-2354

River Road Gallery
63 River Rd.
Grand Bend
519-238-6874
www.riverroadgallery.com

Food

Asian Restaurant
2600 Lakeshore Rd.
Brights Grove
519-869-2243

Grampa Jimmy’s Scottish Bakery
36 Ontario St. N.
Grand Bend
519-238-5055

McPherson’s Restaurant
8512 Lakeshore Dr.
Port Franks
519-243-2990
www.macphersonsrestaurant.ca

Sand Dunes General Store Plaza
8575 Lakeshore Rd.
Northville
519-243-2060

Village Inn Motel & Diner
7424 Lakeshore Rd.
Forest
519-243-3535

Accommodations

Aux Sables Inn
236 Ontario St. S.
Grand Bend
519-238-2081
www.auxsablesinn.ca

Bluewater Bed & Breakfast
21 Bradley Place
Sarnia
519-336-7457

Bonnie Doone Manor On-The-Beach
Grand Bend
519-238-2236
www.bonniedoone.ca

By The Old River Bed & Breakfast
10128 John St.
Grand Bend
519-238-1499
www.grandbend.com/bytheoldriver
Maps Symbols

Tour itineraries (tour maps)

Long and off-road trails (regional maps)

Our suggested tours (regional maps)

Airport

Beach

Car ferry

Cemetery

Ferry

Forest, park or conservation area

Golf course

Hospital

International border

Train track

Highway

Road

Landmark

National capital

Provincial or federal park

Provincial or regional border

Provincial or state capital

Sea, lake, river

Start and end of cycling tours

Tourist information

Other Symbols Used in This Guide

Easy: flat terrain

Moderate: rolling terrain or rough surfaces

Intense: rolling terrain, rough surfaces and numerous long climbs

Favorite trails and tours

Page references marked with asterisks (see p. *** refer to pages located outside this chapter.)

Research and Writing for the Fourth Edition: Tracey Arial
Original Research and Writing: John Lynes
Editor: Pierre Ledoux
Copy Editor: Matthew McLauchlin
Computer Graphics: Pascal Biet, Philippe Thomas
Editing Assistance: Annie Gilbert

This work was produced under the direction of Claude Morneau.

Acknowledgements
Tracey Arial: Thanks so much to my guide to Ontario’s north, Mike Landmark. Thanks also to the unsung heroes who work on the front lines in Ontario’s conservation areas, and at provincial and national parks, especially Linda at Fanshawe. Thanks to everyone at the Howard Johnson in Tillsonburg. Thanks to the team at the Trans Canada Trail Association too. Most of all, I’d like to sincerely thank Pedro, Paul and Arial for your company and love during all our adventures. I really appreciate your support.
Publisher: We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP) for our publishing activities. We would also like to thank the Government of Québec – Tax credit for book publishing – Administered by SODEC.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publisher.

© May 2011, Ulysses Travel Guides
All rights reserved
ISBN 978-2-89665-652-3 (PDF version)