



# ONTARIO BY BIKE RIDE GEORGIAN BAY COLLINGWOOD EXPLORER



## SELF GUIDED RIDE ITINERARY

**Total Ride Distance:** 80km or 120km  
**Suggested Ride Time:** 2 days, 1 overnight

**Experience Level and Ride Guide:** Easy to more moderate and challenging. Pick from an easier option well suited to more casual riders that includes off road unpaved trails and short gravel country roads segments. Or slightly longer loops that include off road trail and returns on quieter paved roads, with some elevations. Suitable for hybrid, gravel, mountain bikes, and road bikes with wider tires.

**Suggested Ride Start & Parking Locations:** Downtown Collingwood. Many municipal parking lots as well as parking at waterfront parks.

**Your Bike:** Ensure you arrive to start with a bicycle in good working order, appropriate outer-wear for conditions, and refreshments should you need them before support van catches up. Helmets are strongly recommended. This ride is on a mix of paved and gravel roads and stonedust rail trails - a gravel/all road, hybrid or older road bike with wider tires is recommended.

**Digital Route Maps:** (These routes can be navigated for free from Ride with GPS. Download app, to access routes on our account and this free service.)

- Day 1 – [ridewithgps.com/routes/44246473](https://ridewithgps.com/routes/44246473) – 60km (trail & road) - Free navigation:  
Alternate – [ridewithgps.com/routes/44246927](https://ridewithgps.com/routes/44246927) – 40km (trail only) - Free navigation:
- Day 2 – [ridewithgps.com/routes/44246475](https://ridewithgps.com/routes/44246475) – 60km (trail & road) - Free navigation:  
Alternate – [ridewithgps.com/routes/44246944](https://ridewithgps.com/routes/44246944) – 40km (trail & road – shorter, or trail only)

### **Suggested Overnight Accommodations:**

Ontario By Bike Certified Bicycle Friendly Businesses in [Simcoe County](#).

**Disclaimer** – This route is a suggested route only. The route incorporates both multi-use trail and on-road riding. All cyclists are responsible for their own safety and must use both trails and streets with caution and do so at their own risk. Always wear the proper safety gear when cycling, ride sensibly and abide by all laws. Each route should be evaluated by each individual cyclist based on their level of experience, comfort level in cycling on trails and roads, weather conditions, time of day, and any road obstacles. Ontario By Bike / Transportation Options and all others involved in the development of this route do not assume any liability whatsoever for cyclists using this information and travelling upon this route.

## What You Need to Know RIDE DETAILS

### Day 1: Collingwood to Thornbury and Beaver Valley - 60km

**Ride Start Location:** Downtown Collingwood

#### **SHORTER ROUTE OPTION:**

**Alternate Day 1 Route Map:** [ridewithgps.com/routes/44246927](https://ridewithgps.com/routes/44246927)

- 40km (trail only)
- Option to extend the trail ride towards Meaford, for any distance, and return on trail
- See below for more ride details

#### **Ride Recommendation:**

- Explore stops on the [Apple Pie Trail](#), a self-guided tourism route that visits local orchards and breweries, apple-inspired art, seasonal sweet and savoury menus, outdoor activities, and the history of apple country. As you ride south of Thornbury through the Beaver Valley, explore stops and businesses enroute. See route maps for enroute locations and more details at [www.applepietrail.ca/beaver-valley](http://www.applepietrail.ca/beaver-valley). Check out the Apple Pie Trail mobile app for all the stops across South Georgian Bay.
- The Collingwood Farmers' Market is on Saturdays from 8AM-1PM in Collingwood's historic downtown. Local vendors feature a wide range of organic vegetables and fruit, baking, meats and cheeses, flowers and trees, jams and preserves, handcrafted items and more.
- Public washrooms enroute at rest stop Little River Beach Park at the Thornbury Harbour, at optional stop Northwinds Beach at 8km mark, and at Heathcote Park (portable washroom).

#### **0-20km – Collingwood to Thornbury on the Georgian Rail Trail**

- Enjoy this forested stonedust rail trail with views of Blue Mountain and a number of Georgian Bay views. Visit Northwinds Beach around the 8km mark, with a popular sandy beach and bay lookout plus washroom facilities. Look out for the connecting trail on the right just past the 8km mark, which connects to the beach across Hwy 26. Exercise caution crossing this road.
- Craigeith Provincial Park is another beach or lookout option at the 10km mark. Cyclists enter free.

#### **20km – Rest Stop – Little River Beach Park**

- Enjoy views out over the Thornbury Harbour and bay, considered one of the prettiest harbours on Georgian Bay, with pier and a sand and pebble beach.
- Public washrooms available.

#### **20-21km – Downtown Thornbury**

- Explore the many shops, cafes and bakeries in downtown Thornbury, including many Apple Pie Trail stops. Lunch here or pick up picnic supplies for along the way.

#### **30km – Heathcote & Heathcote Park**

- Stop at scenic bridge, the Blackbird Pie Co. and Heathcote Park, just south of the hamlet of Heathcote. Enjoy this greenspace with trails and access to the Beaver River.
- Portable washroom available onsite.

### **25-37km – Optional Stops – Beaver Valley Apple Pie Trail Attractions**

- Cycle through the scenic Beaver Valley, with its dramatic topography set against the Niagara Escarpment. Throughout the Beaver Valley, explore a number of stops on the Apple Pie Trail, showcasing the bounty of the area. Notable stops enroute include the Blackbird Pie Company, Spy Cider House (1km return from route), and Georgian Hills Vineyard.

### **53km – Optional Stop – Blue Mountain Village**

- On the return ride back to Collingwood, take a short detour on Grey County Rd 19 to the bustling all-season Blue Mountain Village, with a number of shops, restaurants and cafes against stunning Blue Mountain.

### **60km – Ride Finish Location – Collingwood**

- Check-in to overnight accommodations in Collingwood.

<b>Day 2: Collingwood to Stayner and Creemore and return – 60km</b>
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**Ride Start Location:** Downtown Collingwood

### **SHORTER ROUTE OPTION(S)**

**Alternate Day 2 Route Map:** [ridewithgps.com/routes/44246944](https://ridewithgps.com/routes/44246944)

- 40km (trail & road – shorter, or trail only)
- See below for more ride details

### **2-15km – Clearview-Collingwood Train Trail**

- After cycling through Collingwood's picturesque waterfront, join up with the Train Trail, following this stonedust trail to the town of Stayner.

### **15.5km – Rest Stop – Centennial Kinsman Park, Stayner**

- Enjoy this park and greenspace alongside a creek.
- Portable washroom available onsite.

### **16km – Optional Stop – Downtown Stayner**

- Explore downtown Stayner on Main Street for additional refreshments or shopping.

### **30km – Suggested Lunch Stop – Creemore Bakery & Cafe, Creemore**

- Enjoy lunch at award winning bicycle friendly Creemore Bakery & Cafe (148 Mill St.) on the historic main street of the Town of Creemore. You can eat either inside or on the back patio of the cafe. Bike racks out front.

### **Downtown Creemore**

- After lunch, explore the pretty and historic town of Creemore, nestled against the Niagara Escarpment with many independent and artisanal shops, galleries, a book store, cafes to discover, plus the well known Creemore Springs Brewery.

### **30-60km – Return to Collingwood**

- After a brief climb out of Creemore, return north, traveling downhill to Collingwood on a paved country road, rejoining the Clearview-Collingwood Train Trail at the 51km mark.

**60km – Ride Finish Location – Collingwood**

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