ONTARIO BY BIKE RIDE
HURON COAST EXPLORER

What You Need to Know & Ride Details
THE ESSENTIALS

Total Distance: 177km
Suggested Ride Time: 3 Days, 2 Nights

Experience Level and Ride Guide: Moderate to experienced. Riders on this ride need to have some experience riding on roads with higher speed vehicle traffic as much of the route follows paved roads, plus paved and unpaved off-road trails. There is some elevation and rolling hills that may present a challenge to some riders. The majority of the route follows paved country roads and trails, with some busier highway segments with paved shoulders.

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 predominantly on paved roads, plus some small trail sections with stone-dust surface. All bikes are suitable for this ride, however ensure your bike is comfortable for full days in the saddle and between 200-400m of climbing each day.

Ride Start & Afternoon Parking Location: Day 1 ride starts in Kincardine. Contact tourism office for day parking locations in the area. For Day 2 and 3, park at overnight accommodations in Port Elgin or nearby.

Overnight Accommodations: Consider an overnight option at one of Ontario By Bike's certified bicycle friendly accommodations (providing secure overnight bike storage) in Port Elgin, Southampton, or another location in Bruce Southwest. www.ontariobybike.ca/bruce-county-southwest

For additional visitor information:

- Explore the Shores - www.visitsaugeenshores.ca
- Explore the Bruce - www.explorethebruce.com
- Bruce, Grey, Simcoe Tourism - www.brucegreysimcoe.com

Digital Route Maps:

FREE digital route navigation courtesy of our Ride with GPS Tourism Account. Using the links below, and downloading the Ride with GPS app on your mobile device, you can enjoy full turn by turn directions for each route using a free Ride with GPS account.

- Day 1: ridewithgps.com/routes/45190985
- Day 2: ridewithgps.com/routes/45386346
- Day 3: ridewithgps.com/routes/45194364

What You Need to Know
RIDE DETAILS

Day 1: Kincardine to Ripley and Point Clark – 51km

Ride Start Location: Kincardine

Friday Ride Recommendation:

- For washrooms, there are two Tim Hortons locations in Kincardine. There are seasonally open washrooms open enroute, one in the town of Ripley at Lewis Park and at the Point Clark lighthouse.
- There are a number of food options to stop at enroute in Ripley and Point Clark, plus many options before or after the ride in Kincardine.

17km – Rest Stop – Lewis Park, Town of Ripley

- Seasonal washroom available.
- In the town of Ripley, check out the pretty downtown main street, Lewis Park, stop at a cafe or restaurant, and/or take a short detour to view the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens, a local non-profit food garden focused on rare and heirloom plants.

36km – Point Clark, Lighthouse National Historic Site

- Seasonal washrooms available on site.
- The Point Clark Lighthouse, a National Historic Site operated by Parks Canada, was built between 1855 and 1859, and is part of an important system of “Imperial” lighthouses on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Visit the still-functioning 24 m/78 ft limestone tower to see the 12-sided lantern that shines a bright light on the historical significance of lighthouses to Great Lakes navigation. Interior of lighthouse and other buildings open seasonally.

36-51km – Beaches, Cottage Roads, Return to Kincardine

- Enjoy the roll back toward Kincardine along cottage and farm roads, with a short stretch of gravel.
- Make a stop at Boiler Beach, where you can see the remains of a Great Lakes steam ship that crashed on the rocks in 1883.
- Return to Kincardine – go for a swim at Station Beach, view the Kincardine Lighthouse and Museum, and have a bite at the many restaurants in town, before making your way by car 30 minutes north to Port Elgin and your overnight accommodations.

Overnight Accommodations:

- There are a number of bicycle friendly accommodations located in Port Elgin and Southampton, close the start of the Day 2 and 3 rides as part of this itinerary.

Day 2: Port Elgin, Southampton to Sauble Beach return – 60km

Ride Start Location: Port Elgin

4-10km – North Shore Trail – Port Elgin to Southampton

- Ride through cottage communities and roads, with 1.5km on the stone dust and dirt Shipley trail.
- Starting around 4km mark enjoy the North Shore Trail, a separated paved waterfront trail connecting Port Elgin to Southampton with breathtaking views of Lake Huron, across Miramichi Bay, Chantry Island, with lots of opportunities for bird and wildlife spotting – one of the most scenic waterfront trails in the province.

12.5km – Rest Stop – Pioneer Park, Southampton

- After riding down the vibrant main street of Southampton, perhaps stopping for a hot beverage or baked good, enjoy the expansive views across Lake Huron and the beautiful sandy Southampton Beach.
- Seasonal washroom available at 13km mark at Chantry Island Tour Base / Pioneer Park.
- Consider a boat tour to nearby Chantry Island to visit the protected bird habitat and lighthouse. Seasonally available.

14-30km – Southampton to Sauble Beach

- Continue north on a mix of cottage roads and paved shoulders along Bruce Road 13 about 16km north to the town of Sauble Beach.
- Exercise caution and ride single file on Bruce Road 13.

31.5km – Lunch Stop – Sauble Beach

- Enjoy a leisurely lunch and afternoon at Sauble Beach - stop at a beachside pub or cafe, have an ice cream, shop at the beach stores and go for a swim at the beach, before returning back to Southampton and Port Elgin.
- Public washroom available at municipal parking lot at 103 Second Ave North, one street up/east from the beach.

31.5-50km – Sauble Beach return to Southampton

- Return on the same route back to Southampton.

50km - Rest Stop – Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, Southampton

- Enjoy a rest stop in downtown Southampton prior to your return ride to Port Elgin.
- Consider visiting the indoor museum, exhibits and grounds with paid admission. Washrooms available in museum.
- Or visit Fairy Lake nature trails behind museum, entrance around the corner, 280 High Street.

51-60km – Saugeen Rail Trail – Southampton to Port Elgin

- Enjoy a relaxing ride on the smooth stone-dust Saugeen Rail Trail for the last 9km back to Port Elgin and return to your overnight accommodations in Port Elgin.

Day 3: Port Elgin to Paisley, MacGregor PP and return – 62km

Ride Start Location: Port Elgin

1-23km – Morning

- Enjoy the ride along the winding and rolling backroads of the Saugeen River Valley. Prepare for a few climbs and some fast moving traffic.

11.5km – Optional Rest Stop – Saugeen River Access Point

- Continue on to end of Bruce Road 40, less than 1km each way, to the water's edge and views of the Saugeen River. No washroom on site.

26km – Lunch Stop – Downtown Paisley or Don Milne Park & Pavilion, 61 George Street, Paisley

- Visit a local cafe downtown or pack your own picnic lunch and eat at Don Milne riverside park in the pretty mill town of Paisley, situated on the Saugeen River.
- Portable washroom on site.
- On the ride out of town you will pass the old Paisley Mill, which is now an overnight accommodation and event centre.

56.5km – Optional Stop – MacGregor Provincial Park

- Visit this Provincial Park, located 5km south of Port Elgin.
- The park includes 7km of Lake Huron coastline, a heavy forest tree canopy and is home to a unique system of wetlands and migrating birds.
- There is no fee to enter park by bicycle.

57-60km – Saugeen Beach Road/Gobles Grove Beach – Return to Port Elgin

- Enjoy the stunning Lake Huron views and pretty cottages along Saugeen Beach Road on the final kilometres of our Sunday ride. Have a final swim in the Lake at Gobles Grove Beach, with just 2km ride to end.

62km – Ride End – Port Elgin

- End of the ride itinerary.
- Return to Port Elgin and your overnight accommodations or vehicle parking location.

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