

Caledon Hills “Fall Colours” End-to-End Thanksgiving Weekend

Saturday, October 12 to Monday, October 14, 2019

(Note: The three-day end-to-end is held annually at Thanksgiving. The two-day end-to-end is held in conjunction with the three-day event on even-numbered years.)

FAQs

Q. How do I register for the event?

Registration opens April 20, 2019 on www.eventbrite.ca and is limited to 95 hikers. The cost for the three-day event is \$40. The two-day event (held on even-numbered years only) is \$30.

Q. Are these hikes the same as a regular hike on the Bruce Trail?

These end-to-end hikes differ from regular Bruce Trail hikes in one important respect. Rather than hiking as a single group with a designated leader, hikers are free to hike at their own pace, either individually or with other participants. An official “end-person” (sweep) is arranged for each day. There are “checkpoints” every 7-10 km along the way with water and snacks. It is expected that hikers aim to hike approximately 4 km/hr or faster.

Q. Can I follow the Trail without a lot of problems?

While the Trail through the Caledon Hills section is clearly blazed and easy to follow, it is helpful (but not essential) to have up-to-date maps (preferably the 29th Edition of the Bruce Trail Reference) or the Bruce Trail App, and be familiar with the blazing system, as described in section III-4 of the Reference or on the Bruce Trail website <http://brucetrail.org/pages/trail/using-the-trail>. If you are not that familiar with the Trail, it is recommended that you walk with other hikers who are walking at the same pace as you. **You will be following the trail marked by white blazes.** These painted rectangles are 15 cm high and 5 cm wide and can usually be found on trees and signposts. Blue blazes are for side trails. If you do happen to stroll off the trail, retrace your steps until you see the white blazes, and then carry on.

If you do not pass through a checkpoint after a reasonable time, we will send someone to look for you.

Q. Where do we meet?

All hikers meet at the end point of each day's hike. The bus will leave at 8:30 am sharp (7:30 am for the 2-day event) to take everyone to the starting point of the hike. Hikers hike back to their cars. It is recommended that you arrive at the meeting point, at least 20 minutes early each day. Refer to the "Meeting Places and Hike Agenda Information Sheet" (provided upon registration) for specific locations.

Q. What should I bring with me?

There will be checkpoints every 7- 10 km along the route serving liquid refreshments and light snacks. Please bring your own cup (to save on disposals), your own lunch, some water, and your regular day hiking gear.

Q. Any suggestions about accommodation?

If you wish to stay overnight in the area, check out the tourism and accommodation areas of the Hills of Headwaters website: <http://headwaters.ca/>

BED & BREAKFAST

Check the Bruce Trail Conservancy website:
<http://brucetrail.org/pages/trail/caledon-hills>

CAMPING

The closest campground is Albion Hills Conservation Area, 16500 Hwy 50, about 8 km north of Bolton. For information contact the Conservation Authority at 905-280-2287 or <https://trca.ca/parks/albion-hills-campground/>.

Q. What parts of the Trail are covered each day for the 3-day End-to-End?

Saturday's hike is approx. 25.8 km from the north end of the Caledon Hills section just east of Mono Centre to the Tai Chi Centre (km 70.2, Map 19 - approx. km 44.4, Map 18). The hike goes through Hockley Valley. There are checkpoints at 10 km and 17 km. It is possible to drop out at any checkpoint. The checkpoint volunteers will arrange for you to be transported back to your car.

Sunday's hike is approx. 20.9 km from the start of the Caledon Hills section (Creditview Rd near the Cheltenham Badlands), down the Devil's Pulpit, through Forks of the Credit park and finishing with some road work along Escarpment Road (km 0.0, Map 14 - km 20.9, Map 15). Checkpoints are at 8 km and 16 km.

Monday's hike is approx. 23.5 km. It begins at Heart Lake Road & Escarpment Road with a few kilometres of road, then through Glen Haffy Conservation Area and back to the Tai Chi Centre. Checkpoints are at 7 km and 14 km. (km 20.9, Map 16 - approx. km 44.4, Map 18)

For each of the three days the bus departs at 8:30 am. You should be hiking by 8:50 am.

Q. What parts of the Trail does the 2-day End-to-End cover?

Saturday's hike is 38.6 km from the north end of the Caledon Hills section on County Road 8 just east of Mono Centre (km 70.2, Map 19). This hike descends through Hockley Valley. After crossing Hockley Road, you traverse through South Hockley, pass through the Glen Haffy Conservation Area, and end at the corner of Finnerty Side Road and Innis Lake Road (km 31.6, Map 17) Checkpoints are at 10, 17 and 28 km.

Sunday's hike is 31.6 km from the beginning of the Caledon Hills section on Creditview Road near the Cheltenham Badlands, down the Devil's Pulpit and through the very scenic Forks of the Credit Park. Then there are some road sections interspersed with pleasant wooded trail until you get back to your parked car at Finnerty Side Road and Innis Lake Road (km 31.6, Map 17). Checkpoints are at 8, 16 and 21 km.

Q. Are there "cut-off" times? Yes. The cut-off times are based on a 4 km/hour pace plus 10 to 15 minute breaks at checkpoints.

Hikers are to be at the second last checkpoint by:

2-day hikers:

- Saturday - 7th Line EHS by 4:00 pm
- Sunday – Heart Lake Rd & Escarpment Rd by 2:00 pm

3-day hikers:

- Saturday - 4th Line EHS by 2:00 pm
- Sunday - Willoughby Rd & Escarpment Rd by 1:30 pm
- Monday – Coolihans Side Rd by 1:00 pm

Map references from Bruce Trail Reference Maps and Trail Guide, Edition 29.

If you have any further questions please contact:
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