



Bruce County Beckons

Waterfalls, caves, cliffs, and beaches are beautiful geological features found along a drive in southwestern Ontario. So, where can you find some of these natural attractions? In Bruce County, the Niagara Escarpment and Bruce Trail offer astounding views and points of interest for both the geologist and the curious child. Take a road trip, but plan a few stops along the way!

Start your journey just south of the city of Owen Sound, at Inglis Falls Conservation Area. One of three waterfalls near Owen Sound, Inglis Falls is an 18-metre-high cascade where the Sydenham River tumbles down the Niagara Escarpment into a deep gorge. Here, you can learn about the Grist Mill, hike the Bruce Trail, do some bird-watching, and look for geological potholes.

Head north of Owen Sound to the Bruce Peninsula, or “the Bruce,” a triangular peninsula that divides Georgian Bay from Lake Huron. A scenic drive along Grey Road 1 to Wiarton reveals the beauty of Owen Sound, Georgian Bay, Big Bay, and finally, Colpoy’s Bay. Be sure to stop at Bruce’s Caves Conservation Area and venture through natural caves formed by the wave-action of post-glacial Lake Algonquin. The varying degrees of erosion of limestone and dolomite have created an enjoyable setting for those looking for a gentle walk or a challenging climb. Near dusk, the caves provide picturesque interior views; be sure to have your camera!

North of Wiarton, the Bruce Trail passes through Spirit Rock Conservation Area. You can hike along the top of the Niagara Escarpment and go down the spiral staircase to the shore of Colpoy’s Bay. Driving up the peninsula, make a side trip to the Bruce Trail at Cape Chin and see Devil’s Monument, a land-based flowerpot created by erosion when Georgian Bay had higher water levels.

Further north, take in the beauty of Bruce Peninsula National Park, a 136 sq. km. park encompassing rugged limestone landscape and one of the largest remaining forested areas in southern Ontario. The park offers hikers what may be the most scenic stretch of the Bruce Trail. Witnessing sunrise from the eastern rocks of Overhanging Point, Halfway Rock Point, Cave Point, or Halfway Log Dump can be a special experience. The Grotto, a huge cave formation around a deep pool, is another park highlight. The Lake Huron side of the park, with its gradual sloping shore, offers Singing Sands Beach—a great spot to wade, swim, and see wildlife. Fun and learning come together as you discover the natural treasures of Bruce County.