



explore
the **BRUCE**
.com

Winter Activities GUIDE





Explore the Bruce in Winter

If you're not exactly a winter enthusiast, we're here for you. There's no need to feel snowed in when Bruce County has so much to offer in the winter! Whether it's cross-country skiing, skating, camping or snowmobiling that tickles your fancy, we've highlighted some pretty "cool" activities that will keep you and your loved ones busy all winter long.



Tobermory

**BRUCE
COUNTY**

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4

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Sarnia

Kitchener
Waterloo

London

Guelph

Toronto

Owen
Sound

Collingwood

Barrie

N

Winter adventure awaits

Choose your favourite itineraries



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* Winter hours come into effect in some areas, please call ahead to ensure winter hours and holidays hours.

Questions?

1-800-268-3838
info@explorethebruce.com



Get out and Enjoy Winter!





Outfitters

For all of your winter equipment, gear and clothing needs, whether you're renting or purchasing, contact:

Thorncrest Outfitters

193 High Street
Southampton, Ontario
519-797-1608
info@thorncrestoutfitters.com
thorncrestoutfitters.com

**Holiday closure from February to mid-March*

Suntrail Source for Adventure

100 Spencer Street, Highway 6
Hepworth, Ontario
519-935-2478
suntrail@amtelecom.net
suntrail.net

For active wear, curling gear, hockey equipment and more, visit:

Joy Source for Sports

435 Durham Street East
Walkerton, Ontario
519-881-2046
joy@sourceforsports.ca
sourceforsports.com

**For active clothing and
outerwear, outdoor
events and more, visit:**

Penetangear

791 Queen Street
Kincardine, Ontario
519-396-7791
info@penetangear.com
penetangear.com

**For fat bike rentals,
purchases, and
cycling gear, visit:**

Martin's Bicycle Shop

235 High Street Southampton, Ontario
519-797-3200
martinsbicycleshop@gmail.com
martinsbicycleshop.com

Snow day!?

Don't worry, we've got your back



Prevent boredom with a few creative ideas

1

Feed the birds from your palm at MacGregor Point Provincial Park



2

Snowshoe out to the Grotto



3

Glide through the MacGregor Point Provincial Park Skating Loop



4

Cross Country Ski at a local club's trails



5

Shoot the cannon at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre



FIND OUT MORE AT: [EXPLORETHEBRUCE.COM](https://www.explorethebruce.com)





Bruce County is a mecca for cross country skiing, the area's various ski clubs offer multi-level trail networks, many of which are groomed. Community Rail Trails are also available for skiing, with well-marked routes for backcountry exploration.



Cross-Country Skiing



Day Trip

Location: Wiarton, Ontario

Morning:

Cross-country skiing

Explore the Colpoys Bay Trails on the north side of Wiarton.

Lunch

Head into downtown Wiarton and enjoy a hot lunch at Green Door Café.



Afternoon:

Cross-country skiing

Grab your skis and explore the winter magic of the Sawmill Nordic Centre.

Hike

Head over to Bruce's Caves Conservation Area east of Wiarton and then venture out onto the Bruce Trail. Explore the scenic lookouts of Georgian Bay and an old hermit's cave!



Overnight Trip

Location: Sauble Beach + Wiarton, Ontario

Accommodation: Sauble Falls Bed and Breakfast

519-422-3304 • info@saublefallsbb.com • saublefallsbb.com

Morning:

Breakfast

Enjoy a hearty meal at the Sauble Falls Bed and Breakfast before hitting the trails.

Cross-country skiing

Rent cross-country skis from Suntrail Source for Adventure in Hepworth, then set out on the Sauble Ski Trail loops.

Warm up

Warm up at the Sauble Ski Club Chalet with a free hot apple cider.

Lunch

Head into Wiarton for a hot lunch at Dockside Willie's overlooking Colpoys Bay.

**Check website for seasonal closures.*

Afternoon:

Shopping

Stroll in the downtown of Wiarton to locate some unique local treasures at Symon Says.

Bluewater Park to Spirit Rock

Begin at Bluewater Park and snowshoe or hike the beautiful Bruce Trail along the shores of Georgian Bay towards the Spirit Rock Conservation Area. Bring your camera along to take advantage of the lookout and ruins of the Corran.

Fuel up

Stop in at Pizza Delight on the Main Street of Sauble Beach.

Warm soak

End the day with a soak in the hot tub at the Sauble Falls Bed and Breakfast.

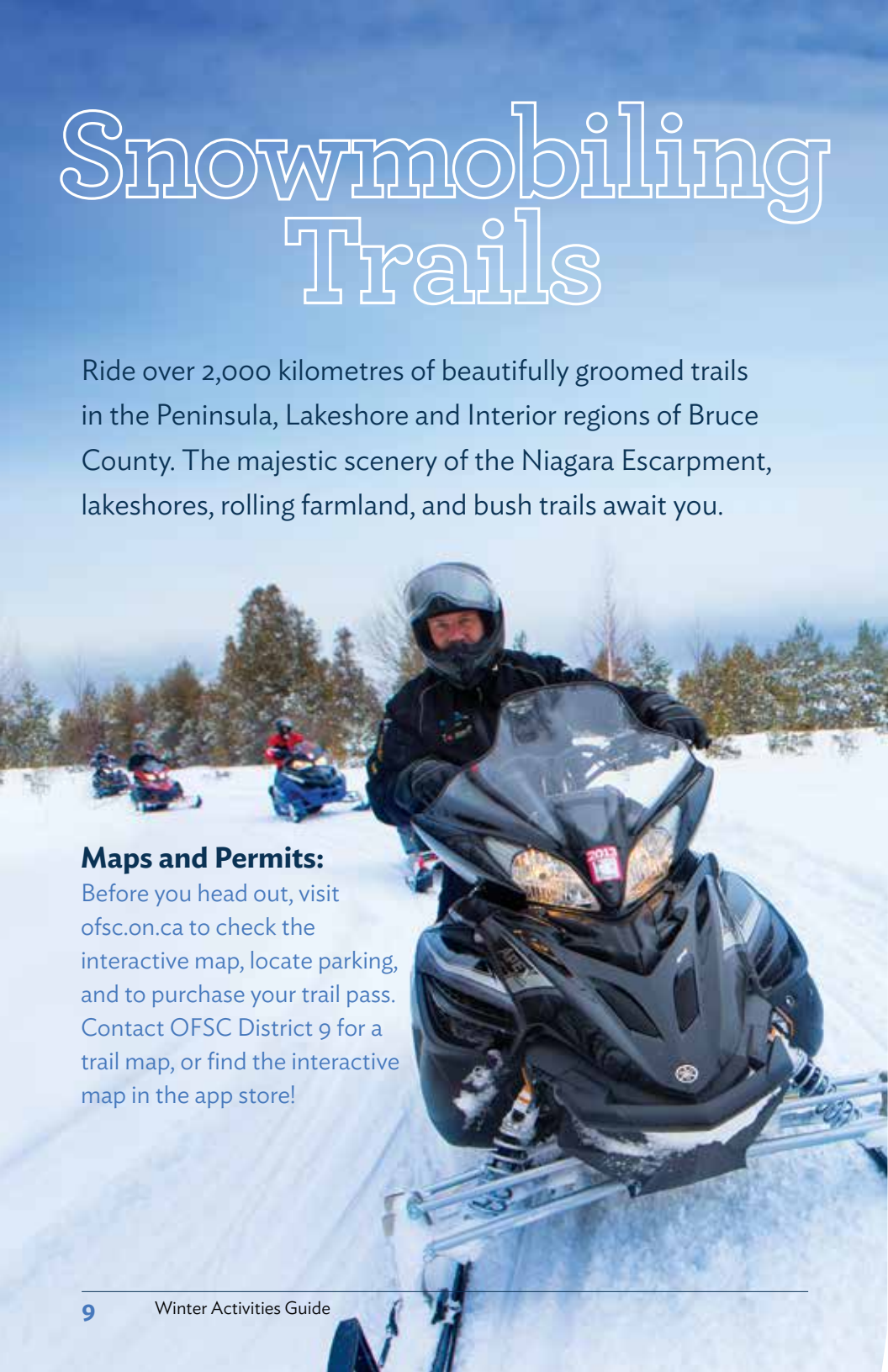


Snowmobiling Trails

Ride over 2,000 kilometres of beautifully groomed trails in the Peninsula, Lakeshore and Interior regions of Bruce County. The majestic scenery of the Niagara Escarpment, lakeshores, rolling farmland, and bush trails await you.

Maps and Permits:

Before you head out, visit ofsc.on.ca to check the interactive map, locate parking, and to purchase your trail pass. Contact OFSC District 9 for a trail map, or find the interactive map in the app store!





Day Trip

Location: Saugeen River Trail

Distance: 170 kilometres

Add the Ontario Federation of Snowmobiling Clubs (OFSC) District 9 to your winter bucket list! The Saugeen River Trail is a beautiful inland route that makes for a perfect day trip, with scenic loops through woodland and fields.

Beginning your trip in Walkerton, you'll follow R400 north until intersection 303, then head west towards Paisley. Connect to the B108 to intersection 186 and make the turn towards Port Elgin where you'll find fuel and food. Lord Elgin's Fish and Chips is one option with the best fish and chips around!

Once you're ready to hit the snow again, head back to intersection 181 and head east towards Tara. At intersection 184 reconnect with the R400, which will take

you south, back to Walkerton, or continue onwards to Mildmay. If Mildmay is your pick, be sure to stop and try one of the best butter tarts in Bruce County at Harleys Pub and Perk, or pick up some fresh cheese curds at the Mildmay Cheese Haus on the main street. To get to Mildmay, head east at intersection 213, south at intersection 210, west at intersection 269 and then south at intersection 281. From Mildmay follow R400 north, back to Walkerton to relax after an exhilarating day out on the trails!

Get your OFSC trail map for more options.



Overnight Trip

Location: Lion's Head, Ontario

Accommodations: Taylor Made Bed and Breakfast

519-793-4853 • taylormade@bb-bruce.com • taylormade.bb-bruce.com

In the morning, rev up your sleds and travel north. Experience endless kilometres of pure beauty, while riding through dense bush trails to scenic bluff lookouts on the Bruce Peninsula tour.

Morning: **Breakfast**

Start your day off savouring the best European breakfast on the Peninsula, at Taylor Made Bed and Breakfast.

Trails

Head north on the trails to Stokes Bay and Clarke's Corners.

Lunch

Go back to Lion's Head for a home cooked lunch at Marydale's Restaurant.

Afternoon: **Harbour view**

Hike down to the harbour to check out the Lion's Head Lighthouse. Use the viewing platform to get a close up view of the Escarpment.



Trails

Take the sleds south of Lion's Head to Barrow Bay and out to Rush Cove. Capture scenic lookouts over Georgian Bay and the rolling countryside. Head south from Hope Bay and use the B107 to connect to the Purple Valley Loop before heading back to Lion's Head through Ferndale.

Warm Up

Head back to Taylor Made B&B for a hot tea and a soak in the hot tub.

Dinner

Enjoy dinner at the delightful local favourite, the Lion's Head Inn.

Trail Permit Fun Facts:

Snowmobile Trail Permits are a must. They are available for purchase online only at:

ofsc.on.ca. Permits are critical because they help fund trail development, maintenance and grooming in that immediate area. Every dollar that you spend on your Snowmobile Trail Permit for seasonal or multiday use is directed back to the clubs.



SKATING IN BRUCE COUNTY

Day Trip

Location: MacGregor Point Provincial Park

1593 Bruce County Road 33 Port Elgin

519-389-9056

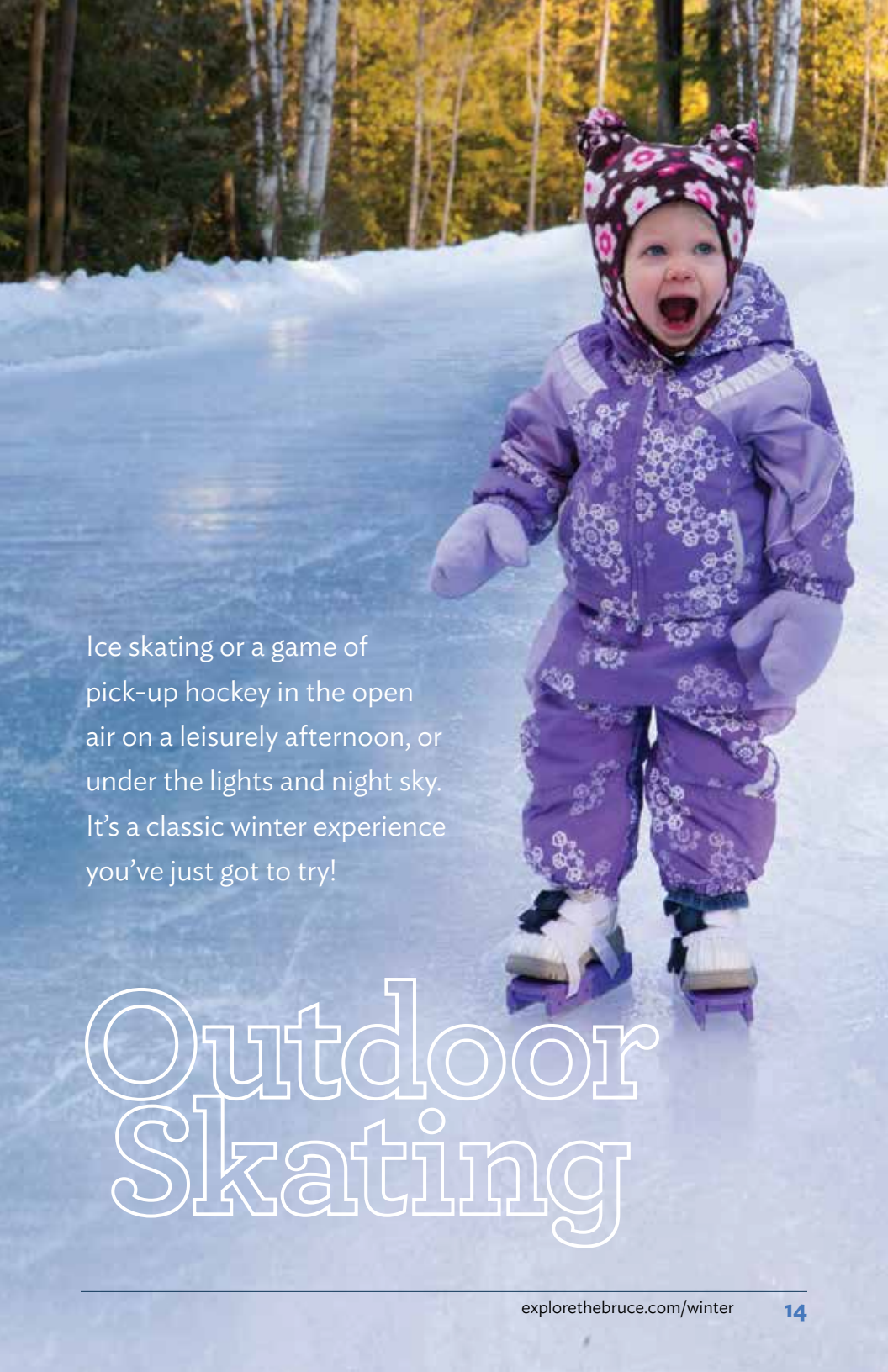
Skating Oval

MacGregor Point Provincial Park on the shores of Lake Huron has one of the coolest (pun intended) attractions around: an ice skating loop in the middle of the forest that is 400 metres long. The Park staff also light up the loop at night for an experience like no other. They have a change hut for warming up or lacing up your skates.

Hockey Rink

Bring your hockey sticks and helmets! Organize or join a game of pick-up on the hockey rink, located just outside of the Visitor Centre.



A baby is the central figure, wearing a vibrant purple snow suit with white floral patterns and a matching hood with pom-poms. The baby is on ice skates, gliding across a smooth, reflective ice surface. The background is a snowy landscape with a line of trees, some of which have yellow autumn leaves, suggesting a late autumn or early winter setting. The overall mood is joyful and playful.

Ice skating or a game of
pick-up hockey in the open
air on a leisurely afternoon, or
under the lights and night sky.
It's a classic winter experience
you've just got to try!

Outdoor Skating



Day Trip

Location: Kincardine, Ontario

Morning:

Heritage Walk

Embark on a heritage walking tour in Kincardine's downtown. Choose from a variety of tours online at visitkincardine.ca, or pick up a guide at the Kincardine Tourism Office at 1802 Hwy 21.

Lunch

Head to the Bruce Bar and Grill downtown for a tasty lunch.

Afternoon:

Beach Snowshoe

Set out on the Lake Huron Trail to hike the famous Boiler Beach.

Warm up

Enjoy a steaming bowl of scrumptious soup at the downtown Hawgs Breath Saloon on Queen Street.

Snowshoeing





Overnight Trip

Location: Port Elgin and Southampton, Ontario

Accommodation: Silken Retreat Bed & Breakfast

519-832-3808 • info@silkenretreat.com • silkenretreat.com

Morning:

Breakfast

Start your day off with a balanced breakfast at the Silken Retreat B&B before venturing outside into a winter wonderland.

Snowshoe the Woodland Trail

Rent snowshoes from Thorncrest Outfitters in Southampton; then head over to the Woodland Trail on Miramichi Bay Road to embark on a 2-hour long trek.

Downtown Shopping

Wander into downtown Southampton to shop for some beautiful gifts and clothing.

Lunch

On High Street in Southampton, head into Offshore Bakery for delectable homemade soups, sandwiches, and beautiful baked treats. Or sit down at the Walker House to savour a delicious lunch special.

Afternoon:

Snowshoe

Head south to MacGregor Point Provincial Park to snowshoe the trails, or take a short trip to Port Elgin Main Beach.

Skating

Grab your skates. MacGregor Point Provincial Park has a 400m skating loop, which is lit at nightfall.

Snuggle by the fire

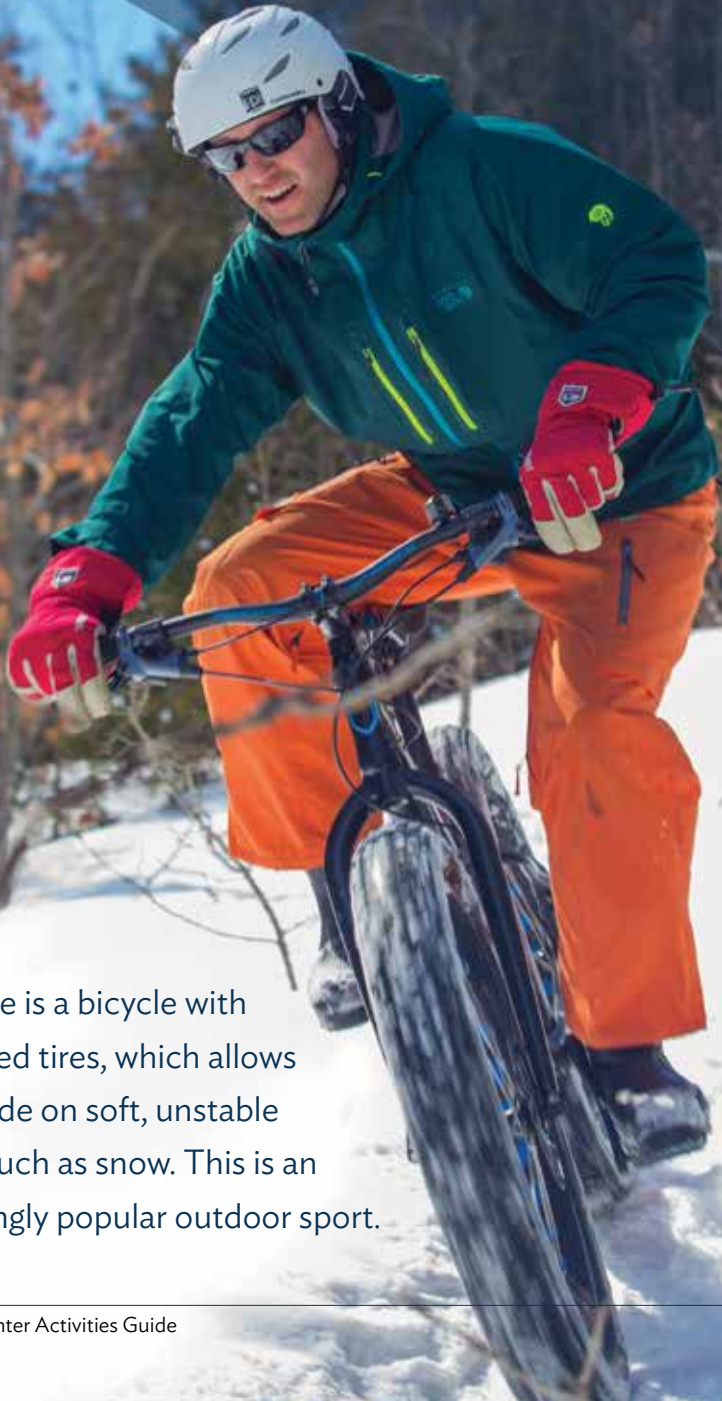
Meander back to the Silken Retreat B&B and cozy up by the fire.



Over the past few years, snowshoeing has been one of the fastest growing winter sports in Canada. Once you've got those snowshoes on, Bruce County is all yours.



Fat Bikes



A fat bike is a bicycle with over-sized tires, which allows you to ride on soft, unstable terrain such as snow. This is an increasingly popular outdoor sport.



Day Trip

Location: Lion's Head, Ontario

Outfitter: Explorer's Tread

explorerstread.com • explorerstread@gmail.com

519-270-8461

Note: Please contact Explorer's Tread to reserve your spot. There is a fee for this day trip itinerary. Fat bikes will be provided.

Morning: Breakfast

Grab a quick breakfast at Rachel's Bakery & Cafe on main street in Lion's Head, to fuel up before an epic day of riding.

Fat Biking

Challenge yourself to action-packed adventure on your fat bike. Take in the spectacular views on top of the Escarpment.

Lunch

Take a break to enjoy a hot gourmet lunch, included in this excursion.

Afternoon:

Hop on your bike to continue touring this section of the Peninsula, on some amazing backcountry terrain.

Warm up

After a long and rewarding day, grab a hot drink and homemade soup at Marydale's Restaurant in Lion's Head, or stop in at Northern Confections in Wiarton for the famous hot cocoa on your drive down the Peninsula.

Winter Camping

There are sixteen yurts at MacGregor Point Provincial Park to provide a unique and comfortable camping experience. One you won't soon forget!





Overnight Trip

Location: Port Elgin, Ontario

Accommodation: Yurts at MacGregor Point Provincial Park
519-389-9056 • ontarioparks.com

Morning:

Breakfast

Stoke the campfire and make some bacon and eggs.

Snowshoe the shoreline

Rent snowshoes from Thorncrest Outfitters in Southampton (they deliver), and check out the Old North Shore Trail along Lake Huron.

Cross-country ski

Cross-country ski the groomed Deer Run Trail.

Lunch

Head into Port Elgin for lunch at Allan's Fireside Grill.

Afternoon:

Hike

Explore the North Shore Trail along the Lake Huron Shoreline and take in a winter sunset on the beach.

Warm up

Head back to the yurt to warm those feet beside the wood fireplace or campfire.

Evening:

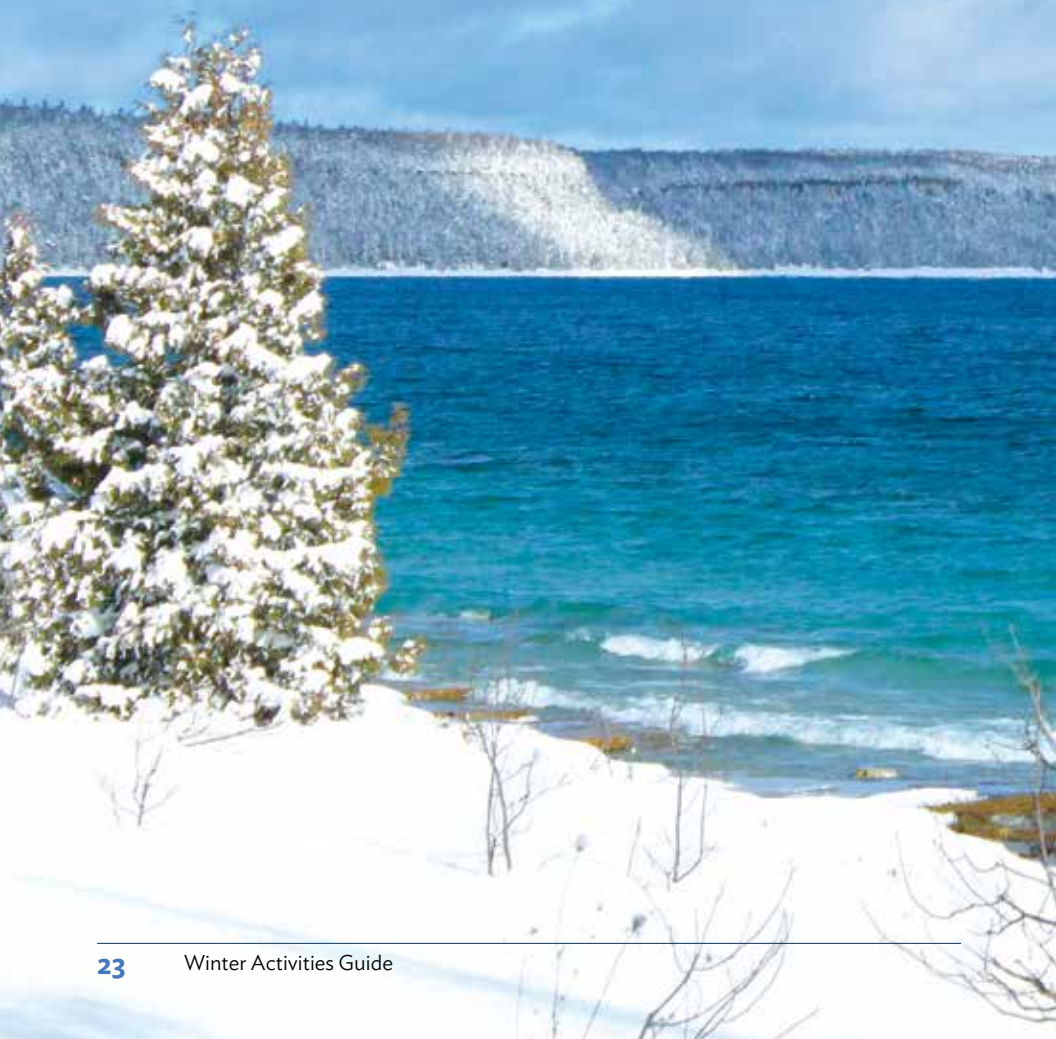
Late night entertainment

Don't forget a deck of cards or a good book, since there is no TV!

Late night snack

Roast some marshmallows or grill up some spider dogs at the winter campfire.

Winter Getaways





The peace and serenity of the fresh fallen snow, and your choice of outdoor activities beginning right outside your door. After a long day of play, cozy up by the fireplace with a hot cup of cocoa, surrounded by your loved ones.



WINTER GETAWAYS IN BRUCE COUNTY

Go on an unforgettable three-day journey enjoying the experience of a lifetime, at the Bruce Peninsula National Park and surrounding area with

Wilderness Eco-Adventures. Net proceeds support Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association's conservation and stewardship work. The small group expedition includes knowledgeable local guides, exciting outdoor activities, storytellers and much more. Includes all meals, fees, equipment and guides. Visit bpba.ca, call 519-377-5166 or email info@bpba.ca to reserve your eco-adventure.

Valerie and Todd invite you to experience the majestic beauty of the area, in their comfortable and spacious lake house on Dyers Bay, affectionately known as the **On the Rocks Guest Inn** on Miller Lake. Visit ontherocksguestinn.com, call 226-277-0766 or email ontherocksguestinn@gmail.com.

Enjoy serenity and cozy up in a four season cottage, cabin or guest room in the house at **Cape Chin B&B** near Lion's Head. Craig has a background in nutrition and Teresa has a passion for baking, making everything from scratch using locally sourced ingredients. Certified spa services offered. Child and pet friendly. Visit capechinbb.ca, call 519-795-7200 or email info@capechinbb.ca to reserve your winter Peninsula retreat.

Let **Spirit Rock Outpost & Lodge** in Wiarton be the basecamp to all of your winter adventures on the Peninsula! Find accommodations and outer gear, visit thespiritrock.com, or call 519-534-5168 or email thespiritrock@gmail.com.

Experience an organized winter retreat such as “Winter Camp for Grownups,” or create your own by renting some space at **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp**, Sauble Beach. Visit slmc.ca/rentals, call 519-422-1401 or email fun@slmc.ca.

The Chepstow Inn is the oldest operating hotel in the heart of Bruce County. Nestled between the Village of Paisley and the town of Walkerton, it is close to the area’s snowmobile trails and Greenock Swamp for snowshoeing or hiking. Visit chepstowinn.com, call 519-366-2626 or email chepstowinn@gmail.com.

Winter Festivals and Events

For more festivals
and information

explore
the BRUCE
.com



Will it be an early spring or six more weeks of winter? What's happening on Family Day? Where can you enjoy a very Canadian tradition? You can find it all right here in Bruce County. There's always a reason to celebrate!



Wiarton Willie Festival – Celebrating Groundhog Day

Location: Wiarton & District Community Centre and Arena, Town of South Bruce Peninsula

Date: Every year on February 2nd,

Time: Begins at 7:00 a.m.

- 8:07 a.m. is the official prediction time – get there a little early so you don't miss anything!
- Take a picture with the real Wiarton Willie
- Pose with Willie's statue
- Watch live entertainment
- Enjoy the festivities
- While you're here, shop for Wiarton Willie souvenirs downtown, cross-county ski the Colpoys Bay trails, snowshoe at Bluewater Park, or hike the Bruce Trail.



Penetangear Toboggan Grand Prix

Location: Alps Park, Corner of Milne Drive
& Kingsway Street, Kincardine

Date: Third weekend in February

Time: Begins at 11:00 a.m.

- Tobogganing Grand Prix – different heats per age
 - Must be 7 or over to participate in races
 - Entry by donation
- Kingsway Street Dog Sledding Demonstration Racers
- McDonald's hot drinks and treats
- To register please visit Penetangear, 791 Queen Street Kincardine, or call 519-396-7791.





Family Day Weekend Celebrations

MacGregor Point Provincial Park Snow Fest

Take part in a variety of family activities in the park such as:

- A family hike
- Bird watching
- A survival challenge
- The owl prowls
- Nature activities
- Outdoor skating







Maple Syrup Festivals

Don't miss the chance to take part in a very Canadian tradition with your friends and family. You'll be licking your lips with delight in no time at all!

- Port Elgin Maple Syrup Festival (formerly Saugeen Bluffs Maple Syrup Festival):
fourth weekend in March
- Maple Magic, Regal Point Elk Farm, Wiarton:
third and fourth weekend of March
- Annual Purple Valley Maple Syrup Festival: Saturday of Easter Weekend



Staying Warm and Safe

- 1** Do not trespass.
Pay attention to signage on properties.
- 2** Do not travel on a closed road.
- 3** Follow the nationally approved snowmobile hand signals for trail safety.
- 4** Research winter weather in Bruce County and check the weather forecast regularly. Carry an Emergency Kit in your car.
- 5** Eat a hearty meal before each activity so your body generates sufficient heat. Stay hydrated by drinking lots of fluid.
- 6** Wear outerwear specific to your sport or activity that seals heat in, keeps cold out and releases moisture.
- 7** Base layers should be made of fleece and technical fabrics to maximize heat retention and wick away moisture.



- 8** Use heater accessories (electric vest, gloves and boot inserts) or chemical warmers.
- 9** Ride a sled with a high windshield, hand and thumb warmers and an electric seat or helmet.
- 10** Carry a thermos of hot coffee, tea or chocolate for trail breaks. Snack frequently to keep your body's internal furnace stoked.
- 11** Hiking and snowshoeing on trails and on uneven ground, near cliffs, or over crevasses covered by snow or vegetation may pose serious risks to your safety. Use caution and discretion at all times.
- 12** Parking may or may not be available in all areas. Parking fees may apply.
- 13** Ice may look frozen but may not be strong enough to handle any weight. Exercise extreme caution and discretion around waterways such as rivers, lakes, ponds and streams.



Be an explorer.

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