



There are two types of bicycle routes in Huron County, those suited for both road and all-terrain bicycles, and those with conditions suited more specifically for the all-terrain cyclist. The former are paved roads which are excellent for either style of bicycle. The latter are gravel roads suited for all-terrain bicycles. The landscape varies from rolling hills to flat, with the occasional challenging hill. Services are generally separated by a distance of 8 miles/12 km.

In Huron County, cyclists can visit our many historic sites and museums, enjoy an evening or matineé performance at our theatres, explore our numerous specialty shops and art studios, picnic at one of our many parks and conservation areas, swim at some of the best beaches in Ontario, or just enjoy some beautiful rural landscapes!

Most of the outlined routes are designed in such a way that the cyclist can end their trek at the same place as they started. Some routes also have several different alternatives, and cyclists are encouraged to develop their own routes. Several self-guided heritage walking or cycling guides are available for exploring the historic buildings and streetscapes of Goderich, Bayfield and Seaforth. These guides are available at regional visitor centres or by contacting the address or numbers on the back of this brochure. The Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail (G.A.R.T) and certain conservation areas also offer excellent off-road cycling opportunities. Details on these areas are outlined in the *Huron County Vacation Guide* and *Hiking Guide*.

Huron County is a vacation destination of charm, culture,

Whether you want to relax in the sun on the shores

of sparkling Lake Huron, sample five star cuisine at

area restaurants, visit one of the many museums and

attractions, experience world class theatre, go hiking

or fishing, relax at a country inn, motel, campground

or bed and breakfast, explore the many antique and

specialty shops, cycle the picturesque countryside and

heritage streetscapes, go golfing, sailing, snowmobiling

Contact the address or number(s) on the back of this

brochure and ask for your free copy of the *Huron County*

Vacation Guide to assist you in planning your cycling

adventure. The *Vacation Guide* outlines all you need

to know about vacationing in Huron County.

beauty and endless possibilities!

or cross country skiing,



"Share the Road"

Courtesy + Cooperation = Safer Road for Everyone

How DRIVERS "Share the Road"

- 1. Allow at least 3 feet when Passing: Sometimes we need to slow down and wait for a safe place to pass. Be safe and courteous by allowing at least 3 feet of clearance between your vehicle and all bicycles.
- 2. Treat a bicycle as you would a slow moving vehicle: Think of bicycles as vehicles that are moving slower than we would like to be travelling. Always wait for a safe place to pass.
- 3. Always be alert and look for cyclists: Be alert of all road users at all times.

How BICYCLISTS "Share the Road"

- 1. Obey the Law: "Same Roads, Same Rules, Same Rights" Stopping at a STOP sign takes less than 10 seconds. Know and ride by the laws.
- 2. Ride single file when appropriate: Be aware of drivers behind you and "single up" before causing vehicles to unnecessarily slow down or take risks to pass us.
- 3. Always use hand signals: Be seen and let drivers be alert to your intentions by using hand signals. Signaling costs nothing and saves lives.



CIRCUIT ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS



These routes are centred around various towns and villages using only paved roads and avoiding Provincial Highways where possible. Each route begins from and returns to a town or village. 'In town' routes are not evident on the map but are described below as "leaving" and "returning".

TOWN/VILLAGE CIRCUITS

These town/village circuits offer short paved road rides. Connecting link roads between these circuit rides can create a longer road ride and a unique cycling holiday – for complete accommodation and dining information, visit: www.ontarioswestcoast.com

WINGHAM & AREA

The north part of Huron County offers scenic road routes and a chance to explore Wingham and area. Visit the North Huron Museum and the Alice Munro Literary Garden; explore the early days of television and radio in the CKNX gallery. Catch a performance at the Wingham Town Hall Heritage Theatre (www.winghamheritagetheatre.com).

- **Leaving -** Park in downtown Wingham. Begin on Josephine St., heading north, becomes London Rd. (Hwy. #4) *REFER TO MAP*
- **Returning -** B Line Road heading west to Josephine St. (London Road, Hwy. #4); turn south to downtown Wingham to finish.
- Approximate Total Distance = 32 km (20 miles)

BRUSSELS & AREA

Brussels is a scenic village settled on the bank of the Maitland River; take time to cycle the village streets and enjoy the domestic and commercial architecture from the late 1800's to early 1900's.

- **Leaving -** Park in downtown Brussels. Proceed north on Turnberry St., becomes Brussels Line, Ctv. Rd. 12 *REFER TO MAP*
- **Returning -** Heading north on the Brussels Line, Cty. Rd. 12, becomes Turnberry St. to finish. *Approximate Total Distance = 26 km (16 miles)*

BLYTH / AUBURN & AREA

In the Blyth area, the cyclist can enjoy beautiful rural landscapes in one of the most agriculturally productive areas in Canada. Blyth is home to the renowned Blyth Festival Theatre so plan ahead during the summer months and catch one of the Festival's many premiere Canadian plays (www.blythfestival.com)

- Leaving Blyth Park in downtown Blyth. Begin on Queen St., heading north, becomes London Rd. (Hwy. #4); to Westfield Rd., turn west; to Donnybrook Line, Cty. Rd. #22, turn south:
- **Arriving Auburn -** to Goderich St. turn west; to King St., turn south, becomes Alma Street; to Maitland Terrace, turn south becomes Base Line; to Hullett-McKillop Rd., turn east **Returning Blyth -** To London Rd., (Hwy. #4), turn north, becomes Queen St., to finish. *Approximate Total Distance = 34 km (21miles)*

PORT ALBERT & AREA

Port Albert offers a quaint village/cottage community sitting at the mouth of the Nine Mile River; enjoy a public sandy beach access and a unique fish ladder.

- **Leaving -** Park in downtown Port Albert near the General Store and Port Albert Inn (Central Wellington St.). Proceed north of Central Wellington St. to Melborne St. Turn east up steep hill and becomes Drury Lane to Bluewater Hwy. (#21). Turn north *REFER TO MAP*
- **Returning -** Heading north on Bluewater Hwy. (#21) to London Rd., turn northwest; becomes Central Sydenham St. to Melbourne St., turn east to Central Wellington St.; turn south to finish. *Approximate Total Distance* = 29 km (18 miles)

GODERICH TRIATHLON ROUTE - most difficult

Since1992, the annual August Goderich Triathalon has attracted hundreds of athletes to test their skills at this swimming, cycling and running event. This cycling route has the most challenging elevations in the area, and some great scenery.

Triathlon Cycling Leg - fastest time: 1 hr. 1 min. 16 sec. by Brian Keast of New Dundee, Ontario, 1994. Event information: www.goderich.ca/triathlon

Leaving - Park at "Rotary Cove Beach" in Town of Goderich (located at the lakefront's most southerly turnaround). Start! Go north on Cove Rd., becomes West St. hill. Climb West St. and turn north on Wellington St. N. Turn east onto St. Georges Cres. Bear northeast onto St. Vincent St. Jog south onto North St., then east on Trafalgar St. Turn north on Victoria St. N. (Bluewater Hwy. #21) – *REFER TO MAP*

Returning - Travelling south on Bluewater Hwy. #21, turn west onto Gloucester Terrace, becomes Caledonia Terrace and swings south onto Waterloo St. N. Turn west onto St. Georges Cres., turn south onto Wellington St., turn west onto West St. and proceed downhill to beach (becomes Cove Rd.). Finish!

Approximate Total Distance = 45 km (28 miles)

GODERICH & AREA

Renowned as the prettiest town in Canada, Goderich and its surrounding area offer some of the best cycling opportunities in Huron County. Explore the historic streets and unique downtown square; or visit the Huron County Museum, the Historic Gaol, or Marine Museum; catch a performance at the Livery Theatre (www.thelivery.ca). A cycle along St. Christopher's Cove Road is a pleasant tour of the beach area and the Goderich Harbour is an excellent spot to watch small sailing boats or large lake freighters. cont'd >

Leaving - Park on the Square and exit south onto South St. Turn east at Elgin Ave. which becomes Huron Rd., as you head east out of town. After the railroad tracks, turn south at Nairn Dr., swings east, then south onto Orchard Line. – *REFER TO MAP* **Returning -** Travelling northwest on Londesboro Rd. to CP Line, turn southwest and it becomes Saltford Rd. Turn south at Bluewater Hwy (#21). Turn west at second road at top of hill, Gloucester Terrace. At North St. turn south to "the Square" to finish. *Approximate Total Distance = 23 km (14 miles)*

THE BAYFIELD AREA

There are many things to see and do while cycling in and around the historic Village of Bayfield. Be sure to visit the unique antique shops and boutiques which the village has to offer. Cool down with a swim at one of Bayfield's public beaches or see some of the many Canadian and American pleasure boats at the beautiful marinas on the Bayfield River.

- **Leaving -** In Bayfield, park at Clangregor Square and proceed south on John Avenue. Turn east on Cameron St. Cross the Bluewater Highway (#21) and continue east onto Mill Rd. (#3) towards Varna *REFER TO MAP*
- **Returning -** From Bayfield River Road, turn south on Old River Road. Turn south on Bluewater Highway (#21) across the Bayfield River Bridge and turn immediately west on Short Hill Road. Climb to Bayfield Terrace and turn south onto Bayfield Main St. to Clangregor Square, to finish. *Approximate Total Distance = 24 km (15 miles)*

SEAFORTH & AREA - easiest

The flat cycling routes in and around Seaforth and Egmondville are excellent roads to view the agricultural communities and farms of Huron County. Seaforth's Heritage Main St. offers dining and shopping opportunities. Egmondville is home to the historic Van Egmond Reserve and House, an interesting place to stop and visit along the way. The Seaforth and Area Museum also provides a look into this area's past.

- **Leaving -** Park in downtown Seaforth and go west on Market St. to Sparling St. Go north on Sparling St. to Goderich St. W. (Hwy. #8). Turn west onto Goderich St. and then turn south onto Harpurhey Rd. Turn north onto Roxboro Line. Cross Goderich St. West (Hwy. #8) and continue north on Roxboro Line *REFER TO MAP*
- **Returning -** From Front Road, turn north onto Kippen Rd. or Main St. S. and proceed through Egmondville into downtown Seaforth, to finish.
- Approximate Total Distance = 16 km (10 miles)

ZURICH / DASHWOOD AREA

Cycle from Zurich to Dashwood to enjoy gently rolling pastoral landscape – look for vistas of Lake Huron, to the west. Zurich is famous for its annual Bean Festival, the last Saturday in August. You are close to the Huron Country Playhouse near Grand Bend, consider a matinee or evening performance (www.huroncountryplayhouse.com)

- **Leaving -** Park in Zurich's downtown. Head south on Goshen St., S. as it becomes Goshen Line (Cty. Rd. #2). Go to Dashwood Rd., turn west, becomes Dashwood Main St.
- **Returning -** Go to Centre St. and turn north, becomes Bronson Line. At Zurich Hensall Rd. turn east, becomes Zurich Main St., to finish Approximate Total Distance = 21 km (13 miles)

EXETER & AREA

The south part of Huron County offers level road routes for cycling and a chance to explore rich agriculture area and the Town of Exeter; Exeter offers many restaurants, shopping and services for your visit.

- **Leaving -** Park in downtown Exeter. Begin on Main St. (London Rd. #4) heading south to Huron St., turn west. *REFER TO MAP*
- **Returning -** From Huron St. head west to Main St. (London Rd. #4), turn north to finish. *Approximate Total Distance = 43 km (27 miles)*

CLINTON & AREA LINK CIRCUIT

In heart of Huron County, Clinton provides a central link to many CIRCUIT ROUTES. While in Clinton, check out the Clinton Racetrack Slots or visit the unique School on Wheels heritage site.

Circuit - Park downtown. Proceed south on Albert St., becomes Victoria St.; to Cutter St., turn southwest; to King St., turn south; to Bayfield Rd., turn southwest; to Parr Line, turn north, becomes Sharpes Creek Line; to Londesboro Rd. (Cty. Rd. #15), turn east; to Base Line (Cty. Rd. #8) turn south; to London Rd. (Hwy. #4), turn south, becomes Albert St., becomes King St., to finish.

Approximate Total Distance = 37 km (23 miles) ONTARIO BICYCLING ROUTE (OBR)

This route is recommended by the "Cycle Ontario Alliance". It represents part of a larger system across Ontario. This route is shown in red on the map. Details and further information can be found at www.cycleontario.ca This route and its alternates will connect the cyclist to attractions in nearby Grand Bend, Stratford and Port Elgin.

LINKING THE TOURS

In addition to town/village circuit routes, this brochure also suggests linking roads (shown in pink on the map) that create a longer tour and perhaps a cycling holiday!



Detailed "Randonneur-style" descriptions of these routes and others are in progress. Check <u>www.ontarioswestcoast.com</u> (Cycling Page) for their availability.

TOURS & SERVICE

Guided Historical Bike Tours: Take a ride into Huron County's past. Daily tours May to Sept. - 1-1/2 to 2 hours duration. Bikes and helmets available. For more information call (519) 440-6084 or (905) 821-0455, e-mail: guidedhistoricalbiketours@sympatico.ca

Goderich Cyclery, 622 Pentland Avenue, RR#2, Goderich, Ontario, N7A 3X8, (519) 524-4720. Full service bicycle depot, carrying a complete line of parts and accessories. Open April to Oct. Mon. to Fri.:10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sat.: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Closed on Sun. and all stat holidays. www.geocities.com/goderichcyclery

Cycling Websites:

www.cycleontario.ca www.cyclecanada.com www.gmto.gov.on.ca www.ontariocycling.org www.cfsc.ottawa.on.ca

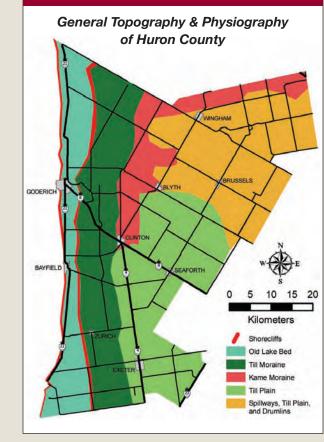


OFF ROAD TRAILS

Huron County has an above average number of secondary gravel roads and trails which are easy for all-terrain cycling. The Falls Reserve and Point Farms Provincial Park, north of Goderich, and the Hullett Wildlife Area, north east of Clinton, are three examples of such areas.

The Goderich to Auburn Rail Trail (G.A.R.T) offers an excellent off road cycling experience (see below for more information). In the northern part of the County, cyclists can enjoy off roading on the Wingham Community Trail and converted Canadian Pacific Railway pedestrian bridge.

'THE LAY OF THE LAND'



This simplified description, together with the detailed map of the Physiography of Huron County (over) will help to plan for hills on your route. The interplay of geologic bedrock and repeated glaciation created the land of our Great Lakes Coastal Area. The County slopes East to West from its highest elevation of 380 metres in the North-East to 175 metres at Lake Huron's water level; total gain 205 metres (640 ft).

- The Old Lake Bed is flat and evenly sloped to the west but bounded by 2 glacial era beach/shore cliff pairs. Local creeks cut deeply into shore cliffs as they travel to Lake Huron.
- A band of Till Moraine lies inland at moderate elevation. It is characterized by long sweeping hills.
- Kame Moraine is located at some of Huron County's highest elevations. Kame deposits are sharp glacial out flow hills. Combined with today's deeply incised Maitland River Valley, some of our most challenging hills are found here.
- The South East and Central East of Huron County are generally flat Till Plain. Occasional Eskers bring modest hills.
- The North West is the highest elevation. Spillways and Till Plain creating an undulating landscape dotted by sharper Drumlin hills. The Upper Maitland River Valley is shallow and expansive at this point.

www.ontarioswestcoast.com





SULLING

YOUR GUIDE TO CYCLING IN HURON COUNTY





Detroit / Windsor Border = 2.5 hours Sarnia / Port Huron = 45 minutes Toronto = 2.5 hours London = 30 minutes Stratford = 20 minutes

The above driving times are to the boundaries of Huron County at posted speed limits.

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"My Favorite Road Section"

Paved Municipal Road

* FOR DESCRIPTIONS OF CIRCUITS AND CONNECTING LINKS, SEE REVERSE