

MARATHON

Pebble Beach to Penn Lake, Carden Cove, and Pukaskwa National Park

7.1–20 km

TOTAL DISTANCE
LOOP + CARDEN COVE

1–2 hrs + 2.5–4 hrs

SUGGESTED RIDE TIME
LOOP + CARDEN COVE

DRIVE-AND-RIDE SELF-GUIDED ITINERARY

A loop within the hidden gem of Marathon from Pebble Beach to Penn Lake and around town, visiting two beautiful and distinct landscapes. Later, you'll have the option to cycle an out-and-back trip to beautiful Carden Cove, choose any number of hiking options. Extend your visit with a (drive only) trip to Pukaskwa National Park.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL

Cyclists must be comfortable riding with traffic. Much of this route follows low-volume residential or secondary roads, though some follows Peninsula Road (main road in town.)

TERRAIN

The loop to Penn Lake includes a short (190m, avg 7%) steep hill from Pebble Beach and climbs toward Penn Lake. The Carden Cove trip includes a ~7 km gravel grind on Carden Cove Rd, and is hilly with one notable 400m hill (avg 6.5%) you'll have to travel down at 4.5km and back up at the 7.9km marks.

TIPS

Consider extending your stay to enjoy the cycling experiences on separate days, allowing more time to hike Carden Cove, the Lagoon Trail, Hawks Ridge or Penn Lake. Carden Cove is remote. Pack additional snacks and water, especially if you plan on hiking. Many businesses in Northern Ontario are family owned and operated. If you are relying on them for a stop it is always a good idea to call ahead.

START LOCATION

Pebble Beach Park (near Howe St. terminus, Marathon, ON.)
Alternate Parking is available at Penn Lake Park (61 Penn Lake Rd.)

ROUTE MAPS

[Ride with GPS
Pebble Beach to Penn Lake Loop
\(7.1km\)](#)

[Ride with GPS
Pebble Beach to Carden Cove
\(12.6km\)](#)

[Great Lakes
Waterfront Trail
PDF maps](#)



COURTESY OF



Disclaimer: This route is a suggested route only. The route incorporates both multi-use trail and on-road riding. All cyclists are responsible for their own safety and must use both trails and streets with caution and do so at their own risk. Always wear the proper safety gear when cycling, ride sensibly and abide by all laws. Each route should be evaluated by each individual cyclist based on their level of experience, comfort level in cycling on trails and roads, weather conditions, time of day, and any road obstacles. Waterfront Regeneration Trust and all others involved in the development of this route do not assume any liability whatsoever for cyclists using this information and travelling upon this route

MARATHON

Pebble Beach to Penn Lake

THE RIDE 1

START LOCATION

Pebble Beach Park (near Howe St. terminus) or a location of your choice.

RIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Beaches: Pebble Beach, Penn Lake, Carden Cove

Scenic Lookout: Picnic Table Hill (Accessible from Carden Cove)

Amenities: Marathon is a small community with a lot of amenities, including the final golf course designed by Stanley Thompson.

Hiking: From simple walks to rugged multi-day trips, Marathon has plenty of hiking opportunities.

0 km – Pebble Beach

Offering an expansive view of Lake Superior, Pebble Beach is renowned on the North Shore. The beach itself is comprised of smooth stone, where every step resounds deep within the shore. This is your entrance to the Lagoon Trail, a recommended post-ride hike along the shore.

0.9km – Tunnel

The route includes the use of a tunnel beneath the local railway. You will need to dismount to navigate the bollards safely.

3.3 km – Penn Lake

The shores of Penn Lake are much more intimate than that of Pebble Beach. Here you'll find a sand beach with that includes a picnic area and playground, as well as a mostly-flat 2.8km hiking trail that meanders around the lake and back to the park.

4.9 km – Suggested Stop: Marathon Centre Mall

Includes a bevy of amenities and quick food choices to grab a snack for your trip back to Pebble Beach and walk along the shore.

7.1 km – Pebble Beach and Ride End

Here you can enjoy a snack at Superior Picnic location by the lookout. A path down to the beach can be found at the east end of the parking lot, where you can walk the shoreline Lagoon Trail. Use caution while walking on the beach, the stones can be loose.



MARATHON

Pebble Beach to Carden Cove

THE RIDE 2

START LOCATION

Pebble Beach Park (near Howe St. terminus) or a location of your choice.

TIPS

This ride includes a 7km gravel grind with hills. Road bikes with narrow tires are not recommended. The trip to Carden Cove is remote. Stock up on food and water before heading down Carden Cove Road, especially if you plan to hike.

0 km – Pebble Beach

2.8 km – 10.1 km: Carden Cove Rd Gravel Grind

Carden Cove Rd is a quiet, unpaved, mostly-forested road. From here until you return to Town you'll be cycling gravel.

6.5 km – Carden Cove Beach

Carden Cove Beach is your half-way point. With parking, vault toilets and a soft sand beach, this is an excellent place to relax or explore the Group of Seven Trail (4.7km hike).

12.6 km – Pebble Beach and Ride End



MARATHON

Pebble Beach to Pukaskwa National Park

THE WEEKENDER+

Add these to your drive trip to enjoy your stay for a single—or multiple—overnights. There is a lot to see here. We recommend the latter.

Peninsula Golf Course

105 Peninsula Rd, Marathon, ON

A public 9-hole golf course near Lake Superior. The final course designed by renowned Canadian golf course architect Stanley Thompson.

Hike Penn Lake (Penn Lake Parking Lot)

This mostly-flat 2.8km hiking trail winds around Penn Lake and back to your start.

Hike Carden Cove on the Group of Seven Trail / Voyageur Hiking Trail / Trans Canada Trail

Carden Cove Road Terminus

Located at the terminus of Carden Cove Road, this 4.7km trail explores the west side of the cove and includes views onto Lake Superior.

ADDITIONAL HIKES

Hawks Ridge Trail: (2.5km each way)

Accessible from the Hemlo Dr terminus, the Hawks Ridge trail follows the shoreline east, from the top of the ridge.

Penn Heights Trail: (3.8km each way): Accessible from Penn Lake Park parking lot, this trail connects Penn Lake to Hawks Ridge Trail.

Trans Canada Trail to Heron Bay: (13km each way). Rugged hike from Penn Lake Park parking lot to Heron Bay near the mouth of the Pic River.

Pukaskwa National Park: Paddle Hattie Cove, Hike the Lake Superior Coastal Route

Another hidden gem, Pukaskwa National Park is renowned for its exceptional natural beauty. The Park offers canoe and stand-up paddleboard rentals for you to enjoy Hattie Cove, near to but protected from the open water of Lake Superior. The park also offers interpretive experiences at Anishinaabe camp, a multitude of day-hikes, and more epic 18-60 km hikes into the backcountry via the wild Coastal Trail. Camping is first-come, first-served. A limited number of oTENTik glamping spots can be booked in advance. See the [Park website](#) for more information.

Paddle Lake Superior on the Lake Superior Water Trail

Accessible from Carden Cove Road terminus.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Marathon's roofed accommodations include Travelodge Marathon. Penn Lake Park and Campground offers camping tucked just on the outskirts of Town. Marathon provides a [list of local roofed and camping accommodation](#) including Neys Provincial Park. Nearby [Pukaskwa National Park](#) offers first-come, first-served camping and limited oTENTik glamping opportunities that may be booked in advance.