

Golden Beach Loop

DRIVE-AND-RIDE SELF-GUIDED ITINERARY

Discover waterfalls, winding rivers, a beautiful sandy beach, and small-town charm on the Golden Beach Loop. This picturesque ride takes you through historic downtown Bracebridge, Muskoka's waterfall capital, past the rushing Bracebridge Falls, and alongside the Muskoka River toward Santa's Village. Cool off at Bowyer's Beach before cruising quiet backroads back into town, where cafés, bakeries, restaurants, and scenic riverside trails offer the perfect post-ride reward.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL

Best suited for experienced cycle tourists comfortable riding with traffic. Some of the route involves travel on Manitoba Rd in Downtown Bracebridge, a busy local road. A portion of the route travels on the paved shoulders of Muskoka Road 118w, which is busy and includes truck traffic. Golden Beach Road and Santa's Village Road can be busier in the summer.

TERRAIN

This route includes a number of hills. All roads followed by the route are paved.

TIPS

Take a morning or afternoon and enjoy this exploration of Bracebridge. Don't pass the waterfalls by! Visit the beach and pack a few extra snacks and water in case heat and hills slow you down. This is a very easy tour with an e-bike.

START LOCATION

Park at the public parking lot across from 99 Hiram Street, Bracebridge. Alternate parking is available at the George Rd terminus near the public boat launch on Lake Muskoka, which is not far from Santa's Village.

Disclaimer: This route is a suggested route only. The route incorporates 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.

16.3 km

TOTAL DISTANCE

2+ hrs

SUGGESTED RIDE TIME

ALLOWING FOR A SWIM AT BOWYER'S BEACH PARK, A VISIT TO SANTA'S VILLAGE, ETC. COULD BE DONE IN AN HOUR, EASY TO MAKE AN AFTERNOON OF IT.

ROUTE MAPS

Ride with GPS

(16.3 km, +/- 165 m elevation)

**Great Lakes
Waterfront Trail
PDF maps**



COURTESY OF

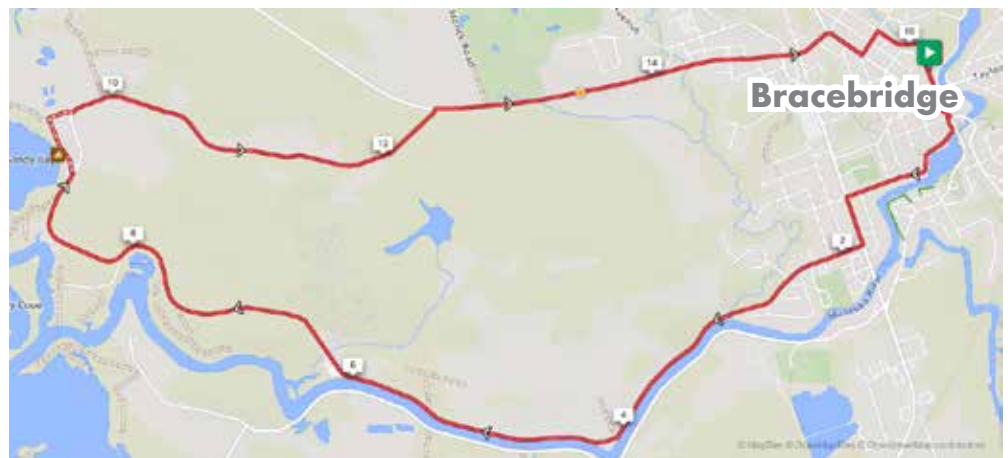


Canada



Federal Economic Development
Agency for Northern Ontario

Agence fédérale de développement
économique pour le Nord de l'Ontario



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THE RIDE

START LOCATION

Public parking lot across from 99 Hiram St, Bracebridge.

RIDE HIGHLIGHTS:

Downtown Bracebridge: Manitoba St, Bracebridge

Bracebridge Falls: Powerful waterfall just outside of Downtown Bracebridge.

Beach: Bowyer's Beach Park (1148 Milford Bay Rd, Milford Bay.)

Craft Brewery: Bracebridge Barrel House (1074 Cranberry Rd, Bala)

Bakery: Big River Baking Co (11A Taylor Rd, Bracebridge)

The Muskoka River: 3 km alongside the River on Santa's Village Rd.

Bike Shops: Liv Outside (271 Ecclestone Dr, Bracebridge), Ecclestone Cycle & Swim (230 Ecclestone Dr, Bracebridge), Nielsens Bicycles (43 Dominion St, Bracebridge)

0 km – Downtown Bracebridge *(Manitoba St)*

Immediately beside the public parking lot on Hiram St you'll find Downtown Bracebridge, bustling with amenities including multiple restaurants and unique shops. Close to the Parking Lot you'll find a restaurant, café, bakery, deli and local coffee. There are three local bike shops in Town. See above for their addresses.

0.7 km – Recommended Stop – Bracebridge Bay Park *(2 Dominion St, Bracebridge)*

Bracebridge Bay Park is a picturesque window onto the Muskoka River with an excellent viewing platform near Bracebridge Falls and the Bracebridge Power Plant.

3 km – Muskoka River *(Santa's Village Rd)*

Enjoy three kilometers of Muskoka River scenery.

6 km – Santa's Village Theme Park *(1264 Golden Beach Rd)*

Santa's Village is a 60-acre Christmas-themed family theme park nestled right along the Muskoka River, featuring over 30 rides.

9 km – Bowyers Beach Park *(Bowyers Beach Rd)*

Take a refreshing dip to celebrate Lake Muskoka at this sandy beach with postcard views.

16.3km – Ride Finish - Hiram St Parking Lot *(99 Hiram St, Bracebridge)*

Wrap up your ride where you began near Downtown Bracebridge. Celebrate your finish with some local ice cream and some baked goods at the Big River Baking Co, or visit the Bracebridge Barrelhouse for a craft beer.

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THE DRIVE

The Drive section of the itinerary provides suggestions for experiences to add on to your trip once your bikes are stowed and you are back in the car. Many experiences are not directly on the itinerary route but are nearby, ideal for travelling by car. Each is an opportunity to celebrate the communities and landscape of Ontario Cottage Country.

Cruise Muskoka: Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Port Carling

Cruise operators in these key Lake Muskoka communities all offer scenic boat tours, allowing you a curated tour of the Muskoka River (Bracebridge), Lake Muskoka (Gravenhurst), or Lake Rosseau (Port Carling). Tours are ~90-120 minutes long. Book these experiences in advance, especially if it involves a meal.

Muskoka Cruises operates from Bracebridge (300 Ecclestone Dr) and Port Carling (7 Lock St E.)

Muskoka Steamships operate from Gravenhurst (185 Cherokee Lane) and conduct their tours on historic steamships located at the Muskoka Wharf. Tours on Muskoka Steamships can include, lunch, dinner or high tea.

Hike Muskoka: Muskoka has an incredible amount of hiking trails with exceptional views on offer. The below list is not exhaustive and focused on hiking opportunities around Lake Muskoka. Discover Muskoka maintains a [website](#) with information on hiking in Muskoka more broadly.

Bracebridge Waterfalls Tour:

There are a number of waterfalls located in and around Bracebridge, each adjacent to a short walk or hiking trail. Each is an exceptional location to visit.

Bracebridge Falls is located right along the route, just outside downtown Bracebridge with parking off 39 Wharf Rd. The Falls and bridge are lit at night.

Wilson's Falls: Located at 461 Wilson Falls Rd. Adjacent to a 3.6km hiking trail.

High Falls: Located at High Falls Rest Area at the Cedar Lane Exit of Hwy 11. The rest area has picnic tables, parking, vault toilets and a short, rugged hiking trail that is also part of the Trans Canada Trail.

Hardy Lake Provincial Park

(Muskoka Rd 169, Torrance)

Hardy Lake Provincial Park offers beautiful hiking around Hardy Lake. The park has a small parking lot access located ~4.5km east of Torrance on Muskoka Road 169. There are three main hiking loops ranging from 3-9km in length. There are no washrooms or amenities, so pack accordingly. The park is increasing in popularity, so going early ensures a better chance to park. The hikes are rugged, but not exceptionally challenging.

Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail

(Milford Bay Rd, Milford Bay)

Considered one of the best sunset locations on Lake Muskoka, the Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail. The Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail is 2.5km, located in Milford Bay. Muskoka Lakes maintains a [hiking trail brochure](#) that offers helpful maps for Huckleberry Rock, Hardy Lake and Torrance Barrens, amongst other locations.

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THE DRIVE

Muskoka on the Water

Liv Outside (271 Ecclestone Dr, Bracebridge)
Offering Canoe and Kayak rentals (as well as bikes and gear), Liv Outside is well situated near the Muskoka River and is a short paddle to the base of Bracebridge Falls.

For boats and more unique watersports consider a class with Muskoka Wake, whose offerings include flyboarding and e-foils.

Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Reserve

(Southwood Road, Gravenhurst)

The world's first permanent Dark Sky Reserve, located on Southwood Road, and accessed from Muskoka Rd 169 in Torrance. The Reserve has several kilometers of hiking trails. Tucked away from light pollution, it is an amazing location to stargaze, especially during the Perseid Meteor shower in July/August.

Kee to Bala Concert Hall

(1012 Bala Falls Rd, Bala)

The **Kee to Bala** is a historic concert venue and bar located in Bala right on Lake Muskoka that has been operating and hosting performances for almost a century. Visit the website for a listing of current shows.

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ACCOMMODATIONS

There are numerous roofed accommodations and cottage rental locations located throughout Muskoka. Discover Muskoka maintains a **valuable website listing accommodations**. We've listed a few on or near the Loop: There are plenty of cottage rental experiences around Lake Muskoka.

Bracebridge:

Quality Inn: 300 Ecclestone Dr. Located right on the Muskoka River and right on the Loop. Onsite restaurant includes a discounted breakfast.

Tru by Hilton: 320 Taylor Rd Building B, Bracebridge. Located near Hwy 11.

There are also numerous smaller hotels and motels located in Bracebridge.

Gravenhurst:

Residence Inn Gravenhurst: 285 Steamship Bay Rd, Gravenhurst. Located right along the route. Gravenhurst has a number of other larger hotels and smaller motels.