

Walk With Us in Nature: Escarpment North

The Autumn 2013 issue describes eight of the 16 public walks protected by Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC). Here are the other eight, located on the Bruce Peninsula and Manitoulin Island.



▲ Sadler Creek, EBC's largest reserve, reaches Lake Huron from Hwy 6 and connects a major forest to Bruce Peninsula National Park.

On the Bruce

9. Sadler Creek is EBC's largest reserve at 1,113 acres, and extends from Hwy 6 to Zinkan Cove on Lake Huron. Follow the road opposite and south of Miller Lake Rd to the bridge over Sadler Creek, which eventually emerges in Zinkan Cove. Many of the trees here were saved from clear-cutting and now comprise a major forest connecting Bruce County Forest south of Lindsay Rd 20 with Bruce National Park north of Lindsay Rd 30.

10. Barney Lake This shallow lake is almost all within the EBC reserve created in 2002. Walk in from Cape Hurd Rd, about 300 m east of the big turn on the south side. Walk over bare alvar rocks and see plenty of wildflowers. Winter allows a chance to snowshoe right across the lake. This inland lake helps migrating wildfowl rest away from the winds and waves of Lake Huron.



▲ Barney Lake on the Bruce provides a tranquil resting place for migrating birds.

11. Alvar Bay at 681 Cape Hurd Rd is worth the km walk to the shore. At the shore, follow the north track over the alvar and glacial formations. From here, walk north to the point and beyond to Nature Conservancy's reserve or head south along the shore to the next major bay and nearby, a trail along the road allowance to Cape Hurd Rd. Explore three km of unspoiled shoreline and alvars. Home to our Butterfly Festival.

Alvar Bay at the end of Cape Hurd Road west of Tobermory has spectacular natural pavings and a unique ecosystem. ▶

On Manitoulin Island

12. Cup and Saucer provides 12 km of cliff-top walks and an "adventure" trail with caves and ladders. Scenic views in all directions from Manitoulin's highest point. The "cup" is the higher feature, rising above the "saucer" to the north. Park at Bidwell Rd, just off Hwy 540, about 20 km west of Little Current. Bidwell Bog Trail lies a few hundred metres further east on Bidwell and has a five-km loop trail over the beaver dam and savannah.

Dramatic Cup and Saucer on Manitoulin is famous for its magnificent views and such Escarpment features as caves. ▶



13. Fossil Hill has real fossils, but please leave them. They show that the only life 450 million years ago was marine plants and fish. This four-km hiking trail is at the NW corner of Hwy 6 and New England Rd.

Fossil Hill offers a short four-km trail on Manitoulin that passes through evidence of marine life and wave action. ▶





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Eight Walks



▲ Manitoulin's Ten Mile Point south of Sheguiandah has an impressive view and a steep trail right to the shore.

14. **Ten Mile Point** Stop for the view. Right on Hwy 6 south of Sheguiandah, this trail provides access down the slope right to the shore. Park at the lookout. Beware of the steep slope and poison ivy.



▲ Bingaman Trail west of Little Current, Manitoulin, gives a view of the North Channel before winding through Escarpment forest.

15. **Bingaman Trail** Stop at the Café in the Park sign on Hwy 540 14 km west of Little Current. Almost at the top of the hill, park on the plateau and join our Escarpment Trail. First enjoy the view over the North Channel, then take the trail following Escarpment crevices along the brow of the hill. Continue back to Green Bush Rd or further east to the end of our new reserves and loop south to the ATV trail and back north to Green Bush Rd in the savannah.



▲ Red Deer Village maintains a well-used trail near Manitoulin's Whitefish Falls that leads up to the LaCloche ridge.

16. **Red Deer Village** Climb the LaCloche. Follow Red Deer Village Rd past Whitefish Falls. A trailhead info gazebo is on the north side. The trail is well used and maintained by the community. Climb steadily to the La Cloche ridge. Bald white peaks and lone White Pine trees featured by the Group of Seven take you far away from southern Ontario. **NEV**

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