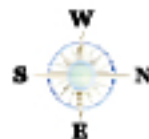


# HIKING TRAIL MAP



	Caves/Lookout Trail	1.8 km	
	Suspension Bridge Loop	1.0 km	
	Ridge Top Lookout Trail	3.5 km	
	Escarpment Run Trail	1.1 km	
	Ridge Runner Loop	1.8 km	
	Short Cut (wide)	0.2km	
	Ridge Top Lookout Trek	3.2 km	
	Nature's Paradise Trek	0.5 km	
	Enchanted Forest Trek	1.2 km	
	Short Cut (narrow)	0.2km	

- Easy
- Moderate
- Advanced
- Narrow Trail
- Wide Trail
- Snacks
- Lookout
- First Aid



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## Scenic Caves Nature Adventures History

One of Canada's Great Natural Wonders, Scenic Caves is located west of Collingwood, in a spectacular setting above Georgian Bay at the highest part of the Niagara Escarpment in the Town of the Blue Mountains.

These mysterious caves and caverns, once under water, were formed over the course of hundreds of millions of years following ice movement of the Glacial Ages. Geologists have noted traces of a great inland sea on the sides of the mountain and fossils in the rocks.

Botanists have identified rare ferns and plants growing in the caverns, including the exotic *Maidenhair Fern*.

The earliest written records of this area were by Samuel de Champlain and the Jesuit missionaries, who in the first half of the 17th century, lived with the *Huron* and *Petun* peoples. Together they were the largest Nation in North America. Over 30,000 Huron and Petun lived, farmed, and hunted here. The area around Scenic Caves was the home of the "Deer"

tribe of the Petun or "Tobacco" nation. The main product they grew was tobacco for both trade and ritual purposes. The Petun used these rock formations as a fortress protection from their enemies around the time of 1650. Later they made their way southwest and today, descendants of the tribe, known as the *Wyandot*, are found in Oklahoma, Kansas and near Windsor, Ontario.

Excavations from 1975 to 1982 by archaeologist Charles Garrad, confirm the historical writings that this area was once visited by French explorer Samuel de Champlain. It is the historic site of the Petun village called *Ekarenniondi* and its famous standing rock—"EKARENNIONDI" which means rock that stands out.

Scenic Caves has been a popular visitor and tourist attraction over the past 70 years. In 2003, we added *Southern Ontario's Longest Suspension Footbridge* to enhance the adventure.

### Natural Refrigerator

A steady flow of cold air from the Ice Cave keeps the Natural Refrigerator's summer temperature at approximately 4° C. This offered ideal food storage for the Natives.

### Ice Cave

Feel the gradual change in temperature as you descend. Snow and ice may stay here until late July.

### First View

A magnificent view of Collingwood, Wasaga Beach and Nottawasaga Bay, all part of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron.

### Petun Trail

This is part of the original Bruce Trail from Niagara Falls to Tobermory.

### Maiden's Love

Native folklore tells of a Petun maiden falling in love with a brave from another tribe. Jealous men of her tribe ambushed

the brave and threw him over the cliff.

Overcome with grief the maiden followed her lover.

### Signal Point

A spectacular view of approximately 10,000 sq. kilometers at an elevation of 550 meters above sea level, signal fires could be seen from Christian Island, Wasaga Beach, Collingwood and Barrie.

### Council Chamber

This unsupported rock formation created a natural security area for Petun chiefs to hold council meetings, using a log to cross over and taking it with them to ensure privacy.

### Ekarenniondi

Historic site of the famous Petun standing rock. Here, on their way to the Village of the Souls, Oscotarach (Head Piercer) would remove the brains of the dead.

Afterlife would then be happier because the souls could no longer remember their earthly existence and those left behind.

### Fat Man's Misery

Squeeze through or go over the top. The narrowest spot is 36 centimetres!

### Fern Cave

Some very rare ferns and moss grow here, including the exotic *Maidenhair Fern* (PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE!).

### Preacher's Pulpit

It is believed that the cavern walls were separated by ice movement in the Glacial Age. The walls of the cavern are limestone.

### Petun Arch

This opening created an area that could be easily guarded by the Petun people, as certain parts could be sealed off to trap an enemy.

### Native Chief

Above the opening there is a natural rock formation resembling the head of a Native Chief. Walk straight ahead to the *Bear Cave* and look back at the right wall.

### Petun Fortress

The only area of the caverns with four exits, one in each direction of the compass. This natural rock fortress made it almost impossible for any invading tribe to try ambush the defenders.

### Bear Cave

Early settlers believed black bears living in this district hibernated here.

### Lone Rock

Another natural structure in limestone echoing thousands of years of geologic and human history.

### Chasm Trail

Narrow opening with moss-covered limestone walls.