



# WELCOME TO SIMCOE COUNTY!

We're so happy that you're here and excited to share our region's finest experiences with you!

In Simcoe County, you'll find big city amenities mixed with small town charm. There are cute downtown cores, amazing historic attractions, and some pretty cool festivals too.

Did we mention that we are home to the longest freshwater beach in the world? That's right! Bordered by the shores of Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe, Simcoe County is a boater's paradise!

Friendly people, farm fresh food, beautiful forests and trails, and grassroots arts and culture. Bike. Ski. Golf. Snowboard. Hike. Fish. Shop. Eat. Paddle. Skate. Swim.

You're going to have the best time. We promise. Welcome!

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR WHERE YOU WANT TO GO

Here are a few options on how you can get here, and how to get around. Safe travels!

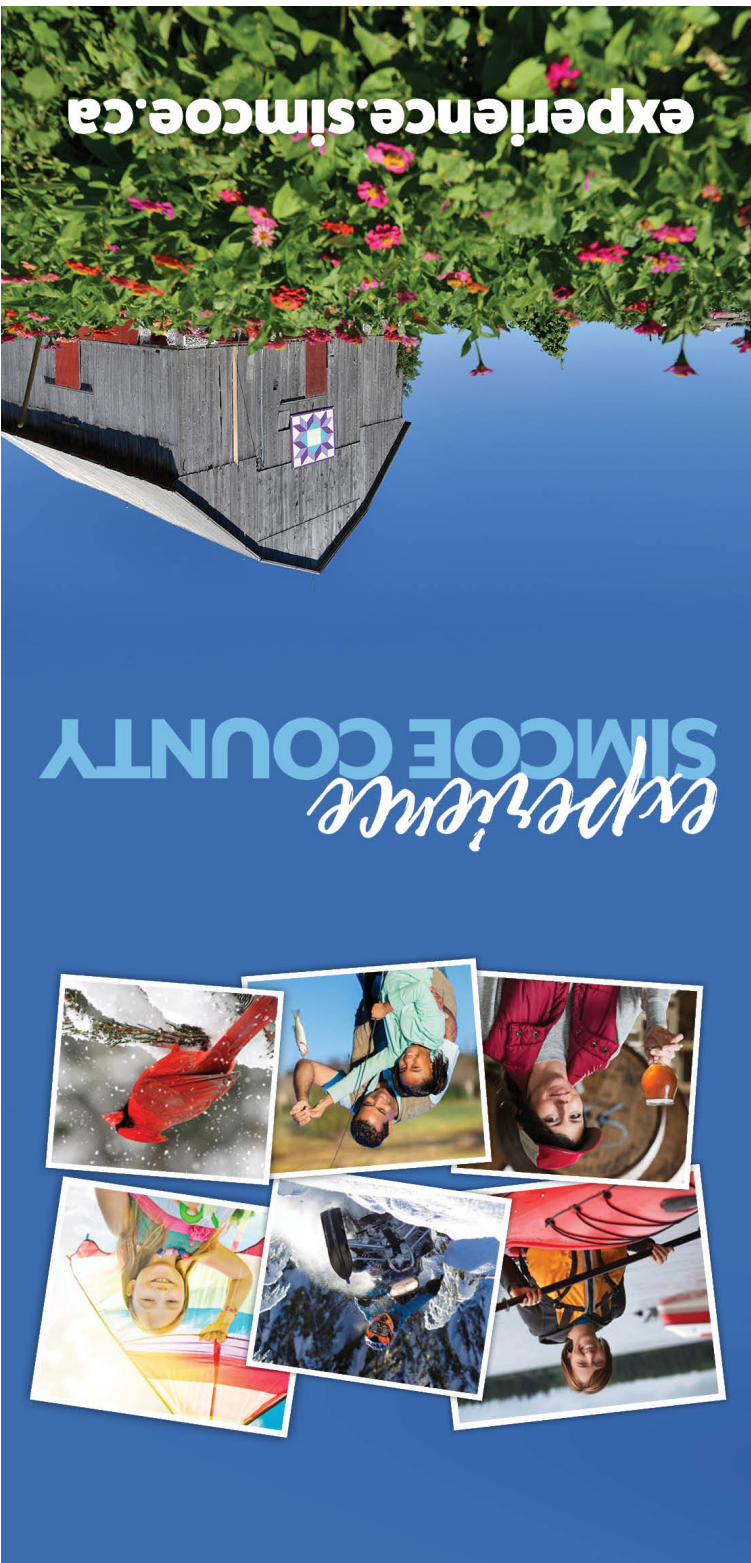
**Train & Bus**  
Travel from Toronto by GO Train or Bus to Bradford, Innisfil, or Barrie. Visit gotransit.com for schedules. VIA RAIL also stops in Washago. Visit ViaRail.ca. Simcoe County LINX connects bus routes throughout the county. Visit LINX (simcoe.ca/dpt/linx) for more info. For local bus services, see municipal websites.

**Car, Cab, or Uber**  
Drive yourself, rent a car, call a cab, or book a driver any time of the day. Some services include Uber, Lyft, Designated Driver, Keys Please, and Driverseat to name a few. Please drive sober and share the road with cyclists and pedestrians!

**Bike**  
Did you know the county is connected by safe cycling road routes and multi-use rail trails? Check out Cycle Simcoe (cyclesimcoe.ca) for bike rentals, repair stations, routes, and more!

**Boat**  
We don't have a ferry service, but Simcoe County has plenty of transient slips. So if you have your own boat and want to visit us, we're accessible from Georgian Bay, Lake Simcoe, and the Trent-Severn Waterway.

**Airplane**  
Travel by air into one of our many regional airports! The Lake Simcoe Regional Airport provides fast, flexible, cost effective and convenient access to global markets. Additional airports in Simcoe County include: Collingwood Regional Airport, Huronia Airport, Edenvale Aerodrome, and Orillia Rama Regional Airport.



# 25 MUST DO-TRY-&SEES IN SIMCOE COUNTY

One rarely falls in love with a place without experiencing its best kept secrets, local favourites, or top wow-factor attractions. We want you to fall in love with Simcoe County. So here you go. Your one stop shop for must-do, must-try, and must-see sights in Simcoe County. Enjoy the ride!

- 1. Watch a sunset from Wasaga Beach**  
Dip your toes in the water at the longest freshwater beach in the world, with 14km of safe, white sandy shore, and stick around to see the colourful, breathtaking sunset as it drops into the glistening waters of Georgian Bay.
- 2. Sip on a Caesar**  
Try Canada's favourite drink at 1858 Caesar Bar in Collingwood – the first Caesar Bar in North America, offering over 30 unique Caesar “experiences”, using their very own premium handcrafted additive, Walker's OneShot.
- 3. Go off the beaten path for some jerk chicken**  
Chow Down at Angie's Place Caribbean Eatery in Stayner, known for their jerk chicken roti, but give yourself some time as the lineups are always long (but well worth the wait).
- 4. Be inspired by the land**  
Visit Georgian Bay Islands National Park, the landscape that inspired the Group of Seven, and let it inspire you. Oh, and to see some original artwork of the Group of Seven, be sure to stop by Huronia Museum in Midland.
- 5. Cruise the 30,000 islands**  
Hop on board the Georgian Spirit or Georgian Legacy Boat Cruise and experience the 30,000 Islands, the world's largest freshwater archipelago, designated by UNESCO as a WORLD BISPHERE RESERVE. The area is home to 840 native plant species, 170 types of breeding birds, 44 mammal species and 34 species of reptiles and amphibians.
- 6. Catch a flick under the stars**  
Stay up late and watch a movie from the comfort of your car at Sunset Barrie Drive-In Theatre.

- 7. Jump out of a plane**  
You've always dreamed of flying, right? Well, you can do that here at Skydive Toronto and at Skydive Wasaga Beach.
- 8. Sleep in a yurt or tipi**  
Embrace the wild and observe nature at its best. Stay at Black River Wilderness Park and enjoy the setting of an island campsite in the midst of the beautiful Black River, which flows through the 180 acres of park wilderness.
- 9. Put the pedal to the metal**  
Experience the thrill of race car driving on the best racetrack in the country, Sunset International Speedway in Innisfil. Or just catch a NASCAR race and watch it from the grandstands.
- 10. Do the 'Shoe**  
Experience some serious family-fun at Horseshoe Resort's world-class adventure park. Wakeboard, mountain bike, swim, paddle, swing from the trees, zip-line, mini-golf, ATV, play beach volleyball, and much more.
- 11. Enjoy the great indoors**  
Play the slots, roll the dice, dine, stay, rock out, or relax at Casino Rama Resort, your complete entertainment destination and Ontario's only First Nations Resort Casino.
- 12. Stop at the Fry Hut**  
Simcoe County is scattered with roadside food trucks and fry huts, but we are home to the original deep fried pickle poutine, made by the one and only JJ's Chip Wagon in Alliston. You should go. Like, right now.
- 13. Swab the deck of a tall ship**  
Be amazed by the sheer size of the ship, as you step aboard the H.M.S. Tecumseth at Discovery Harbour, the original British naval base from war of 1812.

- 14. Hang with the monkeys, feed the giraffes**  
Walk along shaded trails at the Elmvale Jungle Zoo and view majestic white lions and tigers, the playful monkeys and lemurs, and the rare and exotic birds in the natural surroundings of the zoo's 30 acres.
- 15. Take a shot of vodka**  
Turns out the World's Best Vodka comes from Alliston, right here in Simcoe County. Beattie's Distillers is the 5th generation of potato farmer, and they are now proud Ontario distillers, crafting premium potato spirits. Try their sweet potato vodka for a sweet, caramelized flavour.
- 16. Get active on the Old Rail Trail**  
Explore the Overhead Bridge Trail in Tiny Township by bike or on foot. The best place to unwind and get back to nature.
- 17. Fall in love with colours**  
Jump in the car and drive through Awenda Provincial Park this fall. The bright, full colours of red, orange, and yellow trees will change your life.
- 18. Try a big taste from a tiny place**  
You can't stop or stay in Simcoe County without checking out Creemore Springs Brewery. They fire-brew their beer in small batches in authentic copper kettles, and they don't just use regular water either. They use water from their local namesake springs. Pretty cool, eh?
- 19. Schedule some me-time**  
Take some time for yourself and enjoy the ultimate relaxation, rejuvenation, and revitalization in the heart of nature at Vetta Spa in Oro-Medonte.
- 20. Visit Ontario's oldest European community**  
Step back in time to the 17th century at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, one of Canada's National Historic Sites and learn about the French Jesuit mission in the heart of Huron-Wendat First Nation.

- 21. Chow down on farm freshness**  
Welcome to farm country! We grow fruits and veggies galore, so be sure to check out a local farmer's market, swing by a roadside stand, or visit a farm gate location like Nicholyn Farms and see what you've been missing.
  - 22. Get back in the saddle**  
Be amazed with the boutique trail riding experience offered at Glen Oro Farms in Oro-Medonte. If you want to look the part, check out Herbert's Boots & Western Wear in Alliston and Innisfil.
  - 23. Hit the slopes**  
If you're new to skiing or snowboarding, or a pro – we've got mountains for you! From Snow Valley Ski Resort, Mount St. Louis Moonstone, and Horseshoe Resort to Blue Mountain, you'll be thrilled! And if you're into skiing up hills instead of down them, check out Hardwood Ski and Bike, Mountainview Ski Centre, or Highlands Nordic from some sweet XC skiing.
  - 24. Ride the Loop**  
Ride, Sally, ride! The Simcoe County Loop Trail is 160 kilometres of scenic paved off-road and multi-use gravel trail that travels through nine municipalities, reaches three major bodies of water, and is flat!
  - 25. Eat all the butter tarts**  
We are loud and proud to be home of Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival. With over 200,000 butter tarts available for sale and 65,000 people in attendance, this is one not to be missed.
- BONUS: Go to school with Anne of Green Gables**  
If you're an Anne fan, then Simcoe County Museum needs to be on your bucket list. The Schoolhouse, one of 16 heritage buildings on site, was used to film scenes in 1985! There's also a 1km skate trail through the forest each winter too! But, don't forget to BYO skates!



Top 25 Experiences | County Keepsakes | Take A Hike

# GRAB LIFE BY THE PADDLE

**Coldwater River, North River, Matchedash Bay**  
13km Loop | 3 – 4 hours | Easy/Intermediate  
The Coldwater River starts just down the road from the heart of the Coldwater Village where you can stop and pick up refreshments and other products prior to your paddle. This is a scenic and easy route that connects to the North River and Matchedash Bay with several different launch point options. There is wildlife galore along this river with many species of ducks and other birds and animals spotted along the way. See the wood duck boxes along the Coldwater River route and an osprey nest at the start of the North River route. If you are an angler, this is also a great opportunity to hook a steelhead or salmon. If you're up for a challenge, paddle out into the open waters of Georgian Bay, to Green Island another route available in this guide.

**Wasaga Beach Sports Park to Schooner Town**  
10 km | 2 hours | Easy/Beginner  
Home to the largest group of parabolic sand dunes in the entire province, this section of the river meanders along sandy shores, where you can get lost in the beauty of the crest shaped sand sculpted by glaciers and rimmed with dense vegetation. The Wasaga Beach Sports Park offers an ideal launching point due to its many amenities.

For more paddling routes, launch points, and points of interest, pick up a copy of the Simcoe County Paddling Guide or visit our website at experience.simcoe.ca



# HERE, FISHY FISHY



## Top 5 Fishing Spots

- 1) Cook's Bay, Lake Simcoe**  
The best spot for perch, shallow areas for pike and an overall great spot for largemouth bass.
- 2) Atherly Narrows, Lake Couchiching**  
A great spot to fish for perch from the shoreline.
- 3) South Basin, Penetanguishene Bay**  
Filled to the gills with pike and bass varieties.
- 4) Honey Harbour, Georgian Bay**  
A popular spot for catching giant muskie!
- 5) Wasaga Beach, Georgian Bay**  
Shoreline fishing for salmon on Wasaga Beach is flaming hot.

## New to Fishing?

Check out the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Learn to Fish Program every summer at Earl Rowe Provincial Park in Alliston. Call Earl Rowe Provincial Park at 705-435-2498 or visit ontarioparks.com for more information.

If you don't have your own gear, check out The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) TackleShare Program, by visiting tackleshare.com.

For more information on Fishing in Simcoe County, visit: experience.simcoe.ca

Get Hooked on Simcoe County!

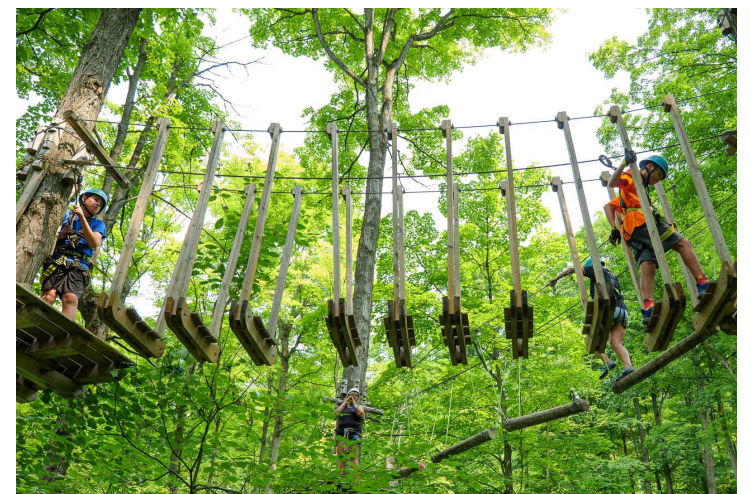
# HOW WE ROLL

## A SAMPLE OF CYCLING ROUTES

**Simcoe County Loop Trail**  
160 KM | OFF ROAD/RAIL TRAIL | FLAT/EASY  
The Simcoe County Loop Trail is a 160-kilometre loop that travels through nine municipalities, reaches three major bodies of water, including Georgian Bay, Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching. And is primarily on off-road, multi-use rail trail! The route is flat, scenic and available as a multi-day tour.

**Creemore Loop Trail**  
60 KM | ROAD | MODERATE/ADVANCED  
The first portion is relatively flat and perfect for your warmup. After crossing County Road 91 you enter more challenging rolling terrain overlooking the Mad River. If you are looking for an opportunity to stop, be sure to take a break in Creemore, approximately halfway through your ride. This town, known for its beer, has some great shops too! On your way back into Collingwood, be sure your legs are ready for a short climb to a fantastic view of Georgian Bay.

For more information about cycling routes, rides, races, cycling-friendly businesses, and other points of interest, pick up a Simcoe County Cycling Map or visit CycleSimcoe.ca



## DISCLAIMER

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# COUNTY KEEPSAKES

MADE IN  
SIMCOE COUNTY

Meet the people behind the County Swag scene

Looking for a souvenir? Or a keepsake from your stay in Simcoe County? Well, look no further. We've hand-picked a few locally made, one-of-a-kind, suitcase-worthy, and somewhat packable items for you to get your hands on. There's nothing that says Simcoe County more than swag that was made right here, with ingredients from here, by people that live here. We hope you enjoy!

**Bulbs of Fire | Tiny Township**

Farming more than 35 different strains of organic, heirloom garlic in Tiny Township, Bart & Simone Nagel are passionate Dutch farmers who sell seed and garlic varieties, as well as amazing garlic products such as their Black Garlic Jam, Smoked Garlic Red Pepper Jelly, and even their Smoked Garlic Mustard. They're insanely good! Available at FARM2DOOR on Balm Beach Road in Tiny. Or visit [northsimcoe.farm2door.ca](http://northsimcoe.farm2door.ca).

**Chelsea Chocolates | Oro-Medonte**

A family owned and operated, local business out of Oro-Medonte, Chelsea Chocolates works with local producers of maple syrup, honey, garlic, olive oil, and balsamic vinegar; along with VQA wine producers, mead cider, and even whisky to create unique, outstanding flavours. They do caramel too, by the jar and in their turtles. Which simply must be tried. Stop by for a taste test and say hi to Dan, Kathy, Meagan & Jason! Or visit [chelseachocolates.com](http://chelseachocolates.com).

**Copperpot Nuts | Coldwater**

Copperpot Nuts started as a garage start-up in 2009. Stephanie and Alethea built their own production facility and launched the brand right in Coldwater. They started with just three varieties of your favourite beer nuts and have since grown to offer close to twenty delicious flavours. All their nuts are double roasted and packaged by hand in small batches. And they source their ingredients from local producers too! Cool, eh? Check them out at: [copperpotnuts.com](http://copperpotnuts.com).

**Cedar Hollow's Alpaca Farm | Severn**

Carolyn and Ted Cook have 29 huacaya alpacas, 50 babydoll cross sheep, 2 myotonic (fainting) goats, and 2 miniature donkeys (Thelma & Louise) – right in Severn Township. Alpacas produce a wool that is silky, radiantly warm, and durable; so be sure to pick up a pair of hand-knit alpaca mittens or slippers as a perfect keepsake! You won't be disappointed! Find the alpaca fibre products for sale at the Barrie Farmers' Market every Saturday or stop by their market room at the farm! For all the alpaca cuteness, it's worth the follow onFacebook too!

**Dirty Leather Work | Collingwood**

Based out of Collingwood, Josh is truly your local leather guy. He makes the most beautiful hand-crafted leather products including belts, mason mugs, scrapper wallets, keychains & more! Find him at the Stayner Farmers' Market and watch him cut you a custom belt on the spot! You don't want to be caught with your pants down, now do you? Check him out on Instagram: [@dirty\\_leather\\_work](https://www.instagram.com/dirty_leather_work)

**Lamb & Kiss | Penetanguishene**

Combining all natural essential oils, premium soy wax, and 100 percent cotton wicks, Nikki from Penetanguishene creates Lamb & Kiss candles with eco-friendly and biodegradable ingredients and sustainable, zero-waste, 100% recyclable packaging. Be sure to check out her holiday scents! Sold online at [lambandkiss.com](http://lambandkiss.com) and throughout the county at home stores like Halliday House in Cookstown.

**Labelle Co. | Alliston**

Labelle Co. is a small shop that makes beeswax food wraps and believes eco friendly can also be oh-so chic! Lacey is a small-town gal from Alliston who is an eco-warrior with dreams bigger than her love for guacamole. She has been making beeswax food wraps and other sustainable products since 2017 in hopes to assist families in becoming waste free and eco-conscious. Check out her cool designs and products at [labelle.co](http://labelle.co).

**Two Sisters Naturals | Midhurst**

Homemade soaps, essential oils, after-sun spray, baby bum cream, bath bombs, bath soaks and salts, body oil, body scrub, body butter, clay masks, deodorant, dry shampoo, facial cleanser and more! All made right here in Simcoe County by two sisters, Crystal and Jillian who care about the world and themselves and want to share their plant-based home care products with you. Find them all available for purchase at [twosistersnaturals.com](http://twosistersnaturals.com).

**Echoes in the Attic | Bradford**

Now who doesn't want a new sling bag? If you want to support a local, zero waste designer from Bradford, then these small batch fashion bags are the way to go! Meet the maker, Laura. Laura's eco-concept is to re-design, re-fashion, and re-purpose everything that she gets her hands on. She diverts landfill-bound, excess textiles by the ton from other designers and manufacturers to create Echoes signature line of Canadian, handmade, upcycled, vegan leather, small-batch, zero waste eco-bags. Follow her incredible designs on Instagram! [@echoesintheattic](https://www.instagram.com/echoesintheattic)

## TAKE A HIKE

10 MUST-DO HIKES  
IN SIMCOE COUNTY



Looking to get out of Dodge and disconnect from the world a little? Simcoe County is the perfect place! We have some amazingly superb trails for that much-needed “me-time” you’ve been craving. So, go on. Get out there and take a hike!

- 1) **Tiny Trail**, 23km, Moderate  
*Known for:* 14 historic bridges and railway  
*Location:* Wyevale – Penetanguishene
- 2) **Grants Woods Loop**, 1.9km, Easy  
*Known for:* trees over 200 years old  
*Location:* 1485 Division Rd. W., Severn
- 3) **Nottawasaga Bluffs**, 3.5km, Moderate  
*Known for:* vistas and lookouts  
*Location:* 8861 Sdrd. 15 & 16, Glen Huron
- 4) **Scanlon Creek Loop**, 3.5km, Moderate  
*Known for:* wetlands and wildlife  
*Location:* 2450 9th Line, Bradford
- 5) **Scouts Valley Loop**, 2km, Moderate  
*Known for:* forest songbirds and streams  
*Location:* 15th Line N, Orillia
- 6) **Tiffin Centre Loop**, 5km, Easy  
*Known for:* ancient lake beds & family fun  
*Location:* 8195 8th Line, Utopia
- 7) **Tottenham C.A. Loop**, 2.2km, Moderate  
*Known for:* picnic areas, pond & beach  
*Location:* 1485 Division Rd. W., Severn
- 8) **Warbler Way**, 3.1 km, Easy  
*Known for:* international forest restoration  
*Location:* 1151 Hwy 26, Midhurst
- 9) **Thornton-Cookstown Trail**, 15.6km, Moderate.  
*Known for:* “Tree Spirit” carvings  
*Location:* 5th Sdrd. & Innisfil Bch. Rd., Essa
- 10) **Tiny Marsh Loop Trail**, 1.3km, Easy  
*Known for:* birdhouses and dams  
*Location:* 500 Tiny Flos Townline, Elmvale

For more information on all things trails, visit [trails.simcoe.ca](http://trails.simcoe.ca) or pick up a copy of The Simcoe County Trails Guide.

