

Hiking Summit 2025

Hike Details:

May 30 - June 1, 2025, Bridgewater

The Summit program may change as the program evolves.

You must register for the Summit online in order to attend these hikes. There are limits on the number of people who may attend some hikes. Some hikes are offered multiple times; please refer to the Summit Detailed Program for dates and times of hikes. Registration for hikes is on a first come, first served basis when you register for the Summit online. If you do not receive a registration confirmation email, please contact Hike NS.

Families: Most hikes are family-friendly, and families are expected to attend hikes together. Parents and caregivers are responsible for their children on all hikes, including judging their child's ability to do a hike.

Transportation: You are responsible for finding your own way to the various venues, events and hikes. Hike NS will not organize or provide transportation or carpooling during the Summit.

Ticks: Spring is tick season, so [please come prepared](#).

Dogs: Sorry, but to ensure that everyone is comfortable and experiences enjoyable hikes, dogs are not allowed on the Summit's guided group hikes.

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Castle Rock

Address: East River trail parking, 7846 NS-329, East River, NS

Type: Out and back access, loop to summit

Level of difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Distance: 8.2 km (Allow 2 hours)

Hike description: Head inland on Chester Connection (railbed) Trail about 3 km to Woods Road on the right, labeled with 3 Castle Rock emblems. Lots of water, bridges, ponds, and streams. Take a choice of three well-marked trails about 1 km to the summit. Some easy scrambling to ascend. Great views of the ocean and inland.

Travel time: 46k, allow 34 min.

Travel directions:

1. Turn right onto North St for 1.4 km
2. Take NS 103 E ramp towards Blockhouse/Halifax
3. Continue 42 km, take Exit 7 towards NS Trunk 3
4. Turn left on Trunk 3, toward NS-329
5. Turn right onto NS-329 N for 210 m to East River Trail Parking

Gold River Natural Area

Address: 1458 Beech Hill Road, Chester Basin

Type: Out and Back

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 5k (Allow 2 hours)

Hike description: A walk-through mature hardwood forest. You descend to a mossy viewing point of Gold River.

Travel time: 44k, allow 40 min

Travel directions

1. Turn right onto route 10 (North St.)
2. Turn right onto ramp for 103 towards Halifax
3. Travel 16K, then take exit 10 towards Martins River
4. Turn left onto route 3 towards Martins River
5. Travel 12k. Turn left onto Beech Hill Road
6. Travel 7.2k. Watch for Gold River Natural area parking lot on your left

Haughn Estate and Natural Area

Address: 4952 Route 3, Chester

Type: Out and back

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 2.8k

Hike description: Follows mountain bike trails through pine regrowth forest.

A peaceful hike with some views of Middle River.

Travel Time: 36k, allow 27 min

Travel directions:

From Gold River Natural Area (11k, allow 11 min.)

1. Turn left onto Beech Hill Road
2. Travel 7.2k to route 3, then turn left towards Chester
3. Travel for 4.1K to 4952 Route 3, then turn left into the parking area. Bear left at the Y
4. The parking area is up a slight hill a few 100m from the pavement.

Hackmatack Farm (Lun. Co. Winery)

Address: 813 Walburne Rd., Walburne

Type: Loops

Level of difficulty: Easy

Distance: 2.34k and 1k (Allow 2 hours)

Hike description: Also known as the Lunenburg Co. Winery. Walk around the circumference of the farm on a drumlin hill surrounded by high bush blueberry bushes and vineyards. Wine samples may be available. A short drive will take you to Indian Falls for a viewing of the falls and a leisurely walk along Indian Brook.

Travel time: 38k, allow 30 min.

Travel directions

1. Turn right onto North St.
2. Turn right onto the ramp for the 103 towards Mahone Bay
3. After 11k, take exit 11. Off the ramp, turn left onto Cornwall Rd
4. Drive for 17k when the road bears right onto Newburne Road
5. After 6.8k, turn right onto Walburne Road
6. After 1.4k, turn right into the winery. Come up the hill to park behind the barn. Directions to the falls will be given on site.

River Ridge Common

Address: 4668, Trunk 10, Pinehurst

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 5.54k

Hike description: A combination of wide crusher dust trails and single-track trails through forested regrowth. Includes an interesting adventure play area.

Travel time: 23k, allow 20 min

Travel directions

1. Turn right on North St.
2. Follow Trunk 10 for 23k towards New Germany.
3. Watch for civic #4668 on your right.
4. Park in the park parking lot.

Centennial Trail

Address: 783 LaHave St, Bridgewater

Type: Out and back, with side trip over walking bridge

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: Approx. 3 km Allow 45 minutes

Hike description: Centennial Trail is a short drive or easy walk from the Days Inn. Hike the railbed trail north to Cooks Falls and take a slight detour to observe the LaHave River from the old rail bridge.

Travel time: 1.6k, allow 4 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn left onto North St
2. Turn right at lights onto Aberdeen Rd
3. Turn right at first lights onto LaHave St
4. Proceed along river to parking area at 783 LaHave St
5. OR, it is an enjoyable 1.5 km walk from the hotel to the trail

Arthur Young Trail to Centennial Bridge

Address: 523 Trunk 10, Cookville

Type: Out and back

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: approx. 4 km

Hike description: Follows a ridge above the LaHave River, through tall oak trees. Fine gravel, multi-use trail. Scenic views. A series of switchbacks wind downhill towards the river. Easy going down but challenging to go up! Connects to the LaHave River Trail, which takes you north to Cooks Falls.

Travel time: 2.7k, allow 5 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn right onto North St/NS Trunk 10 N
2. Follow Trunk 10 N for 2.5 km to Best Western
3. Trailhead is at the south parking lot.

Dynamite Trail and Oakland Common

Address: 572 Sleepy Hollow Rd, Oakland

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 5.92k

Hike description: A combination of rail trails, old woods roads and footpaths.

One small brook crossing. Some lake views along Common Lake.

Travel time: 18k, allow 25 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn left on North Street, then left at the lights turn onto 325 toward Mahone Bay
2. Drive for 15k through Mahone Bay.
3. Watch for Oakland Road on your right after Rebecca's Restaurant
4. Drive for approximately 3k. Turn left onto Sleepy Hollow Road.
5. The trail crossing will be approximately 1k on your right. Park in the parking lot or along the road

Gaff Point

Address: 318 Hirtle's Beach Road, Hirtle's Beach, Kingsburg area

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Distance: 7k

Hike description: The route starts out on beach rocks, which isn't easy, but once on the sand, it is better. The path then transitions from the beach to the forested peninsula with cliff lookouts and rocky shores.

Travel time: 29k, allow 32 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn left on North St
2. Go straight through the intersection onto Glen Allen Drive
3. Drive for 1.6 k. At the lights, turn left onto route 3
4. Travel for 4.6 km, then turn right onto route 332. Drive for 17 km
5. Turn right onto Kingsburg Road for 4.3k
6. Turn right onto Hirtle's Beach Road for 1.6 km and turn right into the parking lot

Little Bluff Hike

Address: #6685 HWY 10, Meisner's Section (Three Guys Garage)

Type: Out and back

Level of difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Distance: 9k (from Cathy Robar's)

Hike description: A scenic hike with lots of variety. Mostly you hike on a 4-wheeler track through forested crown land. After crossing 3 bridges on a short section on the South Shore Annapolis Valley Trail, you turn into the forest to begin a steady, gentle climb to the Little Bluff. There's a 180-degree view to the south from the top. There are many deep crevices. See where blocks of granite were harvested for bridges and foundations everywhere.

Travel time: 33k, allow 28 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn right on North St.
2. Drive for 33k towards Middleton on the #10 hwy. Be careful to stay on the #10 when going through New Germany
3. Watch for civic #6685 on your left. Park in the Garage yard

Bear Trap Road Trail

Address: just beyond 702 Green Bay Road to shuttle or near 70 Bear Trap Road. Park by the beach.

Type: one way, shuttle to start

Level of difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Distance: 6.9 km

Hike description: Hike along an K-class road. Beautiful coastal views. Some rocky and difficult terrain. May involve water walking in tidal areas. Best at low tide. Rated as 2C

Travel directions:

1. Turn left onto North Street.
2. At the light, turn right onto Aberdeen Road.
3. At the lights, continue up Victoria Road until you reach the 103.
4. Take the off ramp towards Liverpool.
5. After 13k, turn left onto Italy Cross Rd. (signs for Crousetown/Petite Riviere/Rissers Beach).
6. After 8.3k, continue straight onto Petite Riviere Road.
7. After 2.3k, slight left onto Green Bay Rd.
8. After 3.6k, park along the left side of the road just past the RV Park.
9. The group will be shuttled to the start of the hike in Broad Cove.

Asitu'Lisk (formerly Windhorse Farm)

Address: 129 Sarty Road, Wentzel Lake

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 3k

Hike description: The property consists of 200 acres of ancient forest, waterways, and the riparian zones in between. It contains a hemlock grove that is over four centuries old and at least one tree—Grandmother Maple—that has been dated at over 530 years old; older than the arrival of Europeans on these shores. The property has been sustainably managed for more than one hundred years.

Travel time: 14k, allow 14 min.

Travel directions:

1. Turn right onto North St., heading towards New Germany on Route 10.
2. Drive for 13 km
3. Turn left onto Wentzell Rd. and drive for 850 m, crossing a one-way bridge over the LaHave River
4. Turn right onto Sarty Rd. and drive for 650m
5. Watch for parking area on your right at 129 Sarty Road

Wentzell Lake Provincial Park

Address: parking lot # 8 Wentzell Road

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Easy

Distance: 5K

Hike description: A 10-minute road walk to the park. Enjoy mature hemlock trees along the rushing LaHave River and the shoreline of Wentzell Lake.

Travel time: 13k, allow 12 min.

Travel directions:

1. Turn right onto North St and drive onto Hwy 10 for 13k
2. Watch for Wentzell Lake Road on your left near civic #2582
3. You will immediately see a parking area on your right as you cross the South Shore Annapolis Valley Trail. Park here.

Miller Point Peace Park

Address: 13941 Rte 3, Dayspring

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Easy

Distance: 2.5 km

Hike description: See remnants of former farms among the tall red pines.

Views of the LaHave River.

Travel time: 1.6k, allow 6 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn left onto North St.
2. Go straight through the intersection onto Glen Allan Drive
3. Travel for 2K. Turn left onto route 3 at intersection
4. Travel 1.3k. Watch for the park on your right. Go through the gate to the inner parking area, approximately 0.5k.

Indian Garden Farm Trail

Address: 119 Hodge Podge Dr., Hebbville

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 3.5k

Hike description: Hike around the base of a farm on a drumlin hill. See fields of berries, orchards, and a section of the Petite Riviere. Some areas may be wet.

Travel time: 5.7k, allow 12 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn left onto North St
2. Turn right at the intersection onto Aberdeen Road.
3. Travel 1.8k over the bridge, up Victoria Road, then turn left at an intersection onto High St.
4. After 900m, turn right onto Dufferin St and travel for 2.5k
5. Turn left at the Tasty Freeze towards Indian Garden Farm but don't go up the road
6. Park along the rail trail (Bull Run) immediately after turning

Lunenburg Salt Marsh/Back Harbour

Address: Near 100 Battery Pt Rd., Lunenburg

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Distance: 8.7k

Hike description: Visit a salt marsh and Lunenburg's Back Harbour. Mostly rail trail and urban walking.

Travel time: 22k, allow 22 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn left onto North St
2. Turn left onto Aberdeen Road (route 325) towards Mahone Bay
3. Travel 5.2k, turn right onto Mullock Rd
4. Travel 5.7k, then turn left onto route 3 towards Lunenburg
5. Travel 6.9k, then turn left onto route 332 towards Blue Rocks
6. Travel 1.7k to a 4-way stop, go straight
7. Travel 3.7k to a stop sign, then go straight onto Battery Point Rd
8. Watch for the Salt Marsh sign on your left. Park along the road

M.A.R.C. Trails

Address: 33 Leary Fraser Road, Dayspring

Type: Loops

Level of difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Distance: 5.8k

Hike description: A network of trails designed by Katimavik in the '80s on a former Poor Farm. Visit Rhodenizer Brook rapids and mature pine forests.

Lovely almost aerial view of the LaHave River

Travel time: 5.3k, allow 8 min.

Travel directions:

1. Turn left onto North St.
2. Go straight through the intersection onto Glen Allan Drive
3. Travel for 2K. At the lights, turn left onto route 3 at intersection
4. Travel 3K, then turn left onto Leary Fraser Road
5. Watch for a sign on your left at 33 Leary Fraser Road
6. Come in to the parking lot and park near the ponds on our right

Two Waterfalls – Firebrook Falls & Kayak Falls

Address: 409 Smith Road, Lower Branch

Type: Each is an out and back (but could be a loop with landowner permission)

Level of difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Distance: 2k, 1k,

Hike description: All three are feeding into the mighty LaHave River.

#1 Firebrook Falls, 2K. The waterfall can be viewed upon entering the trail, but following the brook along the trail gives an elevated view of the falls and brook. The first section of the trail has some elevation and is narrow, following closely to the stream edge. Some rocky areas. Feeds into West Branch LaHave.

#2 Kayak Falls II, 1k, easy out and back. On the West Branch LaHave River.

Travel time: 11k, allow 12 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn right on North Street towards New Germany
2. Drive for 4.2k, turn left onto N King St (crosses the LaHave River)
3. After 260 m, turn right Lower Branch Rd
4. Drive for 5.1k, then turn left onto Smith Rd. (gravel road)
5. After 950 m, near #409 Smith Road, park along right-hand side of road
6. Kayak Falls II—drive for 900 m to 110 Smith Road. Park along the right side of the road

Wentzell's Woods

Address: 6 Pond St., Mahone Bay

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Distance: 4.1k

Hike description: Hike among the mature pines in Jubilee Park. Then a section of the Bay to Bay trail and into Wentzell's Woods. Enjoy the babbling Maggie Maggie Brook or Ernst Brook. All within the town of Mahone Bay.

Travel time: 15k, allow 16 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn left on North Street, then left at the lights turn onto 325 toward Mahone Bay
2. Drive for 13k into Mahone Bay
3. Bear right at the cenotaph. Turn right on Kinburn Street for 50 m
4. Turn left onto Pond Street for 30 meters and left into parking lot of Jubilee Park

Blue Rocks Common Trail

Address: Stonehurst Rd. @ South Side Rd., Blue Rocks

Type: Out and back

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: Approx. 4 km

Hike description: Barren, rocky terrain with beautiful ocean views. Some minor climbing and elevation changes. Take tick precautions. Expect wet spots. Trailhead is at the 'Y' in the road at Stonehurst and South Side Roads, Hwy 237, Stonehurst.

Travel time: 28k, allow 29 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn left onto North St.
2. Continue straight through lights (North St. becomes Glen Allan Dr)
3. In 2.1 km, at the end of the road, turn left onto NS Trunk 3 E
4. Travel 14.6 km on NS Trunk 3 E
5. Turn left onto NS 332 E to Blue Rocks Rd
6. Turn left and continue 11 km to Stonehurst Road
7. Turn left and continue to the intersection at South Side Rd

Indian Path Common

Address: 395 Fish Peddler Road, Bayport

Type: Loop

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 6k

Hike description: Single-track loop trails (marked yellow, green, and pink) through wooded varied terrain, wetlands, and streams. There are lookoffs to the LaHave River.

Travel time: 22k, 24 min

Travel directions:

1. Turn left onto North Street
2. Go straight through the intersection onto Glen Allan Drive
3. Drive for 1.6k. Turn left on route 3 and drive for 4.6k
4. Turn right onto route 332 and drive for 13 k
5. Turn left on Indian Path Road and drive for 2.4k
6. Turn right on Fish Peddler Road (dirt) and drive for 650 m
7. The trail parking area will be on your right