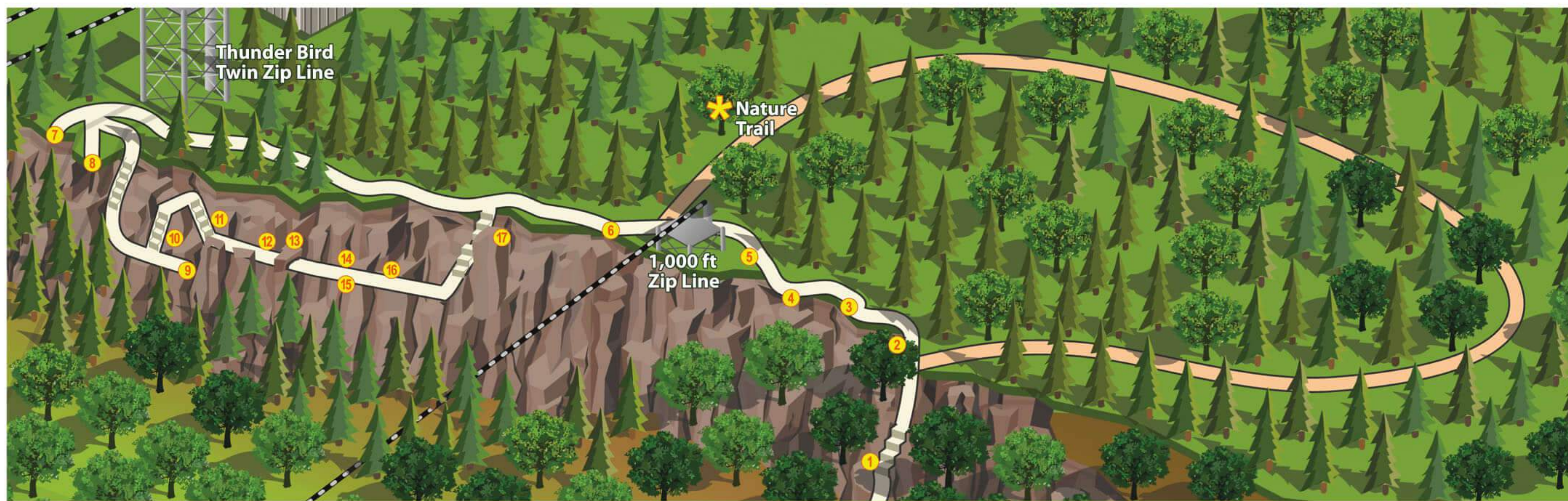




- R) Adventure Playground
- S) Eco Cabin
- T) Admin Cabin
- U) Waterfall
- V) Creekside Trail
- W) Snack Shack
- X) Suspension Bridge
- Y) Paradise Trail
- Z) Water Feature

- G) Group Room
- H) Mini-Golf
- I) Caves Trail
- J) Nature Trail
- K) 1000' Zip Line
- L) 1000' Zip Line Landing
- M) Thunderbird Twin Zip Line
- N) Thunderbird Twin Zip Landing
- O) Foot Path to Bridge
- P) Tractor Ride to Bridge
- Q) Train/Station Ride

First Aid
 Handicap Access
 Information
 Washrooms
 Parking
 Picnic Area



Scenic Caves History

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

These mysterious caves and caverns, once under water, were formed over the course of hundreds of millions of years followed by 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 Hurons and Petuns lived, farmed, and hunted here. The area around the 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 Petuns used these rock formations as a fortress for protection from their enemies around the time of 1650. Later they made their way southwest where today descendants of the tribe known as the Wyandots 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 the French explorer Samuel de Champlain and is the historic site of the Petun village of Ekarenniondi and its famous standing rock – "EKARENNIONDI" which means rock that stands out.

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

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

2) Ice Cave
Feel the gradual change in temperature as you descend. The snow and ice may stay until late July.

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

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

5) Lover's Rest
A romantic spot with a grand view of Southern Georgian Bay.

6) 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.

7) 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. Best picture-taking opportunity.

8) 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.

9) Ekarenniondi
Historic site of the Petuns' famous 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.

10) Fat Man's Misery
Squeeze through or go over the top. The narrowest spot is 36 centimeters.

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

12) Preacher's Pulpit
It is believed the cavern walls were separated by ice movement in the Glacial Age. The walls of the cavern are limestone.

13) 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 the enemy.

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

15) Petun Fortress
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 ambush the defenders.

16) Bear Cave
Early settlers believed black bears living in this district hibernated here.

17) Lone Rock
Another natural structures in limestone echoing with thousands of years of geologic and human history.

Follow the yellow markers through our beautiful nature forest to return



Share Your Adventures

Facebook
 Twitter
 Instagram

Respect Nature.
Leave Only Your Footprints Behind

- 1) Natural Refrigerator
- 2) Ice Cave
- 3) First View
- 4) Petun Trail
- 5) Lover's Rest
- 6) Suicide Point
- 7) Signal Point
- 8) Indian Council Chamber
- 9) Ekarenniondi
- 10) Fat Man's Misery
- 11) Fern Cave
- 12) Preacher's Pulpit
- 13) Petun Arch
- 14) Native Chief
- 15) Petun Fortress
- 16) Bear Cave
- 17) Lone Rock
- Nature Trail