

L09F Ancaster Waterfalls Trail Guide - TorontoHiking.com

WAYPOINT INTERVAL	DISTANCE km	WAYPOINT-TO-WAYPOINT TRAIL DESCRIPTION
001 - 002	0.4	Follow the groomed trail from the Tiffany Falls parking lot into the woods along the creek bed. The creek bed rounds a corner and there in front of you is an observation platform and the impressive Tiffany Falls (002) . You can walk down the rocky creek bed right to the base of the falls. There is a steep trail up the side of the gorge to the left of the falls that leads to another Tiffany Falls – the upper falls which has a height of 6.5 m and a crest of 7 m. After viewing the falls retrace your steps to the parking lot. To access the main Bruce Trail you need to cross busy Wilson Avenue. Be very careful here!
001 - 003	1.8	Once across, go left on the main trail. This is an interesting section of the trail with some very rocky and slippery portions. You might see a few deer in the area. The trail comes out onto Old Dundas Road (003) .
003 - 004	2.0	Be careful crossing this road to pick up the main Bruce Trail on the other side. Soon Sherman Falls can be seen ahead of you. The trail crosses a long wooden bridge over Ancaster Creek in front of the falls (004).
004 - 005	2.8	Leaving the falls, the trail climbs a dirt hill and follows along a fenced-off field and then goes back into the woods and follows the winding edge of the escarpment. There are many bicyclists using the trail so caution is necessary. Around a rock face at the wooden bridge there is another small waterfall (Canterbury Falls) as the creek runs down into the gorge (005).
005 - 006	4.1	The trail meets a gravel pathway called the Heritage Trail and continues straight ahead. This trail is part of the Dundas Valley Conservation Area series of marked trails. The trail comes to a corner, makes a right turn and then goes downhill and follows a small almost dry creek bed. At the bottom of the hill there is a small junction and the trail goes left crossing a small wooden bridge. Before reaching this bridge, Hermitage Creek flows down the side of the escarpment resembling more of a water slide than a waterfall or a rapid. Hermitage Falls is a short distance further upstream. Just before the bridge the Merrick Side Trail goes off to the right. Ignore this trail and stay on the main trail crossing the bridge. The trail now winds steeply downhill and crosses a wide creek of flowing mineral water. It then climbs up to another gravel roadway which is the Main Loop of the Dundas trail system (006).
006 - 007	4.7	At this point keep left on the main Bruce Trail. The trail follows along close to the cliff edge and crosses a bridge over a creek

(007).

- 007 - 008 4.9 The trail climbs along a curved path to a T-intersection at the top. Turn left leaving the Bruce Trail and soon you will arrive at a large parking lot. Near the entrance to the lot there is an old gatehouse (**The Gatehouse**). Walk to the right of this structure and hidden in the woods you will see **Hermitage Falls** which has a reliable source of water flowing over it most of the year (**008**).
- 008 - 009 5.4 After viewing the Falls, walk out of the driveway to **Sulphur Springs Road** and turn right. At the intersection walk straight ahead onto **Mineral Springs Road**. Follow the shoulder of this road a short distance until you come to a tall hydro tower on the north side of the road that is marked "733". You will see a path and a small sign identifying "**Griffin House**". Follow the path to the nearby house and examine it (**009**). The house is open for viewing on special occasions like "Doors Open" and is well worth the visit.
- 009 - 010 6.1 To the north of the house the land slopes downwards. On the right of this slope you will see an old overgrown shed that you might wish to explore. To the far left there is a medium-sized tree. Head towards the tree and climb the slight slope to find a narrow path between two rows of overgrown shrubs. Follow this path until it joins the **Homestead Trail**. Go left on this trail. In less than 10 minutes you will see the trail cross a metal culvert. To your left there is a large deep gorge where **Heritage Falls** is located. This Falls is dry most of the year except in early spring and after heavy rainfalls (**010**).
- 010 - 011 6.6 Continue along the **Homestead Trail** until you come to a wide grassy trail where you head left leaving the Homestead Trail. Soon you will arrive at a sign for the Headwaters Trail. Go left on this trail crossing Sulphur Springs Road (**011**).
- 011 - 012 7.1 This trail heads downhill and joins the **Main Loop** trail. Turn left onto the Main Loop rejoining the Bruce Trail. Follow the Main Loop and the white blazes of the Bruce Trail to **The Hermitage** ruins on the right (**012**). It is interesting to take a walk through these extensive grounds before returning to the trail.
- 012 - 013 7.5 The trail zigzags down a very steep hill to the roadway and parking lot at the bottom. If you cross the road at the parking lot you can see a small rock structure with a metal inscription plate featuring a tube delivering sulphur water and its aroma (**013**). Head back to where you came down the hill and follow the creek bed to your right as the Main Loop follows **Sulphur Creek** as it meanders along.
- 013 - 014 8.4 Continue following the white Bruce Trail blazes and at the **Trail Centre** signpost turn left towards the Trail Centre (**014**). There are washrooms, sheltered picnic tables, drinks and snacks available here during weekends and daily during the summer. You can also find brochures and maps as well as art and photography displays at times. If you wish to skip the Trail Centre, continue straight ahead

on the Main Loop.

- 014 - 015 9.2 From the Trail Centre, the sawmill loop trail can be hiked if desired. Head North on the **McCormack Trail** (Bruce Trail) which soon meets the **Sawmill Trail**. Turn left and follow the loop trail on its wide grassy paths. The last part of this trail is particularly interesting before arriving back to the Trail Centre. Leaving the Trail Centre, head back down to the Main Loop and turn left. The trail crosses Sulphur Creek and climbs a slope to arrive at the intersection with the Monarch Trail **(015)**.
- 015 - 016 9.9 Turn left onto the **Monarch Trail**. Follow this trail keeping a lookout for the sign for Groundhog Hill. Take the trail up to the top of **Groundhog Hill** for a great panoramic view of the countryside. You might find a young man here reading a book aloud to his girlfriend lying in the grass with her head on his leg; both oblivious to your presence **(016)**.
- 016 - 017 11.4 Continue along the Monarch Trail passing an outdoor lecture theatre/chapel. At the T-intersection turn right and go downhill to the **Resource Management Centre** and follow **Artaban Road** leading away from this centre climbing uphill and passing the Artaban Lookout.) The Monarch Trail goes off to the right leaving Artaban Road , while our route remains on Artaban Rd **(017)**.
- 017 -003 12.1 Continue on Artaban Rd until it meets **Lions Club Road**. Turn left on Lions Club Road and continue along the road until you arrive at the intersection with **Old Dundas Road (004)**. **Sherman Falls** is to your right.
- 004 - 001 13.2 Cross Old Dundas Road and follow the main Bruce Trail back to **Tiffany Falls**. Look for the blue side trail access sign indicating you are at Tiffany Falls. Be very careful crossing the very busy Wilson Road to get back to the Tiffany Falls parking lot (001).
- To see **Mill Falls**, drive back along **Wilson** and turn right onto **Montgomery Drive**. At the bottom of Montgomery turn left onto **Old Dundas Road** and look for the Ancaster Mill signs. Park in one of the lots. Mill Falls is behind the **Ancaster Mill**.

Enjoy the hike and the day!