

## TORONTOHIKING L59 SPLITROCK NARROWS TRAIL DESCRIPTION

### 001 - 002 | 2.0 km

From the free Bruce Trail parking lot off 2nd Line EHS (001), head to the back of the lot where the **Splitrock Side Trail** follows a fence line to the east that rises gradually through a meadow to the treed Escarpment face. Here the trail heads south along the top of the Escarpment and arrives at **Splitrock Narrows**. This feature was created by an effect known as cambering - a process that widens cracks into crevices through freeze-thaw action. Here you can opt to explore the Narrows Side Trail that goes down into the crevice and deadends in 105 m. Some good crevice caves can be found here. The trail continues along the Escarpment passing the **Ralph Tremills Side Trail** (which forms a loop with the Splitrock Side Trail) and the upper edge of the Splitrock crevices before heading west towards the road. Just before this, a group of really awesome deep crevice caves can be seen. Before reaching the road, there is one very deep hole a big further back from the edge that looks like it goes straight down requiring ropes to explore. The trail arrives at **2nd Line EHS (002)**.

### 002 - 003 | 2.8 km

Turn left onto 2nd Line EHS and follow the road south to **25 Sideroad (003)**.

### 003 - 004 | 3.9 km

Cross 25 Sideroad and to the left, cross over a stile onto the **Walter Tovell Side Trail**. This trail heads south through open fields and light bush before arriving at a T-intersection with the **Lookout Side Trail (004)**.

### 004 - 005 | 4.3 km

Turn right onto the **Lookout Side Trail** which soon climbs a hill through a tunnel of pine trees to **Lookout Point (005)** on a large rock formation some 550 m above sea level. Here you can see the South Outlier (see Mono Cliffs hike) as well as the CN tower on a clear day.

### 005 - 006 | 5.1 km

The trail now heads northeast and then circles south through the woods to meet the main **Bruce Trail (006)**.

### 006 - 007 | 5.4 km

Turn left onto the main Bruce Trail (white blazes) and continue through the woods to the **McCarston's Lake** view point where you can easily access the lake edge (007).

### 007 - 008 | 6.1 km

Continue south on the main Bruce Trail through the woods before heading east to a Y-intersection with the **Walter Tovell Side Trail (008)**. *Note: a slight detour south along the Bruce Trail brings you to a set of metal steps down to the impressive rock phenomenon and deep fissure known as Jacob's Ladder. A wooden boardwalk takes you through this area of overhanging rock.*

### 008 - 009 | 6.5 km

Turn left and head north on The Walter Tovell Side Trail. The trail meets the north end of the **Spillway Side Trail (009)** where there are washrooms.

### 009 - 004 | 7.1 km

Keep to the left again heading north on the Walter Tovell Side Trail. The trail now climbs a long long rocky slope to the top of the Escarpment before once again meeting the

**Lookout Side Trail** at an intersection **(004)**.

004 - 003 | 8.2 km

Climb over the stile on your right and continue north on the **Walter Tovell Side Trail** through light brush and open meadow in full sun reaching the stile at **25 Sideroad (003)**.

003 - 002 | 9.1 km

Cross 25 Sideroad and continue north along 2nd Line EHS back to the point where the south end of the Splitrock Side Trail meets 2nd Line EHS **(002)**.

002 - 001 | 9.6 km

Continue north along 2nd Line EHS back to the parking lot **(001)** **OR** go back along the Splitrock Side Trail for another look at this remarkable property, in which case the hike length will be about 11 km.

**Enjoy the hike and the day!**