

FIVE FATHOM HOLE, SPLIT ROCK, BLACK BEACH TRAILS (Saint John West area)

Dave Suttie, Nov 2017

FIVE FATHOM HOLE TRAIL

Distance: About 10 km return (5.5 hours including lunch and exploration)

Difficulty: Moderate, but lots of ups + downs.

There are bridges and boardwalks over the wet areas.

Getting There:

1. Drive Route 1 to Prince of Wales.
2. Take exit 103 onto Prince of Wales Road.
3. Drive south a short ways to a T-junction with the Five Fathom Hole Road.
4. Turn left and drive about 2.2 km west to a sign on the left, marking a large parking area. (just past a wide power line corridor)
5. The trail begins at the back of the parking area.



The Trail:

The trail first passes through about 500 meters of forest before circumventing a marshy inlet called Butler's Creek.

At 700 meters there is a good view of Butler's Creek.

At about 1 km a 350 meter long side trail branches off on the right, leading to Butler's Creek Beach.

At 1.5 km the trail crosses a short rocky beach.

At 2.2 km the trail goes up over a nice ridge of rocks and mosses.

At about 3.7 km the trail reaches Wallace Cove Beach.

***this beach has an interesting Limestone outcrop at its northern end.**

From here, the trail goes another 700 meters across the beach and out to the end of a point.

***a good place to eat your lunch while resting on the comfortable green mats of Crowberry (when dry 😊)**

***the small island 1 km away to the southwest is Musquash Island.**

From the end of the trail, retrace your steps to the parking area.

SPLIT ROCK TRAIL

Distance: 7.5 km loop (including the return walk on the Black Beach Rd.) (3 – 4 hrs)

Difficulty: Moderate

Getting There:

1. From Saint John, take Route 1 west.
2. Take exit 112 (Lorneville exit) and drive straight towards Colson Cove for about 8 km.
3. At Colson Cove, where the road divides, veer right onto the gravel Black Beach Road.
4. Drive 800 meters and pull into a parking area on the left and locate the trailhead.

The Trail:

The trail closely follows the coast, with great views.

Eventually you pass a deep crack in the earth, with a rope leading down into the gloomy depths.

The trail leads to the Split Rock lighthouse which is a nice place to sit and have lunch.

From here you can either follow the service road out to the Black Beach road or choose to take “Troy’s Trail”

back to Black Beach. This trail is similar terrain to the Split Rock Trail.

Finally you must follow the Black Beach Road for about 1.8 km back to where you parked your vehicle.



BLACK BEACH TRAIL

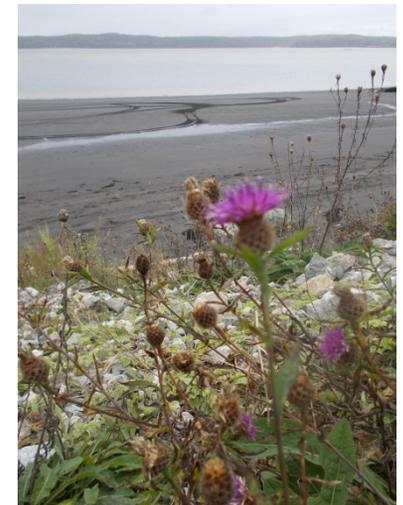
Distance: 4.2-kilometre loop. (2 – 3 hours)

Difficulty: Moderate

Getting There:

1. From Saint John, take Route 1 west.
2. Take exit 112 (Lorneville exit) and drive straight towards the Colson Cove Power Plant for about 8 km.
3. At Colson Cove, where the road divides, veer right onto the gravel Black Beach Road and drive for 1.8 km to the Black Beach parking area.
4. Walk about 230 meters up a narrow road to the right of the parking area, to a wide cleared area near an old rock quarry.
5. The trail begins at a large sign.

The Trail: The trail leads north along the shore to an inlet, then turns south and returns through the woods to the starting place.



Musquash Estuary Nature Reserve Hiking Trails



View the beautiful Musquash Estuary Nature Reserve from our two hiking trails.

You are Responsible for your own safety.

- The Black Beach Trail is a 4.2 km round-trip hike from the trailhead.
- The Five Fathom Hole Trail is a 11.4 km roundtrip, or 3km roundtrip using the Butler Creek Trail.
- No facilities exist on this trail, foot traffic only.
- Be prepared for rugged conditions, stay on the trail.
- Please take your garbage with you. Keep pets on a leash




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