

Killarney Outfitters

Killarney Provincial Park Lake and Portage Descriptions

BAIE FINE, Killarney Provincial Park

PORTAGE FROM BAIE FINE TO MURIEL LAKE VIA ARTIST LAKE

To find the entrance to this route, follow the northern shoreline of Baie Fine eastwards (away from Georgian Bay) to a narrow channel. Follow this channel until it takes a sharp southward turn into what is known as “The Pool”. Just after the turning point is the mouth of a small creek; paddle until the creek is no longer navigable, here is the location of the 370m portage to Artist Lake. This portage covers flat, though sometimes wet, terrain and should present no difficulties.

Upon reaching Artist Lake, paddle east to find the Artist Creek Falls landing for the next 185m portage. This landing has a steep incline and can be very slippery during wet weather. This portage leads into a small unnamed marshy area teeming with small wildlife such as birds, frogs, and even otters. Put in at the smooth sloping granite landing and paddle east for approximately 500m. On the eastern shore there is a swampy take-out for the final 110m portage to Muriel Lake.

PORTAGE FROM BAIE FINE TO MCGREGOR BAY

The 905m portage into McGregor Bay is not within the park boundary and upkeep is minimal, although many paddlers still take this route throughout the season making it navigable and rarely over grown. Paddle along the northern shoreline of Baie Fine along the range known as Blue Ridge to find the entrance to this portage located in a valley just under 5km from the parks boundary; remember to keep a map at hand as this portage is not signed.

PORTAGE FROM BAIE FINE TO THREENARROWS LAKE

To find the entrance to this route, follow the northern shoreline of Baie Fine eastwards (away from Georgian Bay) to a narrow channel. Follow this channel until it takes a sharp southward turn into what is known as “The Pool”; it is at the turning point that the first 230m section of this approximately 1550m (in total) portage presents itself. Be sure to have the map close to hand, as this route intersects with two other trails. The first junction is a fork in the trail at the 230m point; here the portage from Artist Lake joins the trail from the east (to the right). The second is a trail leading off near the end of the route, where the La Cloche Silhouette Trail splits off to the west (to the left) near Threenarrows Lake.

Affectionately dubbed “The Pig”, the second 1320m portion of this route is the steepest portage in the park. The route crosses over Blue Ridge (a section of the La Cloche Mountain Range), and is very steep on both sides. The trail itself is very rocky so pay attention to footing. Due to the strenuousness of this portage, we recommend attempting it in two portions with a rest at the top of Blue Ridge. At this point the trail levels out for a short time before its descent down the mountain. Stop here, have a snack, and regain strength before moving on.

If seeking a longer break take the small trail to the left and spend some time on Topaz Lake!

TOPAZ LAKE

Topaz Lake can be found along the Baie Fine section of the La Cloche Silhouette Trail, nearly half way along “The Pig” portage into Threenarrows Lake. Topaz is an ultra-clear lake with white quartzite diving cliffs that go up at regular intervals. This lake was the site of Arthur Lismer's

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(Group of Seven) work 'Bright Lands'. It's a fun place to spend an afternoon, or stop for a break while portaging.

BAIE FINE

Baie Fine, pronounced "Bay Fin", is a fjord like bay extending from the waters of Georgian Bay. The alluring scenery in this area was a favorite of the Group of Seven artist Arthur Lismer, who introduced this area to fellow artist A.Y Jackson. Jackson was the man behind the fight to keep these beautiful lakes un-logged. The lumber cabin in this area is where talks of lumbering Trout Lake, now O.S.A, took place. Because of Jackson's efforts the establishment of the KPP was put into place.

Many other well known families once ventured into the waters of Baie Fine such as Mr. Ole Evinrude, the inventor of the outboard motor! Old logging roads from Threenarrows are now used by hikers, paddlers and yachters alike as a portage trail accessing Topaz Lake. Baie Fine is a popular area for yachters and motor boats so be sure to keep an eye out while paddling to the campsite.

There are three campsites on Baie Fine #36, #37, #38. We suggest #37 or #38 they are more secluded and away from anchored boats in the eastern section of Baie Fine known as "The Pool". Choosing site #36 is a great idea if seeking an early start the following day.