



*"Twenty minutes down the trail the mind slips free
and into that creative space. Time becomes abstract
and thoughts flow like the path beneath our feet."*

ALEX STRACHAN



Felker's & Albion Falls Loop

(Hamilton)

OVERVIEW

With more than 100 waterfalls located within the city's limits, Hamilton has been called the Waterfall Capital of the World. You will see 4 waterfalls on this loop, and 2 of them (Felker's and Albion) are included in Day Trips Canada's list of Southwestern Ontario's 10 best. The popularity of the waterfalls in Hamilton has resulted in an increasing number of visitors each year, and with that, an increase in associated safety issues as people ignore warnings and "No Trespassing" signs to get that epic selfie. Albion Falls in particular has seen a huge increase in rope rescues and injuries. As a result, there is no longer access to the bottom of the falls. But don't worry, the views from the lookouts are spectacular.

While the waterfalls are the highlight, this entire route is great. Despite being within the City of Hamilton, you are almost entirely on forested trails that promise a variety of flora and fauna. The walk along the mountain brow provides stunning views of the enormous Red Hill Valley, as well as of Hamilton and Lake Ontario. This route shows off Ontario's fifth largest city (pop. 537,000 in 2016).

"From our family to yours, we wish you many memorable walks and quality time spent together."

Caitlin and Christopher Elias



Insider Info

LENGTH

10 kilometres

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Moderate



LENGTH OF TIME

2.5 to 3.5 hours

% ON ROAD

10%

HIGHLIGHTS

Waterfalls, mountain brow walk

PLACES TO EAT/DRINK

In Hamilton: Cannon Coffee, Durand Coffee, Gameopolis, Mulberry Street Coffeehouse, RELAY Coffee Roasters, Ward IV Coffee Bar

ENTRANCE FEE

n/a

TRAILHEAD

N43° 12.304' W79° 49.196'



Directions

1. Park in Upper King's Forest Park parking lot.
2. Take the Mud St. exit from the Lincoln M. Alexander/Red Hill Valley Pkways.
3. When you come to Stone Church Rd. E, turn right.
4. At the first traffic lights, turn right again onto Pritchard Rd.
5. When you come to a T-intersection, turn left and follow this road (Mud St.) into a valley and over a bridge.
6. At the top of the rise after the bridge, turn into the first parking lot on your right. You're in the correct parking lot if you see a millstone from the Albion Mill.
7. Leave your car and head toward the millstone and lookout. This is one of 2 lookouts with a view of the beautiful Albion Falls.
8. After snapping a few photos, go left (away from the falls) following the blue blazes of the Mountain Brow Side Tr. The large Red Hill Valley is on your right. Follow this lovely trail, taking in the vistas.
9. About 1k later, you come to a road. Before turning onto it, take a look at the second waterfall for the day. This is Buttermilk Falls. Smaller, but lovely.



Cool Red Hill Creek on a hot summer's day. Photo by Nicola Ross

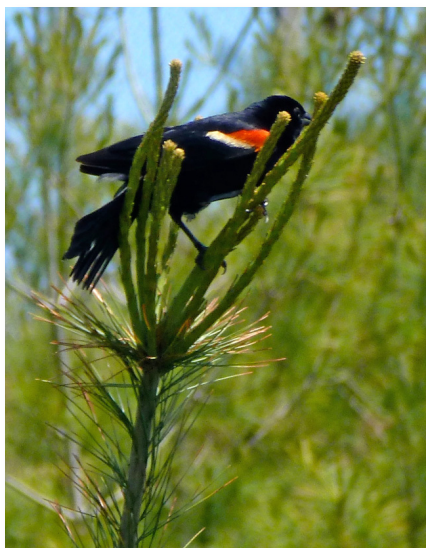




Walk this loop to see which waterfall this is. Photo by Nicola Ross

10. Turn right onto the road, cross the bridge over a creek and then turn right at the end of the bridge and head back into the forest. This is all marked with the blue blazes of a Bruce Tr. side trail.
11. The next stretch of trail provides views of Hamilton and Lake Ontario.
12. The trail comes back onto the road before you arrive at the Red Hill Creek Side Tr. Turn right onto the Red Hill Creek Side Tr. and head down the stairs, still following blue blazes.
13. Partway down into the valley, you meet the main Bruce Tr. with its white blazes. The Red Hill Creek Side Tr. ends here, as do the blue blazes.
14. Keep going straight ahead, following the white blazes of the main Bruce Tr.
15. At the valley bottom, cross a pedestrian bridge and then go right.
16. You come to a spot where the Bruce Tr. blazes are a bit confusing. One shows a blue side trail turning right, and the other shows a white blaze that seems to go straight. Go straight up the little rise, ignoring the blue blazes. At the top of the little rise, keep going straight, following the white blazes. DO NOT follow the Mountain Brow Side Tr. and its blue blazes.
17. You come to The Bear Meeting Place where you might stop for a picnic lunch and learn about this unique installation. Just after The Bear and before a sign about the Red Hill Valley Tr., turn right, following the white blazes.





The reappearance of red-winged blackbirds is a sure sign of spring.

Photo by Nicola Ross

This turn is easy to miss, so pay attention. The trail goes past a pond that may be alive with red-winged blackbirds and croaking frogs.

18. Pass under the Red Hill Valley Pkwy. and turn right onto the abandoned Mud St. as it climbs out of the valley.
 19. Once you've reached the top, stay alert so you don't miss the main Bruce Tr. on your left. Follow it as it re-enters the forest. Pass by the Kingsview Dr. Side Tr. On your left is a nice stream with your third waterfall: little Glendale Falls.
 20. Pass the Paramount Park Side Tr., following white blazes.
- In about 30 minutes you arrive at Felker's Falls. It is a terraced ribbon falls that drops 22m. The Felker family owned this land for 140 years.
21. Just past Felker's Falls, you come to a paved path. There are 2 interpretive signs on your left.
 22. At this T-intersection of trails, turn right onto the paved Peter St. Tr. and then go right again, heading back into the forest. Take the left fork, just inside the forest. Follow this trail until it meets the main Bruce Tr. Then veer left and follow the main trail's white blazes.
 23. Pass by the Paramount Park and Kingsview Dr. Side Trs., go under the parkway and enjoy the pond again.
 24. When you come to an intersection of trails, you leave the main Bruce Tr. by turning left onto the Mountain Brow Side Tr., where you start climbing.
 25. At the next trail intersection, DO NOT take the main cinder path that goes straight ahead. Instead, veer to the right, off the cinder path, staying on the smaller Mountain Brow Side Tr.
 26. Follow it back to the road. Turn right onto the road, cross the bridge and head up the slope. The parking lot and your car are to your right.

