



VTA Trail Difficulty Classification

All trails within the Voyageur Trail Association use the “Parks Canada Trail Classification System” to rate the difficulty level of the trail. Using a standard classification system across the Association will enable our visitors and users to find the trail that is right for them and to properly plan for the route to be used.



Take a moment to understand our trail ratings - whether you're taking the kids on their first trail hike or challenging yourself on new adventures.

What to expect



Easy

- Distance: 0 to 5 km
- Little or no experience required
- Equipment optional
- Hard packed surface, no obstacles, minimal stairs
- Estimated time: no longer than 2 hours
- Little or no change in elevation
- Signage may include: trailhead information, interpretive panels, trail markers, maps
- Facilities may include: parking, washroom, bridges, benches, interpretive panels



Moderate

- Distance: 0 to 15 km
- Some basic trail experience needed
- Visitors should have proper equipment and water
- Mostly stable surface with infrequent obstacles, there may be stairs
- Estimated time: no longer than 5 hours
- Moderate changes in elevation, some short steep sections
- Signage may include: basic trailhead information, trail markers, maps
- Facilities may include: parking, outhouse or pit toilet, bridges



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Difficult

- Distance: 0 to 15+ km
- Trail experience needed
- Visitors should have proper equipment and water
- Different surface types, including some that are not maintained
- Estimated time: may be longer than 5 hours
- Major change in elevation with long steep sections
- Signage may include: basic trailhead information, minimal trail markers. Some trails may have no signs.
- Facilities may include bridges. Water crossings may require fording.

or Route Unrated

- Exceptional trail and navigational experience needed
- Visitors should have proper equipment, food and water
- Suggested trail route only - trail is not maintained
- Estimated time: 1 - 10 days or longer
- A variety of terrain: wet areas, loose rocks, exposure, thick forest

Voyageur Trail User's Code

1. Hike only along marked routes. Do not take shortcuts.
2. Do not climb fences.
3. Respect the privacy of people living along the trail.
4. Leave the trail cleaner than you found it - carry out all litter.
5. Light cooking fires at official campsites only. Drench fires after use. (Better still, carry a lightweight stove.)
6. Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
7. Do not damage trees or strip off bark.
8. Keep dogs under control (leash if necessary) and follow all guidelines concerning dogs.
9. Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
10. Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.