

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scenic Caves New Eco Adventure Tour offers excitement, adventure and education

Town of the The Blue Mountains/Collingwood Ontario.

June 25, 2004.....A canopy walk through an enchanted forest , 1200-foot zip-line plunges high above the earth, and a chance to discover the secrets of the Niagara Escarpment -- it's all in a day's adventure at Scenic Caves.

Starting June 28 2004, you can explore the rugged forest of the Niagara Escarpment from an entirely new vantage point at Scenic Caves Nature Adventures -- the popular Blue Mountain/Collingwood-area attraction. The brand new Eco Adventure Tour offers natural history, education, geology and native history... all wrapped up in one hair-raising, heart-pounding package. The 2 ½ hour eco adventure tour costs \$85 for youths and seniors and \$95 for adults. Scenic Caves supplies participants with the training, helmet and harness; Guests must wear running or hiking shoes. Advanced reservations required by calling or visiting. Visit <http://www.sceniccaves.com/green/treetop-walking.htm>

Editors Notes:

See Eco Adventure itinerary below

Scenic Caves Nature Adventures is located in the Town of the Blue Mountains, at the top of Scenic Caves Road. This winding, picturesque route climbs the Niagara Escarpment just minutes from the town of Collingwood and the Village at Blue Mountain. It's about 20 minutes from Wasaga Beach, and less than two hours north of Toronto.

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ECO ADVENTURE ITINERARY

Here's a taste of what a visitor can expect on the two-and-a-half-hour tour.

First, you gather with your instructor and the rest of your group in a grand log cabin. Here, you're outfitted with all the gear necessary to take this extraordinary journey, including a helmet and a harness rigged with a couple of safety ropes attached to carabiners -- the clips you'll attach to the safety cables. After an introduction to the adventure ahead, you'll hike down and across Scenic Caves' suspension bridge, pausing to take in the magnificent view down Blue Mountain to Collingwood and across Georgian Bay.

At the canopy walk, a climb up a wooden stairway takes you to the first platform, a mere 4 metres above the forest floor. After clipping your safety lines to the cables, you take your first tentative steps in your trek among the trees. From here the walkway swoops and climbs, as the ground drops to six, 12 and finally 15 metres below. Every step is an adventure, as the walkway sways and dips beneath you like the deck of a boat on the rolling sea. But soon enough, you get your "tree legs", and you can relax enough to take in a unique squirrel's-eye view of the old forest -- gazing into hollows in trees high above the ground and catching glimpses of birds, such as the scarlet tanager, who rarely come down to earth.

Each airborne walkway crosses a span between two sturdy hardwoods -- 18 trees in all. When you finish crossing a span, you need to unclip one safety line and clip it to the cable on the next crossing. That's why everyone has two lines and a "buddy" to help out.

Along the way, you gather to learn the secrets of the Niagara Escarpment and the history of the Scenic Caves area. While looking down at the forest from a privileged point of view, you see the trees in an entirely new way, revealing their geometry and the hidden order of nature. Your instructors introduce you to the geological history of the area -- which is part of a UNESCO world biosphere preserve.

At the end of your 600-metre journey through the trees, you take your first zip trip from the final platform to the ground. Clipped securely to a pulley on the cable, you slide off the platform and soar through the trees to the forest floor. (For those who'd rather not zip down, there's a more sedate stairway.)

Safe on the ground once more, you tour the ancient caves and crevasses, and then clip on to one more zip line, this carrying you a dizzying 1245 feet (380 metres) from the cliff top perch of "Lovers Rest" back down to the grounds below. Exhilarated by the journey, you head back to the cabin to share your tales of the trek with your fellow adventurers.

The zip lines and treetop bridges were built with conservation in mind, and have been designed to harmonize with the natural environment of the area.