

# **Cape Croker**

## **Bouldering Guide**

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[www.topout.org](http://www.topout.org)

While the bouldering at Cape Croker has a lot of potential, it has seen little recent development, and only a small part of what is available is documented here. The rock is solid and the problems are fun, with most of the climbing being on pocketed dolomite. With such little activity you can expect the problems to need some cleaning, so bring your sense of adventure, and your brushes.

The beautiful setting and convenient camping make Cape Croker an excellent weekend destination. The Lowball and Ceuse boulders offer some true highball bouldering, and both have easy top rope access for those without nerves of steel. Note there is some poison ivy in the area, so be on the lookout if you stray from the trails.

## **Seasons**

Conditions can be good from May to October. The rock doesn't see much direct sunlight and dries slowly, so the best conditions will be after long dry periods.

## **Access**

The boulders are located in Cape Croker Indian Park ([www.capecrokerpark.com](http://www.capecrokerpark.com)). A \$10 per vehicle day use fee or a camping permit are required.

## **Geology**

The Cape Croker boulders are talus from the tract of Niagara Escarpment above. The Niagara Escarpment is a band of dolomite cliff that stretches 725 km from Northern New York, through Southern Ontario and into Michigan. Its formation began ~430 million years ago when the region was covered by a warm shallow sea. Over time, rivers washed sand and clay into the sea and the shells of ancient marine organisms accumulated on the sea floor. The riverine sediments were compressed to form layers of sandstone and shale while the shells compressed to form limestone and dolomite. Over the millennia, the sea retreated and the sandstone and shales were eroded away. The dolomite was more resistant to erosion and remained behind forming the Niagara Escarpment.

## **Food**

There is nothing convenient, but Wiarton has a large grocery store and several restaurants.

## **Accommodations**

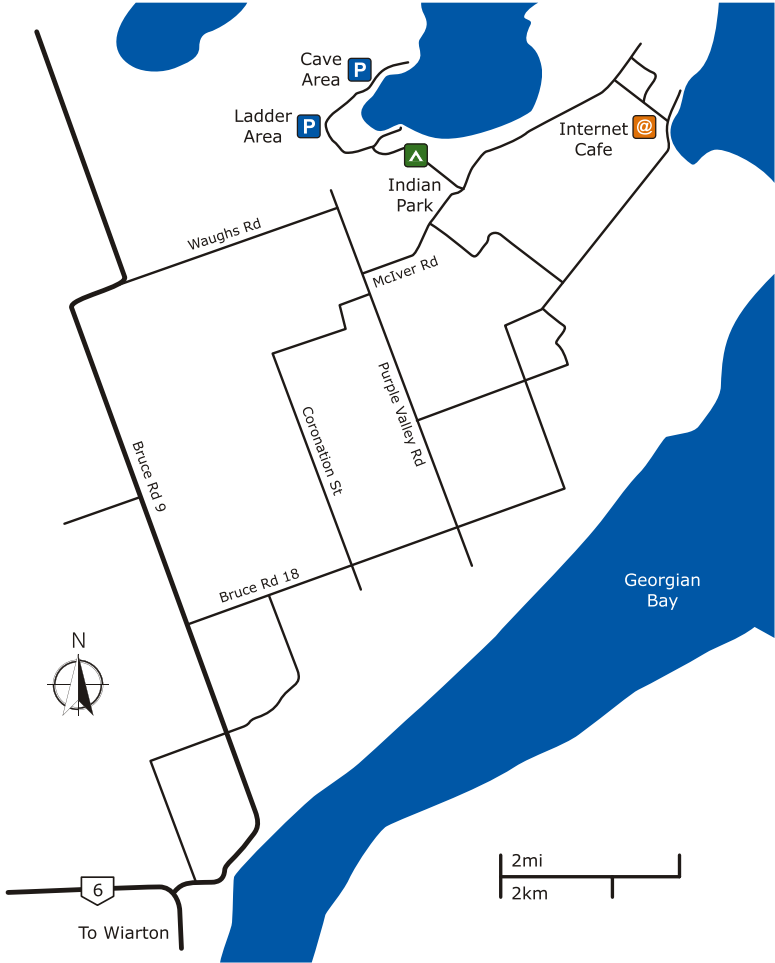
Camping is conveniently located in the park (519-534-0571), which is open from the first weekend in May to Thanksgiving day. Sites start at \$23 a night and pay showers and laundry are available. Reservations are recommended on summer long weekends.

## **Distractions**

Should the boulders be too damp or the weather too cold for you liking, there are numerous good sport routes above the Ladder area that dry quickly and catch sun all day long. There are several hiking trails, beach volleyball and canoes for rent in the park. A short drive north leads to Bruce Peninsula National Park, where The Grotto and Halfway Log Dump offer excellent deep water soloing, hiking and swimming.

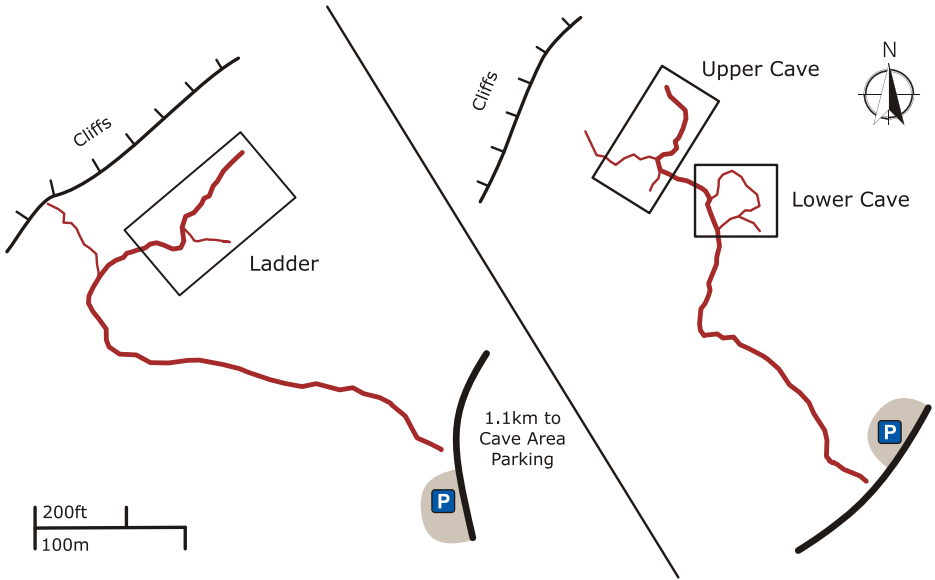
## Location

Cape Croker is located on the eastern shore of the Bruce Peninsula, about a half hour drive north of the town of Wiarton. From Wiarton take Highway 6 north for 3.4km (2.1mi) and turn right on Bruce Road 9. After 6.1km (3.8mi) turn right on Bruce Road 18. Follow this for 5.2km (3.2mi) and turn left on Purple Valley Rd. After 4.9km (3.0mi) turn right on Mclver Rd. Follow Mclver Rd. for 1.6km (1.0mi) and turn left into Cape Croker Indian Park. After entering the park take the gravel road past the turnoff for "The Beaches" and park at the first pullout on the left for the Ladder area and the second pullout for the Cave area.



## Approach

The approach to either area is approximately 350m with an elevation gain of 40m. The trail for the Ladder area is just past the parking pullout on the left. After a few hundred meters you will come to a split in the trail. Continue along the trail to the right to find the boulders. The trail for the Cave area is just before the parking pullout on the left. The Lower Cave area is approximately 250 meters along the trail and the Upper Cave area starts another 50 meters past it.



## Legend



Tree

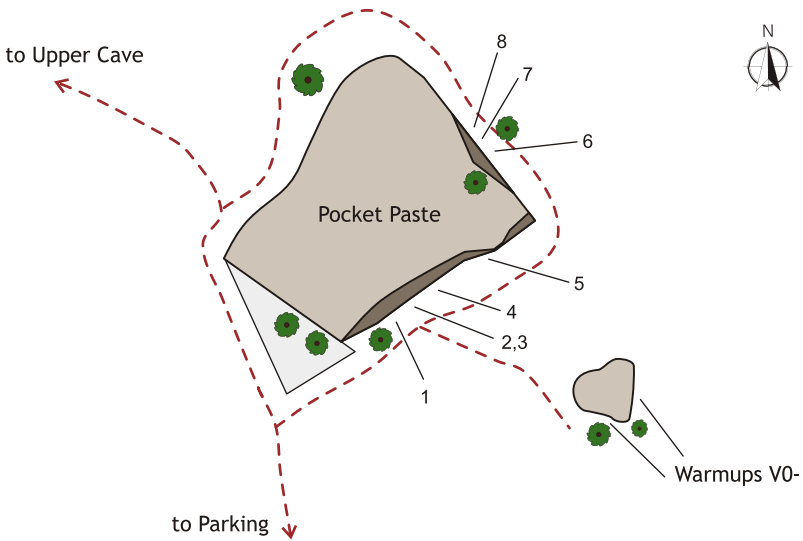
SDS Sit down start

BL Bad landing

## Ladder

There are at least a dozen boulders spread out along the trail with small yellow numbers painted on them. Many problems exist on these boulders and others in the area. Potential also exists on the boulders along the trail leading up to the cliff.

# Lower Cave



## 1. Commitment Issues V2 \*\*

Start in the scooped out face on the left and right rising seams. Climb straight up to the gully. 15ft

## 2. Crescent Moon V3 \*\*\*

Climb up the left side of the large flake, then up through the crescent shaped pocket. 15ft

## 3. Over the Moon V4 \*\*

Start as **Crescent Moon** then traverse right along the top of the flake to topout as **Do You Need Help With That?**. 15ft

## 4. Do You Need Help With That? V3 \*\*\*

SDS Start in the two large huecos at waist height. Climb right and up the right side of the flake to the gully. 15ft

## 5. Mothra V1 \*\*\*

Start in the eye sockets at chest height. Climb up. 10ft

## 6. I Don't Climb Roots V0 \*

Start using the undercling on the left flake in the scooped out face. Follow the crack up to the tree. 12ft

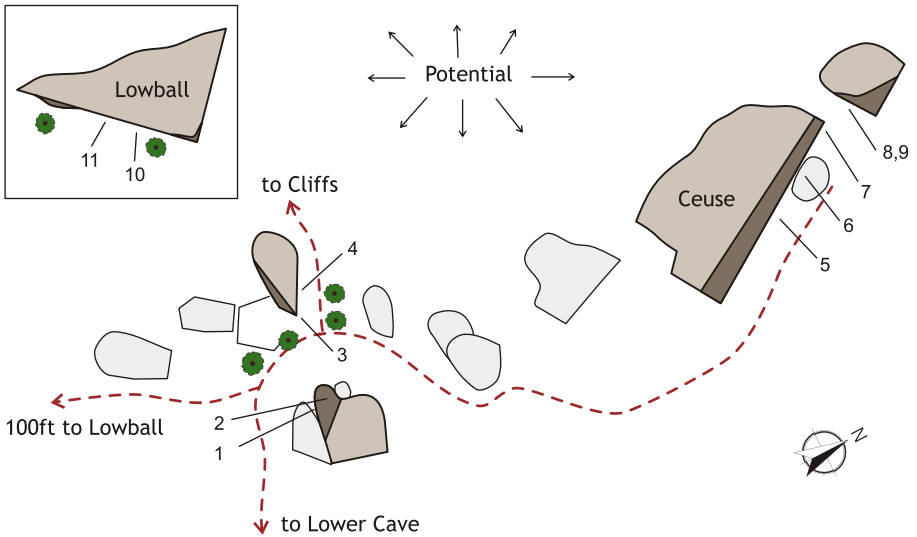
## 7. Pocket Paste V1 \*\*\*

Start between the two flakes then climb up the face and slightly right to the high peak. 12ft

## 8. Euro Trip V0 \*\*

SDS Start on the right flake. Traverse right along the top of the flake then climb straight up. 12ft

# Upper Cave



## 1. Up Periscope V1

Start on the sloping holds at chest height and climb straight up. 9ft

## 2. Yellow Submarine V4 \*\*

SDS Start in the large pocket at knee height under the prow. Climb up the prow. 9ft

## 3. White Man In Japan V2 \*\*

Climb the arête starting on the ledge at chest height.

## 4. slab project

Climb the slab. 12ft

## 5. Bicuspid V1 \*

BL Start near the middle of the face below the largest hueco. Climb up through the sharp pockets to topout left of the cedar tree. 26ft

## 6. Cut Your Teeth V0 \*

BL Start in the pockets above the boulder and climb straight up to topout right of the cedar tree. 26ft

## 7. Route Canal V2 \*\*

BL Start on the triangular ledge and the arête. Climb up the arête then trend left to the good pockets. Topout below the birch tree. 26ft

## 8. Flags of the Fallen V3 \*\*\*

SDS Start low on the right rising seam. Climb right to the flake and straight up. 8ft

## 9. Half Mast V2 \*\*

SDS Start as **Flags of the Fallen** but continue right from the flake to the prow. 8ft

## 10. Short and Sweet V1 \*\*

Start on the horizontal slot at head height. Climb straight up to the crack. 30ft

## 11. Cordless V2 \*\*

Climb straight up the face between the cracks. 30ft

# Problems by Grade

## V0

Lower Cave 6. I Don't Climb Roots \*  
Lower Cave 8. Euro Trip \*\*  
Upper Cave 6. Cut Your Teeth \*

## V1

Lower Cave 5. Mothra \*\*\*  
Lower Cave 7. Pocket Paste \*\*\*  
Upper Cave 1. Up Periscope  
Upper Cave 5. Bicuspid \*  
Upper Cave 10. Short and Sweet \*\*

## V2

Lower Cave 1. Commitment Issues \*\*  
Upper Cave 3. White Man In Japan \*\*  
Upper Cave 7. Route Canal \*\*  
Upper Cave 9. Half Mast \*\*  
Upper Cave 11. Cordless \*\*

## V3

Lower Cave 2. Crescent Moon \*\*\*  
Lower Cave 4. Do You Need Help With That? \*\*\*  
Upper Cave 8. Flags of the Fallen \*\*\*

## V4

Lower Cave 3. Over the Moon \*\*  
Upper Cave 2. Yellow Submarine \*\*

## Projects

Upper Cave 4. slab project