

TIPS FOR NEW RAVINE EXPLORERS

Play it safe! Use these tips to help you feel equipped, comfortable and secure before heading out to explore Toronto's wonderful ravine system.

Be sure to abide by public health guidelines and only head out on your own, safely socially distanced, or with company from your household bubble.

Tread lightly! Nature in urban ravines, especially in spring is delicate. Don't trample plants or remove any forest items, and keep dogs on leashes.

Check weather conditions before heading out - If a storm is heading your way or there are high winds we recommend you postpone your walk for a later time and avoid forested areas.

Slippery slopes - Be aware of loose gravel or slippery leaves when walking down steep sloped pathways.

Do not wander off the trail especially in spring, tender new shoots and important species and cocoons are everywhere in our ravine ecosystems and stepping on the forest floor can do more harm that you might think.

Bring your phone or a buddy. If there is someone that you can safely walk with, why not share the experience with someone from your household bubble? If you prefer to enjoy nature alone, let someone know where you're heading or bring your phone just in case you need help.

Check the time before heading out so you don't accidentally stay out past dark or over extend yourself. Pay attention to when you left, how you're feeling and when you might want to turn back.

Pay attention when you take a turn. If you are exploring a place for the first time, take note or a photo of which way you turn onto a new trail so you can easily find your way back. Routes can look different in winter or on the return route and not all trails are marked clearly, so look around often to keep oriented.

Take one last washroom break before you head out as not all ravine routes have washroom facilities.

FIND YOUR LOCAL RAVINE HERE:

<https://dtah.com/news/2020-12-10-the-hackers-guide-to-torontos-ravines>