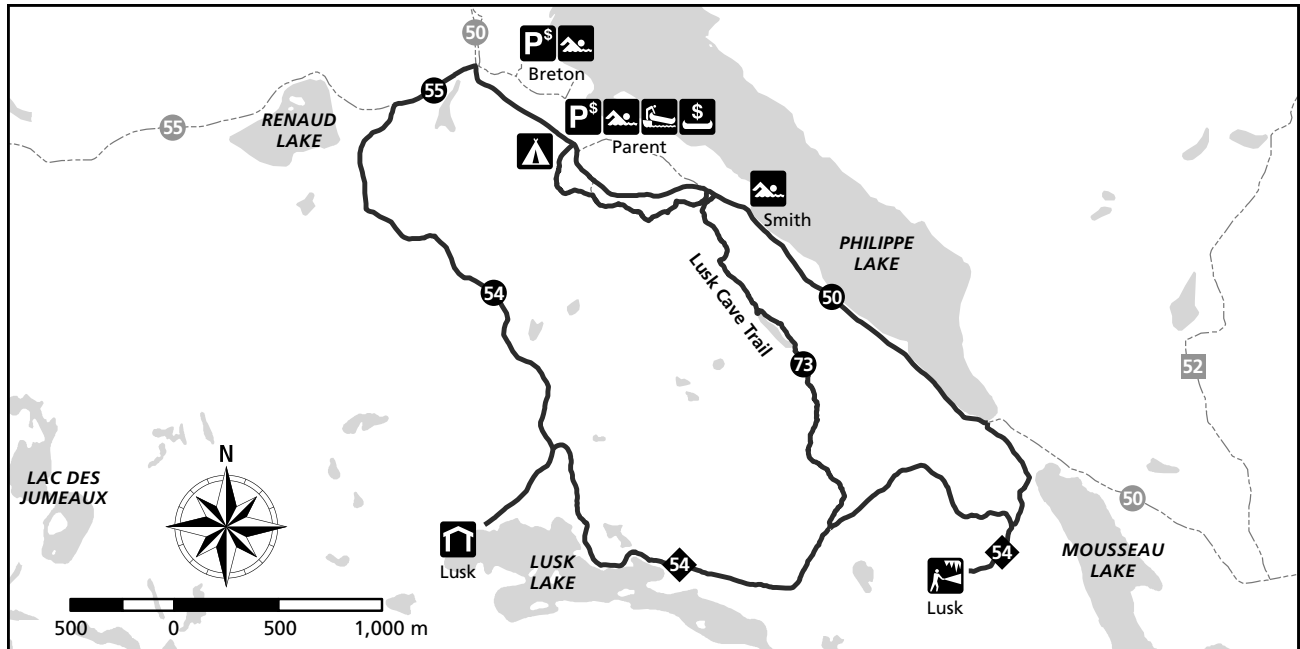


The Lusk Cave Trail



GENERAL INFORMATION

Start: Parent Beach parking lot (vehicle access fees required between mid-June and early September), 300 Chemin du Lac-Philippe, Philippe Lake, Saint-Cécile-de-Masham

Distance: 12 km • **Level of difficulty:** Easy to difficult • **Elevation gain:** 90 m • **Time:** 4 to 5 hours

Route: Follow Lusk Cave Trail, then trail 54, stop at the Lusk Cave; for a shorter return trip, take trail 50, which follows the shore of Philippe Lake

Alternative route: For a more challenging route, return via trail 54, stop at the Lusk Lake Shelter and then continue along trail 55 (Chemin du Lac-Taylor).

By bike: Take trail 50 to the end of Philippe Lake, where there are bike racks to leave your bike. From this point, continue to the cave on foot.

Comments: The Lusk Cave Trail follows quite rolling terrain. In the cave itself, water levels can be as high as a metre or more. An extra pair of shoes, flashlight and safety helmet are recommended. Sandals and rubber boots are not recommended footwear for this route.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Rock

Trail 50 follows the shore of Philippe Lake, and provides a view of the Precambrian rock of the Canadian Shield contrasting with the white pines that surround the lake.

Forest

The Lusk Cave Trail passes through old-growth forest of black cherry, ironwood, maple, yellow birch and silver birch.

Lusk Cave

The Lusk Cave was formed 11,000 years ago, at the same time as Lusk Creek. The glaciers melted about 12,500 years ago. The cave is always active. The narrow stream that runs through it even today continues to erode the soluble marble that forms the cave walls.