

# North Bear Alvar

## Closest town/city

Orillia, ON (35 kilometres)

Barrie, ON (70 kilometres)

## Contact

1-866-281-5331

[ontario@natureconservancy.ca](mailto:ontario@natureconservancy.ca)

## Seasons

accessible spring, summer and fall

(road may be unpassable at times due to flooding and rutting)



## Property description

Experience the unique sights, scents and sounds of Carden's alvars and wetlands. Alvars are globally rare ecosystems characterized by shallow soils on limestone bedrock. Meander along a boardwalk through a wet meadow. Listen to the music of grassland birds and insects while wandering through a field of flowers and enjoying the peace of nature.

The North Bear Alvar is a mix of extensive grassland, shrub and treed alvars that support unique species. Logs and rocks provide cover for snakes, and wetlands are home to many frogs and turtles. Keep an eye out — you might even spot a moose or black bear!

## Amenities

cell service (partial), interpretive signage, wayfinding posts mark the trail in open alvar

## Points of interest

alvars, wetlands

## What to bring

bear spray and air horn, binoculars, bug spray, cell phone, camera, GPS unit, hat, rubber boots (in spring and after heavy rains), sunscreen, water

## Safety alerts

black bears

Hunting occurs on this property in November/December; wear blaze orange. Signs posted when hunters are on property. Alvar Road may have significant potholes in spring and after storms. Parking is available along the roadside on Alvar Road. Vehicles should pull off the road (north side) as much as is safe to allow traffic to pass. Please do not block gates on neighbouring properties.

## Directions

1. From Toronto, travel north on Highway 404 to Woodbine Avenue.
2. Go east on Ravenshoe Road.
3. Turn north on Highway 48.
4. Turn north on Highway 12.
5. Turn right (north) onto Highway 169.
6. Turn right (east) on Simcoe County Road 46; continue on Kawartha Lakes County Road 6.
7. Turn left (north) on Lake Dalrymple Road.
8. Turn right (east) on Alvar Road for 4 kilometres. Look for signs for North Bear Alvar on your left.

Before visiting any Nature Destinations property, please check [naturedestinations.ca](http://naturedestinations.ca) for the most up-to-date access information.

## Trails

### North Bear Alvar Trail

Type: loop

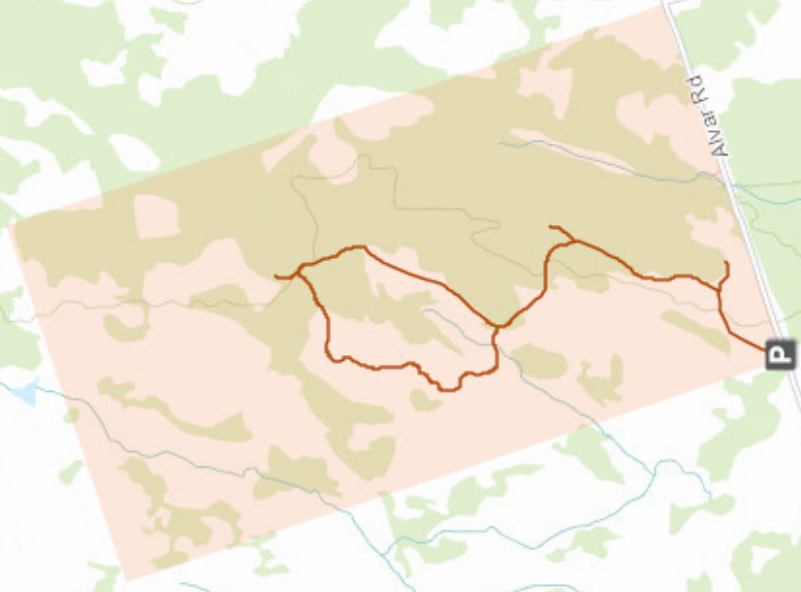
Difficulty: easy

Round-trip distance: 3.5 kilometres

Surface: earthen

## Species to spot

- balsam ragwort
- black bear
- blueflag iris
- common nighthawk
- downy Indian-paintbrush
- eastern whip-poor-will
- field sparrow
- fisher
- golden-winged warbler
- little bluestem
- moose
- northern leopard frog
- prairie smoke
- swamp milkweed
- upland sandpiper
- white-tailed deer



**Legend**

Parking

North Bear

Alvar

**Please note:** Any maps listed are for information only – they may not represent legal boundaries and should not be used for navigation.