

Hamilton Escarpment & Trails Guide

Waterfalls, lookouts, forest valleys, and hidden urban nature escapes

Hamilton is built into the Niagara Escarpment — meaning you're never far from cliffs, forests, waterfalls, and deep ravines. This guide is a curated route through the best trail experiences, from iconic viewpoints to quiet conservation areas.

STOP 1 — Webster's Falls & Spencer Gorge (Iconic Waterfall Start)

A dramatic introduction to Hamilton's landscape.

This is one of the most photographed natural areas in the region, where the Spencer Gorge drops into one of the most powerful waterfall systems in the city. Webster's Falls is wide and cinematic, while nearby Tew's Falls plunges dramatically from the escarpment above.

Together, they define what Hamilton is known for: water cutting through stone.

Trail vibe: Scenic, structured, high-impact views

Why start here: Instant "wow factor" and one of the most iconic escarpment landscapes in Ontario

Webster's Falls

Tew's Falls

STOP 2 — Dundas Peak & Dundas Valley Conservation Area

From waterfalls into deep forest and ridge-line views.

The trail climbs into the escarpment, shifting from water to forest to open lookout points. Dundas Peak is the highlight — a wide, elevated view over Spencer Gorge and the surrounding valley that changes dramatically with the seasons.

Below it, Dundas Valley spreads out with long, quiet trails through hardwood forest, rail corridors, and hidden ravines.

Trail vibe: Forest immersion + panoramic lookout payoff

Why here: Best combination of distance, variety, and iconic viewpoints

Dundas Peak

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

STOP 3 — Albion Falls & Red Hill Gorge Trails

A raw, powerful escarpment waterfall experience on the east mountain.

Albion Falls is one of Hamilton's most recognizable waterfalls — a tiered cascade framed by steep rock walls and forested edges. Nearby trails connect into the Red Hill Valley system, where the landscape opens into long, flowing green corridors shaped by the creek below.

This stop is less polished and more rugged — showing a different side of the city's natural geography.

Trail vibe: Rugged, dramatic, slightly wild

Why end here: A strong closing contrast — from forest to industrial-edge valley landscape

Albion Falls

Red Hill Valley Trail