



GOLD RUSH TRAIL

BRITISH 
COLUMBIA



EXPLORE

SUPER, NATURAL
BRITISH COLUMBIA
 CANADA

GOLDRUSHTRAIL.CA

EXPLORE OUR WATERS



CANADA 
KEEP EXPLORING

FISHING BC

EXPLORE
SUPER. NATURAL
BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA

Photo: Flylords

TRIP IDEAS | TOP DESTINATIONS | VIDEOS
FISHINGBC.COM



Destination BC/Michael Bednar

“Centuries of travellers have felt the pull of BC’s Gold Rush Trail. From yesteryear’s arduous weeks-long trek promising untold riches to today’s stunning three-day road trip, it has long been a beautiful and varied journey, rich in history, with a lot to see and experience along the way.”

~ Field and Forest

HORSEFLY ROAD

The Gold Rush Trail is the story of British Columbia, stretching back millennia into prehistory and before. It is the story of a mighty river and the lands surrounding it: the cleft between mountains, the carving of canyons, and the fertility of the plains. Gold is not the only treasure found on the trail. The rich history of civilizations, diverse cultures, languages and traditions that came before us also come to life along the way. Here, nature’s abundance beckons to all.

Just as many adventurers did before us, travellers come seeking the riches of our region.

The Gold Rush Trail begins at the mouth of the Fraser River in New Westminster and winds its way north to Barkerville Historic Town & Park, following the traditional Indigenous peoples’ trading routes utilized during the fur trade and expanded during the gold rushes of 1858-1862.

Today’s Gold Rush Trail is an experiential corridor, a journey of stories, peoples, activities and places that we share with our visitors. Just as many adventurers did before us, travellers come seeking the riches of our region.

Travelling this historic trail, you’ll have a chance to disconnect, get away from the crowds and truly connect with history, Indigenous culture and nature. This trail is a story- a history- shaped by nature.



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The Gold Rush Trail initiative is led by the Gold Rush Trail Management Committee, a collaborative of businesses, communities and First Nations from New Westminster to Barkerville Historic Town & Park.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Northern Development Initiative Trust and Destination BC.

EVER HAD GOLD FEVER?

In 1857, gold was discovered in the Fraser River, and in the spring of 1858, James Douglas sent 800 ounces of gold to the San Francisco Mint knowing what word of the gold's arrival would trigger. There are no secrets in a gold town and rumours of a new gold rush began to spread. By late spring of 1858, prospectors from California, Australia, Mexico, Europe, and as far away as China started to arrive in Victoria and New Westminster.

Without a doubt, the gold rush shaped the landscape and history of British Columbia forever.

In April of 1858, within weeks of the first ship arriving in Victoria, thousands made the journey up the Fraser River and into the interior of British Columbia searching for gold. The Indigenous communities that lived in these areas since time immemorial were essential to the survival of the newcomers, trading and providing them with food and goods such as canoes, in addition to acting as trusted guides and translators among other things.

As floods of newcomers came to the interior of BC, Douglas did not want history to repeat itself and lose territories to the Americans, so he petitioned Queen Victoria to establish a Colonial Government in New Caledonia. The petition was granted; New Caledonia was renamed British Columbia, and in 1858 it was proclaimed a crown colony at Fort Langley with James Douglas being named the first Governor. Without a doubt, the gold rush shaped the landscape and history of British Columbia forever.

DRIVING DISTANCES AND TIMES

FROM	TO	KMS	TIME
New Westminster	Fort Langley	33	29 mins
Fort Langley	Hope	110	1 hr 8 mins
Hope	Yale	24	18 mins
Yale	Hell's Gate	31	27 mins
Hell's Gate	Boston Bar	11	8 mins
Boston Bar	Lytton	44	32 mins
Lytton	Spences Bridge	36	25 mins
Lytton	Lillooet	64	59 mins
Spences Bridge	Ashcroft	44	33 mins
Ashcroft	Cache Creek	11	14 mins
Cache Creek	Lillooet	88	1 hr 12 mins
Cache Creek	Hat Creek	11	9 mins
Cache Creek	Clinton	40	27 mins
Lillooet	Clinton	106	1 hr 26 mins
Clinton	100 Mile House	73	51 mins
100 Mile House	150 Mile House	75	48 mins
150 Mile House	Horsefly	52	59 mins
150 Mile House	Likely	86	1 hr 37 mins
Horsefly	Likely	74	1 hr 28 mins
150 Mile House	Williams Lake	18	15 mins
Williams Lake	Quesnel	119	1 hr 22 mins
Williams Lake	Soda Creek	38	33 mins
Soda Creek	Quesnel	87	1 hr 6 mins
Quesnel	Wells	79	1 hr 29 mins
Wells	Barkerville	8	11 mins
New Westminster	Barkerville	737	8 hrs 48 mins

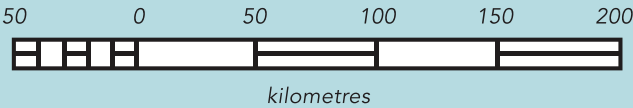
VISITOR CENTRE NETWORK/MEMBERS

100 Mile House Visitor Centre	1-877-511-5353
Abbotsford Visitor Centre	1-888-332-2229
Chilliwack Visitor Centre	1-800-567-9535
Hope Visitor Centre	1-866-467-3842
Kamloops Visitor Centre	1-800-662-1994
Langley Visitor Centre	1-888-788-1477
Lillooet Visitor Centre	1-250-256-4308
Logan Lake Visitor Centre	1-800-331-6495
Lytton Visitor Centre	1-250-455-2523
BC Visitor Centre Merritt	1-250-315-1342
Mission Visitor Centre	1-604-826-6914
New Westminster Visitor Centre	1-604-526-1905
Quesnel Visitor Centre	1-800-992-4922
Wells Visitor Centre	1-877-451-9355
Williams Lake Visitor Centre	1-877-967-5253



VISITOR INFO BOOTHS

Cache Creek Tourist/Visitor Info Booth	1-888-457-7661
Harrison Hot Springs Tourist/Visitor Info Booth	1-604-796-5581
Horsefly Tourist/Visitor Info Booth (Seasonal)	1-250-620-0544
Merritt Tourist/Visitor Info Booth	1-250-378-0349
Yale Tourist/Visitor Info Booth	1-604-863-2324



PACIFIC OCEAN

Port Hardy





James Douglas,
Governor
1858 - 1864

British Columbia
Archives

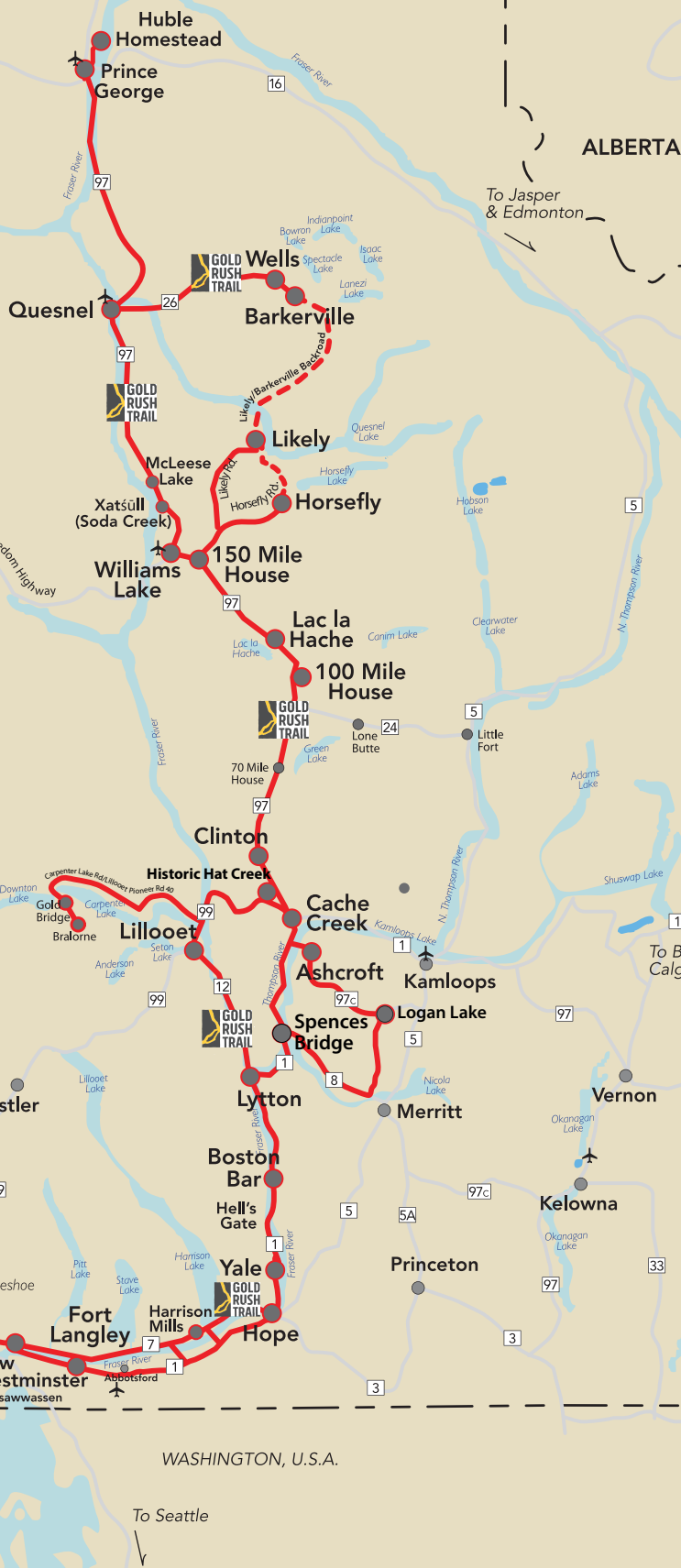


PROSPECTORS IN BARKERVILLE

Image B-06314 courtesy of the
Royal BC Museum and Archives



- BC Ferries Routes
- Gold Rush Trail
- Gold Rush Trail (Gravel)
- Other Highways
- Airports





NEW WESTMINSTER

NEW WESTMINSTER

Steeped in history of boom, bust, and revitalization, New Westminster was the first stop on the mainland for miners to buy provisions and tools for their long journey ahead to the gold fields. In 1859, the Royal Engineers arrived from England to establish the first capital of the colony of British Columbia.

*Known as the
Royal City because
it was named by
Queen Victoria...*

Known as the Royal City because it was named by Queen Victoria, New Westminster is western Canada's oldest city and only a 30-minute drive, or a sky train ride from downtown Vancouver. Stop at one of the numerous historical sites, including Irving House, the oldest intact home in the lower mainland, built in 1865. Perhaps stop by the River Market, an exciting, varied foodie paradise adjacent to the Fraser River. Visit one of the many craft breweries while marveling at the Fraser or take in the vibrant arts and culture scene.



CORNER OF COLUMBIA AND MARY STREETS ca. 1861



GOVERNMENT OFFICE ca. 1871



FORT LANGLEY

Rising from the mist of the Fraser River, the walls of Fort Langley stand as tall today as they did when it was established in 1858. As you enter the walls you will be transported back to what life was like during the 1800s Hudson's Bay Company fur trading era. You can see where fur traders mingled with California gold prospectors and hear Kwantlen First Nation interpreters share their culture and stories. Travel back to the 19th century when French Canadian voyageurs bartered with coastal First Nations for salmon, cranberries and animal pelts; 30,000 prospectors raged with Fraser River gold fever; and a 2,000 acre farm supplied food up and down the coast. Feel the blast of the musket fire, pan for gold or immerse yourself in the era and dress up as a historic trading boss. Try the fusion cuisine at Kwantlen Nation's lelem' at the Fort, discover the new kids area or if you are really up for an adventure, camp inside the timber walls of a 19th century Canadian fort in a furnished, heritage-themed oTENTik.



HARRISON MILLS

Harrison Mills is located near the junction of the Harrison and Fraser rivers and surrounded by cascading mountain peaks. After the word got out that gold was discovered, in just a few weeks, over 30,000 people travelled up the Fraser River with many prospectors stopping along the way to turn over sandbars along the Fraser near Harrison Mills in search of gold. Despite their efforts extraction was only profitable north of Hope.

The Harrison Mills area offers year round biking, paddling and hiking options and the best part is after your adventures you can go for a soak in the nearby Harrison Hot Springs.



KILBY HISTORIC SITE

The Kilby General Store was officially opened in August of 1906, today it is the home of the Kilby Historic Site, BC's museum of rural life. When in Harrison Mills you must stop and enjoy a leisurely tour of the Kilby Historic Site with its magnificent 1906 General Store and Museum.

Don't miss the opportunity to view a gallery of product packaging dating back to the 1920s and 1930s, and intriguing artifacts in the heritage post office and Manchester House Hotel. Riverside camping is available at Kilby Park featuring a beautiful 35-site campground, a day-use area, sandy beaches, nature trails and a boat launch.

KILBY MUSEUM & CAMPGROUND



604.796.9575 | www.kilby.ca | 215 Kilby Road, Harrison Mills
Just off Scenic Hwy 7, 15 min West of Harrison Hot Springs

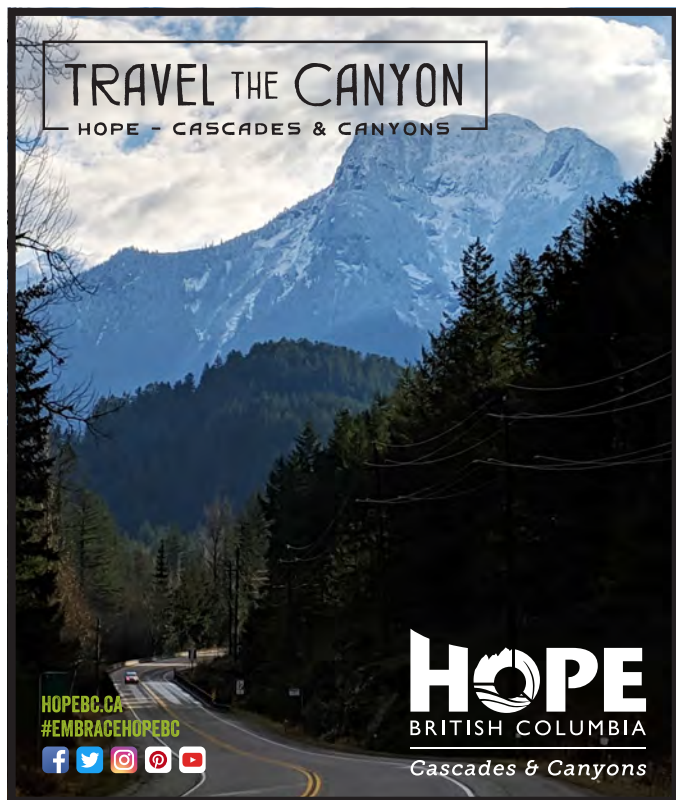
HOPE

For 10,000 years Hope's place at the confluence of the Fraser and Coquihalla rivers has made it a natural stopping point and meeting place for the Stó:lō (STOH-lo) Nation. European settlement began in earnest following Simon Fraser's 1808 journey down the Fraser River and the Hudson Bay Company's 1848 establishment of Fort Hope.

When the Fraser River Gold Rush started in 1858, Hope enjoyed prominence as a gateway to the riches of the Fraser and, later, the Cariboo gold fields. Hope is located between the Coast Mountain Range and the Cascade Mountain Range and today is a gateway to the beauty of British Columbia's interior.

Be sure to tour the Sunshine Valley or hike the Hudson Bay Company trail, see the 80+ chainsaw carvings downtown, visit the Christ Church National Historic Site or take in the historic Othello tunnels.

SHARE YOUR ADVENTURES #GOLDRUSHTRAIL



@mathieubourget

OTHELLO TUNNELS



HISTORIC YALE

Originally established in 1848 as a Hudson's Bay Trading Post, the small town of Yale grew to an estimated 30,000 people during the 1858 gold rush, then the largest city north of San Francisco and west of Chicago. In the 1860s, with the construction of the Cariboo Waggon Road, Yale became the terminus for one of the largest sternwheeler routes in North America and in the 1880s, Yale was the construction headquarters of the Canadian Pacific Railway. History buffs can explore the Yale Historic Site, which preserves local historic treasures and celebrates gold rush history in the area. Check out Creighton House, tent city (1858) and see Saint John the Divine (1863), one of the oldest surviving churches in BC. Yale is packed full of Gold Rush Trail history with every turn. While you're there, stop in at the Ward Tea House, pan for gold at one of the few panning areas on the Fraser River, visit the Pioneer Cemetery or the Spirit Caves Trail, plan a day or multi-day rafting trip on the Fraser and if you have time, stay the night at the original 1880's family home of Johnny Ward.



YALE ca. 1868

Royal BC Museum and Archives



QUESNELLE RIVER ca. 1897

Royal BC Museum and Archives



HELL'S GATE ca. 1885

Royal BC Museum and Archives



TUCKKWIOWHUM, BOSTON BAR ca. 1868

Royal BC Museum and Archives

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Immerse yourself in living Indigenous culture along the Gold Rush Trail, home to the story keepers of this place and the original custodians of this land.

Ielem' Arts & Cultural Café and Kwantlen First Nation Cultural Tours – Fort Langley

For countless generations, the Kwantlen People and other local neighbouring Indigenous communities lived in villages along the lower Fraser. When in Fort Langley, stop in at Ielem' Arts & Cultural Café, for an Indigenous inspired and locally sourced meal or have a coffee and marvel at the art and décor. After, meet in front of the Ielem' Café and join a cultural walking tour to learn about Kwantlen First Nation's rich history, traditional knowledge, stories and songs. Check website for summer tour schedule.

Stó:lō Tourism – Chilliwack

Stó:lō (*STOH-lo*) territory is a cultural treasure within the Fraser Valley and into the Fraser Canyon, surrounded by majestic mountains and centred around the Fraser River. Immerse yourself in the unique Stó:lō history, culture, traditions, art, plants, collections and language through one of the many guided cultural tours or check out the newly renovated Stó:lō Interpretive Centre.

Tuckkwiowhum Heritage Village – Boston Bar

Tuckkwiowhum (*Tuck-we-ohm*) in the local language translates to “great berry picking place”. The area boasts rolling hills and lush forests of wild huckleberries, blueberries and medicinal plants. The heritage village offers you a chance to immerse yourself in Nlaka'pamux (*Ing-la-kap-ma*) culture and history with a guided tour. Some highlights from the site include: a subterranean pit house, summer lodges, smoke house, food caches, and replicas of actual pictographs found in Nlaka'pamux territory.

Spapium “Little Prairie” Farm – Lytton

Spapium “Little Prairie” Farm yields heritage produce, free range eggs, and offers authentic Indigenous cultural experiences. Be welcomed to the Nlaka'pamux territory and enjoy a personal tour of the farm, take a cedar weaving course, purchase jams and teas from locally harvested plants and if you have time, camp in one of the self-contained campsites with spectacular views.

Stein Valley Heritage Park – Lytton

‘Stein’ comes from the Nlaka'pamux word “Stagyn”, meaning ‘hidden place’, referring to the obscurity of this key watershed, which has been important to Interior Coast Salish people for thousands of years, for both sustenance and spirituality, as evidenced by the large number of pictographs still visible today. Enjoy the more than 150km of trails and wilderness campsites, regardless if you are stopping in for an easy day hike in the lower valley or trekking into the backcountry on a multi-night trip.

Xwisten Experience Tours – Lillooet

Located on the site of their traditional Bridge River fishing grounds where every summer local St'át'imc (*Stat-lee-um*) First Nations gather to dip-net sockeye salmon at the confluence of the Fraser and Bridge Rivers. Enjoy an award-winning guided tour of the archeological village site, fishing rocks and take in a salmon drying and prepping demonstration. To complete the tour, partake in a delicious salmon BBQ or try some homemade bannock from the onsite Bearfoot Grill.



Splitrock (Sekw'el'was) Environmental – Lillooet

Tucked away in the community of Sekw'el'was (Splitrock) near Lillooet, stop by and deepen your understanding of the environment around you. Take a guided traditional knowledge walk and understand the connection between St'at'imc culture and the land. Drop into the local plant nursery, purchase some ethnobotanical products, or take a walk on their beautiful board walk with views that will leave a lasting imprint. If you're lucky you can listen to a traditional St'at'imc song performed by a Sekw'el'was hand drummer to welcome you to the area.

Historic Hat Creek – Cache Creek

Long before fur traders, prospectors, ranchers and settlers arrived, people of the northern Secwepemc (*She-whep-m*) Nation inhabited this area. Local Stuctwesemc (*Stluck-TOW-uhsen*) people from the Bonaparte Reserve have reconstructed traditional shelters, a 'Kekuli' pit house, hunting and fishing gear and cook pits. This site was created to highlight, and educate people on the Secwepemc way of life and culture. Join an interpretive tour, play Secwepemc games or listen to traditional drumming.

Xatsúll Heritage Village – Soda Creek

Created to highlight, and educate people on the diversity of Indigenous peoples in BC, this site features a pit house and teepees, which are not traditionally part of the Secwepemc way of life. Join a guided tour or workshop, or participate in a sweat lodge ceremony. If you love mountain biking, the Xatsúll trail network now offers over 30km of trails with stunning views of the heritage village and the Fraser River.

“The Gold Rush Trail is the people along the way. It's an iconic piece of BC history, and people come here to experience it and get so much more than they expect because of the people along the trail.”

~ Melanie Bingham,
Indigenous Tourism Canada





THE FRASER RIVER

Indigenous people have lived along this mighty river since time immemorial, travelling its waters and depending on the river's abundance for food, transport and trade, long before Simon Fraser chartered this river. Gold discoveries in the lower Fraser River Valley near Yale in 1858 and upriver in the Cariboo in 1861 led to a rapid increase in prospectors along the Fraser River, shaping the regions' culture, landscapes and collective memory.

Designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1989 and stretching 1,375km from the headwaters in the Rocky Mountains, this river is a place where echoes of the past tell stories to visitors. The Fraser is a truly wild river, providing habitat for hundreds of bird species, and hosting all six species of Pacific salmon and the rare prehistoric white sturgeon. Travel the Fraser, and you will find stunning vistas and year round exploration opportunities including: fishing, rafting, Indigenous cultural experiences, hiking, biking, camping, bird watching and the list goes on.



ALEXANDRA BRIDGE

When arriving at Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park in the Fraser Canyon, take a short walk to the Alexandra Bridge perched over the spectacular Fraser River. Originally, constructed in 1863, the bridge was part of the Cariboo Waggon Road that connected Fort Yale and the south to the Cariboo Gold Fields.

SHARE YOUR STORIES
AND ADVENTURES
#goldrushtrail



LILLOOET, @alisonboulter



KUMSHEEN RAFTING RESORT, @tylermcave



THOMPSON RIVER, @tylermcave



ALEXANDRA BRIDGE, @tylermcave



POOLEY STREET CAFE, WELLS @kmarieden



HIGHWAY 26, @cariboo_girl



BARKERVILLE HISTORIC TOWN & PARK,
@kmarieden



HARRISON RIVER, @jeromeflores



DOWNTOWN WILLIAMS LAKE, @kmarieden



RUTH LAKE, @ruthlakelodge



WELLS, @tourismcafe



XAT'SÜLL HERITAGE SITE, @ecoescapetravel



TEN-EE-AH LODGE, @ecoescapetravel

HELL'S GATE

Less than 2.5 hours from Vancouver is the deepest, most dangerous and fastest-moving section of the Fraser River, looking up you will see sheer rock faces and down below you can witness the river smashing its way through a constricted channel. Simon Fraser, the first European to explore the region described the gorge as “the gates of hell,” after he and his men inched their way along its cliffs in 1808 using rope ladders made by their Indigenous guides. Today, Hell's Gate is one of the province's most unique and popular draws, with visitors experiencing the exhilaration of crossing the Fraser Canyon in an airtram. Once you are on the other side you can explore the stores, eat lunch, have an ice cream, learn about local history and marvel at the power of the mighty Fraser River.



BOSTON BAR/NORTH BEND

From Hell's Gate travel north on Highway 1 about 10 minutes and you will arrive in Boston Bar, a town that got its name from the large number of gold seeking Americans from Boston which local First Nations called the "Boston Men". Directly across the Fraser River from Boston Bar is North Bend, which only became accessible by road in 1986, when a bridge was built to replace the aerial ferry. Boston Bar is the gateway to the Nahatlatch River Valley, Skuzzy Creek, Anderson Creek and North Bend, where travellers can head west on Chaumox Road to explore the pastoral Nahatlatch River Valley, which features one of British Columbia's most exciting stretches of whitewater rafting. Don't miss out on experiencing Nlaka'pamux (*Ing-la-kap-ma*) culture at Tuckkwiowhum (*Tuck-we-ohm*) Heritage Site located 5km south of Boston Bar.

NAHATLATCH RIVER

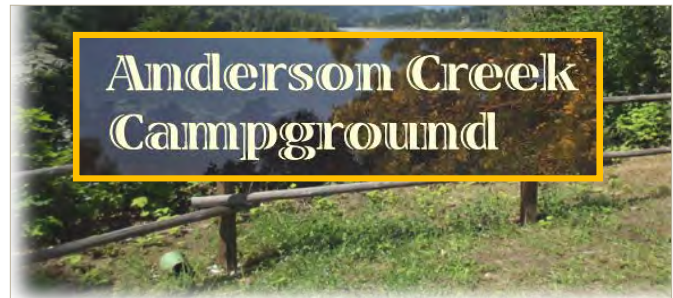


**A TRULY
HISTORIC
EXPERIENCE**



VILLAGE
TOURS
MUSEUM
& GIFT SHOP
CORPORATE
EVENTS
WEDDINGS
CULTURAL
RETREATS

604.860.9610

Anderson Creek Campground

Gorgeous Views
Shady Campsites
15/30Amp Hookups
Hot Showers

604.867.9089

Just 4 km South of Boston Bar




Official home of the Fraser River
Gold Panning Championships!

LYTTON

Located at the confluence of the Fraser River and its largest tributary, the Thompson River, Lytton has a dry climate with sagebrush growing in the hills and sweeping mountain and river views. This area was originally known as “Kumsheen” or “Camchin” in the local Nlaka’pamux language, meaning “where the rivers meet” and has been inhabited by the Nlaka’pamux people since time immemorial. Lytton is the “Whitewater Rafting Capital of Canada” with several world-class rafting companies navigating the local rapids. Those seeking slower-paced activities opt for camping, fishing, geocaching, and hiking closer to town. Stop in for a coffee and browse the beautiful locally made handicrafts at Klowa, cross the street and check out the Chinese History Museum with the largest collection of historical Chinese artifacts in Canada, stop in at the Lytton Museum & Archives to learn all about the gold rush history in the area, take a trip to Spadium “Little Prairie” Farm, the Stein River Valley or if you have time raft the Thompson and stay in one of Kumsheen Rafting Resort’s gold rush themed glamping tents. You can also stay at the nearby campground in Skihist Provincial Park which is a perfect base camp for a stroll along remnants of the original Cariboo Waggon Road.

SPENCES BRIDGE

It is here that Cook and Kimball built a rope ferry across the Thompson River to transport the influx of prospectors; earning the community the name of Cook's Ferry (the local First Nations carry this name today).

In 1864 the ferry was replaced with a bridge built by Thomas Spence during the construction of the Cariboo Waggon Road from Yale to Barkerville Historic Town & Park.

*...if you're feeling
adventurous
take a short hike to
Murray Falls.*

Located at the confluence of the Thompson and Nicola rivers, the fishing and whitewater rafting is a major lure or if you're feeling adventurous take a short hike to Murray Falls. Nearby, Golden Pan Provincial Park offers a nice spot to swim, fish or camp overnight.

This area's agricultural heritage continues to flourish with locally grown vegetables and fruits sold at stalls beside the highway, in town, and at wayside shops. A visit to historic Widow Smith Packing House will add some flavour to your stop.



ASHCROFT

Part of Nlaka'pamux (Thompson) territory, the Indigenous people living in the area relied on the bounty of fish in the Thompson River to sustain their communities.

During the gold rush, Ashcroft was the transfer point, where freight and mining supplies were unloaded off Canadian Pacific railcars and hauled north to the Cariboo goldfields. Ashcroft is located in the stunning sagebrush covered Thompson River Valley with a quaint and historic downtown.

If you are interested in history, visit the Ashcroft Museum, housed in the town's 1917 post office and the Ashcroft Manor, a popular stopover for travellers heading north to the goldfields in the 1800s and later the district's first courthouse; now a teahouse, museum and art gallery. Before you leave town, be sure to browse the local farm market.

“ Historic buildings, unique geological landscapes, and the original Cariboo Waggon Road that was used by thousands of pioneers are just some of the highlights along BC's Gold Rush Trail. Whether you're pining for natural beauty or simply looking for adventure, this driving route offers travellers an opportunity to experience everything that makes BC just so beautiful. ”

~ Vancouver is Awesome



*“The first time, it's a vacation.
After that,
it's coming home.”*

SUNDANCE
GUEST RANCH

Just 4 hours north of Vancouver
1-800-553-3533
saddleup@sundanceguestranch.com

A photograph of a man wearing a hat and a light blue shirt, riding a brown and white horse through a field. The background shows a vast landscape with mountains under a blue sky.

LOCAL FOOD AND DRINKS ARE ABUNDANT



CACHE CREEK

Set in a dramatic desert landscape and ideally located at the junction of Highways 1 and 97. You will find accommodations, camping, vehicle services, restaurants, gift shops and supplies. Cache Creek is an ideal base for some of the best rock hounding in British Columbia, canoeing, horseback riding, fishing and hiking through dry grasslands and dramatic desert landscapes.

Dip your toes in the Thompson River at Juniper Beach Provincial Park, then learn how prospectors and pioneers lived...

Dip your toes in the Thompson River at Juniper Beach Provincial Park, then learn how prospectors and pioneers lived back in the day with a visit to nearby Historic Hat Creek. Try geocaching with the Gold Country GeoTourism program that will guide you to themed caches and reward your perseverance. After exploring the area, indulge in a freshly baked pastry or sandwich from the local bakery or stock up on locally grown produce at one of the farm markets.



Kristi Denby



Images by: Tyler Cave Productions



1.800.782.0922 • www.historichatcreek.ca • Junction of Hwy 97 & 99, Cache Creek, BC, V0K 1H0



HISTORIC HAT CREEK

Ideally located at the junction of Highways 97 and 99, explore the original buildings used by gold rush travellers of the 1860s at one of the few original Cariboo waggon roadhouses still open to the public. Located on 345 acres of farm and range land, Historic Hat Creek has 20 historic buildings dating back to 1861, and Secwepemc prehistoric archeological sites.

Stroll along the same dirt road that the waggon trains and miners travelled and stop in at the historic roadhouse, where interpreters dressed in period clothing will take you on a guided tour of a bygone era.

*Stroll along the same
dirt road that the
waggon trains and
miners travelled...*

Enjoy a stagecoach ride along beautiful Hat Creek to the Secwepemc (Shuswap) Village, where interpretive guides share a glimpse into their history and living cultural traditions. Try your luck in gold panning or archery, take a little time to browse the giftshop, eat lunch in the café or participate in one of many events or special programs throughout the year.

Your experience will really be complete if you spend the night in one of their covered wagons, camp in a miner tent or stay in one of the self-contained cabins right on site.





Destination BC/Blaire Jorgenson

HILLS ABOVE THE FRASER RIVER

LILLOOET

“Mile 0” of the Cariboo Waggon Road, and one of the epicentres of the Fraser River Gold Rush. Lillooet is located at the foot of the Coast Mountain range with roads carved out of mountainsides and ever changing views of the Fraser River. History buffs can drop by the Lillooet Museum and Visitor Centre to view gold rush exhibits of Mile 0, take a tour of downtown’s ‘Jade Walk’ (a tribute to Lillooet’s jade-mining history) or turn-of-the-century architectural gems such as Miyazaki House.

Easy access to mountain biking, fishing, backpacking, and boating make Lillooet a perfect playground in spring, summer and fall, while winter boasts unprecedented ice climbing, heli-skiing and snowmobiling. Take in the local St’át’imc culture with a tour at Xwisten Experience Tours or Splitrock Environmental or visit during July’s Apricot Tsaqwen Festival or in September for the annual Harvest Festival. Finally, a trip to Lillooet is not complete without a stop at the award-winning Fort Berens Estate Winery.



Destination BC/Michael Bednar

FORT BERENS ESTATE WINERY



Xwisten Experience Tours

Traditional Fishing Rock & Archaeological Village Tours
Available June—September

K'althwá7al'ap snek'wnúk'wa7
(Welcome friends)






Lillooet, BC
250.256.7844
www.xwistentours.ca
Located at 5202 Moha Road, 6 km north of Lillooet



BRIDGE RIVER VALLEY

Take a journey through the stunning Bridge River Valley. On your drive you will be surrounded by the towering South Chilcotin Mountains and feel like you are journeying on the road less travelled. The communities of Gold Bridge and Bralorne sprang to life in the area during the Great Depression with the opening of a large gold mine in 1932. This mine, the Bralorne Pioneer, became the richest gold mine in Canadian history, which prompted a boom in the area. Now outdoor lovers appreciate the valley for its fishing, hunting, rock hounding, numerous alpine lakes and rugged mountain vistas. In addition, resorts are scenically situated on the shores of several local lakes, with air-assisted mountain biking a popular activity, along with phenomenal hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling and heli-skiing.







ADVENTURE SEEKERS, FIND YOUR FAVOURITE WATERFALL

Bridal Veil Falls, Bridal Veil Provincial Park, Fraser Valley East

Take a short hike and check out the spectacular Bridal Veil Falls that tumbles 60 metres over a smooth rock face. The short half hour return loop brings you right to the base of the falls. Afterwards, enjoy a picnic at the Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park scenic day-use area.

Flood Falls, Hope

Take a break and stretch your legs with a quick 1km hike on a well-worn path that leads you directly to the base of the pounding falls. An easy 30 minute hike with stairs that are built directly into the side of the hill and a suspension bridge over the river that gives you stunning views of the falls.

Mehatl Falls, Mehatl Creek Provincial Park, Boston Bar/ North Bend

Hidden in the Mehatl Creek Provincial Park, near the Nahatlatch River, lies this unique natural water feature. Challenge yourself or friends with this route as hiking in this park requires excellent route finding skills. We recommend some prior hiking experience!

Bridge Creek Falls, 100 Mile House

Bridge Creek Falls is a brisk 1.2km out and back style hike which starts in 100 Mile's well maintained and family friendly Centennial Park. Enjoy great views of the falls with the entire family.

Mahood Falls/Canim Falls, Wells Gray Provincial Park

A leisurely 1km hike along a well maintained wheelchair accessible hiking trail that leads you to Mahood Falls first, then only a few hundred metres down the trail you will arrive at Canim Falls. The trail takes you along a high ridge overlooking a river valley to several fenced viewpoints with spectacular vistas of the waterfalls.

Horsefly Falls/Moffat Falls, Horsefly

Horsefly Falls is split into three different sections, upper, middle, and lower. Upper Horsefly Falls includes a mildly strenuous 1km hike to the base. These falls are a perfect opportunity to test your directions skills, however be sure to get local advice before setting off. Moffat Falls, contains two viewpoints, the first one is easily accessible and to reach the second is a short but strenuous climb down to the base of the falls. Be cautious of slippery rocks and be aware that to access these falls you are travelling on active logging roads.

Ghost Lake Falls/ Matthew River Falls, Cariboo Mountain Provincial Park

You will pass by the Ghost Lake Falls on the way to the user-maintained Ghost Lake campsite. This remote campsite on Ghost Lake features mountain and lake views, and is adjacent to Matthew River Falls. An unmarked and steep trail near the campsite will lead you to the Matthew River Falls viewpoint. There are few facilities in the Cariboo Mountains Provincial Park; therefore, visitors should be self-sufficient and experienced in wilderness travel. Be sure to check road conditions and drive on gravel access roads at your own risk as they are active logging roads. It is recommended to call the Likely Visitor Centre and check road conditions before you embark.

The author of this publication is not responsible for any damages, personal injuries or loss of life should you undertake any of these hikes listed above. Always park in legally designated areas, use caution on trails, leave no trace and always remember that safety is your responsibility.



CLINTON

The village of Clinton is known for its Wild West ambience. Still today the gold rush and pioneer history is exemplified by its original western store fronts, historical walking tours, abundant antique stores and excellent museum archives and exhibits (located at the village's 1892 schoolhouse). As British Columbia's "Guest Ranch Capital", Clinton is a community hub for many ranches, including an award-winning Thai-influenced spa and more traditional family-focused outfitters offering trail riding, horsemanship classes, gold panning and sleigh rides. The Annual Ball on Victoria Day long weekend, kicks off Clinton's Heritage week; wrapping up with the Clinton Rodeo the following weekend. Equally significant is the diversity of the surrounding landscape's unique geological variations, including Chasm Provincial Park's Painted Chasm; the Limestone Quarry, a haven for fossil hunters and rock hounds; and the Marble Range, where cliffs, caves, disappearing streams and wildlife trails lure climbers, cavers, hikers and horseback riders.

70 MILE HOUSE

70 Mile House was established in 1862 as a hostel for Cariboo Waggon Road work crews, the area has now evolved into a thriving guest-ranch, outdoor-recreation hub and gateway to the Fishing Highway (Hwy 24), 50+ lakes within 50 square kilometres, and the stunning Green Lake Recreation Area.

*Gateway to the Fishing Highway
(Hwy 24), 50+ lakes
within 50 square
kilometres...*

Nearby exists a diverse network of hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, Nordic and snowmobile trails, plus canoeing, kayaking, birding, wildlife viewing, ice fishing and angling. When in 70 Mile House, you must stop at the Sugar Shack for an authentic poutine or to stock up on maple syrup for your journey ahead.



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100 MILE HOUSE

Located 100 miles from Lillooet on the original Cariboo Waggon Road, 100 Mile House was originally a Hudson's Bay Company fur trading station, but by the early 1860s it became an important stagecoach stop on the Gold Rush Trail.

100 Mile House claims a couple of lofty titles, including 'Handcrafted Log Home Capital of North America' and is the self-proclaimed 'International Nordic Ski Capital', boasting the world's tallest pair of cross-country skis at the Visitor Centre, and has one of British Columbia's most active Nordic clubs. In addition, 100 Mile is a home base for local snowmobile clubs, horse-drawn sleigh rides and snowshoeing.

***...by the early 1860s
it became an important
stagecoach stop
on the Gold Rush Trail.***

Highlights of the region include the community's proximity to the Fishing Highway (Highway 24), Canim Lake and Wells Gray Provincial Park.

Spring through fall, 100 Mile House is a base for mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, photography and wildlife viewing. Birding is also a major draw, with popular viewing sites such as the wheelchair-accessible 100 Mile Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary. After a day exploring, stop by for a refreshing pint at 100 Mile's own micro-brewery, Jackson's Social Club and Brew House.



Destination BC/Blake Jorgenson

KAYANARA GUEST RANCH & RESORT

108 MILE HERITAGE SITE

Want to immerse yourself in 1860s pioneer life? Make a stop at the 108 Mile Heritage Site where you can explore lakeside historic buildings, including the 105 Mile Roadhouse, the 108 Mile Post House, a hotel and store, and the largest original log Clydesdale barn of its kind in Canada. The site features a museum, gift shop and a food truck, and is open annually from May long weekend to September Labour day long weekend. Be sure to check for special events and programming like evening ghost tours and special Canada Day events. This is a great rest stop for travellers year-round, the site includes a series of picnic tables, washrooms, a small picnic shelter, information boards and a very large parking lot friendly to RVs and bus tours. At the south end of the parking lot is a tunnel leading under the highway connecting to the 108 Community Trail Network and Easements; a system of trails used for hiking, biking and horseback riding in the sunshine months and cross country skiing in the winter months.





150 MILE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

LAC LA HACHE

This village is often referred to as the “Longest Town in the Cariboo”, reflecting how its resorts, ranches, restaurants and vacation homes are scattered along the lake’s 19km long shoreline. Decades before European fur traders came into the area, the Secwepemc established pit houses here and the Chilcotins, who travelled through the region, named the lake Kumatakwa, Queen of the Waters.

With a strong history of ranching and agriculture, today Lac la Hache is one of the most popular lakes along Highway 97, particularly with water skiers, anglers and power boaters. Foodies love its South Cariboo Garlic Festival, held in late August, while winter brings crisp, sunny days ideal for ice fishing, snow shoeing, pond hockey and for skiing at nearby Mt. Timothy’s slopes.

150 MILE HOUSE

150 Mile House is a quiet ranchland community known for its gold rush, and pioneer history and log homes. Home to the 1896 Little Red Schoolhouse, located beside the original Cariboo Waggon Road, the wood-frame, one-room building is now a historical site and classroom open to the public during the summer. From 150 Mile House, travellers generally decide whether to continue north to Williams Lake and Quesnel on Highway 97 or head northeast along the original Gold Rush Trail to the communities of Horsefly and Likely.

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WILLIAMS LAKE

Home and traditional meeting place of the Secwepemc people; the city is named after a local Secwepemc Chief Will-Yum. Williams Lake is your launch pad to the incredible variety of lakes, hikes, and trails all within a short drive from the city. Stop in at the Tourism Discovery Centre and view the magnificent building and check out the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin – British Columbia’s only ranch and rodeo museum and home to the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Williams Lake is considered one of British Columbia’s premier mountain biking destinations...

Williams Lake’s distinctive western-frontier personality shines brightly when it hosts the Williams Lake Stampede during the Canada Day long weekend (July 1). Visit “Downtown Williams Lake”, stroll among the quaint shops and art galleries and check out the heritage murals. Try one or all of the three golf courses or visit the 1919 Railway Station House.

Williams Lake boasts the largest legal mountain bike trail network in the province offering trails for every style and skill level of rider, from single track progressive free-riding to cross country. Williams Lake is considered one of British Columbia’s premier mountain-biking destinations and is an excellent home-base for countless outdoor adventures. For wildlife viewing, birders find an avian haven at Scout Island, a trail-laced sanctuary for birds and small wildlife located right on Williams Lake. Continue 30 minutes north along the Fraser, and stop in at Xat’sull Heritage Village and take a guided tour to learn more about Xat’sull First Nation’s spiritual, cultural and traditional way of life.

MCLEESE LAKE

This resort community is just 30 minutes north of Williams Lake. Today, travellers enjoy water sports, trout fishing, and hiking, camping and off-roading. In winter, hiking trails welcome snowmobilers and Nordic skiers, while the lake is transformed into a skating and ice-fishing wonderland. Just before McLeese Lake be sure to stop in at the historic Dunlevy Ranch to u-pick your fresh veggies and corn at Soda Creek Sweet Corn.



Thomas Drasdauskis

NORTH CARIBOO

QUESNEL

When the Cariboo Waggon Road was built it ran from Lillooet to Soda Creek. From Soda Creek, sternwheelers carried miners and supplies up the Fraser River to Quesnel, landing on the traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene Nation where the Quesnel and Fraser rivers meet. As a result, the community became a major stopping point and supply centre for the gold rush.

Today, this landing is called Ceal Tingley Park, named after a Mayor of Quesnel, and is the perfect starting point to the Riverfront Trail where history and heritage sites await you, including the world's longest wood Howe Truss bridge. Quesnel is home to endless wilderness trails stretching from the city centre to outlying areas, you can explore these trails on mountain bike, quad, skis, or your own two feet. Pinnacles Provincial Park offers a 1km hike with panoramic views of Quesnel.

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Donna Barnett
MLA for Cariboo-Chilcotin

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Jeremy Korecki

HORSEFLY RIVER

HORSEFLY

The first gold discovered in the Cariboo Gold Rush was on the Horsefly River in 1859, three years before Billy Barker made his big strike on Williams Creek. Legendary First Nations guide Long Baptiste, led Peter Dunlevy and four friends to the location near Quesnel Lake. The party picked up 2,835g/100oz of nuggets in a week – and so began the great gold rush of 1859 into BC’s Interior. Horsefly is known as the gateway to Quesnel Lake, Horsefly Lake, Crooked Lake, but also as “the wheelchair friendly community of the Cariboo”, because of the community’s dedication to creating wheelchair access in and around their community.

Outdoor lovers head here for camping, hiking, fishing, kayaking, mountain biking and backcountry skiing. Horsefly plays year-round host with many lively community events, including July’s Arts on the Fly Music Festival, the September Salmon Festival, Fall Fair and Horsefly Follies Theatrical Review. If you’re interested in the local history, be sure to visit the Horsefly Historical Society’s Pioneer Museum and Visitor Centre.

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QUESNEL LAKE

LIKELY

Located on the original Gold Rush Trail at the west end of Quesnel Lake, the deepest fjord-lake in North America. This area played a significant role in the Cariboo Gold Rush of 1859 when rough-edged boom towns like Quesnelle Forks, Cedar City, and Keithley Creek had overnight populations in the thousands. Likely, the gateway to the stunning Cariboo Mountains, is the perfect place to get off the beaten path and experience year-round adventure: fishing, kayaking, wilderness camping, mountain biking, whitewater kayaking, hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and guided eco-tours, including bear and wildlife viewing.

While in the area, be sure to visit the Historic Bullion Pit, Cedar Point Provincial Park, Cedar City Mining Museum and Quesnelle Forks to learn more about gold rush history in the area. Likely is also a great leaping off point to explore the “Gold Rush Circle Route” also known as the backroad to Barkerville Historic Town & Park. Be sure stock up on all your supplies in Likely before you embark on your backcountry adventures.

“Likely is a place where you can really disconnect from it all and get back to nature while experiencing the countless back country and historical opportunities.”

~ Lisa Kraus,
Likely Resident



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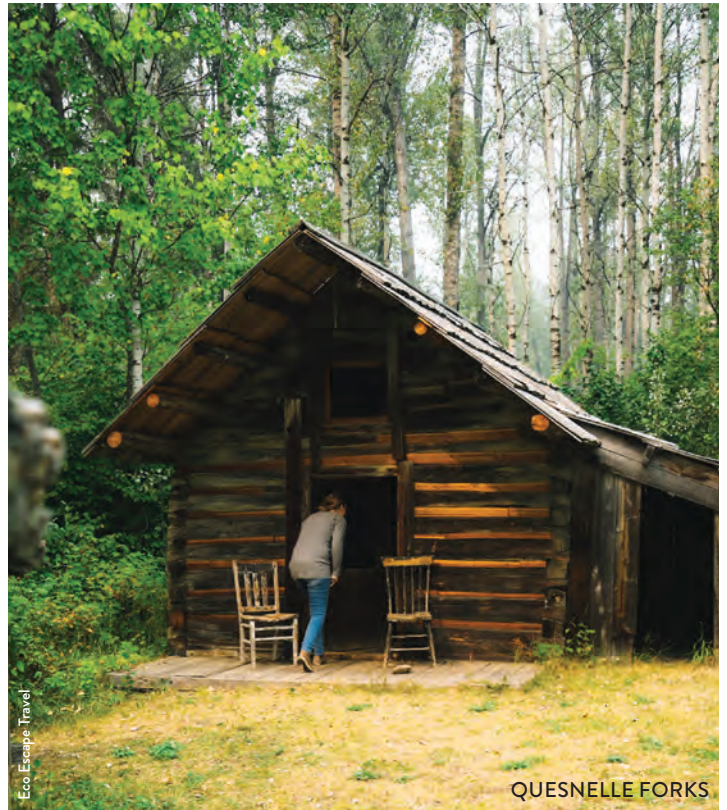
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QUESNELLE FORKS

This unique ghost town is reached by a dirt road only 11km from Likely. Founded in 1860, Quesnelle Forks was a major supply centre for the Cariboo Gold Rush with the 100 plus residents catering to over 2,000 transient miners and adventurers annually.

*Founded in 1860,
Quesnelle Forks was a
major supply centre for the
Cariboo Gold Rush...*

When the Cariboo Waggon Road was completed in 1865 the community was bypassed, and fell into decline. By the mid-1870s most of the population had moved on, leaving a small group of Chinese miners and merchants who remained. Today, visitors to Quesnelle Forks can explore the log cabins, pioneer buildings and historic cemetery with no fees or crowds and even try their luck at gold panning. The adjacent BC Recreation site is a great rustic camping destination.



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Jeremy Korecki

LIKELY BRIDGE

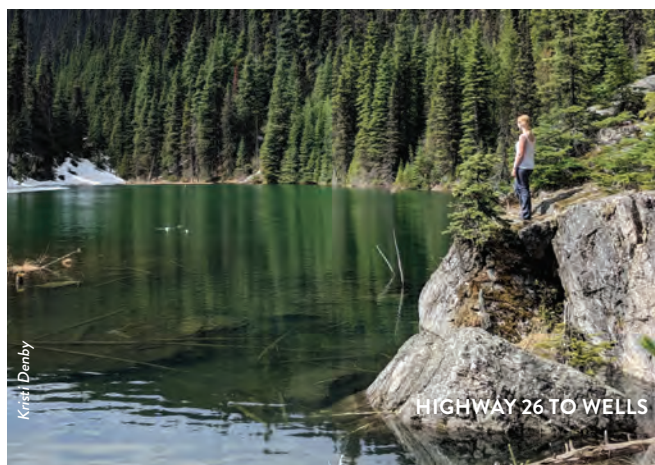
GOLD RUSH CIRCLE ROUTE

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“On the way to Wells, a town on the Gold Rush Circle Route, we stopped at Ghost Lake Falls. I was, again, awestruck by the beauty, the rushing white falls beneath the wooden bridge, the rocks, the trees and the river views for miles.”

~ Kendall Fletcher,
National Touring Association





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COTTONWOOD HOUSE HISTORIC SITE

Located on Highway 26, between Quesnel and Barkerville Historic Town & Park, Cottonwood House is one of the last few remaining gold rush era roadhouses. It was built in the 1860s to offer accommodation, meals and provisions to miners and travellers on their journey along the Cariboo Waggon Road and became one of the most famous, known as a stopping place of high quality.

*Cottonwood House
is one of the last few
remaining gold rush era
roadhouses.*

Today, this wheelchair accessible provincial historic site continues its traditions and offers heritage interpretation, accommodation and food to those wanting to explore and experience the Gold Rush Trail and its rich history.



WELLS

This mountain town was built as a company town for Fred Wells' Gold Quartz Mine, when the promise of more gold gave many an opportunity to escape the great depression in 1927. With fewer than 300 year-round residents in Wells today, many of its heritage buildings have been restored, including the Wells Hotel and Sunset Theatre. Architectural landmarks sport rainbow colours in a nod to the town's vibrant arts scene.

Island Mountain Arts celebrated art school offers classes in the visual, literary and musical performing arts while the popular ArtsWells Festival of All Things Art (held the first weekend in August) features an infusion of more than 100 musical and dance performances. The Sunset Theatre, built in 1934, hosts the annual Moonrise Film Festival where you can take in screenings of today's great and emerging filmmakers.

Outdoor adventures are steadily garnering acclaim, with excellent trail systems available for mountain biking, ATV-ing, hiking, alpine skiing at Troll Mountain, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. The surrounding landscape has hundreds of kilometres of stunningly scenic trails – many accessible from the town centre and the nearby Jack of Clubs Lake is perfect for a tranquil canoe.



Thomas Dradauskas

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BOWRON LAKES

Bowron Lakes Provincial Park is a well-known chain of lakes and untouched wilderness, named after John Bowron, a gold rush pioneer and Gold Commissioner at Barkerville.

The Bowron Lake canoe circuit (116km) is world renowned for its unique shape, chain of lakes, short portages, and the ability to arrive at the same location that you left. The entire circuit can be paddled and portaged over a week to 10 days, or if you only have a few days, the west-side lakes can be explored in two to four days.

“The Bowron Lakes are more than an iconic wilderness experience, it is a heritage experience that takes me back in time to the paddle strokes of the people who came and lived here before us.”

~ Dave Jorgenson,
Whitegold Adventures





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CARIBOO SENTINEL NEWSPAPER

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Now a Canadian National Historic Site, Barkerville Historic Town & Park is British Columbia's best known heritage destination, and the largest historic site in western North America. The site includes 125 restored buildings on display and interpreters roam the streets as historical characters, greeting newcomers as if they'd just arrived on a Barnard Express stagecoach. Full of colour and authenticity, offering stagecoach rides, live theatre, saloons serving mugs of sarsaparilla, a photo studio, cafés, a bakery, a court house, a well-preserved Chinatown and intriguing cemetery tours. See and hear what it was like to be a blacksmith, a school teacher, a seamstress - or a precocious child - more than 150 years ago.

In the winter thrill seekers can try out the exhilarating Tube Park or experience a Victorian Christmas. Be sure to check out their website for all the exciting seasonal events and special programming.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL CHECKLIST

- ✦ Respect people and their local cultures
- ✦ Be considerate of local communities and other fellow travellers
- ✦ Buy local and support local
- ✦ Follow the principles of Leave No Trace
- ✦ Plan ahead, know before you go and make informed decisions
- ✦ Respect wildlife and keep your distance
- ✦ Dispose of waste properly and recycle
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- ➡ Take in the Clinton May Ball Rodeo, the weekend following the long weekend in May
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