



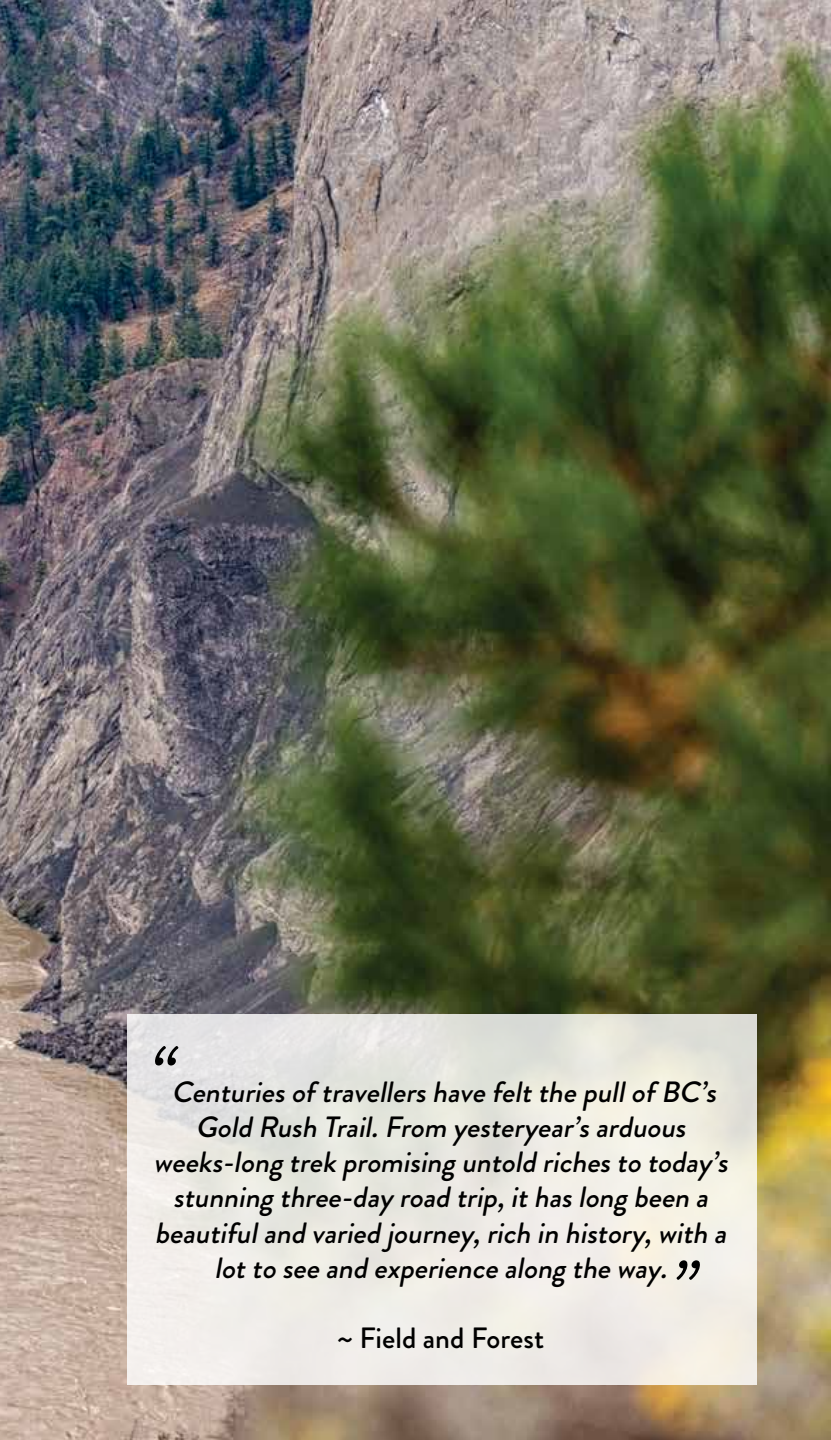
GOLD RUSH TRAIL

BRITISH 
COLUMBIA

GOLDRUSHTRAIL.CA



SUPR,
NATURAL
BRITISH
COLUMBIA
 CANADA



“
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

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.

*... you’ll have a chance to
disconnect, to get away from
the crowds and truly connect
with history...*

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, to 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 a collaboration of businesses, communities and First Nations from New Westminster to Barkerville Historic Town and 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 pre-emptively sent 800 ounces of gold to the San Francisco Mint knowing he had limited time before word would spread. There are no secrets in a gold town and rumours of a new gold rush began to circulate. 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.

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 future 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

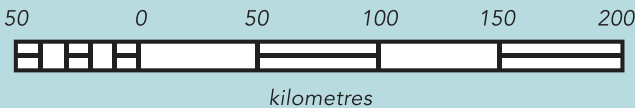


VISITOR CENTRE NETWORK/MEMBERS

100 Mile House Visitor Centre	877-511-5353
Abbotsford Visitor Centre	888-332-2229
Cache Creek Visitor Centre	250-457-0732
Chilliwack Visitor Centre	604-858-8121
Harrison Hot Springs Visitor Centre	604-796-5581
Hope Visitor Centre	604-869-2021
Kamloops Visitor Centre	778-586-8687
Langley Visitor Centre	604-371-1477
Lillooet Visitor Centre	250-256-4308
Logan Lake Visitor Centre	800-331-6495
Merritt Visitor Centre	250-378-0349
Mission Visitor Centre	604-814-1280
New Westminster Visitor Centre	604-526-1905
Quesnel Visitor Centre	800-992-4922
Wells Visitor Centre	250-994-2323
Williams Lake Visitor Centre	877-967-5253

VISITOR INFO BOOTHS

Horsefly Tourist/Visitor Info Booth (Seasonal)	250-620-3350
Yale Tourist/Visitor Info Booth	604-863-2324





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

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 quick 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.

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

CONNECT TO EVERYWHERE

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New Westminster*

Visit tourismnewwest.com to plan your trip
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tourism 



CORNER OF COLUMBIA AND MARY STREETS ca. 1861

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 an 809-hectare (2,000-acre) farm supplied food up and down the coast. Feel the blast of the musket fire, pan for gold dust, dress up to play a historic trading boss, discover the kids area, or if you are really up for an adventure you can camp inside the timber walls of a 19th century Canadian fort in a furnished, heritage-themed oTENTik.



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 Living Museum of Rural History. While in Harrison Mills, 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 Campground featuring a beautiful 35-site campground, a day-use area, sandy beaches, nature trails and a boat launch.



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.

FRASER RIVER



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 to 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.

Be Respectful, Safe & Prepared. Here's How:

Respect The region is home to nine Indigenous Nations, each with its own language dialect, traditions, stories and cultural practices. If you are invited to participate in any part of Indigenous culture, lead with curiosity and respectfully ask questions; for instance, ask for common names and pronunciations.

Safety Keeping communities safe means accepting all visitors and locals for who they are. It also means respecting the environment and adhering to community health and safety guidelines. Many rural communities have limited infrastructure to handle unnecessary strains, such as emergency responses for those that visit unprepared.

Preparation Being prepared helps ensure a positive experience and is respectful to your hosts, but you don't need to buy all your supplies in advance. You'll find roadside fruit and veggie stands (be sure to carry cash), as well as local grocery stores, coffee shops, and many unique stores along the way.



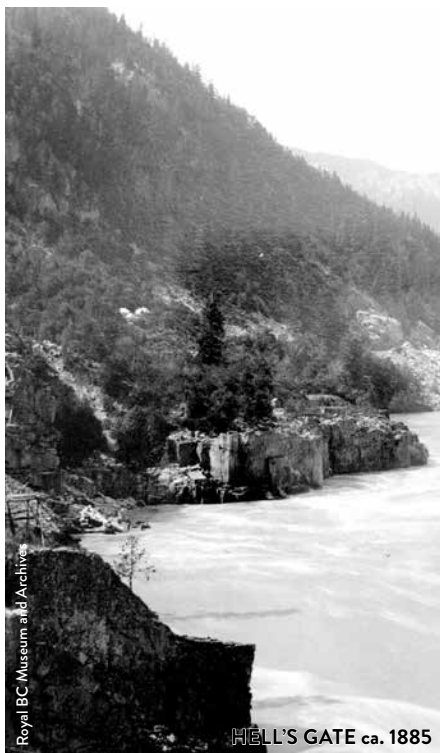
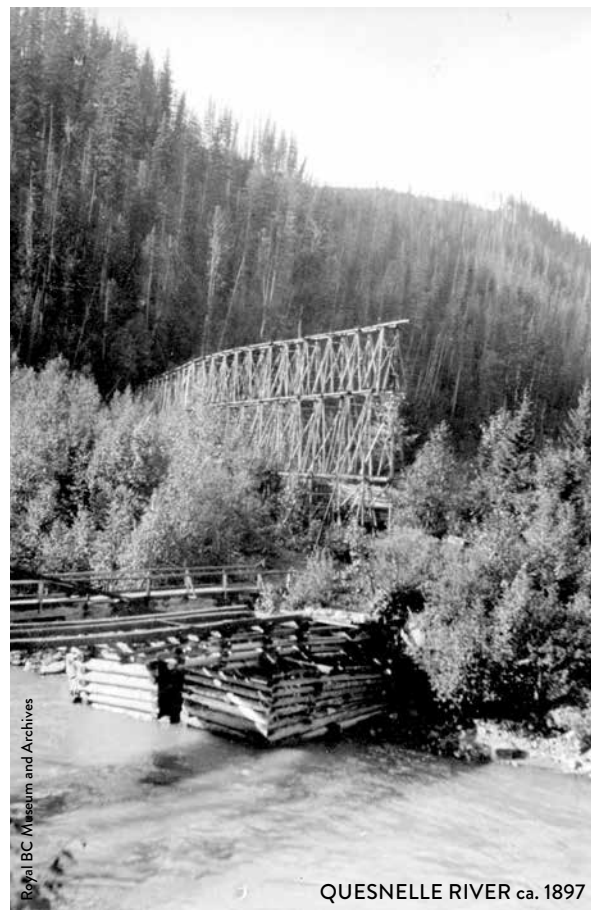
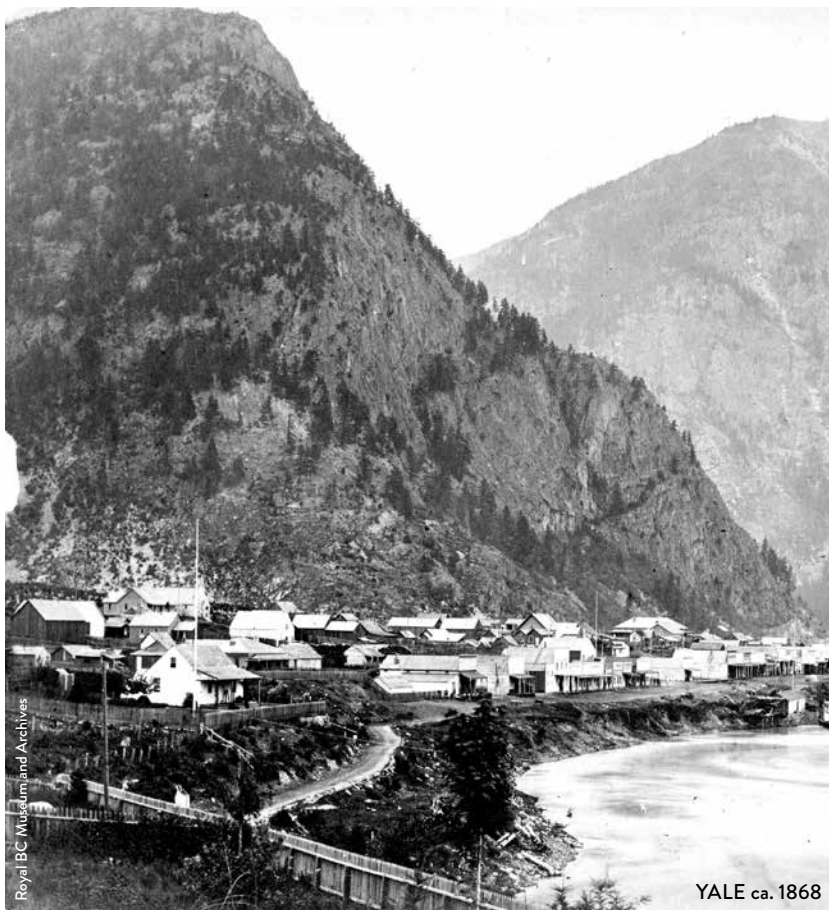
@mathieubourget

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, at that time 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 headquarter 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 and see Saint John the Divine, 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.



INDIGENOUS CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

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

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. Join a cultural walking tour to learn about Kwantlen First Nation's rich history, traditional knowledge, stories and songs.

Stó:lō Tourism – Chilliwack

Stó:lō 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.



Michael Bednar

Xat'sull Heritage Village

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.

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

~ Melanie Bingham
Indigenous Tourism Canada

Xwísten 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

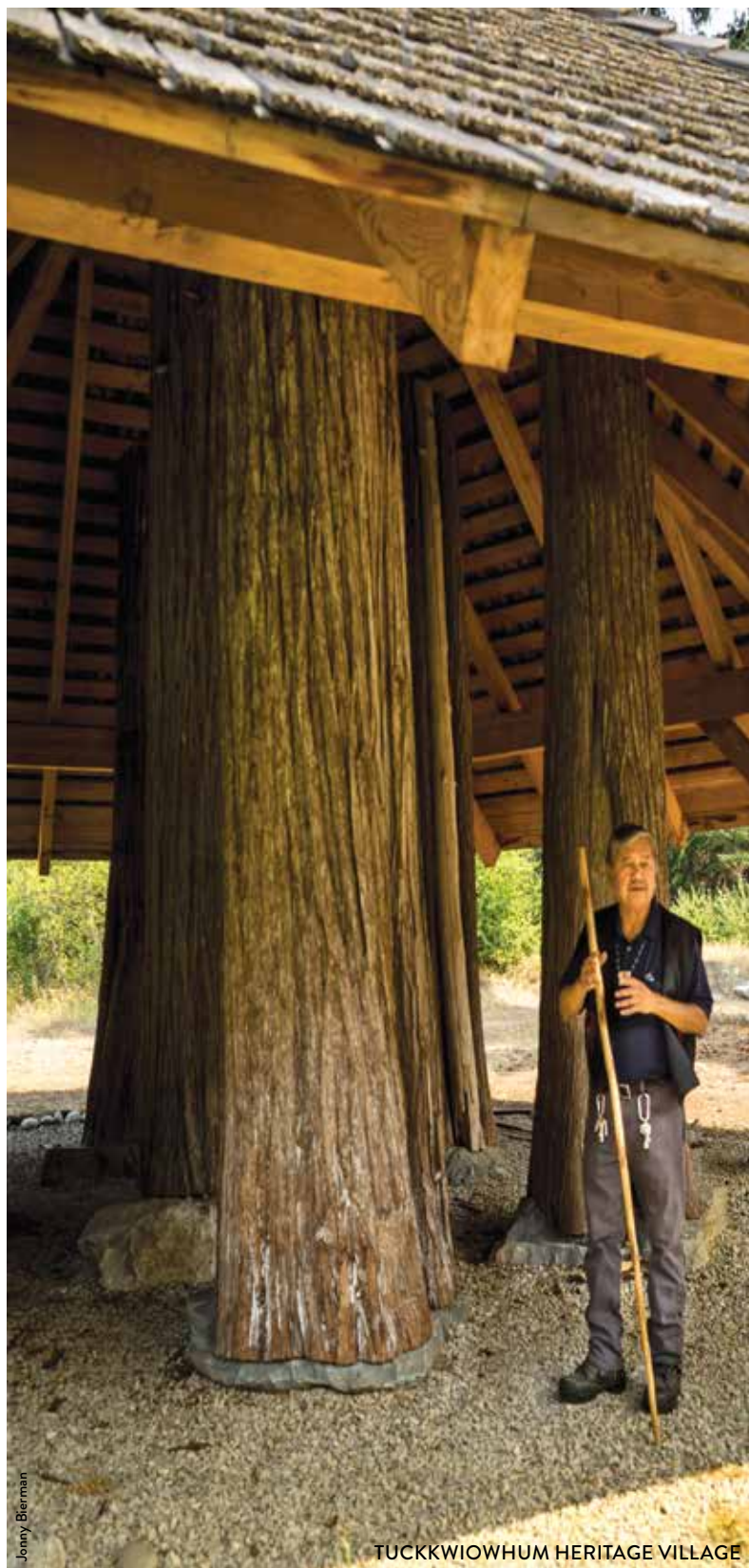
Tucked away in the community of Sekw'el'was (*shick-wel-wash*) near Lillooet, stop by and deepen your understanding of the environment around you. Take a one-hour guided traditional knowledge walk and understand the connection between St'at'imc culture and the land. Drop into the local plant nursery, 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 other settlers arrived, people of the northern Secwepemc (*shi-huep-muh-k*) 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.

Xat'sūll Heritage Village – Soda Creek

Created to highlight and educate people on the diversity of Indigenous peoples in BC, this site features a 'Kekuli' pit house and teepees (although teepees are not traditionally part of the Secwepemc way of life). Join a guided tour, attend a workshop or participate in a sweat lodge ceremony. If you love mountain biking, the Xat'sūll (*hat-sooth*) trail network now offers over 30 km (19 mi) of trails with stunning views of the heritage village and Fraser River.



Jenny Bierman

TUCKKWIOWHUM HERITAGE VILLAGE



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 (854 mi) from the headwaters in the Rocky Mountains, this river is a place where echoes of the past tell stories to visitors. The Fraser is truly a 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 so much more.



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

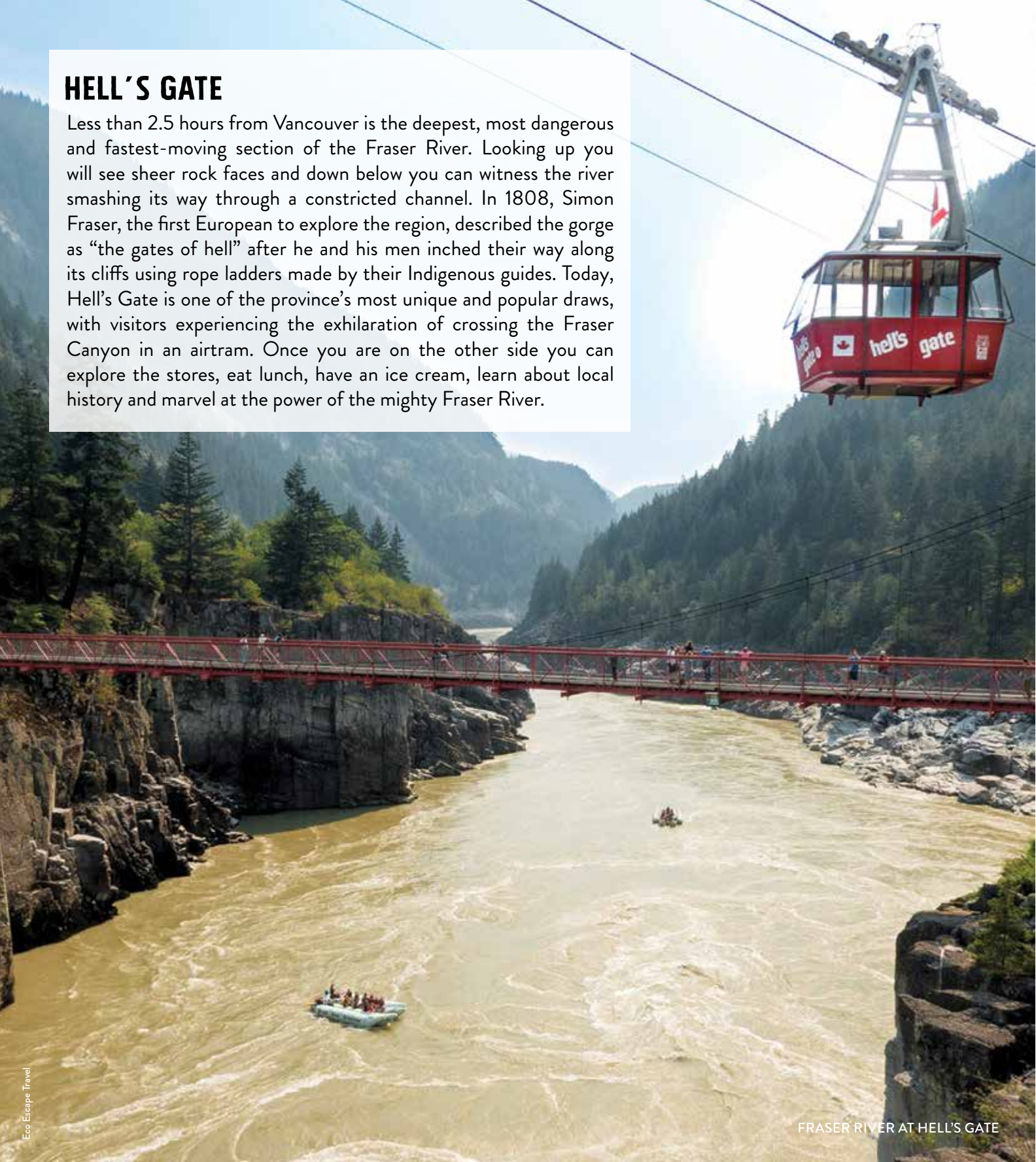
**SHARE YOUR STORIES
AND ADVENTURES**
#goldrushtrail



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. In 1808, 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 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 for 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 take West Side 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 culture at Tuckkwiowhum Heritage Site located 5 km (3 mi) south of Boston Bar.



A scenic landscape photograph showing a river with white water rapids flowing through a lush green forest. In the background, there are rugged mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground shows a rocky, sloping bank with some vegetation.

LYTTON

Fires have become a seasonal event and, as in the case of the 2021 fires, can be devastating to small communities. The communities of Lytton, a historic stop along the Gold Rush Trail, and Lytton First Nation, were destroyed this summer by the Lytton Creek Fire. Two people tragically perished, and homes, businesses and gathering places were lost. But the residents of this area are strong and resilient and determined to rebuild. As the affected communities begin to rebuild, we are all reminded that wildfire safety is a shared responsibility. Residents, tourism operators and visitors all have a part to play in preventing and reporting wildfires. For fire bans and fire safety tips, visit BC Wildfire Service at bcwildfire.ca or find them at @BCGovFireInfo on Twitter.

If you see a wildfire, report it immediately by calling *5555 on a cell phone or 1-800-663-5555, toll-free.

SPENCES BRIDGE

It is here that Mortimer Cook and James Kimball built a rope ferry across the Thompson River to transport the influx of prospectors, earning the community's 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.

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

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.



Tyler Cove

MURRAY FALLS

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 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, stop in at Desert Hills Ranch and browse the greenhouse, farm market and petting zoo.

Historic buildings, unique geological landscapes and the original Cariboo Waggon Road that was by thousands of pioneers are just some of the highlights along BC's Gold Rush Trail. This driving route offers travellers an opportunity to experience everything that makes BC just so beautiful."

- Vancouver is Awesome



Kelly Funk

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

SUNDANCE
GUEST RANCH

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A photograph of a man wearing a cowboy hat and a light-colored shirt, riding a brown and white horse. He is in a desert landscape with mountains in the background.

ASHCROFT

CACHE CREEK

Set in a dramatic desert landscape and ideally located at the junction of Highways 1 and 97, you will arrive at Cache Creek, where 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, as well as 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 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 or spend a sunny afternoon at Horsting's Farm Market and indulge in fresh baked goodies, made-to-order sandwiches from the bakery and purchase locally grown produce.



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#goldcountryBC #GoldCountryGeoTour #GContheTrail Gold Country™BC





HISTORIC HAT CREEK

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 wagon trains and miners traveled and stop in at the historic roadhouse, where interpreters dressed in period clothing will take you on a guided tour of a bygone era.

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.

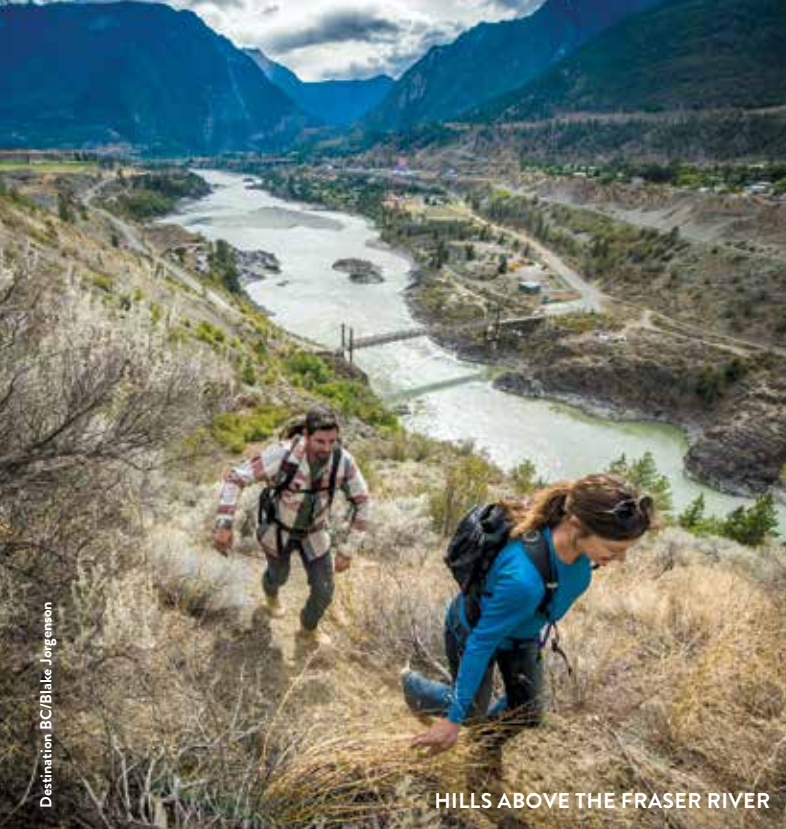
Your experience will really be complete if you spend the night in one of their covered chuck wagons, camp in a miner tent or stay in one of the self-contained, comfortable cabins right on site.

Stroll along the same dirt road that the wagon trains and miners traveled ...



Jenny Bierman

HISTORIC HAT CREEK



Destination BC/Blake Jorgensen

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 everchanging views of the Fraser River. History buffs can drop by the Lillooet Museum & Visitor Centre to view gold rush exhibits of Mile 0, take a tour of the 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 makes 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 Xwísten Experience Tours or Splitrock Environmental. Finally, a trip to Lillooet is not complete without a stop at one or both of the local wineries to sample their fare.



Destination BC/Michael Bednar

FORT BERENS ESTATE WINERY

Be Respectful, Prepared & Safe With Wildlife. Here’s How:

Respect In this region the chances of encountering wildlife are high, but the prospect of human-wildlife conflict is low. You might meet beavers, squirrels and rabbits, or animals that will stop you in your tracks, such as moose, black and grizzly bears, wolves, elk, coyotes, cougars and wolverines. Most wild animals want nothing to do with you. Make them aware of your presence and give them space to move away. Respect them.

Be prepared When travelling through bear country, always carry a fresh can of bear spray on your belt or waist strap. Stash food and scented items in a secured area. Most campgrounds in bear country offer metal bear-proof boxes or poles for hanging your food.



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 really travelling the road less travelled. The communities of Gold Bridge and Bralorne sprang to life 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. These days, outdoor lovers appreciate the valley for its fishing, hunting, mountain biking, 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 m (197 ft) 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 hike on a well-worn path that leads you directly to the base of the pounding falls. The trail offers 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 1.2 km (0.7 mi) out-and-back 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 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 1 km (0.6 mi) hike to the base. These falls are a perfect opportunity to test your directional skills, however, be sure to get local advice on conditions before setting off. Moffat Falls contains two viewpoints: the first one being easily accessible while the second is a short but strenuous climb down to the base of the falls. Be cautious of slippery rocks and aware that access to these falls requires 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 at 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. Today, the gold rush and pioneer history are 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", the area around Clinton is a community hub for many ranches, including an award-winning Thai-influenced spa and more traditional family-focused outfits 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, a gorge spanning 600 m (2,000 ft) and 8 km (5 mi) long walled by red, brown and purple stone walls; the Limestone Quarry, a haven for fossil hunters and rockhounds; 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" 24, 50+ lakes within 50 sq km (19 sq mi), and the stunning Green Lake Recreation Area.

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.



Jonny Bierman

FLYING U RANCH, GREEN LAKE

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 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' 24, Canim Lake and Wells Gray Provincial Park.

100 Mile House is a multi-season 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.

RIDERS AT WATCH LAKE LODGE

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 and gift shop, and is open annually from 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, as the site includes a series of picnic tables, washrooms, 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.



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 19 km (12 mi) long shoreline. Decades before European fur traders came into the area, the Secwepemc established pit houses here. The Tsilhqot’in (*sill-ko-teen*) people, who travelled through the region, named the lake Kumatakwa, translating to “Queen of the Waters.” With a strong history of ranching and agriculture, Lac la Hache is now 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 skiing at nearby Mt. Timothy’s slopes.

Be Fire-Aware, Prepared & Safe. Here’s How:

Fire-Aware Wildfires are a seasonal event in many of British Columbia’s ecosystems, including this region. They can refresh the ecosystem and make way for new growth, but wildfires can also pose a hazard to people and infrastructures.

Preparation The British Columbia Wildfire Service manages wildfire response throughout the province; they also provide information on current wildfire events. For current wildfires, fire danger ratings and air quality, visit the BC Wildfire Service at bcwildfire.ca or call the Fire Information line: 1-888-336-7378.

Safety It is sometimes necessary to restrict the use of campfires and other open fires. These bans or restrictions affect public and private land, including crown land, wilderness areas and campgrounds. When public safety is threatened, Evacuation Alerts and Evacuation Orders may be issued by local authorities. If you encounter a wildfire, you can help keep people safe by reporting it. Call 1-800-663-5555, or *5555 on your cell phone.

150 MILE HOUSE

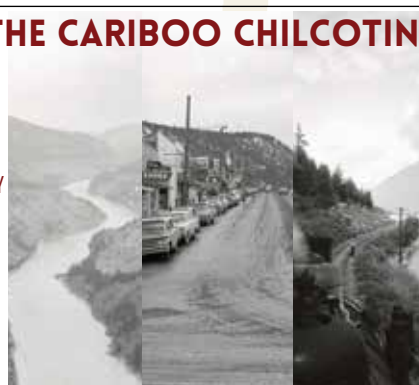
150 Mile House is a quiet ranchland community known for its gold rush, pioneer history and log homes. From 150 Mile House, travellers generally decide whether to continue north to Williams Lake and Quesnel on Highway 97 or head northeast along the original Gold Rush Trail to the resort lake communities of Horsefly and Likely, and even continue the Gold Rush Circle Route through the “Backroad to Barkerville.”

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Jonny Berman

WILLIAMS LAKE FROM SIGNAL POINT

WILLIAMS LAKE

Home and traditional meeting place of the Secwepemc people, the city is named after the 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 while checking 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’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 charming shops and art galleries and check out the heritage murals. Try one or all three of the cities golf courses or visit the 1919 Railway Station House.

Williams Lake boasts the largest legal trail network in the province offering trails for every style and skill level of rider, from single track progressive freeriding 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’sūll Heritage Village and take a guided tour to learn more about Xat’sūll 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, 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 for seasonal fresh veggies and corn at Soda Creek Sweet Corn.

Thomas Drasdauskis

SNOWSHOEING IN THE 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 Dené (*lah-ta-ko den-ay*) 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 former 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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Quesnel
It's in our nature



Destination BC/Laureen Carruthers

BARNEY BENTALL PLAYING AT THE ARTS OF THE FLY FESTIVAL

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 collected 2,835 g (100 oz) 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 and the Cariboo Mountains. The area is dedicated 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 the 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.



John Wellburn

GHOST LAKE

LIKELY

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. 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.

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 a great place to stock up on supplies for your backcountry adventures or perhaps you want to take the “Gold Rush Circle Route” also known as the backroad to Barkerville Historic Town & Park.



Destination BC/Blike Lorgeman

FLY-FISHING IN LIKELY

A group of people are kayaking on a lake. The shoreline is covered in dense evergreen trees. In the background, mountains are visible under a clear sky.

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John Wellburn

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QUESNELLE FORKS

This unique ghost town is reached by a dirt road only 11km (7 mi) 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.

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 Quesnelle Forks Recreation Site is a great rustic camping destination.

A seasonal gravel forestry road winds past stunning waterfalls, pristine lakes and the Cariboo River in an alluring backcountry landscape of sub-alpine meadows to Barkerville Historic Town & Park. Paddle on glacier-fed lakes, back dropped by snow-covered mountain ridges, and capture the perfect vistas with a hike up Cameron Ridge for panoramic views of the Cariboo Mountains. Road conditions vary; check with the Likely Visitor Centre prior to travelling.

GOLD RUSH CIRCLE ROUTE

A seasonal gravel forestry road that winds past stunning waterfalls, pristine lakes and the Cariboo River in an alluring backcountry landscape of sub-alpine meadows to Barkerville Historic Town & Park. Paddle on glacier fed lakes, back dropped by snow-covered mountain ridges, and capture the perfect vistas; hike up Cameron Ridge for panoramic views of the Cariboo Mountains. Road conditions vary; check with the Likely Visitor Centre prior to travelling.



“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



Explore With Grace & Leave No Trace.

Here's How:

Leave No Trace Anyone visiting the outdoors should familiarize themselves with the 7 Leave No Trace principles for leaving a negligible impact on the outdoors:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on hard or durable surfaces
3. Discard of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize the impact of campfires
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

If you pack it in, pack it out, and always be sure to stay on designated trails. Our alpine environments have short growing seasons and are very fragile, so always ride or hike on the path.

Be Prepared Take the essentials and know how to use them:

- Headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries
- Fire making kit
- Extra clothing, including rain gear
- Extra food and water, and a means of purifying it
- Pocket knife
- Sun protection including sunscreen, lip protection and sunglasses
- Emergency blanket or shelter
- First aid kit
- Navigation and communication devices like cell phones, paper maps, compass and/or a GPS.

Explore With Grace If your dog is travelling with you, respect leash laws where they exist – and where they don't, be sure your dog is well-behaved and under voice control at all times. When nature calls, and there isn't an outhouse, choose a site away from a trail, campsite, or a beautiful area. Dig a hole 15-20 cm (6-8 in) deep. When you're finished, completely cover it with dirt and organic matter along with toilet paper, if it can't be packed out.



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.

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.



Royal BC Museum Archives

COTTONWOOD HOUSE



Thomas Dardauskis

COTTONWOOD HOUSE
HISTORIC SITE

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.

Celebrated arts school, Island Mountain Arts, offers classes in the visual, literary and musical performing arts. The Sunset Theatre, built in 1934, hosts the year-round Moonrise Film Festival, with a culmination of theatre performances, music and arts films over the August long weekend (first weekend in August).

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.

**SHARE YOUR STORIES
AND ADVENTURES**
#goldrushtrail



Jonny Bierman

WELLS HOTEL



Thomas Drasdauskis

WELLS BACKCOUNTRY



Destination BC/Adam Wells

BOWRON LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

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 116 km (72 mi) Bowron Lake canoe circuit is world famous 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 in 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**



Thomas Drasdauskis

BOWRON LAKE

BARKERVILLE HISTORIC TOWN & PARK

You have reached the El Dorado of the gold rush, where in August 1862 Billy Barker's legendary gold strike on Williams Creek triggered a multi-billion-dollar industrial revolution that literally built and shaped British Columbia. Gold fever spread like an epidemic when news of the strike filtered out, bringing fortune seekers from around the world into the remote wilderness.

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've just arrived on a Barnard Express stagecoach. Full of colour and authenticity, offering overnight accommodations, stagecoach rides, live theatre, saloons serving mugs of sarsaparilla, a photo studio, a bakery, a courthouse, a well-preserved 19th-century 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.



Tyler Cave

BARKERVILLE MAIN STREET



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
- ✦ Avoid single use plastics

GOLDRUSHTRAIL.CA



