

Wilderness Recreation Guide

TO THE NECHAKO VALLEY



www.vanderhoof.ca

General Info

Situated on the interior plateau of BC 800 km north of Vancouver, Vanderhoof is the Geographical Centre of BC, and has much to offer those interested in outdoor adventure. Before heading out, be sure to get your supplies, licenses and general information...

GETTING LICENSES AND SUPPLIES

We have many businesses that will be happy to assist you with gearing up for your adventure.

Hunting, Fishing and Hiking Supplies

Nechako Outdoors

106 1st Street West • 250-567-9885

Four Rivers Co-op Home Centre

188 Stewart Street East • 250-567-4464

Home Hardware

135 Stewart Street East • 250-567-2246

Earthen Ware

2433 Burrard Avenue • 250-567-4800

Licenses and Regulations

Nechako Outdoors

106 1st Street West • 250-567-9885

Four Rivers Co-op Home C

188 Stewart Street East • 250-567-4464

Service BC Access Centre

189 Stewart Street East • 250-567-6301

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Conservation Officer

If you witness poaching or other infractions to the hunting and fishing regulations, report these to the local Conservation Officer.

189 Stewart Street East • 250-567-6305 or 250-567-6306

9-1-1

Vanderhoof has 911 service. **Call 911 in case of emergency.**



TOP TO BOTTOM: • The lakes and rivers in the area make for excellent fly and cast fishing. • Kayaking is a great way to travel on the rivers and lakes in the region. • Moose are sought after in the Nechako Valley by photographers and hunters alike.

Fishing - Hunting

People travel from around the world to hunt and fish specifically in the Nechako Valley due to the prize-sized rainbow trout and the vast forests rich with wild game and fowl.

POPULAR FISHING LAKES WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF TOWN

Cobb Lake

A small lake with brook trout
Forestry Recreation Site 33, Tenting, Canoeing

Echo Lake

Small secluded lake for camping and fishing.
Forestry Recreation Site 2, Road to Echo Lake is rough and narrow

Fish Lake

Good trout fishing.
Forestry Recreation Site 34, Car-top boat launch, Tenting

Hogsback Lake

Good fishing and swimming.
Forestry Recreation Site 32, Boat launch, Picnic tables, Camping

Nulki Lake

Great for rainbow trout. 14 km south of Vanderhoof on paved and gravel road.
Campsite, Full hook-ups, Cabins, Boat launch

Tachick Lake

Located just 20 minutes south of town, Tachick Lake Resort offers great fishing for rainbow trout weighing up to 8 pounds!
Boat launch, Boat Dock, Canoe and boat rentals, Cabins, RV park. See Tachick Lake Resort brochure for details on rates.



HUNTING

Big River Country

Big River Country represents British Columbia fishing and hunting resorts south of Vanderhoof. These wilderness destinations offer cabin/cottage rentals for your family fishing vacation in the region. Some of the best moose and bear hunting in Central BC can be accessed from these resorts.

Amenities vary depending on the resort. Visit www.bigrivercountry.ca to book your vacation.

ABOVE: Black bear.

BELOW: Fishing opportunities abound in the Nechako Valley for families to the outback sportsman. However, note that the **endangered Nechako white sturgeon lives within the waters of the Nechako River watershed. Fishing for Nechako white sturgeon is illegal!**



Camping

There are numerous places to camp in and around Vanderhoof - from the isolated wilderness lodges, to the powered RV parks - there is something to meet every traveller's needs in Vanderhoof.

RV & TENT CAMPING

Brookside Resort

30km East of Vanderhoof on Hwy 16
250-441-3391

Tenting, Full Hook-ups, Showers, Laundry, Store

Coachlight Motel & Camping

2110 Highway 16 East
250-567-2614

RVs, Motorcycle Friendly

Riverside Campground

3100 Burrard Street (at Riverside Park)
250-567-4710 • info@district.vanderhoof.ca

Tenting, Pull-thru, Showers, Power, Water, Sani-station, Riverside, Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Park and Playground, Wi-Fi

Saik'uz Park - Nulki Lake

776 Kenney Dam Road, Saik'uz First Nation Reserve
250-567-9293

Lakefront, RVs, Tenting, Cabins, Showers, Boat Launch, Sani-station

Hogsback Lake - Forest Service campsite

Located at 22.5 km on Blackwater Road.

Campground, Picnic tables, Outhouses, Lakeside, Boat launch, Hiking trail

Cheslatta Falls

Located at 55 km on the Holy Cross Forest Service Road.
Access from Kenney Dam Road, or Highway 16.

Campground, Picnic tables, Outhouses, Riverside, Hiking trail

BC Recreation Sites

There are a multitude of BC Recreation Sites in our area. Visit www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca for a complete map of trails and campsites for our region.



TOP TO BOTTOM: • Hogsback Lake is a favourite summertime camping spot for locals and visitors alike. The warm water, sandy beach areas, and good fishing make for a good family-oriented stay. • Cabin at Finger Lake Resort, one of the Big River Country resorts south of Vanderhoof. • Riverside Park Campground is located in Vanderhoof adjacent the Nechako River and Migratory Bird Sanctuary, and across the street from the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre. The campground has pull through sites and big campsites for larger RVs.



RESORTS & LODGES

There are a number of resorts south of Vanderhoof, from 30 km to over 100 km out of town on gravel roads. Each resort offers its own unique experience from world-class fly-fishing to amazing Swiss cuisine. There are resorts which offer float plane charters, boat rentals, full service cabin rentals, and rustic campsites. Whether you are interested in hunting and fishing or just a backwoods getaway there is a resort here just for you! With superb angling, excellent hunting, amazing hiking and photography including wildlife viewing at your fingertips, why wait?

Ask at the Visitor Centre about the individual resorts.

ABOVE: If you are looking for peace and quiet, explore the many Big River Country resorts located south of Vanderhoof. These visitors to Tatuk Lake Resort are taking full advantage of the beauty you will find here.

BELOW: The Nechako River flows through the community of Vanderhoof, and is one of the most unique rivers in North America. Its diverse scenery, migratory bird sanctuary, controversial history, and resident population of the endangered Nechako white sturgeon make the Nechako River a must stop. Many groups enjoy canoeing and camping along the banks of the Nechako River. Check with the Visitor Centre for more details.



LEFT: Sunset on Tachick Lake.

Make your stay in the Vanderhoof area even more interesting – check out our local Geocaching sites and local tours!

Hiking

Stop and stretch your legs on one of the many hiking trails in and around Vanderhoof. From wheelchair accessible to advanced level hikes, come and enjoy the scenery and wildlife of the area.

WITHIN 10 MINUTES FROM TOWN

Vanderhoof Community Trails

Wheelchair accessible trail system that loops around the community. Start at Riverside Park and enjoy the views of the river, or at the Vanderhoof Community Museum for a step back in time. Interpretive signs line this trail and speak to the nature along the trail and history of the area.

There are many access points. Pick up a trail guide at the Visitor Centre.

Evelyn Dickson Trails

Nice, quiet, scenic trail with dips and turns good for hiking and biking. Starting at Evelyn Dickson school, the trail has connections to Hwy 16 or Kenney Dam Road.

Located on Fifth Street, 2 km from the Visitor Centre.

Waterlily Lake Trail

The trail has 7 loops from 1.2 km to 12.6 km in length, and range from beginner to advanced trails. Most trails are marked with triangular orange trail markers. Points of interest include: Homestead Lake and Waterlily Lake; an old trapper's cabin; many interesting geological and geographical points of interest including the Moose Mountain Geodetic Survey marker at Logan's Point; an amazing view of Blue Mountain and the mountains around Stuart Lake can be seen from here.

This trail is used in the winter time for cross country skiing, and hiking in the summer. The trail is not well maintained in the summer, so wear good footwear

Located 2.4 km down Smedley Road off Sturgeon Point Road, 13 km from the Visitor Centre. Access Sturgeon Point Road from Northside Road.



Omineca Trail

This historic trail was used for hundreds of years by First Nations. It was the trade route of the Dakelh (Carrier) First Nations people from Noonla (narrow crossing on the Nechako River) to the Stuart River and Stuart Lake. Then in the 1870s, the path was used as a pack trail to the Omineca Gold Fields by prospectors to the area. From the trailhead on Striegler Pit Road, the trail is 15 km long (one way) ending at the Old Ferry Crossing on the Stuart River.

Note the side trails to McLeod Meadow, Wonder Lake and Expected Lake off this trail. All trails are marked and excellent for horseback and mountain biking.

Trailhead located roughly 5 km down Striegler Pit Road ~19 km from the Visitor Centre. Turn onto Striegler Pit Road from Northside Road.



WITHIN AN HOUR OF TOWN

Sinkut Mountain

For the best view of the Nechako Valley, head up Sinkut Mountain. A radio station and look-out tower sit atop this peak, which is the highest point seen from Vanderhoof.

The hike is 2.7 km (one way) and is hard to moderate. The hike is uphill for the entire length on rough gravel road.

The route to get to Sinkut Mountain is not direct. You can drive to the gate, which is approx. 41 km from the Visitor Centre. Ask for directions.

Telegraph Trail

This trail is another historic landmark of the area. The trail was built as part of the Collins Overland Telegraph in 1865 in an ill-fated attempt to link North America to Europe. Pieces of the old telegraph wire are still strung on old poles.

Walk the trail, built on top of an esker - evidence of our glacial covered past - for views of the lakes. The loop trail is 10 km (one way). You can either start at the Hogback Lake trailhead or the Telegraph Trailhead. The trail is moderate to rough and is good for hiking and advanced mountain biking.

Hogback Lake Trailhead is located at 22.5 km on Blackwater Road. Follow the signs to the BC Forest Service campsite, staying left. Park in the most easterly parking lot and look for a trailhead sign. Telegraph Trailhead is located 12.1 km from the Hogsback Lake Road entrance. Look for Telegraph Trail sign on the right.

Greer Creek Falls

This trail weaves through the forest to the base of an impressive 8 m waterfall. The pool at the bottom of the falls is suitable for swimming. A picnic table offers an ideal setting for a summer outing. Outhouse also on site.

The trail is 1.2 km long and takes approx. 30 minutes to hike. The hill at the end of the trail that leads down to Greer Creek is steep, but the path is good for strollers and dayhikers.

Drive 22 km to the Kenney Dam Road/Kluskus intersection and turn left onto the Kluskus FSR. Trail is at approx. 18 km from the intersection, just past the 37 km marker. There is a parking area to the right of the road.

Home Lake Trail

This trail is well marked and maintained all the way into Home Lake. Once at the lake there is a small Forest Service cabin that can be used for picnicing.

The trail is 6 km long (one way) and takes approximately 2.5 hours to hike. Return on the same trail back.

Drive 22 km to the Kenney Dam Road/Kluskus intersection and turn left onto the Kluskus FSR. Trail is at approx. 21 km from the intersection.

PREVIOUS PAGE: Greer Creek Falls is an easy to moderate hike and is a wonderful place to spend the afternoon picnicking and swimming in the pool. LEFT: View from the top of Sinkut Mountain.

OVER AN HOUR OUT OF TOWN

Cutoff Butte Trail

This hike goes to the top of Cutoff Butte, which is the site of an ancient volcanic landmark. There are spectacular views of the surrounding area and is great for picnicking.

The trail is 1.3 km long (30 minute hike), over very steep terrain. Return on the same trail back to your vehicle.

Drive 22 km to the Kenney Dam Road/Kluskus intersection and turn left onto the Kluskus FSR. Trail is 87.9 km from the intersection.

Cheslatta Falls

The trail goes through a peaceful pine forest on a ridge overlooking the roaring Cheslatta River below. It winds around and finally stops at the edge of a cliff directly beside Cheslatta Falls, allowing for a spectacular view.

The trail is 1.2 km long (one way) and takes about 2 hours to hike. There are hiking diamonds along the pathway. **Caution**, this trail and the cliff by the falls can be slippery when wet. This trail is not suitable or safe for young children or pets.

Travel down Kenney Dam Road, crossing the dam, and turning right onto the Holy Cross FSR (~ 97 km). Go 11 km and follow the signs to the falls. Watch for logging traffic on the FSR.

Bedrock Outcropping



This location was the site of
was in operation during the
The Heritage Nature Trail
along the original road bed

Northern
British Columbia



Photo Credits: Wayne Salewski, Chris Mushumanski, Rod Nelson, Doug Goodwin, Annerose Georgeson, Lisa Burgener, Finger Lake Resort, HSP Ranch, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Tachick Lake Resort, Tatuk Lake Resort, Michelle Roberge, Visitor Centre, Mia Moutray.

For more information about this guide, please contact:



DISTRICT OF

Vanderhoof

Vanderhoof Museum & Visitor Centre

Located at 478 1st Street, PO Box 297
Vanderhoof, BC

visitor_info@district.vanderhoof.ca

250-567-3374

250-567-4711 (off-season)

www.vanderhoof.ca

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[@vanderhoofmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/vanderhoofmuseum)

