



The Great Circle Route



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This Circle Tour features the Kootenay Rockies

From **Calgary** travelling westerly on the TransCanada Hwy #1 through *Banff* and *Yoho National Parks* to the town of **Golden**. (See the **Golden Triangle Route** for details on Yoho and Golden).

Continue along Hwy #1 to *Glacier National Park* which has over 400 glaciers covering one-tenth of its area. Shortly after you leave the park, you'll arrive at *Canyon Hot Springs*; a wonderful place to take a break and relax.

Further west, you'll find rare old-growth rainforest, in *Mount Revelstoke National Park*. Watch for signs to the *Meadows in the Sky Parkway* and drive to within 2 kilometres (1 mi) of the summit.

The railway city of **Revelstoke**, is situated at the highway junction #1 and #23. Pick up a *Heritage Tour* brochure from the Info Centre and learn about the fascinating history. Visit Revelstoke's excellent *Railway Museum* or take a tour of BC Hydro's colossal *Revelstoke Dam*, just a few minutes north of town. Nineteen kilometres (12 mi) west of Revelstoke, is the unique community of **Three Valley**. It combines a large modern resort with a historic ghost town, allowing visitors to step back

in history to relive the colourful pioneer days of the late 1880s. And, just moments further west on Hwy #1 is *The Enchanted Forest, Crazy Creek Waterfalls and Suspension Bridge* and **Craigellachie**, famous for the point where the 'last spike' was driven, joining the western part of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the segment built from the east.

From Revelstoke, head south on Hwy #23 along the Upper Arrow Lake to Silvery Slokan area. Visit the villages of **Nakusp, New Denver, Sandon, Silverton and Slokan**. Once you reach Hwy #3A, a trip to the beautiful lakeside city of **Nelson** is a must; all outlined in the **Silvery Slokan Circle Route**.

After a short drive south on Hwy #3A, the city of **Castlegar** and the communities of **Rossland, Trail & Christina Lake**. (See the **International Discovery Loop** for details on these communities).

Continue your tour south on Hwy #6/3 to the charming small town of **Creston** which boasts plentiful orchards resulting in many roadside stands selling seasonal fruits and vegetables. The *Creston Wildlife Management Area* is a wildlife sanctuary and an important layover for birds. Visit the *Interpre-*

tive Centre, take a voyageur canoe tour or stroll along the marches on a boardwalk.

Hwy #3/95 will lead you to **Cranbrook**. Cranbrook's heritage lies in the romantic age of railroading and is featured in the *Canadian Museum of Rail Travel*.

From Cranbrook, take Hwy #93/95, for a visit to *Fort Steele Heritage Town* or the Elk Valley, (See the **Rockies and Ranchlands Circle Route**) or Hwy #95A to the 'Bavarian City of the Rockies', **Kimberley**. The centre of Kimberley is the *Platzl*, surrounded by shuttered windows and flower baskets. From Kimberley, head north on Hwy #95A to Highway #93/95 and **Fairmont Hot Springs**, an elegant 4 ½ star resort offering you the ultimate in relaxation and recreation.

Explore the streets of **Invermere**, *Lake Windermere* offering a beach and warm swimming water and **Panorama's** all season resort village (just north of Fairmont).

At the village of **Radium Hot Springs**, enjoy scenic Hwy #93 through *Kootenay National Park* (see **Golden Triangle** for more details) back to Calgary.



Number of Days	6 Days/5 Nights
Tour Distance	1,200 km/750 mi
Day 1: Calgary to Golden	3 1/2 Hour Drive
Day 2: Golden to Revelstoke	2 Hour Drive
Day 3: Revelstoke to Nelson	4 Hour Drive
Day 4: Nelson to Cranbrook	4 Hour Drive
Day 5: Cranbrook to Fairmont/Invermere	1 1/2 Hour Drive
Day 6: Fairmont to Calgary	3 Hour Drive

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Special Interest

Cranbrook – Cdn Museum of Rail Travel, Fort Steele Heritage Town

Creston—Creston Valley Wildlife Centre, Columbia Brewery

Golden—Kicking Horse Mtn Resort/Gondola, Columbia Wetlands

*Hot Springs—Canyon, Halycon, Nakusp, Ainsworth, Lussier, Fairmont,
Radium*

Invermere—Lake Windermere, Panorama Mtn Village

Kimberley—Platzl, Sullivan Mining Railway, Marysville Falls

National Parks— Yoho, Glacier, Mt. Revelstoke & Kootenay

*Nelson—Heritage Walking Tours, Waterfront Park & Beach, Streetcar #23,
Artwalk, Capital Theatre*

Radium—Natural Hot Springs/Pool, Sinclair Canyon

Revelstoke—Railway Museum, BC Hydro Dam

Three Valley Gap—Ghost Town, Enchanted Forest, Crazy Creek Falls

**Itinerary Planning:
KootenayRockies.com/itineraries**



The **myTrip** tool from the website, KootenayRockies.com, creates a travel vacation package for you by customizing your preferred activities and services in the Kootenay Rockies region.

The Great Circle Route encompasses the entire Kootenay Rockies, a region of majestic natural beauty. Discover spectacular views, woodland walks, hanging glaciers, hidden hot springs, sparkling lakes, outstanding resorts, wonderful attractions and friendly mountain towns. You may begin this tour from any of the region's communities.

