

SILVERY SLOCAN

REVELSTOKE – NAKUSP - NEW DENVER – NELSON – KASLO

APPROX. 450 KM/280 MI



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Halcyon & Nakusp Hot Springs
- Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre
- Ghost Town of Sandon & Idaho Peak
- Nelson
- SS Moyie & Kaslo
- Goat Range , Kokanee Glacier & Valhalla Provincial Parks

South of Revelstoke the region's largest river, the Columbia, flows into the Arrow Lakes. Today, this sparsely populated area is best known for its numerous hot springs and quaint unique towns. But in the 19th century, the river was the star attraction. Like many waterways in the Kootenay Rockies, the Columbia functioned like a highway. Until the ore gave out, sternwheelers and hastily constructed railways carried miners and supplies from Revelstoke to the rich boomtowns of the Silvery Slocan. The mining boom is long gone, but the boomtowns are still there.

This tour can begin with a beautiful 30 minute ferry ride to Galena Bay. From here, Halcyon Hot Springs is just a short distance along Highway #23 and the Upper Arrow

Lake. Halcyon offers a place of recreation and wellness in a spectacular setting with four pools, accommodation, RV park, gift shop, restaurant, spa and adventure packages.

Also on the shores of the Arrow Lakes is the village of Nakusp. High in the Selkirk Mountains, Nakusp Hot Springs occupies a beautiful setting, with hot and warm pools, cabins and camping, and several nearby hiking trails—trail maps available at the downtown Visitor Centre.

Across from the magnificent Valhalla mountain range and New Denver glacier, the small towns of New Denver and Silverton sit on the unspoiled shore of Slocan Lake. You can experience nature's beauty and aspects of the area's history during an ATV tour, or visit the Nikkei Internment

Memorial Centre in New Denver to learn the story of the internment of thousands of Canadians of Japanese descent during World War II.

A short drive (or cycle on the Galena Trail) from New Denver, discover Sandon, British Columbia's legendary ghost city, and experience the silver rush of the 1800s. And, no trip to Sandon is complete without a visit to the Sandon Historical Society's Museum! The road to the wonderful Idaho Peak hiking trail begins at Sandon.

The spectacularly beautiful Slocan Valley was once a magnet for thousands of hopeful prospectors and miners. Today, the charming towns and villages, nestled in this valley, enjoy a quiet serenity. Travel south along Highway #6 towards Valhalla Provincial Park and Slocan Lake where public boat launches can be found along the way.

Continue following Highway #6 to the 'Queen City' Nelson. Nelson's boom came when two prospectors accidentally discovered a rich silver outcrop. Their 'find' attracted a number of miners to the area increasing its population and making Nelson the oldest city on the west side of the Kootenay Rockies region. Nelson is home to many fine heritage buildings, from elegant mansions to elaborate commercial structures and offers more than just its great heritage. The community's annual Art Walk (July & August) showcases the local artisans' incredible work. And, Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History celebrates the creativity, the history, the vibe that is Nelson—Canada's Best Small Art Town.

Carry-on in a northerly direction on Highway #3A along the west arm of Kootenay Lake to Ainsworth Hot Springs where you'll want to rejuvenate in the hot, natural, mineral springs water. The resort also offers dining options, a lounge, overnight accommodation and massage therapy.

The village of Kaslo is set at the highway junction of #31/#31A. The restored SS Moyie, the world's oldest intact passenger sternwheeler and proud symbol of Kaslo's heritage, sits on the shores of Kootenay Lake. Kaslo's 19th-century buildings have also benefitted from this community's commitment to its heritage. If you like music, visit during the Jazz Festival that showcases the world's best on a floating stage each August holiday weekend.

Continue travelling north on Highway #31 along Kootenay Lake. Past the village of Howser, and along Trout Lake and the Goat Range Park, Highway #31 turns into a gravel road. In the village of Trout Lake, check out the Windsor Hotel that was established in 1892 for a historical adventure. Venture into this wilderness area and explore the friendly, small communities for a while before you conclude the Silvery Slocan tour.



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