

HOT SPRINGS

FAIRMONT – RADIUM – REVELSTOKE – NAKUSP - AINSWORTH
APPROX. 800 KM/500 MI



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Six natural Hot Springs Resorts (Ainsworth, Canyon, Fairmont, Radium, Halcyon, Nakusp)
- Three wilderness hot springs (Lussier, Halfway & Buhl)
- Four National Parks (Glacier, Kootenay, Mt. Revelstoke & Yoho)
- Over 75 Provincial Parks
- Artisans, Shopping & Historic Attractions

Hot springs occur naturally in the Kootenay Rockies and the region boasts six hot springs resorts each located in the midst of beautiful mountainous scenery. If you prefer a wilderness setting, the region also includes a number of backcountry pools, such as Lussier Hot Springs. Enjoy the calm and rejuvenating waters.

Let's begin this tour in Fairmont Hot Springs. Just south, you may want to leave the highway behind for a visit to the Lussier Hot Springs in Whiteswan Lake Provincial Park—the turnoff is near Canal Flats and this drive is 18 km (11 mi) on a gravel road. These popular pools are easily accessed down a gradual slope from the road where there are

several pools among the boulders which average 44°C (111°F). The Whiteswan Lake Park is a wonderful recreational area with campgrounds and two great fishing lakes.

The historic Fairmont Hot Springs Resort has a 10,000 square foot, year-round, odourless hot springs pool offering natural mineral waters averaging 30°C to 39°C (86°F to 102°F). This complex includes a swimming and diving pool as well. Resort amenities include 45 holes of golf, 7 restaurants, recreational programs, spa, overnight lodging and a deluxe RV park.

Nearby Panorama Mountain Village, a four season resort, offers outdoor pursuits and a variety of heated pools and summertime waterslides exclusive to overnighting guests.

Radium Hot Springs natural mineral pool is set amidst the spectacular red rock walls of Sinclair Canyon in Kootenay National Park. The odourless hot pool is open year-round at 37°C to 41°C (98°F to 106°F) and the swimming pool is 29°C (85°F). The dramatic scenery and soothing water combine to rejuvenate.

Continue north on Highway #95 to Golden. The TransCanada Highway #1 and Rogers Pass will take you through magnificent Glacier National Park and to Canyon Hot Springs. This resort, open May to September, offers natural mineral hot pools—a 15,000 gallon hot pool (40°C/104°F) and a 60,000 gallon swimming pool (31°C/88°F), a campground, RV park and wonderful cabin accommodation. Set in the Columbia Mountains, its location also offers many hiking trails including Giant Cedars and Skunk Cabbage Trail in Mount Revelstoke National Park. Or, drive the 26 km (16 mi) Meadows in the Sky Parkway to Balsam Lake, and either hike or take the bus to the top of the mountain.

Once you arrive at the city of Revelstoke, head south on Highway #23 towards the Upper Arrow Lakes Ferry for a swift and scenic crossing to Galena Bay and soon thereafter, Halcyon Hot Springs. Surrounded by the spectacular Monashee mountain range and the crystal blue lake, the resort's four mineral-rich natural hot springs pools await, each at a different temperature. Revitalize in the full service spa or enjoy fresh and delicious selections from the Kingfisher's culinary team while taking in the alpine scenery. The Nakusp Hot Springs naturally heated mineral pools are situated in a beautiful mountain setting, with creeks rushing by and trees to shade your eyes. The small pool averages 38-41°C (100-106°F) and the large 36-38°C (97-100°F). Cedar chalets and a shaded campground are located on-site. There's also a variety of lodging available nearby and downtown. The Nakusp area also offers the wilderness Halfway River Hot Springs – please consult the *Backroad Mapbook* for access details.

Once you're ready to proceed, travel south on Highway #6 to New Denver and then take Highway #31A past the ghost town of Sandon to the pretty village of Kaslo. New Denver and Silverton offer artisan shops, walking trails and the Nikkei Internment Centre. Sandon and Kaslo offer excellent historical attractions such as Slocan Mercantile Block and the SS Moyie. (*Check the Silvery Slocan Circle Route for details.*)

Ainsworth Hot Springs is a short drive south on Highway #31 from Kaslo. This resort offers casual dining and renovated (2012) rooms overlooking beautiful Kootenay Lake. These unique odourless hot springs have a horseshoe shaped cave, which is lined with stalagmites and stalactites. Explore the cave pool (43°C/109°F) or relax in the main pool, averaging 36°C (97°F) and gaze at the magnificent Purcell Mountain view. For the brave, there's also a stream-fed cold plunge which changes temperatures with the seasons.

At Balfour, 14 km (9 mi) south of Ainsworth, take the free Kootenay Lake Ferry to Crawford Bay. Explore the many artisan shops along Hwy 3A as you wrap up the tour.

KOOTENAY ROCKIES TOURISM

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