

KOOTENAY ROCKIES CIRCLE ROUTES

The Driving Itineraries featured below highlight many of the area's attractions and activities – but there is so much more to discover! Incomparable scenic beauty is waiting to be explored around every corner – crystal clear rivers, lakes, waterfalls, beaches, mineral hot springs, alpine meadows and snow-capped mountains. Outdoor pursuits here are epic – the area is one of Canada's pre-eminent destinations for hiking and mountain biking, as well as for whitewater rafting. There are also opportunities to visit restored heritage towns, thriving arts communities and gold rush boomtowns.

Enjoy all this mountain playground has to offer.

MOUNTAINS & VINEYARDS

Approx 1,250 km / 775 mi



The interior of British Columbia is christened with rich landscapes teeming with diversity. Lakes, mountains, deserts, valleys and exciting urban centres are ripe for exploration. For its length and limitless opportunities, the Mountains & Vineyards route reigns supreme. Discover pristine orchards, beautiful vineyards that hug the rolling hills and family-run farms. Taste the bounty of this fertile land. In the warm evening glow, settle into a mountain resort where wine tastings and locally-inspired food will win your heart.

Begin this tour in **Creston** where three wonderful wineries are located: Baillie-Grohman, Skimmerhorn and Wynwood Cellars.

The Creston Valley is a retreat for outdoor adventurers, foodies, creative souls and lovers of the land.

Enjoy a tour, pick your own fruit, taste cheese, meet the cows, browse the art studios, view the murals, sample at the wineries and brewery.

Travel west from Creston to Trail via Salmo and Hwy #3 (124 km / 77 mi).

Salmo offers a quaint downtown, museum and rock murals.

Trail, established in the 1890's, is set alongside the Columbia River. Stroll downtown Trail's 'IncrEdible' Trail and help yourself to fruits and vegetables growing in sidewalk planters.

- The Columbia Gardens Vineyard & Winery is a small winery producing VQA quality wines that offers a quaint guest house for overnight stays.
- The free tour of the Teck Trail Interpretive Centre is a must-do.

Trail to Castlegar is 26 km / 16 mi via Highway #22.

Trail to Rosland is 7 km / 4 mi via Highway #3B.

Castlegar is the centre of adventure, the home to an impressive network of trails, where hikers and cyclists enjoy the natural setting of the city and its vicinity. World-class fishing, kayaking and golfing are also popular.

Enjoy the Millennium Walkway & Ponds, Doukhobor Discovery Centre, Zuckenberg Island Heritage Park, Sculpturewalk & more.

Rosland, perched high in the Monashee Mountains, was the site of one of Canada's richest 19th century gold strikes.

- During the summer, the Gold Fever Follies present a live musical theatre show and a downtown Mountain Market takes place Thursday evenings.
- Rosland is also well known for its Seven Summits Trail, one of the most sought after cross-country / all-mountain bike rides in North America.

Rosland to Christina Lake is 75 km / 47 mi via Highway #3. Christina Lake is a summer family vacation destination. It offers a warm swimming lake, sandy beaches and mountain biking on the C&W Rail Trail.

Highway #3 from Christina Lake to Osoyoos is 144 km / 89 mi via Grand Forks.

- Located at the confluence of the Granby and Kettle Rivers, Grand Forks is proud of its mining and Doukhobor heritage.
- Osoyoos is Canada's only true desert town, offering a plethora of First Nations culture, winery experiences and family recreation.

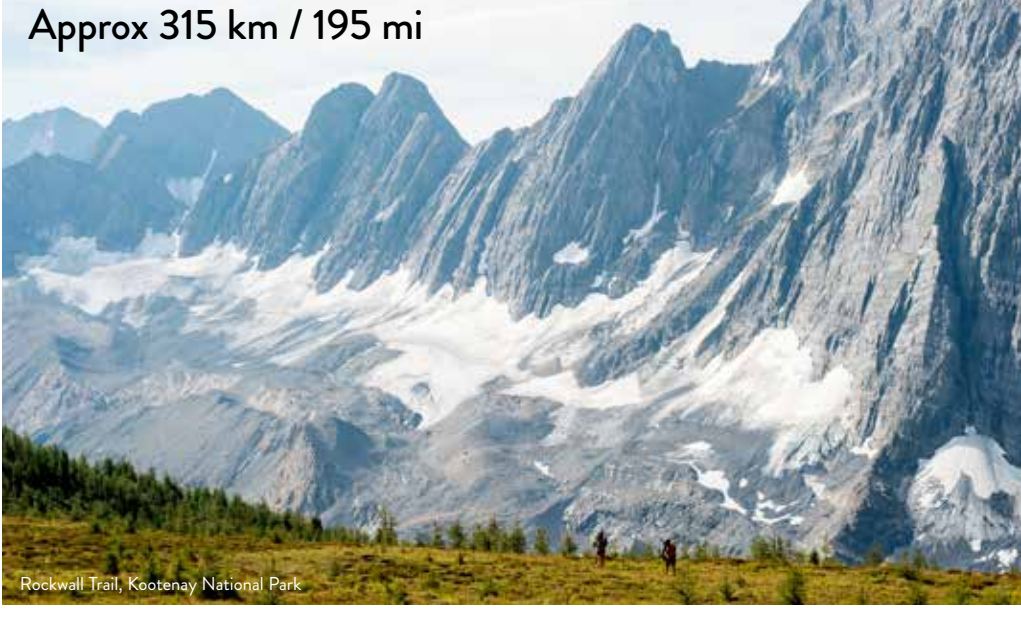
Travel north on Highway #97 to Kelowna (123 km / 77 mi) via Penticton.

- Osoyoos to Kelowna is known as the 'wine route' and is BC's most productive area for vineyards and orchards. Be sure to stop along the way for a wine tour and fruit sampling.

- Penticton offers miles of beautiful beaches, wineries and orchard markets.
- Climb aboard the vintage Kettle Valley Steam Railway in Summerland.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Approx 315 km / 195 mi



Framed by jagged mountains covered in snow and ice, the peaks that envelope the Golden Triangle are breathtaking to behold. Prepare for the trek of a lifetime; park your car at a trailhead and saunter into an untouched natural world where rushing rivers, emerald lakes and sky-high summits fill the unspoken void of every man or creature, who wanders in. After the exploration, unwind in a timber-framed mountain lodge, refuel with a gourmet meal and rest your weary feet by the crackling fire.

Travel Highway #1 through Yoho National Park and the village of Field to Golden (78 km / 48 mi).

Yoho National Park is a landscape which is simply awe-inspiring. Indeed, the word 'Yoho' is a Cree expression of awe and wonder.

- Spiral Tunnels is an engineering marvel that reduces the railway grade through the Kicking Horse Pass. Up to 30 trains pass through the tunnels daily. The viewpoint is 7.5 km east of Field.

- Established in 1880, the village of Field is a lovely town with fewer than 200 residents that offers accommodation, crafts and culinary delights.
- Other attractions in Yoho National Park include Takakaw Falls, Natural Bridge, Emerald Lake, Wapta Falls & Burgess Shale fossils beds guided hikes.

Yoho Park western boundary to Golden is 27 km / 17 mi.

The town of Golden is renowned for outdoor recreation. Situated at the confluence of the historic Columbia and Kicking Horse Rivers, it is surrounded by three mountain peaks.

- Activities include kayaking, whitewater rafting, sky diving, paragliding and golfing. There is a bike park, sightseeing gondola, Grizzly Bear Refuge and the Via Ferrata.

- Enjoy Golden's many festivals, events and farmers markets.
- Golden's Kicking Horse Pedestrian Bridge is Canada's longest authentic freestanding covered timber-frame bridge.

Highway #95 takes you from Golden to Radium Hot Springs (106 km / 66 mi).

- The Columbia Valley Wetlands, alongside the Columbia River and Hwy #95, is the life support system for 216 animal species including hundreds of thousands of birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and mammals.
- Watch for the World's Largest Paddle in Parson, south of Golden.

Village of **Radium Hot Springs** services include adventure operators, restaurants, shops and lodging from campgrounds to full-service resorts. Adjacent are Kootenay National Park and the Radium Hot Springs pools.

Highway #93 northeast from Radium Hot Springs travels through Kootenay National Park (105 km / 65 mi).

Set in the Rocky Mountains, Kootenay National Park offers many viewpoints, roadside attractions and guided hikes.

- Sinclair Canyon is one of the most impressive gateways to a national park offering views and trails on both sides of the highway.
- At Radium Hot Springs pools (3 km from the village), soak in the naturally heated, mineral rich water.

- Kootenay Valley roadside viewpoint offers views of the Mitchell and Vermilion mountain ranges, and the Kootenay River.
- Enjoy a self-guided interpretive walk at the Paint Pots, Marble Canyon or Continental Divide. Or a Burgess Shale fossils at Stanley Glacier guided hike.

INTERNATIONAL SELKIRK LOOP

Approx 450 km / 280 mi



From the US, head north on Highway #20 toward the international border.

Newport to the Canada/US border is 117 km / 73 mi.

- The town of Tiger is located at the Highway junctions #20/31 and is the gateway to the North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway.
- The Tiger Historical Centre & Museum began as a 1912 general store. It offers historical displays, local art and a working turn-of-the-century forge.

From Tiger, head north on Highway #31.

- Metaline Falls is known as one of America's Top 100 Best Small Arts Towns. It is home to the Cutter Theatre, a 1912 restored schoolhouse.
- Other Metaline attractions include the Mill Pond Historic Trail and tours of the Gardner Cave.

Nelway to Nelson is 55 km / 34 mi on Highway #6.

- Salmo has a fascinating gold rush and logging history that is celebrated in the town's famous stone murals and historic mining museum.
- Ymir is a tiny authentic mountain community with a store, bakery, two hotels and the beautiful Logden Lodge.

Nelson boasts a vivid past of Victorian architecture, colourful cultural histories and a vibrant art scenes. These unique qualities are complemented by world-class outdoor adventure plus great dining, shopping and accommodation options.

- Ride the Streetcar #23 tramway at Lakeside Park & Prestige Resort.
- Wonderful farmers markets take place in summer every Wed and Sat.
- Nelson-Salmo Great Northern Trail is a gentle rail bed that allows biking.

Nelson to Balfour is 34 km / 21 mi on Highway #3A.

- West Arm Provincial Park is largely undeveloped and popular for activities such as fishing, hiking and swimming.
- Kokanee Creek Provincial Park offers camping, hiking and a zipline.
- Balfour has many visitor amenities and is the location of the Kootenay Lake Ferry. Take the world's longest free ferry ride from Balfour to the village of Crawford Bay.

Continue on Highway #3A south to Creston, alongside the east shore of Kootenay Lake (78 km / 48 mi).

- Crawford Bay is home to many unique artisan shops and galleries.

HOT SPRINGS

Approx 800 km / 500 mi



Wedged into the rocky and remote creases of these stunning mountains are untamed natural hot springs that will soothe, inspire and rejuvenate. Drive along quiet, tree-lined lakeshores where rustic resorts, historic silver-rush towns, natural caves and backcountry trails will leave a lasting impression. Venture into this unknown wilderness on bike, on foot, in a kayak – then relax in warm, mineral rich water at some of the most enticing natural hot springs pools in the province.

The Kootenay Rockies is home to numerous hot springs ranging from wonderful resorts to wilderness backcountry pools. Visit them all and enjoy the communities along the way.

Cranbrook and Kimberley offer an array of activities, attractions and wonderful overnighting options. Cranbrook is the business centre for the area while nearby Kimberley also offers great services as well as one of Canada's largest municipal parks.

- The Cranbrook Historical Centre is all about trains and houses the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel, Cranbrook Archives, Royal Alexandra Hall and the Cranbrook Museum.

- The Kimberley Underground Mining Railway offers a ride through the Mark Creek Valley. Enjoy the theatre, mining school house & powerhouse.

- Great biking, walking and hiking trails include Cranbrook's Community Forest, Kimberley's Nature Park and the Rails to Trails.

- St Eugene Resort offers world-class golf and a casino.

Head north on Highway #93/95. En route are three great hot springs: Lussier, Fairmont Hot Springs and Radium Hot Springs.

Cranbrook to Radium Hot Springs is 157 km / 98 mi.

- Near Canal Flats, take the Whiteswan Lake Provincial Park turnoff to Lussier Hot Springs'. It's an 18 km/11 mi drive on a gravel road. These popular wilderness hot springs are easily accessed down a gradual slope. Several pools set amongst boulders average 44°C (111°F).
- Buhl Creek Hot Springs' are also accessed from a highway turnoff near Canal Flats. The small creekside hot springs are found off Skookumchuck Forest Service Road and are best to visit during the summer.

- Fairmont Hot Springs Resort offers to 10,000 square foot, odorless hot springs pool complex. Resort amenities include 45 holes of golf, dining outlets, spa, lodging and deluxe RV resort & adventure centre.

- Radium Hot Springs natural mineral pool is set amidst the spectacular red rock walls of Sinclair Canyon in Kootenay National Park. The naturally heated mineral water is usually 39°C (102°F). The property also includes a day spa, restaurant and gift shop.

Follow Highway #95 to Golden (106 km / 66 mi). Check the Golden Triangle Itinerary for town of Golden information.

Head west on TransCanada Highway #1 (114 km / 70 mi) through spectacular Glacier National Park (day-use) from a Kootenay Hot Springs Resort.

- Glacier National Park is set in the Columbia Mountains.

- The Rogers Pass Discovery Centre located at the summit of the pass is a National Historic Site. The site offers interpretive programs, hiking, strolling and picnicking opportunities.

- Canyon Hot Springs Resort offers 2 natural mineral hot pools, one at (40°C / 104°F) and a swimming pool (26°C / 79°F) with cabin and campground accommodation. It is open during summer until late September.

- The Glass House, near Sanca, was created from over 500,000 embalming fluid bottles.

- Upon your arrival at Creston, watch for signs to the Creston Valley Wildlife Centre. Take a voyageur canoe tour or stroll along the wetland on a boardwalk to a multi-level viewing tower.

Creston to Rykerts on Highway #21 south is 13 km / 8 mi.

Porthill to Bonners Ferry is 44 km / 27 mi.

Bonners Ferry to Sandpoint on Highway #95 is 52 km / 32 mi.

- Bonners Ferry is popular for its year-round outdoor recreation and charming historic downtown.
- The Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge hosts birds, mammals and fish, and offers a 6 km / 4 mi auto tour route.

Sandpoint has a lovely setting on Lake Pend Oreille. Watersport enthusiasts explore this special playground.

- Lake Pend Oreille Cruises offers tours from City Beach.
- Schweitzer Mountain Resort offers year-round activities. Biking and hiking are popular in summer.
- The restored, historic Spanish-style Panida Theatre is a vibrant centre for performing arts.

Sandpoint back to Newport on Highway #2 is 45 km / 28 mi.

- Priest River offers a museum and Timber Education Centre which displays historical artifacts from the logging industry as well as early pioneer family furnishings.
- Take a side trip north on Highway #57 to the resort communities of Priest Lake to spend a day at the beach. The Priest Lake area is also known for their premier huckleberry and mushroom season – many of the restaurants offer delectable dishes.

- Once back on Highway #2, continue west to Newport, a town with a heritage rich in timber, mineral and agriculture.
- Visit original structures such as the Northern Railway Depot (1908) that houses the Pend Oreille County Historical Museum.

This completes the Selkirk Loop. Pick up a free Selkirk Loop Travel Guide at any of the visitor centres around The Loop or visit SelkirkLoop.org for information on 6 Super Side Trips.

ROCKIES & RANCHLANDS

Approx 1,025 km / 635 mi



Begin this tour on the Crownest Highway #3, at the Alberta and British Columbia border. This less travelled, southern route through the towering Rocky Mountains is a giant gateway to the great outdoors. Explore the Elk Valley's small towns built on more than a century of coal mining: Sparwood, Elkford and the largest and oldest – Fernie.

Sparwood is the gateway town to the region. The Terex Titan, the world's largest tandem axle dump truck, stands silently at the town's entrance – a monument to Sparwood's major industry. Just beyond this community is a treasure trove of adventure.

Sparwood to Elkford is 35 km / 22 mi north on Highway #43.

- Elkford is 'Wild at Heart' and the most remote town in the region. It is the gateway to two majestic wilderness provincial parks: Elk Lakes and Height of the Rockies. The area is a popular destination for a range of outdoor recreation including ATV touring, hiking and mountain biking.

Sparwood to Fernie is 29 km / 18 mi south on Highway #3.

Fernie boasts small town charm and big mountain adventure. The brick and stone facades of the historic downtown are nestled below the jagged peaks of the Lizard Range. Fernie offers a huge network of mountain biking and hiking trails, a bike park, a zipline, fishing, whitewater rafting and more.

Fernie to Elko is 32 km / 20 mi south on Highway #3.

You'll follow the pristine Elk River that is famous for fly-fishing and other watersports. The views and wildlife are just as rewarding.

Elko to Fort Steele Heritage Town is 63 km / 39 mi north on Hwy #3/93.

- Take a side trip to Kikkomun Creek Provincial Park and Lake Kooacanua for sandy beaches, camping and Kokanee salmon fishing.

- At Wardner, watch for signs to the Kootenay Trout Hatchery that offers an interpretive area with aquaria, educational displays and fishing pond.
- Fort Steele Heritage Town has been a family favourite for decades. Leap back to the 1890's and experience this restored pioneer boomtown.
- Attractions include street drama, Wild Horse Theatre, steam train and horse drawn wagon rides, International Hotel Restaurant and gold panning.

Fort Steele to Wasa Lake Provincial Park is 25 km / 15 mi.

Wasa Park is a family destination with camping, sandy beach, and a biking and walking trail that circles the lake.

Travel north on Highway #93/95 to Invermere (90 km / 56 mi).

- Skookumchuck offers Springbrook Resort & access to the Kootenay River.
- Attractions at Canal Flats include the Tilley Memorial Park with a beautiful beach and picnic tables as well as the Source of the Columbia Trail that winds 1.5 km through the wetlands.
- A number of backcountry and resort setting hot springs are located along this route. Check the Hot Springs Itinerary for details.

Invermere is a small, friendly town situated on Lake Windermere, one of the warmest lakes in the region. Spend the day at the beach, but be sure to explore the impressive shops, galleries and restaurants downtown.

- Panorama Mountain Resort, 18 km / 11 mi west of Invermere is all about play – waterpark with waterslide and hot pools, adventure camps, bike park, rafting, ATVing, restaurants, shops, and championship and mini golf.

EACH COMMUNITY HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE STORY TO TELL.

Along your journey, you'll discover rare, scenic vistas and meet warm friendly people.



If you are a US visitor travelling from the south, this tour begins in Columbia Falls. This pretty village has a wide array of parks and natural spaces to enjoy such as the River's Edge Park on the banks of the Flathead River. The park has walking paths and is home to the Community Garden.

Columbia Falls to Whitefish is 15 km / 9 mi.

Whitefish offers a quaint downtown with boutique shopping. If you are a railroad buff, you'll love the historic Great Northern Railway Depot.

- Fernie hosts many mountain biking events during the summer and fall.
- The area's mining heritage continues to be evident as you drive east across the Crownwest Pass.

- Once in Alberta, it's 62 km / 38 mi to Pincher Creek.

From Pincher Creek take Highway #6 south to Waterton (50 km / 31 mi).

Waterton village is in the heart of Waterton National Park. It's a vibrant centre offering activities, lodging and dining.

- The park is all about beauty and adventure. Discover its lakes, hikes, boat cruise, wildlife, heritage and culture.

Waterton to Babh, south on Hwy #17 and #89 is 51 km / 32 mi.

Note: Chief Mountain border crossing is closed Oct to mid-May.

Waterton to Babb, via Cardston Hwy #5 and #89 is 87 km / 54 mi.

The Going-to-the-Sun Road is a spectacular 85 km / 53 mi paved two-lane highway that bisects Glacier National Park east and west. It spans the width of the park, crossing the Continental Divide at 2,000 m (6,646 ft) high Logan Pass. Scenic viewpoints line the road. It's well worth travelling the road in each direction as the views are very different and equally stunning.

- Season of operation for Going-to-the-Sun Road is mid-June to early-fall. Vehicle size restrictions apply.

- Cycling this road before and after it is closed to vehicles is popular.

- The route along the perimeter of the park on Highway #2 through East and West Glacier Park is also a great way back to Columbia Falls.

- Halfway between these gateway towns is Goat Lick Crossing, an exposed riverbank where mountain goats come to lick the mineral-laden cliffs.

* Check with local Visitor Centres for more information before venturing out to wilderness hot springs.

Where the prairies meet the mountains. Cowboy country. These are lands wild and vast. Sacred, sweeping views that First Nations people have honoured and revered for centuries. The allure of the Rockies & Ranchlands route speaks to romantics, ranchmen and railroading enthusiasts. Explore sacred buffalo jumps, heritage gold rush towns, dude ranches, antique stores and western-themed villages as you channel your inner cowboy.

Invermere to Radium Hot Springs, gateway to Kootenay National Park, is 13 km (8 mi) farther north on Highway #93/95.

Travel through spectacular Kootenay National Park, 104 km (65 mi) north on Highway #93 – check out the Golden Triangle Itinerary for details on park attractions. Once through the park, connect with TransCanada Highway #1 and head east through Banff, the longest established national park in Canada. Banff, Calgary or Highway #1 is 136 km / 85 mi. En route is the picturesque mountain town of Canmore.

From Calgary, head south on Highway #2A (Macleod Trail) to Highway #22X (21 km / 13 mi).

- Watch for signs to Spruce Meadows. Take a tour of this local success story, voted #1 horse show jumping facility in the world.

Head west on Highway #22X to Highway #22, known as the Cowboy Trail.

- Highway #22 junction to Turner Valley and Black Diamond is 30 km / 19 mi.
- Turner Valley is the birthplace of Alberta's oil and gas industry. The site of the 1914 Dingman Discovery Well that began Alberta's first oil boom is now preserved as a National Historic Site.

Black Diamond to Nanton is 101 km / 63 mi.

- Longview offers the Navajo Mug Cafe. Choose from 21 homemade pies.
- Thirteen kilometres (8 mi) farther south on Highway #22 is Bar U Ranch National Historic Site, a living tribute to the ranching industry in Alberta.
- Continue past Chain Lakes where you leave the Cowboy Trail to head east on Highway #533 to Nanton.
- Stroll the historic main street of Nanton with antique and specialty shops.

Nanton to Cardston is 142 km / 88 mi.

- Highway #785 will take you to Head-Smashed-in-Buffalo-Jump. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the oldest, largest and best-preserved buffalo jumps in North America.
- Visit Fort Museum of the Northwest Mounted Police in Fort MacLeod.
- Cardston boasts North America's largest collection of horse drawn transportation at the Remington Carriage Museum.

Cardston to Waterton Lakes is 50 km / 31 mi via Highway #5.

Take time to tour Waterton Lakes National Park. The smallest of the Canadian Rocky Mountain National Parks is described as the Jewel of the Crown of the Continent. Home to plants and wildlife unique in Western Canada, it is a paradise for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.

- Attractions include the Waterton Shoreline Cruise, Red Rock Canyon and Cameron Lake hiking trail.

Highway #6 and #3 lead back to the BC / Alberta border (113 km / 70 mi). There are several small former coal mining communities with a fascinating history to explore along this route.

- At Pincher Creek is the Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village, a turn-of-the-19th century historic village.
- Frank Slide Interpretive Centre explains how coal mining caused the Turtle Mountain landslide that buried the town of Frank.

After driving past Coleman, you leave Alberta, cross the Continental Divide and enter the province of British Columbia again.



SILVERY SLOKAN

Approx 215 km / 135 mi

Journey into the wild, lawless past when bars and brothels, saloons and silver, ruled the day. Visit ghost towns – rich with mine ruins, eclectic museums and turn of the century buildings – that beckon anyone with a taste for adventure. Take a rugged, backcountry road to the top of a mountain, watch the eagles soar, smell the pines and know that the timeless aura of the legendary Silvery Slokan is still right at hand. End your day by easing into a lakeside town where cool cafes, streetside markets and a warm mountain culture will motivate you for what is yet to come.

Begin this tour in Nelson (Highway #3A). The Nelson / Kootenay Lake area brims with rich cultural history. Nelson got its start in silver mining, but is now known as one of the best small arts communities in North America.

- Explore Nelson's many fine heritage buildings – from elegant mansions to elaborate commercial structures – through the Heritage Walking Tour.
- Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art & History celebrates the city's creativity and vibe.
- Nelson offers world-class outdoor recreation and watersports such as kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and canoeing.

Nelson to Kaslo is 70 km / 43 mi. Take Highway #3A along Kootenay Lake.

- Kokanee Creek Provincial Park offers a campground, sandy beach, hikes through Old Growth Cedars and nearby Kokanee Mountain Zipline.
- Balfour is a small but vibrant community with many visitor services. It is the location of the free ferry to Crawford Bay.
- Continue north on Highway #31 to the famous Ainsworth Hot Springs to rejuvenate in the hot, natural, mineral springs water.

Kaslo is one of British Columbia's prettiest villages. The wide tree-lined downtown and stately old houses exude charm. It is home to the world's oldest passenger sternerwheeler, the SS Moyie, an international treasure.

- Heritage attractions includes the Japanese Canadian Museum, Kootenay Star Museum and Langham Cultural Centre.
- The Jazz Etc. Festival takes place every August long weekend – superb musicians perform on a unique floating stage.

Kaslo to New Denver in the Slokan Valley is 46 km / 28 mi via Highway #31A.

- Sandon is British Columbia's legendary ghost town. Experience the silver rush of the 1800's. Historical treasures include the City Hall, Interpretive Centre, Generating Station, Prospector's Pick gift shop and Museum.
- Idaho Peak is a wonderful and easy hike showcasing wildflowers, an old fire lookout and mountain views – the access road starts in Sandon.

- New Denver has a lovely setting alongside Slokan Lake. The Silvery Slokan Museum is located in a heritage building, and the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre tells the story of the internment of thousands of Canadians of Japanese descent during WWII.

Silverton to Crescent Valley is 79 km / 49 mi via Highway #6.

- Silverton offers an outdoor mining museum, Fingland Cabin and a Blacksmith Shop at the Historical Interpretive Centre.
- Boat launches are situated at Vallhalla Provincial Park and Slokan Lake.
- The village of Slokan gives access to Vallhalla Park. The park offers many hiking routes and pictographs on rock bluffs overhanging Slokan Lake.

Enjoy exploring the rest of the spectacularly beautiful Slokan Valley.

WEST KOOT ROUTE

Approx 450 km / 280 mi



Quiet roads that twist through the heart of the British Columbia wilderness. Dense forests that yield to rising rock and glacier-scoured summits where only the bravest mountaineers have ventured. A place to be respected and admired. Stunning backcountry beauty – around every corner on the West Koot Route – is the norm. Soak it in. Stop for a hike, paddle a perfect lake, fling a fly in a trout-filled stream and find your little patch of paradise in the West Kootenays.

The West Koot Route can be accessed by three different ferry rides: Upper Arrow Lake, Lower Arrow Lake and Kootenay Lake at Balfour (Hwy #3A). Let's begin this tour near the village of Nakusp.

Upper Arrow