

Welcome to the West Kootenays. When travelling through the region, please respect the nature, the places and the people. Here is the Visitor Code of Conduct:



ASK IF YOU DON'T KNOW

Information is the key to be a responsible visitor. Kootenay people are friendly and knowledgeable. Stop in at the local Visitor Centre, outdoor retailer or outfitter, contact a local club and ask for assistance and tips.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD AND YOURSELF SAFE

Wildlife can be anywhere at any time.

Respect pet restrictions and use a leash for pets if and when they're allowed.

Carry bear spray. Make noise – sing and talk loudly.

Respect areas where motorized vehicles (ATV's, snowmobiles, dirtbikes, etc.) and motor boats are banned.

Don't feed the wildlife and keep your distance.

Be sure to have the proper license for fishing and hunting.

THINK BEFORE YOU LIGHT A FIRE

Wildfires are a serious threat to our communities and landscapes.

Never leave a campfire unattended and put your campfire out completely when you leave. Ashes should be cool to the touch.

Check for and respect fire bans.

If you smoke, make sure your butts are fully extinguished and dispose of them in designated waste facilities.

PREPARE FOR ALL ADVENTURES

If you're new to a sport or to the region, consider hiring a certified guide for hiking, biking, skiing, snowmobiling, paddling, ATVing and fishing. Take a course or some training.

Wear appropriate footwear and clothing and be prepared for sudden weather changes on the water and in the mountains in **ALL** seasons.

Avoid risking your life for a selfie.

Be avalanche aware and always carry the safety gear.

Always let someone know your plans before adventuring into the wild.

Follow the 3 T's – Trip-planning, Training and Taking the essentials.

Be prepared with food, water, maps and first aid supplies.

In some parts of the Kootenays, there is limited cell service.

Whenever possible, travel with a companion.

RESPECT TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Stay **ON** the trail and share the trail with other users and wildlife.

Keep motorized vehicles to designated motorized trails only.

Be friendly with people you encounter on the trail.

Cyclists yield to everyone and hikers yield to horses.

Did you enjoy the local trails? Consider making a donation or buying a trail pass.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Respect speed limits.

Keep the noise of all motorized vehicles at a minimum.

Some Forest Service Roads are active logging/mining roads. Be informed and yield to trucks.

Share the road with cyclists and pedestrians.

Ensure your vehicle is equipped for the journey before setting off (such as 4x4, high clearance, and winter tires) and check driving conditions before you hit the road: drivebc.ca

RV's and slow vehicles can pull over to let others pass on windy roads and uphill.

RESPECT EVERYTHING LOCAL

Respect and honour Indigenous Peoples as stewards of the land and waters you are travelling through.

Support local shops and businesses.

Respect private property, including private parking spaces.

CAMP RESPONSIBLY

Only camp in designated camping areas.

Keep a clean campsite.

Pay your camping fees and respect quiet hours and other rules.

STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Ensure vehicles, trailers, boats, bikes and boots are cleaned, drained and dried before and after visiting an area.

Take only pictures and leave the local flora in its natural habitat.

KEEP THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COMMUNITIES CLEAN

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.

Minimize single-use plastic.

Whenever available, use public washrooms and outhouses.

Clean up after your pets.

Pack out all your waste and dispose of it into designated wildlife-proof garbage containers.

RESOURCES:
AdventureSmart: adventuresmart.ca
Avalanche Canada: avalanche.ca
BC Wildfire Service: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status
Highway Conditions: drivebc.ca
Invasive Species Council of BC: bcinvasives.ca/resources/programs/play-clean-go
Leave No Trace: lnt.org
Trail Forks Trail Karma: trailforks.com/karma
Trails BC – A Trail User's Code of Ethics: trailsbc.ca/travel-tips/trail-users-code-ethics
Wild Safe BC: wildsafebc.com
Wildlife in BC, Ministry of Forest, Land and Natural Resources (fishing licence, snowmobile closures): env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife

POST RESPONSIBLY

Be mindful when posting on social media and consider the potential impacts that rapidly increased use can have on our wild places. Turn off your geotagging or use a generic location tag such as a community or a business.



Thank you for being a responsible visitor!

#kootrocks #explorebc