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THE SPECTACULAR CARIBOO CHILCOTIN COAST REGION

A LAND WITHOUT LIMITS

Stretching across British Columbia from the Cariboo Mountains to the sparkling Pacific lays a spectacular region full of natural beauty, history, culture and endless adventures. Discovered during the Gold Rush a century and a half ago, the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region offers fortunate visitors a true Canadian “Wild West” experience. From a step back in time to visit old ghost towns along the Gold Rush Trail, riding off into the sunset at one of the areas many guest ranches, or experiencing some of the finest outdoor adventures Canada has to offer, the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast truly is a land without limits.

Three distinct regions, each with their own individual personality, make up this breathtaking region. The serene, lush Cariboo sprawling between the Cariboo Mountains to the east and the Fraser River to the west the romantic grassland plateau that is the Chilcotin and the Coast, a wild landscape defined by seemingly countless fjords that reach out to meet the Pacific Ocean.

Cariboo

Back in the day when prospectors dreamt of yellow dust and instant riches, the Cariboo region was an untamed territory just waiting to be discovered. In 1862, Billy Barker found gold on Williams Creek, a discovery that started a rush of adventurers from around the world. Between 1862 and 1870, over 10,000 people traversed the Cariboo “Wagon Road”. From Lillooet to Barkerville, they traveled north and towns sprung up in their wake. Today, the Cariboo is home to communities including Lillooet with its spectacular surroundings and unique “pasture golf course”, 100 Mile House, which is surrounded by literally hundreds of quality fishing lakes, Williams Lake, a now famous and popular destination for Mountain biking hosting an amazing set of trails for all levels of skill, and Quesnel, the gateway to Barkerville Historic Town. Barkerville is western North America’s largest heritage attraction, featuring over 125 restored buildings, actors, gold panning, interpretative tours and many more interesting activities. Barkerville is a perfect destination for families looking for a soft adventure. For those looking for an outdoor adventure on a slightly grander scale, the world famous Bowron Lakes canoe circuit is only a few kilometers farther on up the road. Route 97 will take you through the heart of Cariboo Country, whether you connect from the north via Highway 16, from the south by Highway’s 5 or 1, you will find an amazing circle route of discovery. Plan on experiencing the Williams Lake Stampede, Quesnel’s Billy Barker Days or the South Cariboo’s Garlic Festival. If you like rustic, low key experiences or being pampered at a world class spa, you need to look no further.

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Chilcotin

The intersection of Highway 20 and 97 signifies the beginning of a trip in to the Chilcotin where time takes on a totally different pace. For the untamed cowboy, the avid angler, the outdoor adventurer or just the wandering spirit, the Chilcotin is the place to be. Sprawled over 5000 square kilometres of rangeland and rivers, the Chilcotin defines the Wild Wild West where cowboys still tend to their cattle and wild horses roam free. A wide variety of guest ranches offer everything from trail rides to multi-day trips for all levels of riders. Off the range and into the hills some of the most spectacular and diverse hiking trails to be found on the planet exist here. Now down into the valleys! Many of the Chilcotin's rivers are revered for exceptional trout fishing, while crystal clear lakes provide stillwater-fishing at its finest. For those looking for the thrill of an adrenaline rush, the Chilko River is a world-renowned white water rafting destination. The Chilko River's "white mile" is an uninterrupted 25 km (15.5 mile) stretch of class IV rapids and drops and is ranked one of the top runs in the world. Long stretches of road between Resorts, B&B's and incredible campsites, big skies and real characters are what to expect "out west". Something to watch for is the annual Nemiah Valley Rodeo, the way rodeos used to be! This is a wide open country, where if you want, the only footprints you see will be your own.

Coast

Continuing west Highway 20 passes through the resort communities of Nimpo Lake and Anahim Lake. The road plunges down through the mountain pass in Tweedsmuir Park to the lush rainforest of the Bella Coola Valley. This is where Alexander Mackenzie first walked down the ancient "Grease Trail" to the Pacific Ocean in 1793. Here you will find 15,000 kilometers of awe-inspiring coastline scattered with private coves and inlets, pristine beaches and rocky shores that grace the Coast region. Visitors will find some of the world's best saltwater fishing, heli-skiing, wildlife viewing and hiking. Home to the rare Kermode or "Spirit Bears," the Coast is a magical place that extends beyond adventure offering a rich combination of culture and history. From the Bella Coola Museum where an exhibit recounts history from pre-European-First Nations contact to the building of the Freedom Highway, to ancient petroglyphs and archaeological and historic sites, the Coast is a vacation destination that promises not to disappoint. Take in the Discovery Coast Music Festival in the Bella Coola Valley. The road doesn't have to end here! Extend your adventure to the ocean available seasonally on BC Ferries Queen of Chilliwack on the Discovery Coast Passage to Vancouver Island and beyond for the ultimate in round trip adventure.

For more information on this amazing region of Canada visit, The Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association's website www.landwithoutlimits.com or call 1 800 663 5885

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