

South Cariboo Fall Colours Circle Tour

This circle route – which begins in 100 Mile House and loops past literally hundreds of lakes, offers more than just some of the best freshwater fishing in BC. It's also a route that will take you on some of the province's most scenic back roads, where resorts, lodges, guest ranches and B&B's from rustic to luxurious provide cabins, camping and RV sites. Anglers, outdoor recreationists and those who enjoy following meandering roads through lakes, meadows and forested plateaus will certainly want to spend time exploring. Our route description covers over 200 km (125 mi) starting at the South Cariboo Visitor Centre in 100 Mile House. Take your time, explore the side roads, and enjoy this meandering circle tour through the beautiful South Cariboo.

Klm's/Miles

0.0 / 0.0 – South Cariboo Visitor Centre in 100 Mile House at the corner of Airport Rd and Hwy 97. To start this touring route **turn right** on Hwy 97, heading south. 0.4 / 0.3 - **Turn left** on Horse Lake Rd. 1 / 0.6 - Centennial Park and Bridge Creek Falls. 8.8 / 5.5 - Junction with North Horse Lake Rd. **Stay right** on the main road. 9.4 / 5.9 - View of Horse Lake. 14.9 / 9.3 - Junction with Lone Butte- Horse Lake Rd. **Turn right**. Continuing straight visitors can directly access the latter portion of this touring route: Deka, Sulphurous, Hathaway, Canim and Mahood Lakes and Wells Gray Provincial Park. 19.3 / 12.1 - Junction with Hwy 24, the “Fishing Highway” and the community of Lone Butte. **Turn left**. 19.9 / 12.4 - Junction with Watch Lake Rd on right. **Turn right**. 33.1 / 20.7 - Junction with North Green Lake Rd. **Turn left** for the continuation of the circle tour on Little Green Lake Rd. Turn right to continue on Watch Lake Rd for **Green Lake Provincial Park** and access to Hwy 97 at 70 Mile House (31 km / 19 mi).

Green Lake Provincial Park: 347 hectares - Green Lake is first-rate for both summer and winter recreation. Swimming, boating, fishing, waterskiing, paddling, and horseback riding are all popular, and sandy beaches dot the irregular shoreline. The undulating plateau and highlands around the lake have become a cross-country skier's paradise. Local business operators provide boat rentals, supplies and even horseback riding. Three campgrounds with a total of 121 sites: Arrowhead, Emerald Bay and Sunset View.

33.1 / 20.7 - **Watch Lake Lodge** – Watch Lake Lodge is a working ranch incorporating 12 rustic cabins, 8 sites for tents, trailers, and campers, a safe swimming area, row boats, and a small convenience store. Horseback riding is the most popular activity at Watch Lake Lodge but fishing is a close second. Photo opportunities are abundant and bird watching is a favorite past time. Other activities include swimming, boating, sailing and paddling. www.watchlake.com.

33.2 / 20.8 - Pavement ends. Gravel road begins. The well maintained rolling road curves through beautiful mixed forests, grasslands, ponds and marshlands. 55.3 / 34.6 - Junction with North Bonaparte Rd. **Turn left** as our circle tour continues to Bridge Lake. Turn right for access to Hwy 97 and 70 Mile House. 60.8 / 38.0 - “Y” junction. **Stay left**. 62.1 / 38.8 - Eagan Lake Rd on right with access to Sharpe, Bonaparte and Knight Lakes. **Stay straight**. 75.8 / 47.4 - Crystal Lake Recreation Site on right. 77.3 / 48.3 - Eagan Lake Rd

on right. **Continue straight.** 79.4 / 49.6 - Gravel ends. Pavement begins. 79.6 / 49.8 - “Y” junction with Bridge Lake Business Route Rd and Bridge Lake store. **Our route continues left.** 80.5 / 50.3 - Junction with Hwy 24, the “Fishing Highway”. **Turn left.**

83.9 / 52.4 - **Alexander Mackenzie Ranch** on left. www.amr-bc.com 88.5 / 55.3 - Sheridan Lake Resort Area. 96.1 / 60.1 - Interlakes shopping area on right. 96.2 / 60.2 - Junction with Horse Lake Rd on right. **Turn right** to continue our circle tour to Deka, Sulphurous and Canim Lakes and more. Access Lone Butte and Hwy 97 by continuing straight.

100.1 / 62.6 - Junction with Judson Rd and Mahood Lake Rd. **Continue straight then right** on Mahood Lake Rd. 105.6 / 66.0 - Burgess Rd on right with access to resorts and Deka Lake. Deka Lake is a wonderful scenic area. At 14 km (9 mi) in length, trolling and fly-fishing are effective for rainbow trout, lake trout and kokanee. There is access to Sulphurous Lake by water. 107.3 / 67.1 - Sulphurous Lake: Low mountains covered with both coniferous and deciduous trees surround this 6.5 km (4 mi) long lake. Good fishing for rainbow trout (up to 5 lbs). 111 / 69.4 - Pavement ends. Gravel road begins. Start of the 8000 Rd. 120.8 / 75.5 - Bowers - Deka Forest Service Road (822 Rd) on right.

121.7 / 76.1 - Bowers Lake Forest Service Road (8200 Rd) on right. Access to Bowers Lake. 122.3 / 76.4 - Drewry Lake East Recreation Site on left. 135.2 / 84.5 - 8300 Rd on right. 138.9 / 86.8 - Junction of 8000 Rd and Canim Lake South Rd (8100 Rd). Our circle tour **continues left** at this junction. Continue straight on the Canim Lake South Rd for access to Canim Lake East, Mahood Falls, Canim Falls, Deception Falls, Mahood Lake and Wells Gray Provincial Park (13 km / 8 mi). The 37 km (23 mi) long **Canim Lake** is one of the larger lakes in the Cariboo, surrounded by expansive meadows, mountains, rolling hills, and forests of pine, spruce and fir. Numerous resorts dot the shoreline. Canim Lake has a great pebble beach remnant of the glacial age, and during summer this beautiful area is fantastic for hiking, canoeing, boating and fishing. Winter brings fabulous backcountry skiing, snowmobiling, skating, snowshoeing, dog sledding and sleigh rides. **The road widens and improves but remains very curvy.**

154.3 / 96.4 - End of gravel road. Pavement begins. 161.3 / 100.8 - Canim Lake Store. 163.8 / 102.4 - Junction with Canim- Hendrix Rd. **Continue left** at this junction. By turning right visitors can access Hendrix Lake, Crooked Lake, the community of Horsefly, and more. 176.9 / 110.6 - Community of Forest Grove. Forest Grove Store. Junction with Eagle Creek Rd on right. Continue left at this junction. Turning right provides access to Ruth Lake, Hawkins Lake, **Ruth Lake Provincial Park** and **Schoolhouse Lake Provincial Park**. **Ruth Lake Provincial Park:** 30 hectares - Recreational day use area popular with local residents for fishing and swimming. The remainder of the park is undeveloped forest above the lake. This open forest of fir and pine shades large boulders or “erratics,” reminders of the great ice sheets of 10,000 years ago. **Schoolhouse Lake Provincial Park:** 4,534 hectares - This park protects representative ecosystems within the Cariboo Plateau Eco-section. It is almost circular in shape, and protects rolling forested country with a number of medium sized lakes.

Backcountry hiking, fishing and camping opportunities exist, although access to the park is limited.

187.1 / 116.9 - Community of **Buffalo Creek**. 198.1 / 123.8 - Junction with Hwy 97. **Turn left** to return to 100 Mile House and the South Cariboo Visitor Centre. Turn right to continue north on Hwy 97 to Williams Lake. Hwy 97 provides access to the Gold Rush Trail and the Discovery Coast Passage Circle Tour. 200.9 / 125.6 – South Cariboo Visitor Centre in 100 Mile House.