

FALL COLOURS TOUR **Canim Lake and the Interlakes**

Three - Five Days

**Circle Route: 100 Mile House - Canim Lake Area - the Interlakes - 100 Mile House
Highway 97 - Canim Lake Highway - Highway 24 - Highway 97**

If you want to indulge in your favourite active pastime, whether it is walking, cycling, riding, birding, canoeing, fishing or golfing, the South Cariboo's lovely autumn scenery will add an extra dimension. An unspoilt, colourful countryside is there to be enjoyed in almost any way you choose.

In autumn, the colours change slowly from green to shades of red and bronze, the leaves of the Trembling aspen, birch and poplar gradually golden as the nightly temperatures drop. They fall from the trees and leave a golden carpet along the trail. The heavy, green summer foliage shrinks back and opens up new views and vistas. Hillsides offer varying hues of green and gold and slight hints of red. The days are typically warm and dry, while the nights are cool and the starry sky seems all the more brilliant. The northern lights pay visits that are more frequent.

The hundreds of South Cariboo Lakes are particularly bewitching at this time of year, shining like mercury, lying as mirrors to the clouds and blue sky, and reflecting the colourful golden and crimson of the woods. Not to be outdone, its rivers shine like steel, carving their course through the bright trees, inviting the passionate fly fisher to toss a line. Resorts, lodges and B&B's throughout the area provide facilities ranging from primitive to luxurious.

DAY ONE

Distance: 100 Mile House to Canim Lake Area - 39 km (drive time 40 minutes)

Direction: North on Hwy 97, East on the Canim Lake Hwy

Points of Interest:

100 Mile House

100 Miles from Lillooet, a stagecoach stop and roadhouse. One of the original BX stage coaches sits on display at the north end of town. 100 Mile House is the service centre for the South Cariboo, and features many excellent restaurants and accommodations. For some autumn bird watching, just west of the town's Information Centre is a peaceful, eight hectare wetland marsh.

Forest Grove

Small community 20 km east of Hwy. 97. There is horseback riding and B&B accommodations in the area. Take the north fork at the three-way stop for a 9 km side trip to Ruth Lake Provincial Park; a picnic site with a nice sandy beach.

Canim Lake Area

This large, 37 kilometre long lake surrounded by rugged hills and mountains is located 16 km east of Forest Grove and 36 km east of Hwy 97. There are many family-oriented resorts and some great fall fishing, hiking and canoeing. Archeologists studying native pictographs and ancient pit houses in the area suggest that Plains People came after their prairie buffalo had been depleted. They found the fishing to be great and the wildlife plentiful, which means nothing much has changed.

Canim, Mahood and Deception Falls

Travel 24 km on the South Canim Lake Road to the junction of the Interlakes connector. Take a side-trip on the northeast fork, 6 km to a forestry pull-out, and a short, pleasant walk to spectacular Canim and Mahood Falls. Just beyond these falls is Mahood Lake, part of Wells Gray Provincial Park, and a longer hike to Deception Falls.

DAY TWO

Distance: Canim Lake to the Interlakes Area (drive time 1 hour)

Direction: South on the gravel Interlake connector from South Canim Lake Road
To avoid the gravel road, an alternate route would be to return to 100 Mile House from Canim, head south on Hwy 97 to 93 Mile, and then east on Hwy 24 through Lone Butte to the Interlakes.

Points of Interest:

Hathaway Sulphurous and Horse Lakes

Take the south fork at the junction of the South Canim Lake Road and the Interlakes connector, for a good gravel road to Hathaway, Sulphurous and Horse Lakes. The road leads to the Interlakes area at Sheridan Lake.

The Fishing Highway, Hwy. 24

Highway 24 offers a scenic autumn drive east of Hwy 97 at 93 Mile, 97 kilometres to Little Fort on the Yellowhead Hwy. Highway 24, known as “The Fishing Highway,” accesses the Interlakes, a realm of over 100 lakes, all within an hours drive. The highway follows the historic Fur Brigade Trail. As the name suggests, the fishing is great; for rainbow, brook, and lake trout, burbot and kokanee. Interlakes’ resorts and shops can supply you with all your fishing needs. Canoeing is also excellent and guest ranches are plentiful. Accommodation is available at any of the area’s lakes.

Sheridan Lake

Well known for its trophy fishing, with rainbow trout commonly weighing in from 14-16 pounds.

Bridge Lake

From Sheridan you can head east to Bridge Lake and then Lac Des Roches. Bridge Lake is a beautiful recreational lake 51 km east of Hwy. 97.

Lac des Roches

The 14 km long lake is one of the most photographed lakes in BC. There is a picturesque view of the lake, with all of its neat little islands and narrow channels, from the Macdonald Summit rest area at the lakes east end. The lake is known for its fly hatch - the fly fishing is top notch.

DAY THREE

Distance: The Interlakes to 100 Mile House (drive time 1 - 2 hours)

Direction: Return west on Highway 24 to Hwy 97, north to 100 Mile House

Points of Interest:

Lone Butte

Ten kilometres east of Hwy. 97, Lone Butte was once the Cariboo's largest town and, as a BC Rail station, a busy centre for ranchers. The plug of an ancient volcano provides the town's name, and the village boasts the last standing water tower along the rail line. Visitors can drive west of Lone Butte to Highway 97 and then north to 100 Mile House, or take the Watch Lake/Green Lake drive south to 70 Mile House, before heading north on Highway 97.

Watch Lake/Green Lake Drive

A beautiful side-trip in autumn, with the golden leaves of the trembling aspen and larch lining the roadway. Horseback riding is available, and watch for eagle, osprey and loons. The 15 km long Green Lake gets its greenish hues, and thus its name, from algae and other microorganisms. This alternate return route takes you south of Lone Butte and west to 70 Mile House, before returning north to 100 Mile.

70 Mile House

An historic roadhouse location and one of the first stopping places on the Cariboo Waggon Road, 70 Mile House is 42 kilometres south of 100 Mile House.