



BC Parks

# South Chilcotin Mountains Park Trail Summary

*Updated December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

South Chilcotin Mountains Park boasts approximately 170 km of trails providing access to spectacular alpine meadows, broad valleys, ridge walks and mountain lakes. Hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking are the main activities here, as well as fishing, wildlife viewing, and in the winter, ski touring and heliskiing.

South Chilcotin Mountains Park is a user-maintained park. Garbage removal service is not provided. If you pack it in, please pack it out.

Visitors may encounter higher numbers of deadfall early in the season or after wind events. Insect infestations in recent years have increased the amount deadfall on the trails.

Sections of some trails are wet, steep or difficult to see and may have unbridged creek crossings. In late spring and early summer cold, fast streams such as Tyaughton Creek can be a challenge to cross.

Weather in the park can change quickly. You may experience sun, rain and snow all on the same day in the summer months. In alpine areas you can expect frost on most nights. Be prepared.

In many locations in the park you will be far from any form of help. Park Ranger patrols of the trails in the park occur infrequently. Visitors must be self-sufficient, carry a first aid kit, and exercise caution.

## Summary of Major Trails

*(Note: All distances and elevations are approximate.)*

### ***Gun Creek Trail***

This trail travels the Gun Creek valley and provides main access for trails in the southern portion of the park. The main trailhead is at the Jewel Bridge parking spot at 13 km on the Slim Creek FSR. From here, the western portion of the trail leads into the park, and the eastern section travels 8km on an old roadbed to Gun Creek Road near Tyaughton Lake. Note that this section of trail is used by ORVs. The first western portion of trail follows Gun Creek for 10 km with an elevation gain of 450 m. At 10 km is the junction with Gun Meadows trail to Spruce Lake. At 1.5km past that, there is a junction with the Spruce Lake Main Trail, an alternate route to Spruce Lake. 150m past that junction the trail forks again. The upper trail, Lower Grasslands Trail, climbs to Cowboy Camp before reconnecting with Gun Creek Trail 2.5 km later. Continue along Gun Creek Trail for 6 km to Hummingbird Lake Campsite. Trigger Lake Campsite is another 4km past that, and the Gun Creek Trail ends 1.5 km past Trigger Lake at a junction with Deer Pass Trail and Warner Pass Trail.

## *Gun Meadows Trail*

This popular trail ascends Gun Creek to Spruce Lake winding through open meadows with excellent views of the Gun Creek Valley. The trail travels 3 km with an elevation gain of 300 m before connecting with the Spruce Lake Trail at the “Potato Patch” junction near the south end of Spruce Lake.

## *Warner Pass Trail*

This trail starts near the west end of Trigger Lake, at the junction with Gun Creek and Deer Pass Trails. The trail follows Warner Creek for 3.5 km to the Warner Lake float plane dock, with an elevation gain of 250 m. A pit toilet is available here. Warner Pass is reached after another 5 km and an elevation gain of 500 m.

## *Spruce Lake Trail*

From the Gun Creek trail junction at 11.5 km, the trail to Spruce Lake climbs 200 m in 1 km. Just south of Spruce Lake is the “Potato Patch,” with junctions to the Grasslands, Gun Meadows, and High Trails. Spruce Lake Trail continues up the eastern shore of Spruce Lake, passing the Spruce Lake South Campsite and continuing for 2 km to the Spruce Lake North Campsite and float plane dock. Sections of this trail have been twinned to separate horseback riders from hikers and bikers. Please adhere to the recommended routes to preserve the trail integrity.

## *High Trail*

The High Trail is extremely scenic, passing through extensive alpine meadows with high mountain vistas. This trail starts at “Potato Patch” near the south end of Spruce Lake, off the Spruce Lake Trail. The first 5 km of trail ascends 600 m to Windy Pass. The trail then drops about 500 meters down into the Eldorado Basin before climbing about 400 meters to Pearson Pass between the Eldorado and Pearson Basins, traveling about 8 km. 2 km southwest of Windy Pass is the junction with Taylor Creek Trail, which leaves the park and accesses the Taylor Creek Mining and Tourism Area. Another 3.5 km after that, the trail splits and the South Branch drops lowering into Eldorado Basin, accessing Lick Creek and B&F Trails before reconnecting with High Trail atop Pearson Pass. For the next 5 km the trail drops about 600 m through the scenic Pearson Basin area to the park boundary and then descends another 300 m over 3 km before ending near the south end of Tyaughton Lake.

## *Tyaughton Creek Trail*

This trail features open grasslands, moderate grades and spectacular views, **but contains several unbridged creek crossings which may be too hazardous to cross during high flows.** If you plan on using this trail, have a back-up plan. The trailhead is accessed by the Mud Creek-Paradise Creek FSR just north of the Tyaughton Creek Rec Site. The trail climbs an old road for 2 km to the park boundary, then travels along the valley for 14 km to the junction with WD Trail. There is a major creek crossing to access WD Trail and Spruce Lake at this point which may not be safe to use during high flow events. Approximately 5 km up the trail from this junction is a series of 4 unbridged creek crossings in short succession. These crossings will be difficult and dangerous to do during high flows, and there is no safe detour to avoid them. A further 5 km up the trail is the junction with Deer

Pass Trail, also accessed via an unbridged creek crossing (see below). Continuing up the trail for 3.5 km, the trail ends. From this area, users can access Big Creek Provincial Park via the Elbow Pass or Lorna Pass Trails, or head north into Little Paradise Basin on the Little Paradise Creek Trail (AKA Manson Creek Trail)

### *Deer Pass Trail*

This 10 km trail connects the upper sections of Tyaughton Creek Trail with the upper sections of Gun Creek Trail by climbing and descending 550 m over Sheba Ridge. **There is an unbridged creek crossing to access this trail on the Tyaughton Creek (northern) side.** When creek flows are high this trail is typically safest route to reach Spruce Lake and the southern portions of the park from the north, but at times this trail may be inaccessible. If you plan on taking this route, have a back-up plan.

### *Open Heart Trail*

This trail is a good day hike option for users staying at Spruce Lake and provides panoramic views of both the Gun Creek and Tyaughton Creek valleys. The trail starts at the junction of WD and Spruce Lake Trails and climbs 500 m over 3.5 km to a viewpoint on the shoulder of Sheba Ridge. There are no maintained trails past the viewpoint. Travel along Sheba Ridge is not recommended past this point due to unstable slopes and rockfall hazards.

### *WD Trail*

This trail is the main access to the trails in the northern half of the park from Spruce Lake. It travels 5 km north from the end of the Spruce Lake Trail to the Tyaughton Creek Trail. **Note that there is a major creek crossing just before the Tyaughton Creek Trail junction, and users will not be able to cross the creek during high flows,** particularly in the early summer and during major rain events. If you plan on using this trail, have a backup plan.

### *Relay Creek Trail*

This trail traverses the most northerly, remote sections of the park, and is one of the primary accesses to Big Creek Provincial Park. The trailhead is reached by traveling north on Relay Creek Road from the Tyaughton Creek Rec Site. Relay Creek Road is unmaintained, subject to frequent washouts, and should only be driven by experienced drivers in a high clearance, 4WD vehicle. The road becomes undrivable approximately 5 km before the park boundary. It is recommended that users park their vehicles at the landing 13 km north of the Rec Site, just before the road passes through a small creek. From this point, continue down the road for 7.5 km to a junction with an old mining exploration road. Stay left here and reach the park boundary a few hundred meters later. The road continues for 1.5 km before turning into single track that climbs off to the right. Continue up this trail for 1.75 km to a private cabin. The trail picks up again on the far side of the cabin and climbs 350 m over 7 km to reach Twin Lakes in Big Creek Provincial Park.

## Trail Distances

Area	Trail	Destination	Estimated Distance (km)	Comments	
Eldorado and Pearson Basins	B&F Creek Trail		9	Lower portions of trail are not in SCMP	
	Camel Pass Trail		1.5		
	High Trail	Park Boundary		2.6	From Tyaughton Lake Trailhead
		Cinnabar Mining Road		5.5	
		Camel Pass Trail		7	
		Pearson Pass		8	
		Taylor Creek Trail		13	
		Windy Pass		16.5	
	High Trail South Branch		3		
	Lick Creek Trail		10	Lower portions of trail are not in SCMP	
	North Cinnabar Mining Road		2		

Gun Creek and Spruce Lake	Gun Creek Trail	Gun Meadows Trail	10	From Jewel Bridge Trailhead
		Spruce Lake Trail	11.5	
		Cowboy Camp (via Lower Grasslands Trail)	12.5	
		Spruce Lake North (via Gun Meadows Trail)	15	
		Hummingbird Lake	18	
		Trigger Lake	22	
		Deer Pass / Warner Pass Trails	23.5	
	Gun Meadows Trail		3	
	Lower Grasslands Trail		2.5	
	Mid Grasslands Trail		1.5	
	Open Heart Trail		3.5	
	Spruce Lake Trail	"Potato Patch"	1	From Gun Creek Trail
		Spruce Lake South Campground	1.5	
		Spruce Lake North Campground	3.5	
	Warner Pass Trail	Warner Lake Dock	3.5	From Gun Creek / Deer Pass Junction
		Warner Pass	8.5	From Gun Creek / Deer Pass Junction
	WD Trail		4.5	<b>*Requires creek crossing*</b>

Relay Creek	Little Paradise Trail (AKA Manson Creek Trail)		12	From Tyaughton Creek to Relay Creek
	Relay Creek Trail	Little Paradise Trail	3.5	From Park Boundary
	Relay Creek Trail	Twin Lakes	10.8	
Tyaughton Creek	Castle Pass Trail	Castle Pass	8.3	From Tyaughton Creek Trail
	Deer Pass Trail	Deer Pass	4.5	From Gun Creek / Deer Pass Junction <b>*Requires creek crossing*</b>
		Tyaughton Creek	10	
	Elbow Pass	Elbow Pass	3.5	From Tyaughton Creek Trail
		Big Creek	8	
	Lorna Pass Trail	Lorna Pass	3.8	
		Lorna Lake	6.5	
	Tyaughton Creek Trail	Castle Pass	9	From Mud Ck - Paradise Ck FSR Trailhead <b>*Requires multiple creek crossings*</b>
		WD Trail	16	
		Deer Pass Trail	26	
		Manson / Little Paradise Trail	29	
Elbow Pass / Lorna Pass Trails		29.5		