



Mountain Scenery The Fraser River Gold Rush History

This route covers travel from Vancouver to Prince George – the gateway to the rugged terrain of Northern British Columbia – and returning to Vancouver. Highlights are the Fraser Canyon, Gold Rush country, Barkerville, the vibrant city of Prince George and the scenic Duffey Lake Road. Two touring options are provided separately (see Itineraries 1.1 and 1.2) for travel north of Prince George along the famous Alaska Highway to the Yukon and Alaska returning south on the Alaska State Ferry system and down the spectacular Inside Passage. A second route returns from the Yukon along the Stewart-Cassiar Highway. The history of the Alaska Highway and the Yukon Gold Rush are also highlights of these tours.

Itinerary At-A-Glance

Vancouver • Fraser Canyon • 108 Mile Ranch • Williams Lake • Likely • Barkerville • Prince George • Quesnel • Clinton • Lillooet • Duffey Lake Road • Whistler • Vancouver

Vancouver to Prince George including the Fraser Canyon and Barkerville

4 Days

Day 1

Vancouver to 108 Mile Ranch: 460km/276mi

Depart Vancouver in an RV or rental car. (Alternatively fly to Prince George and begin your northern discovery from there). Drive along the Trans Canada Highway (Hwy 1) through the lush Fraser Valley to the majestic **Fraser Canyon**. Stop at **Hell's Gate** for a trip on the tram across the raging Fraser River where over 750 million litres (200 gallons) of whitewater rush through a narrow gorge every minute during peak levels. Continue up the canyon to **Cache Creek**, follow Hwy 97 north to Clinton and onto **108 Mile Ranch**. Spend the evening being pampered at **The Hills Health Ranch**, 13km/8mi north of 100 Mile House.

Overnight The Hills Health Ranch.

Day 2

108 Mile Ranch to Prince George: 318km/191mi

North on Hwy 97 to the junction of Hwy 97 and the Horsefly/Likely Road. Head east to **Likely** (135 km/84 mi; about 2 hours). Likely is a small community on **Quesnel Lake** – the largest lake in the Cariboo region, as well as the world's deepest fjord lake (610 m/2,000 ft). A highlight is the abundance of waterfalls; one set is known as Little Niagara Falls, on the east arm of Quesnel Lake.

Day 2 continued

Just beyond Likely is **Cedar Point Provincial Park** – named for its ancient cedar rainforest. Aside from the wildlife and outdoor activities available, the park also has a good Visitor Centre that can provide information on the local history as well as a museum displaying historical mining artifacts from the Likely area.

Continue on the Keithley Creek/Barkerville Road (sometimes called the Matthew River Road) north to **Barkerville Historic Town** (approx. 3 hours & 170 kms), and pan for gold. At this restored gold rush boomtown featuring over 125 heritage buildings, interpreters in period costume depict life in the late 1800s when Barkerville was the gold capital of BC during the "Gold Rush Days". From Barkerville, head west on Hwy 26 to Quesnel (85km/52mi; about 2 hours). Experience pioneer life at **Cottonwood House** – a preserved road house on the **Gold Rush Trail** from Barkerville. At **Quesnel**, drive north on Hwy 97 to **Prince George**, the largest city in Northern British Columbia, offering the amenities of a city centre, with instant access to nearby wilderness and outdoor activities. Visit **Exploration Place** featuring interactive and historic exhibits, a virtual ride that allows visitors to feel like they are swimming with dolphins or other unique experiences.

Overnight Prince George.

Link to **HelloBC.com** for more information

ITINERARY

Vancouver to Prince George including Fraser Canyon and Barkerville

Day 3

Prince George to Clinton:

400km/240mi

Head south from Prince George on Hwy 97. Stop in **Quesnel** known as 'Gold Pan City'. Re-live the gold rush era at the **Quesnel Museum and Archives**. Follow the path of pioneers and prospectors on the scenic routes of the **Gold Rush Trail** travelling south on Hwy 97 from Quesnel to **McLeese Lake** (about 10 mins). Stretch your legs in **McLeese Lake**, an outdoor paradise offering activities ranging from canoeing, fishing and swimming to hiking and biking. Besides the amazing scenery, you might catch a glimpse of black bears, moose, wolves, hawks, owls and many other types of wild inhabitants of the area.

Continue down Hwy 97 a short distance to the **Xats'ull Heritage Village** where you can explore the spiritual, cultural and traditional way of life of the Xats'ull First Nation who have occupied this area for 10,000 years. Take a guided tour of the Village site, learn about ancient artifacts and listen to stories told by Village elders. Drive south on Hwy 97 to **Williams Lake** and visit the **Williams Lake Visitor Discovery Centre**. Drive south on Hwy 97 to **Clinton**. To truly experience this region, join a pack trip, herd cattle or ride along endless stretches of ranchland in the area around Clinton.

Overnight Clinton.

Day 4

Clinton to Vancouver:

305km/183mi

Leave Clinton early heading south to Lillooet. Take the scenic **Duffey Lake Road** (Hwy 99) from **Lillooet** to **Pemberton**. This winding, remote road covers 104km (62mi) and provides some of the most breathtaking mountain views in the province.

Experience the four season resort of **Whistler, Host Mountain Resort** for the **2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games** with its charming alpine village and majestic mountains. Get a unique view of the mountains around you and the village below on the **PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola** that travels between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains. Return to Vancouver along the famous **Sea to Sky Highway** for yet more mountain and ocean vistas.

Overnight Vancouver.

See Itineraries 1.1 and 1.2 for travel north from Prince George to discover the vast, untouched wilderness of the rugged north. Travel the famous Alaska Highway to the Yukon and Alaska, and then return via the spectacular Inside Passage. On Route 1.2, return along the Stewart-Cassiar Highway for breathtaking views of glaciers and wildlife.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Detailed itineraries with comprehensive routing information and product suppliers are available upon request. Please contact traveltrade@tourismbc.com or your Tourism BC representative for more information.

Information provided in this document was accurate at time of printing. Please consider that weather, construction projects, traffic conditions or other events may cause itinerary length to vary.

*Map is not to scale and intended for planning purposes only.

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