



Scan this QR code to view a mobile-friendly digital map of the heritage tour with links to Google Maps directions or visit cariboord.ca/historictour.

The information in this driving brochure has been compiled by volunteers of the CRD's Heritage Steering Committee.

Interested in getting involved?

Email heritage@cariboord.ca or contact us at 250-392-3351 or toll free 1-800-665-1636 to find out more.



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02/2024



Cariboo
Regional
District

**FREE
SELF-
GUIDED
TOUR**

Cariboo Chilcotin Historic Driving Tour Guide & Map



Accessibility



Accommodations



Camping



Fuel



Picnic Area



Restaurant



Store/Grocery



Restrooms

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While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented herein, the Cariboo Regional District accepts no liability in the event of inaccuracies. Please check with local Visitor Information Centres for hours of operation for all local heritage sites, road conditions, and availability of services. Campsites may be unserviced, and/or limited to small vehicles. Please also refrain from trespassing on private property.

Dark Blue Tour: Highway 97 North

1 - Clinton 
51.091592° N , 121.586989° W
40 km north of Cache Creek on Highway 97.
The tour begins in Clinton, originally known as 47 Mile House. Visit the museum, built in 1892. The Meadow Lake Road is located at what was 58 Mile House, north of Clinton.

2 - 100 Mile House 
51.641592° N , 121.298253° W
75 km north of Clinton on Highway 97.
Visit the South Cariboo Visitor Information Centre, and take the time to experience local history through a tour of the murals throughout town.

3 - 108 Mile Heritage Site 
51.750362° N , 121.348779° W
14 km north of 100 Mile House on Highway 97.
A collection of historic buildings dating back to the gold rush lovingly restored by volunteers. historical.ca

4 - Felker Homestead 
51.823085° N , 121.519057° W
28 km north of 100 Mile House.
Known as 118 Mile House, this stopping house and surrounding ranch served the goldfields.

5 - Mission Road (side trip)
52.111277° N , 121.990732° W
Turn left at Mission Road approximately 70 km north of 100 Mile House on Highway 97. Road exits through Sugar Cane Reserve.
This short detour will take you through the original Onward Mission Ranch (*private property*) which once hosted famous artists including members of the Group of Seven and Emily Carr. St. Joseph's historic cemetery and Mission residential school site are on this road. The foundation is all that remains of the residential school, but you can view a memorial commemorating this period of our history. Driving through the village of Sugarcane, home of the T'exelc First Nation, notice the 1885 church on your right.

6 - 150 Mile House 
52.107899° N , 121.927802° W
75 km north of 100 Mile House on Highway 97.
Once the major supply centre for the goldfields, 150 Mile House was overshadowed by Williams Lake with the advent of the railroad. Still remaining are the Little Red Schoolhouse (open to the public from July 1 to Aug. 31), the original doctor's house across the highway, and the constable's residence, jail and

courthouse awaiting restoration. The two old log buildings on the east side of the highway are remnants from the original ranch and stopping house. Chemo RV built their new offices and showroom on the skeleton of the original stable, and with materials from the barns. The cemetery on the hillside dates back to the late 1800s.

7 - Williams Lake 
52.122681° N , 122.09886° W
92 km north of 100 Mile House on Highway 97.
Visit the Tourism Discovery Centre on Hwy 97, which is also home to the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin. Other stops of interest include the Station House Gallery (the original railway station), the Potato House (1930s house & community garden and composting site) , the Central Cariboo Arts Centre (the original Williams Lake Fire Hall) and Scout Island Nature Centre.

8 - Xatsull Heritage Village 
52.324529° N , 122.277911° W
35.4 km north of Williams Lake on Highway 97. Turn left onto Williams Lake Cut Off Road. Single-lane gravel road.
Visit the award-winning traditional First Nations village with tours and cultural workshops. xatsullheritagevillage.com

9 - Soda Creek
52.343492° N , 122.290321° W
38 km north of Williams Lake on Highway 97.
Visit the historic cemetery, drive past the jailhouse and visit the town site (*private property*). Stop and pick corn at the Dunlevy Ranch in late August or September. Peter Dunlevy is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery . Deep Creek, which is 31 kilometres north of Williams Lake, has a campsite.

10 - Alexandria 
52.562643° N , 122.46363° W
60 km north of Williams Lake on Highway 97.
The North West Company established Fort Alexandria in 1821. When gold was discovered in the Cariboo in the mid-1800s, the Cariboo Wagon Road was completed to Alexandria. By 1867, the fort had become a farm, supplying produce to Quesnel and miners heading to Barkerville.

Orange Tour: Dog Creek Road to Meadow Lake Road to Highway 97

A day trip circle tour, mostly on gravel roads.

1 - Springhouse
51.956488° N , 122.139837° W
27 km southwest of Williams Lake on Dog Creek Road.
Named for nearby St. Peter's Spring, this is the home of Springhouse Airpark.

2 - Alkali Lake Ranch
51.789528° N , 122.251335° W
52 km southwest of Williams Lake on Dog Creek Road.
Believed to be the oldest ranch in BC, this ranch was established by Herman Otto Bowe in 1861 to service the goldfields, and is still thriving today. (*private property*)

3 - Dog Creek Airport
51.626626° N , 122.25593° W
75 km southwest of Williams Lake on Dog Creek Road.
Built during WWII by the Royal Canadian Air Force, there was once a fair-sized community here. The airport was abandoned when the Williams Lake airport was opened in 1961. (*private property*)

4 - Churn Creek Protected Area 
51.518385° N , 122.287314° W
Protected Area, 108 km southwest of Williams Lake on Dog Creek Road.
Cross the Gang Ranch bridge, stop at the kiosk and view the petroglyph which was taken to Vancouver in 1926 and repatriated by local First Nations.

5 - Gang Ranch
51.555706° N , 122.349952° W
109 km southwest of Williams Lake on Dog Creek Road.
Founded in 1863 by the Harper Brothers, the Gang Ranch was once the largest in North America. It is still in operation today. (*private property*)

Brown Tour: Highway 20

Fuel is available at Toosey, Anaham, Redstone, Nimpo Lake and Tatla Lake. All services are available at Anahim Lake.

1 - Lee's Corner Hanceville
51.941862° N , 123.099948° W
92 km west of Williams Lake on Highway 20.
A number of gravel circle routes start here, including Farwell Canyon, Gang Ranch and Big Creek. This is also the junction leading to Nemiah Valley and Chilko Lake. Nearby is the historic Norman Lee Ranch, famous for Norman Lee who drove 200 cows 1500 miles to the Klondike gold camps in 1898. Five hundred miles short of his destination, winter forced him to butcher his dying herd. Several historic buildings were destroyed here in the 2017 wildfires.

2 - Alexis Creek 
52.083259° N , 123.279612° W
114 km west of Williams Lake on Highway 20.
Named after Chief Alexis of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, who was chief during the time of the Chilcotin War of 1864. Stop at the Visitor Information Centre and nearby Bull Canyon Provincial Park and walk the interpretive trails. The Alexis Creek Health Centre (outpost) is still operating and is the nurse's residence.

3 - Puntzi Lake & Airport 
52.112659° N , 124.143023° W
185 km west of Williams Lake on Highway 20. About 1 km past the Redstone Reserve, take the Puntzi Lake road to find the lake, camping and resorts. The airport is on Puntzi Airport Road (8 km past Redstone).
Puntzi Lake was the site of a large village destroyed by smallpox in 1862. The Puntzi Lake Airport and radar station was established in WWII as part of the Pinetree Line, and the air strip is still operational. There is lodging on Puntzi Lake.

4 - Tatla Lake 
51.904597° N , 124.600114° W
223 km west of Williams Lake on Highway 20.
Visit the Graham Inn, built in the late 1920s by Robert Graham as a mansion for his wife, and tour the historic cemetery. This junction also leads to the Tatlayoko and Westbranch Valleys.

5 - Bella Coola Hill
52.527177° N , 125.81848° W
350 km west of Williams Lake on Highway 20.
Pavement ends at the famous “Freedom Hill”, built by locals after the government of the day said it was not possible.

6 - Bella Coola 
52.37112° N , 126.755724° W
451 km west of Williams Lake on Highway 20
Visit the Bella Coola Museum and Visitor Information Centre to learn about the First Nations history of this area, and to learn more about “Freedom Hill”.

Purple Tour: Keithley Creek Road to Wells & Barkerville

3100 Road from Wells-Barkerville or the 8400 Road from Likely-Keithley Creek Road. **Be sure to check in Likely or Barkerville for road availability and conditions.** The road is a gravel forest service road; please drive carefully.

1 - Keithley Creek

52.757319° N , 121.4144° W

27 km east of Likely on Keithley Creek Road.

This ghost town was once a bustling mining community named for W. R. “Doc” Keithley, who struck gold here in 1860. Take some time to visit the historic cemetery.

2 - Cunningham Creek

52.981783° N , 121.352133° W

110 km east and north of Likely on Wells/Barkerville Road

This creek was worked by both miners of European and Chinese ancestry since the discovery of gold here in 1861.

3 - Whiskey Flats

53.007079° N , 121.395322° W

120 km east and north of Likely on Wells/Barkerville Road.

Forestry campsites are available at Ghost Lake/Matthew River Falls and Whiskey Flats, where the remains of a dredging operation is still visible. This road completes a circle tour with Highways 97 & 26, and the Likely Road.

4 - Antler Creek

53.009107° N , 121.402842° W

130 km east and north of Likely, on Wells/Barkerville Road.

Gold was also discovered here in 1860. The creek once yielded up to \$10,000 per day in gold.

Red Tour: Horsefly Road

1 - Horsefly

52.334505° N , 121.414654° W

52 km east of 150 Mile House on Likely Road.

Gold was discovered here in 1859; some even say it's where the gold rush began. Back in those days, Horsefly was known as Harper's camp. Visit the Horsefly Museum and Visitor Information Centre to learn more about the historical treasures in the area. Follow the Beaver Valley Road, site of the original stopping house built by Pete Dunlevy, to form a circle tour with Likely and Big Lake.

Aqua Tour: Highway 26

1 - Cottonwood House

53.05169° N , 122.156848° W

29 km east of Quesnel on Highway 26.

Cottonwood House is one of the last remaining roadhouses in British Columbia. It was built in the 1860s to offer accommodation, meals and provisions to miners and travellers on their journey along the Cariboo Wagon Road between Barkerville and Quesnel.

2 - Mexican Hill/Lovers' Leap Rest Stop

53.021465° N , 122.065954° W

40 km east of Quesnel on Highway 26.

One of the steepest grades on the Cariboo Wagon Road. Stop and read the story of Lovers' Leap at the rest stop at the top of the hill.

3 - Blessings Grave

53.06203° N , 121.94919° W

50 km east of Quesnel on Highway 26.

The final resting place of Charles Blessing, who was murdered in 1863 for his gold.

4 - Stanley

53.039969° N , 121.717795° W

66 km east of Quesnel on Highway 26.

The Stanley Hotel (*private property*) is still standing, and the cemetery is well worth a visit.

5 - Wells

53.103205° N , 121.575655° W

80 km east of Quesnel on Highway 26.

Established in 1930 as a gold-mining town, Wells has maintained the 1930s theme. Visit the Wells Museum which was once the mine office, or pick up a walking tour brochure from the Visitor Information Centre.

6 - Barkerville

53.066877° N , 121.517107° W

86 km east of Quesnel on Highway 26.

Barkerville was established in 1862 with Billy Barker's gold strike, and was once a bustling city. Barkerville has been a national historic site since 1924, lovingly preserved as a living museum and fully staffed year-round. barkerville.ca

11 - Quesnel Antique Machinery Park

52.919163° N , 122.43345° W

114 km north of Williams Lake on Highway 97 or 12 km south of Quesnel at 3055 Dragon Lake Road.

Spend at least an hour exploring the park, and be prepared for some unexpected surprises! The park is operated by a volunteer association dedicated to preserving and restoring equipment used for mining, forestry, transportation and agriculture from the 1850s onward. Open Friday – Tuesday during the summer

12 - Quesnel

52.976961° N , 122.489329° W

118 km north of Williams Lake on Highway 97.

Visit the Quesnel Museum and Visitor Information Centre to learn about the historic places to visit, including the river walk, heritage walking tours, the former Hudson's Bay store, Hoy House, and the Collins Telegraph Trail. View the plaque honoring the five Tsilhqot'in Chiefs who were hanged in 1864 at the current site of the GR Baker Memorial Hospital (*inaccessible due to construction - 2023*).

Pink Tour: Highway 24

1 - Lone Butte

51.553434° N , 121.188747° W

18 km east of 100 Mile House. About 9 km south of 100 Mile House turn onto Highway 24 East.

This town is named for the 175 foot Butte Rock. The Water Tower Park has the last standing water tower on the old Pacific Great Eastern Railway. Drive by the old Willowford Log School House and the Alice Singleton Heritage House. You will also see the first area church, the original Red Cross outpost hospital, and the post office, complete with an original Diefenbunker bomb shelter.

2 - Bridge Lake Ice Caves

51.498447° N , 120.770831° W

56 km southeast of 100 Mile House. About 9 km south of 100 Mile House turn onto Highway 24 East.

Along Bridge Lake, you will find caves and crevices sheltered from sun and wind. Melting snow seeps through the rock crevices into the caves, where it refreezes and creates a year-round supply of ice. Both First Nations and early European settlers used the caves to collect ice.

Green Tour: Likely Road

1 - 153 Mile House Ranch & General Store

52.140004° N , 121.950731° W

5 km east of 150 Mile House on Likely Road.

An important ranch and stopping house on the gold rush trail. The ranch is still operational, and the general store has been preserved in its original state (*private property*).

2 - Big Lake Heritage Site

52.391844° N , 121.88192° W

43 km east of 150 Mile House on Likely Road.

Be sure to visit the remains of the Big Lake Ranch which includes a saddle shop, blacksmith shop and Mrs. Lee's chicken house. This ranch was originally built to service the gold fields. Wander interpretive trails and learn about the stopping house, and barn with room for 100 horses.

3 - Morehead Lake

52.602622° N , 121.778432° W

72 km east of 150 Mile House on Likely Road.

This man-made lake was created to provide water to the local bullion pit mine.

4 - Prior's Little Lake House & Hydraulic

52.615274° N , 121.709141° W

80 km east of 150 Mile House on Likely Road.

Just one kilometre off the Likely Road, Prior's Little Lake House served the gold rush travellers and the town of Hydraulic with a roadhouse, slaughterhouse, barns and post office (*private property*).

5 - Bullion Pit Rest Stop

52.619567° N , 121.627222° W

83 km east of 150 Mile House on Likely Road.

Stop here and view the incredible Bullion Pit, and learn its history.

6 - Likely

52.61554° N , 121.568972° W

85 km east of 150 Mile House on Likely Road.

Visit the Likely Visitor Information Centre, and learn about the many attractions Likely has to offer, including the Chinese ovens, the Likely Lodge, Winkley Creek, or the remains of Cedar City. Visit the Cedar Point Historic Park and the Likely Museum where you can watch a film about the bullion pit. likely-bc.ca

7 - Quesnelle Forks

52.664787° N , 121.672275° W

13 km east of Likely on Rosette Lake Road.

During its heyday, known as the largest city north of San Francisco, the town was abandoned when gold was discovered in Barkerville. Visit the interpretive centre, wander through the ghost town, and explore the historic cemetery.

TOURS

- ### Legend

- 2023-06-20

A horizontal scale bar with tick marks at 50, 25, 0, and 5. The unit 'Kilometers' is written below the bar.



CARIBOO
REGIONAL DISTRICT

CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT

STRATHCONA
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SQUAMISH-LILLOOET
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Cariboo
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Calgary

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