

Cariboo Chilcotin Adventure Guides Spring/99

Cameron Ridge

Rec Use:
Rating:



At a Glance

The Cameron Ridge trail, in the Quesnel Highlands, offers spectacular views of the Cariboo Mountains. Since the Cameron Ridge trail is half way between Barkerville and Likely, a popular circle tour, it's a great place to stop and explore. The mellow slopes have great potential from Nov-May for intermediate backcountry ski touring.

Overall Length: ±14 km round trip
Average Grade: 5% to 30%
Elevation gain: ± 600 meters (8400 rd to ridge)

The outdoor recreation ratings have been developed through a combination of generally recognized standards for activities such as biking, hiking, kayaking, and local knowledge.



Trailhead (s)

From Williams Lake..

Head 14 km south on Highway 97 to the Horsefly Road. Turn left (east) and continue for 86 km, following road signs to Likely, a small mining and logging community. The historic Likely Hotel is full of local colour. Continue through Likely (pavement turns to gravel) for 18 km and turn right at the Barkerville sign. Continue a short distance, crossing the Cariboo River and turn left onto the 8400 Rd (also known as the Maeford Lake Forest Rd). Continue on this good gravel road for a further 42 km (past Cariboo and Maeford Lakes) to the Cameron trailhead, 9 km past Maeford Lake, just after the 8447 km sign. Park in a large clearing across from the trail head. Although this area of Crown land is leased by a local guide, she has no objections to public parking at this time. Please **respect** this privilege and keep the parking area clean.

From Wells-Barkerville..

From Highway 26, turn left onto the Bowron Lake Rd. Then immediately turn right onto the 3100 Rd (Matthew River Rd) and stay on this scenic touring route to reach the trailhead. At 65 km, the 3100 Rd enters the Horsefly Forest District and becomes the 8400 Rd. The Cameron trailhead is located 3 km beyond this point, just before the 8447 km sign.

Mountain bikers can park at the Little River Mining Road - 8400 Rd junction (old trailhead). This single lane mining road, beginning 7 km past Maeford Lake, is in poor condition but fine for mountain biking. As noted above, hikers should drive a further 2 km along the 8400 road to the Cameron trailhead.

Trail Description

The Cameron Ridge trail extends through gently sloping subalpine spruce-fir forests with natural meadows. The area is well known for a diversity of wildlife including grizzly and black bear, caribou, moose, and wolverine. Beginning at the new parking area, a recent section of trail now by-passes the former access via the Little River Mining Road. This trail is well brushed and marked with reflectors. The trail joins the mining road at the lower junction (good place for water) and then splits off after 450 m and continues to the first viewpoint overlooking Cameron Creek and the Mitchell River Valley. The trail then continues up a gently sloping ridge into an old growth forest, leading to the main attraction, a viewpoint overlooking the Mitchell wetlands, Cariboo Mtns, and Penfold Valley. Use **extreme caution** in approaching this lookout since it is located at the edge of a sheer cliff dropping 1000 m down to Quesnel Lake. Shortly before the Cariboo Mtns lookout, the Cameron Ridge trail is joined by the Antler Springs trail. After a visit to the lookout, follow the Antler Springs trail south through a meadow system to Hourglass lake, a nice spot to camp. The remains of an old mining camp can be seen on the south shore. From the lake, the trail joins the mining road at the upper junction (an ATV track at this point), continues past signs of mining exploration, and climbs to "Nora's Knoll", an expansive alpine area offering spectacular views of the north arm of Quesnel Lake and surrounding mountains. This ridge offers access to multi-day hiking options extending to Mount Stevenson. Day-hikers can hike down and follow the mining road back to the middle junction, picking up the Cameron Ridge trail at the lower junction, and complete the loop.

Be Aware of..

- ▶ High elevation Interior Wet-belt conditions: sudden weather changes, temperature drops, and heavy rain or snow..
- ▶ Possibility of bear or cougar encounters.
- ▶ Difficult road conditions in late spring (snow) since trailhead is at highest point of 8400 Rd (1370 m).
- ▶ Need for a compass, altimeter, and 1:50,000 NTS maps 93 A 11, 14, 15 (especially for extended trips).



Left:
View from
Cariboo Mtns
Lookout

Trail Ethics

- ▶ Respect this wilderness area. Pack out what you pack in.
- ▶ Practice low impact camping so the area will not be spoiled for other visitors. For more information, please check out the Outdoor Recreation Council's brochure on Backcountry Sanitation.
- ▶ Mountain Bikers, please stay on the Little River Mining Road access to minimize impact on this sensitive high elevation environment..
- ▶ If riding, slow down or stop when approaching hikers and use common sense. Bells on your bike are recommended to let others (ie. bears) know you are coming.
- ▶ Recommended season of use for hiking is mid July to Sept 30th, to reduce conflicts with wildlife and avoid spring and fall snow conditions.

Overview Map



Brief History

Cameron Ridge is believed to be named after John A. Cameron or "Cariboo Cameron" who staked the first claim in "Cameron" a few months after his friend Billy Barker made his strike in Barkerville. Although Cameron's claim paid a rate of \$1000/foot, he died penniless in Barkerville in 1888. No doubt he had lots of fun spending his money.

The authors of the Cariboo Chilcotin Adventure Guides have tried hard to provide up to date, accurate information. However, no guide is perfect and no responsibility is accepted for any discrepancies or lack of precision. Also, users of the Cariboo Chilcotin Adventure Guides agree to waive any and all claims against the authors and staff for personal injury or mis-adventure while undertaking any outdoor recreation activity. Make sure you evaluate your ability in relation to the risks and challenges. Be **prepared** for weather changes, bring first aid gear, **go with a friend(s), and leave a copy of your trip plan with someone you trust.**

Ambulance: 392-5402 Police: 392-6211
For more information phone: (250) 398-7873

