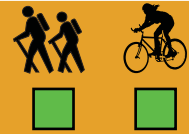


Cariboo Chilcotin Adventure Guides

Spring/99

Dantes Inferno

Rec Use:
Rating:



At a Glance

The trail to Dantes Inferno is a unique opportunity to experience the open grasslands of the Chilcotin plateau and visit a beautiful lake of volcanic origin. This trip is an easy family day outing from Williams Lake.

Overall Length: ± 10km round trip
Average Grade: 5% on prairie/+ 30% on hiking trail
Elevation gain: approx 360 meters (to lake)
Rating: easy bike ride/moderate hike

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)

Drive 68 km west from Williams Lake on Highway #20. Turn left onto Beaumont Road and continue on this gravel road for about 1.5 km. Look for a single tree on the open prairie (right hand side)...the dirt trail leading to Dantes Inferno is about 20 meters beyond the tree. Although you can drive on this road in most conditions direct to the trail head, we suggest you park at the junction with the dirt trail and Beaumont Road. The dirt trail makes for a very pleasant bike ride or walk through the open prairie. Remember, you are travelling through leased grazing land and in some cases private land so please stay on the road.

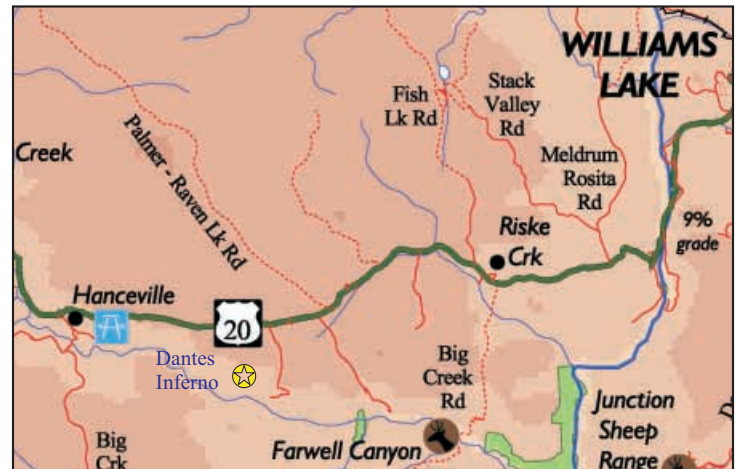
Trail Description...

The main attraction of this trail is the destination, Dante's Inferno, a beautiful undisturbed lake on the edge of the plateau above the Chilcotin River. Expect great views of the lake, box canyon, and the Chilcotin River valley. The main access to Dante Inferno passes through land leased and owned by a local rancher. While the rancher has no objection to recreationalists crossing his land to reach the lake, it is important to respect his property rights by staying on the road, closing gates, and avoiding disturbing cattle. There is no guarantee that unrestricted access will continue to be available in the future.

From Beaumont Road, follow the dirt access trail west through open range land for about 3 km, passing through two gates (keep them closed). Continue across a small irrigation ditch (can be forded on foot or bike) to a small corral where the road passes through one more gate and turns southwest to the trail head, about 1 km further along. The access trail/road ends in a semi-open fir forest on the plateau above the lake (look for the fisheries sign on a tree). The main trail down to the lake begins at the end of the road and the trail head is easily visible. You may also notice a new trail heading west along the rim of the old volcano - this short trail offers a great viewpoint of the lake. Leave your mountain bike at the hiking trail head since the trail is too steep to ride up. The trail switchbacks down along the east side of the lake and provides some nice views. Just above the lake, the trail branches with one leg heading direct to the lake and access for launching inflatable boats or float tubes. Although the lake has been stocked by BC Environment, the fish are rather savvy and hard to catch. The other trail continues south onto a ridge line above the lake and provide access to a small camping area and the west side of the lake. Numerous opportunities exist for more exploring off-trail in this semi-open country.



Heading east on access road - Bald Mtn visible in distance



Overview Map

Trail Ethics

- ▶ Respect private land. The trail to Dantes Inferno crosses a grazing lease, and sections of private land-stay on the road! Approach cows slowly and ensure you close gates after passing through.
- ▶ Practice low impact cycling.
- ▶ Control your bicycle.
- ▶ Slow down when passing others or stop. Anticipate other trail users around corners or in blind spots.
- ▶ Pack out what you pack in and leave the area clean.
- ▶ There are no maintained camping areas. Practice low impact backcountry ethics in selecting camp sites and waste disposal, especially near Dante's Inferno.



View of Dantes Inferno-looking north

Be Aware of..

- ▶ Possible bear encounters, especially in late summer.

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 out riding. After all, Mountain Biking is not risk free..**take your time, go with a friend, and don't ride beyond your ability!**

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