

Cariboo Chilcotin Adventure Guides Spring/99

Eureka Peak Traverse

Rec Use:
Rating:



At a Glance

Eureka Peak in the Cariboo Mountains is well known to locals as an easily accessible wilderness alpine experience offering options for day and multi-day hiking and good backcountry skiing. A commercial guide outfitting service also operates in the area.

Overall Length: ±25 km West to East along traverse
Trip Time: 2-3 days hiking at a moderate pace
Average Grade: 20-30% on climb to Alpine
10% grades in Alpine
Elevation gain: ±1200 Meters

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



Trail Overview Map: Camping/Accommodation



Be Aware of..

- ▶ Remote wilderness nature of area
- ▶ Potential for bear encounters - keep a clean camp
- ▶ Avalanche hazard assessment techniques for winter-spring travel and need for beacons, probes, etc.
- ▶ Natural hazards on all ski and hiking terrain
- ▶ Possible fog or low cloud at high elevation in summer. Bring 1:50,000 map (NTS 93 A/7), compass, and altimeter.

Trailhead:

From Williams Lake, travel 15 km south on Highway 97 and turn left (east) onto the Horsefly Rd. Continue for 60 km to the community of Horsefly. The Ministry of Forests office in Horsefly can provide information on road conditions and fire hazard, as well as access at Whiskey Bridges. Then continue east on the 100 Road (Black Creek Road) for about 45 km.

Keep left on the 100 Road at the Crooked Lake Road fork and continue another 5+ km to Whiskey Bridges (series of bridges on the Horsefly). Turn right and continue on a secondary logging road network to the trail head. In summer, park at a landing near the end of the road - look for a large steel tripod. From you have a short hike on old skid trails to the forest and hiking route. There are 2 or 3 alternative trails up through the subalpine to reach the main hiking route - see air photo inset below for details. If possible, leave another vehicle at the MOF campsite or Crooked Lake Resort (or arrange for drop-off) so you complete the entire traverse and return to Whiskey Bridges to pick up your vehicle. Although it is possible to begin the traverse from the east end at Crooked Lake, we do not recommend this option. This side of Eureka is quite dry and has public and commercial horse trips (lead by local guide). Also, finding the route down to Whiskey Bridges is more difficult, when heading from east to west.

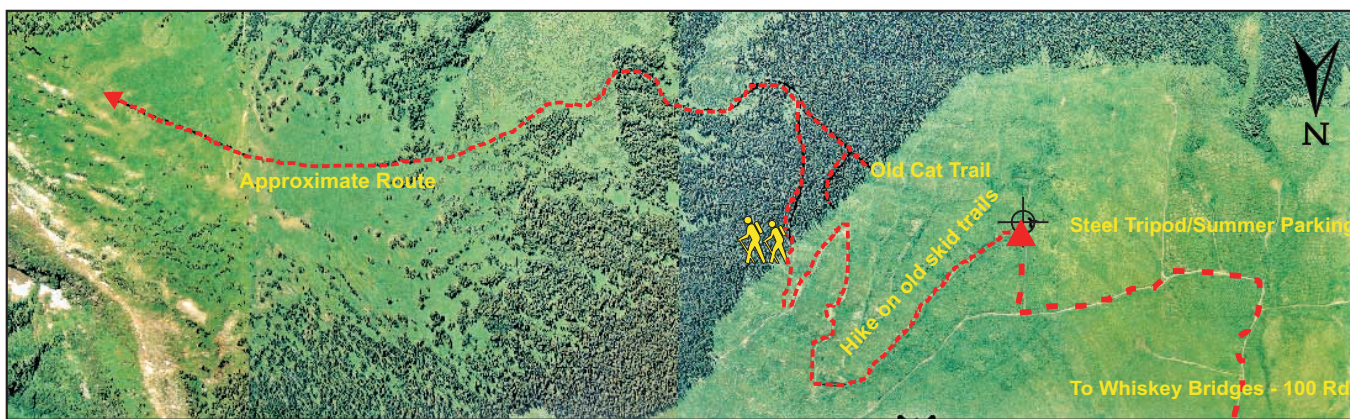
During the winter, park just off the 100 road at the junction with the road heading uphill from Whiskey Bridges, snowmobile to the trailhead and ski in from here.

Trail Ethics

- ▶ Choose routes and camp sites which minimize the impact in this alpine environment. See the Outdoor Rec Council brochure for more info on low impact camping techniques..
- ▶ Use care when approaching parties on horseback. Stop, get on the low side of the trail, and wait for instructions before proceeding.
- ▶ This area is closed to vehicle use above 1500 meters (5000 ft) elevation for wildlife management purposes. No motorcycles, ATVs or snowmobiles are permitted above this elevation.

Description continued..

If planning a day hike, stick to the Whiskey Bridges side of Eureka. This side offers gentle slopes, great vistas, and a much more enjoyable hike through the subalpine than the Crooked Lake side of Eureka. The Eureka area also offers good backcountry skiing at the west and east sides, especially since the area is closed to ATVs (i.e. snowmobiles) above 1500 m. The main accessible areas for skiing are identified on the map - reverse side. You should be skilled in backcountry ski travel and have proper equipment for hazard assessment and rescue.



Trail Description

The Eureka Peak traverse is a hiking route rather than an established trail, although an old horse-trail may be apparent in some areas. The hiking is almost entirely in the alpine and route finding is not difficult, except in foggy conditions. Bring a compass, 1:50,000 contour map (NTS 93 A/7) and altimeter as additional navigation aids. Options for camping are indicated on the map (reverse). Beginning at the Whiskey Bridges trailhead, continue east up a gentle alpine slope and follow a traverse below the ridge at about 1900 m elev. A Radio Repeater Tower should be visible to the northeast, above the route on a small hill-top. The route continues south-east on a moderately sloped bench and then descends to a small alpine lake at about 2000 m elev., a good spot for camping. The route then climbs onto the Eureka Peak ridgeline (very obvious) and becomes a ridge walk with great vistas - keep an eye out for mountain goats. Continue up and over Eureka Peak, heading south-southeast down through a series of wide passes. The route extends above two beautiful alpine lakes, recommended as a camping area. From this point, pick up the old mining road (quite evident) on the south shore of the lakes and continue west along the road about 10 km down to the Crooked Forest Road. The MOF campsite is about .5 km further west along the road.

Above: Overview of Access - Whiskey Bridges trailhead

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.

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