

Cariboo Chilcotin Adventure Guides Spring/99

Teapot

Rec Use:
Rating:



At a Glance

Mount Elsey, known to the locals as "Teapot" offers amazing backcountry skiing and snowboarding from late October to mid-June. From late July to the end of September, the hiking trail provides a starting point for extended Alpine trekking and ridge walks.

Length: +4 km to cabin
Elevation gain: 330 meters trailhead to cabin
740 meters trailhead to Mt Elsey summit

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):

Travel 15 km south from Williams Lake on Highway 97. Turn left (east) onto the Horsefly Rd and continue for 60 km to the community of Horsefly. At Horsefly, turn right onto the Black Creek or 100 Rd. The Ministry of Forests office is located a short distance down the Black Creek Rd. Stop here for up to date information on summer/winter access conditions and summer fire hazard. Then continue on the 100 Rd (well marked) for about 55 km and turn left onto the Wartig Lake or 6100 Rd. Continue for about 5 km - slow down when you see the bridge sign and take the Chen Rd up into first cutblock. Partway up take the left fork and follow this road to the 2nd cutblock (see inset). Continue to the top landing and park. Look on the left side for a trail heading into the forest.

In winter, park at the Chen Rd turn-off and ski or snowmobile up to the trailhead.

Trail Description:

Follow the trail on the left side of a creek gorge. After 3 long switchbacks, the trail levels out and enters alpine meadows. At this point the trail passes below steep cliffs on your right. Follow the trail through an initial series of meadows, then into a stand of trees and onto the second meadow system with a view of an alpine basin. Continue until you reach the end of the gently sloped ground. At the point where the terrain climbs steeply on 3 sides, look to the left for the survival shelter (built by locals) in the trees. Although this 'rustic' cabin is frequently used by backcountry skiers, it can be a bit tricky to find. Please respect this facility! From the cabin the route to the main ski runs and hiking routes is a short steep climb to the left following a series of switchbacks up to a saddle (see map reverse for trail detail). In the summer, Mount Watchman is a recommended hiking destination.



Top: View from Watchman Mtn looking south

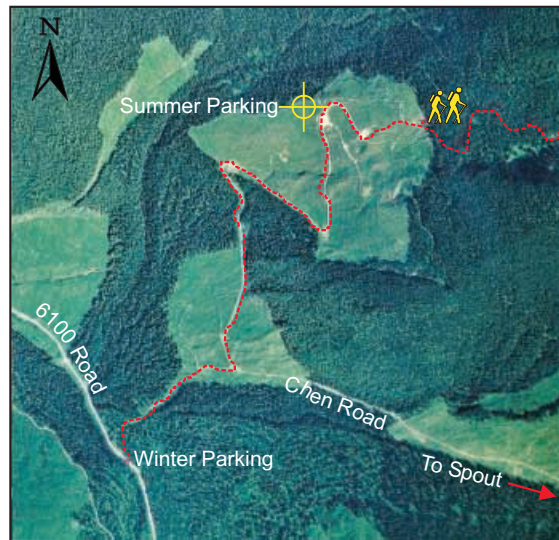
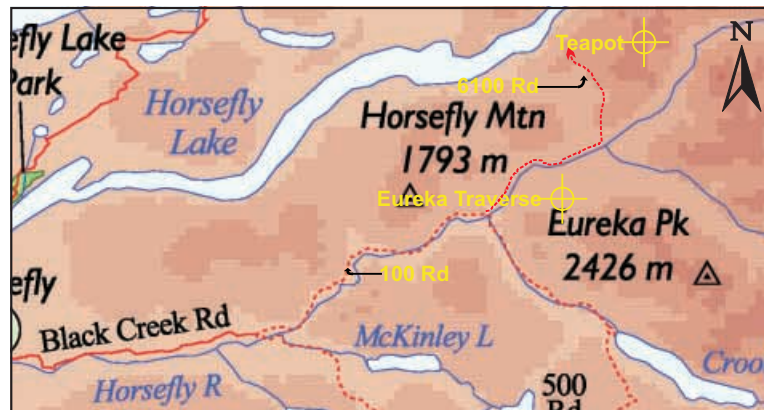
Right: View of Suscahontas from Cabin (Outhouse)



Be Aware of..

- ▶ Avalanche potential on all terrain. Avalanche hazard assessment skills and techniques are essential for winter and spring trips, as well as avalanche beacons, probes, shovels, etc.
- ▶ Remote wilderness nature of area and potential for sudden weather changes.
- ▶ Natural hazards on all ski and hiking terrain
- ▶ Potential for bear encounters in hiking season

Overview Map



Left: View of Trailhead and Parking

Below: Teapot Emergency Shelter

Trail Ethics

- ▶ Practice low impact backcountry camping in choosing camp sites and disposing of wastes to ensure this sensitive alpine environment is maintained.
- ▶ Please leave the cabin in a tidy condition and split some wood for the next person.



Trail description continued..

Keep in mind that the trail up Teapot is not well marked. Beyond the 'emergency shelter' the trail becomes more of a route and navigational skills are essential. In clear weather, the route is quite obvious once you reach the alpine. However, summer travel in fog, rain, or low cloud may be very difficult and hazardous without good knowledge of the area and accurate navigation.

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

