

Cariboo—Wells Gray

Plateau country
Central British Columbia is a high plateau bounded by mountains to the east and west. Highway 97 between Clinton and Williams Lake travels through the 'Cariboo', the name given to the southeastern part of the plateau. Highway 5 at Clearwater provides access to the eastern plateau in Wells Gray Park.

Wells Gray Park
Famous for its waterfalls, canyons, and ancient volcanoes, Wells Gray Park is on the edge of the plateau. Rivers and streams tumble off the plateau as waterfalls, over these waterfalls, they carve deep canyons in the lava layers that underlie the plateau.

Why is the plateau flat?
The plateau is an ancient flood plain raised by Earth's crust and smoothed by wind and water for 5 to 20 million years ago.

B.C.'s lava plateau
Ancient gas bubbles trapped during cooling, give lava the appearance of rock sponge.

Overhanging lip
The plateau is a high plateau bounded by mountains to the east and west. Highway 97 between Clinton and Williams Lake travels through the 'Cariboo', the name given to the southeastern part of the plateau. Highway 5 at Clearwater provides access to the eastern plateau in Wells Gray Park.

Upper canyon
Sphinx Creek flows from a narrow canyon, over Sphinx Creek Falls, and into a larger canyon. Steep canyon walls form because the rock breaks along vertical cracks in the lava.

Lower canyon
Sphinx Creek flows from a narrow canyon, over Sphinx Creek Falls, and into a larger canyon. Steep canyon walls form because the rock breaks along vertical cracks in the lava.

Ice Age river
Though dry today, Chasm canyon was cut by a former glacial river and waterfall at the end of the Ice Age.

Kamloops—Shuswap

Big valleys and lakes
From Cache Creek to Sicamous, Highway 1 follows the Thompson and South Thompson river valleys through dry grasslands past Kamloops Lake and the city of Kamloops, and eastward by farms and forests to the glacier-carved Shuswap Lake.

Shuswap Lake
The Shuswap Lake is a large lake in the Shuswap region of British Columbia. It is a remnant of a much larger lake that once covered the area. The lake is surrounded by mountains and forests.

McAbee fossil beds
The McAbee fossil beds near Cache Creek are a managed fossil collecting site. Leaf, flower, insect, and fish fossils are preserved in 50 million year old mudstone that formed in an ancient lake beside a volcano. Volcanic eruptions later buried the mudstone with its fossils.

McAbee fossil beds
The McAbee fossil beds near Cache Creek are a managed fossil collecting site. Leaf, flower, insect, and fish fossils are preserved in 50 million year old mudstone that formed in an ancient lake beside a volcano. Volcanic eruptions later buried the mudstone with its fossils.

McAbee fossil beds
The McAbee fossil beds near Cache Creek are a managed fossil collecting site. Leaf, flower, insect, and fish fossils are preserved in 50 million year old mudstone that formed in an ancient lake beside a volcano. Volcanic eruptions later buried the mudstone with its fossils.

Highway 3—Similkameen

Hope to Kereenos
Highway 3 winds from rainforests to Hope, over the Cascade Mountains, past former mining towns of Princeton and Hedley to grasslands and the rich agricultural fields of the Similkameen River valley.

Highland Valley mine
Highland Valley mine, near Logan Lake, is Canada's largest copper mine. Tours are available for the mine, its mill, and the reclaimed mined areas. There is also a viewpoint along Highway 97C.

Highland Valley mine
Highland Valley mine, near Logan Lake, is Canada's largest copper mine. Tours are available for the mine, its mill, and the reclaimed mined areas. There is also a viewpoint along Highway 97C.

Highland Valley mine
Highland Valley mine, near Logan Lake, is Canada's largest copper mine. Tours are available for the mine, its mill, and the reclaimed mined areas. There is also a viewpoint along Highway 97C.

How B.C. was built: an analogy

180 million years ago, as the Atlantic Ocean began to open, North America moved westward and collided with nearby ocean floor and volcanic islands, in a process somewhat like a bulldozer pushing soil and boulders from a field.

Today, B.C.'s landmass is a collision zone of deformed volcanic islands, seafloor, and North American continental margin.

B.C.—North America's leading edge

Highway 3 crosses the 1900s Hope landslide, the largest historic slide in western Canada. The slide killed four motorists and buried the former Highway 3 by as much as 70 m of rock debris.

Red ochre bluffs
Red ochre bluffs gave Princeton its early name 'Newman Falls'. Ancient underground fires in coal seams baked adjacent mudstone, converting iron minerals to red ochre. First Nations used this red ochre as pigment in green paint for ceremonies and rock art.

White Lake
White Lake, west of Chase, is a remnant of an ancient lake. The lake is surrounded by mountains and forests.

Map of British Columbia
The map shows the province of British Columbia, Canada, with major cities, rivers, and mountain ranges. Key locations include Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna, Vernon, and the Rocky Mountains. The map is color-coded to show different geographical features and is surrounded by various informational panels.

Okanagan valley—Boundary

The Okanagan valley is famous for its large lakes, agriculture, and dry landscapes. The valley follows an ancient fault in the Earth's crust that has been eroded by rivers and ice age glaciers. To the east along Highway 3 is the Boundary country with a rich history of mining.

Population

- 50,000 or more
- 10,000-50,000
- 5,000-10,000
- 1,000-5,000
- 500-1,000
- 50-500

Legend

- Major roads, paved
- Major roads, unpaved
- Minor roads, paved
- Minor roads, unpaved
- Provincial parks and park boundaries
- Location of photograph

39 Mines (producer, past producer)

- 22-Mount Polley (copper), 23-Kellyville (gold), 24-Hot Lake (copper), 25-Fraser Lake (copper), 26-Pavilion Limestone (limestone), 27-Walrus Quarry (railroad ballast), 28-Ashcroft (aggregate), 29-Highgate Valley (copper), 30-Kam (copper), 31-Highgate (copper), 32-Berkeley (copper), 33-Atlin (copper), 34-Atlin (copper), 35-Atlin (copper), 36-Atlin (copper), 37-Bain (copper), 38-Copper Mountain (copper), 39-Highgate (copper), 40-Nicola Plate (gold), 41-Burns Lake (volcanic ash), 42-Harper Ranch (limestone), 43-Columbia (copper), 44-Monarch (zinc), 45-Mountain Brook (magnetite), 46-Chinook (zinc), 47-Fraser (zinc), 48-Fraser (zinc), 49-Greenhill (zinc), 50-Lake (zinc), 51-Hot Lake (zinc), 52-Columbia (zinc), 53-Salmon (zinc), 54-Vine (zinc), 55-Jersey Emerald (zinc), 56-Loon (zinc), 57-White Horse (zinc), 58-White Horse (zinc), 59-White Horse (zinc), 60-Motherlode (copper), 61-Phoenix (copper), 62-Crowfoot (zinc), 63-Silver King (silver), 64-Fallland (gypsum), 65-Balclutha (zinc), 66-Payne (silver), 67-Black (molybdenum), 68-Bowenell (lead, zinc), 69-Fraser (zinc), 70-Boss Mountain (molybdenum), 71-Fraser (zinc)

Hot Springs

- 14-Hot Springs (copper), 16-Radium, 17-Fairmont, 18-Bull Creek, 19-Lussier, 20-Rain Creek, 21-Fraser Lake, 22-White Horse River, 23-Crowfoot Creek, 24-Anawash, 25-Ocotopa Creek, 26-Wilson Lake, 27-Hot Springs, 28-Hot Springs, 29-Hot Springs, 30-Hot Springs, 31-Hot Springs, 32-Hot Springs, 33-Hot Springs, 34-Hot Springs, 35-Hot Springs, 36-Hot Springs, 37-Hot Springs, 38-Hot Springs, 39-Hot Springs, 40-Hot Springs, 41-Hot Springs, 42-Hot Springs, 43-Hot Springs, 44-Hot Springs, 45-Hot Springs, 46-Hot Springs, 47-Hot Springs, 48-Hot Springs, 49-Hot Springs, 50-Hot Springs

Volcanoes

- 23-Hot Springs, 24-Hot Springs, 25-Hot Springs, 26-Hot Springs, 27-Hot Springs, 28-Hot Springs, 29-Hot Springs, 30-Hot Springs, 31-Hot Springs, 32-Hot Springs, 33-Hot Springs, 34-Hot Springs, 35-Hot Springs, 36-Hot Springs, 37-Hot Springs, 38-Hot Springs, 39-Hot Springs, 40-Hot Springs, 41-Hot Springs, 42-Hot Springs, 43-Hot Springs, 44-Hot Springs, 45-Hot Springs, 46-Hot Springs, 47-Hot Springs, 48-Hot Springs, 49-Hot Springs, 50-Hot Springs

Water cycle in the Okanagan valley

White Lake, west of Chase, is a remnant of an ancient lake. The lake is surrounded by mountains and forests.

Glaciers

Glaciers delivered in British Columbia only.

Modern sediment

- Most sand and gravel
- Most sand and gravel
- Most sand and gravel

Ice Age sediment

- Silt (glacial lake bottom)
- Sand and gravel (glacial river channels)
- Till (glacial debris)

Rock

- Limestone and dolostone
- Sandstone and shale
- Metamorphic (altering) sandstone and shale
- Granite
- Metamorphic (altering) volcanic rock
- Granite
- Ultramafic rock (ancient ocean plate)

West Kootenay

West Kootenay is a diverse landscape of forest, glacier peaks, big lakes and rivers, and hot springs, and ghost towns. Fine heritage buildings in Nelson, Kaslo, Rosland, and Trail reflect the wealth produced by historic silver and gold mines.

Hot Springs

- 14-Hot Springs (copper), 16-Radium, 17-Fairmont, 18-Bull Creek, 19-Lussier, 20-Rain Creek, 21-Fraser Lake, 22-White Horse River, 23-Crowfoot Creek, 24-Anawash, 25-Ocotopa Creek, 26-Wilson Lake, 27-Hot Springs, 28-Hot Springs, 29-Hot Springs, 30-Hot Springs, 31-Hot Springs, 32-Hot Springs, 33-Hot Springs, 34-Hot Springs, 35-Hot Springs, 36-Hot Springs, 37-Hot Springs, 38-Hot Springs, 39-Hot Springs, 40-Hot Springs, 41-Hot Springs, 42-Hot Springs, 43-Hot Springs, 44-Hot Springs, 45-Hot Springs, 46-Hot Springs, 47-Hot Springs, 48-Hot Springs, 49-Hot Springs, 50-Hot Springs

Volcanoes

- 23-Hot Springs, 24-Hot Springs, 25-Hot Springs, 26-Hot Springs, 27-Hot Springs, 28-Hot Springs, 29-Hot Springs, 30-Hot Springs, 31-Hot Springs, 32-Hot Springs, 33-Hot Springs, 34-Hot Springs, 35-Hot Springs, 36-Hot Springs, 37-Hot Springs, 38-Hot Springs, 39-Hot Springs, 40-Hot Springs, 41-Hot Springs, 42-Hot Springs, 43-Hot Springs, 44-Hot Springs, 45-Hot Springs, 46-Hot Springs, 47-Hot Springs, 48-Hot Springs, 49-Hot Springs, 50-Hot Springs

Highway 1—Mountain National Parks

Some of the most remarkable mountain scenery in British Columbia can be observed along Highway 1 in Mount Revelstoke, Glacier, and Yoho national parks, and along Highway 53 in Kootenay National Park. Many road-side stops and well-maintained trails allow you to explore features of interest.

Mount Revelstoke National Park of Canada

The spectacular Mount Revelstoke National Park of Canada provides a spectacular view of the Selkirk Mountains.

Kootenay National Park of Canada

Three different springs along Highway 103 in Kootenay National Park of Canada represent different groundwater plumbing systems in the Earth. All are fed from surface water.

Rocky Mountain Trench—Crowsnest Pass

Highways 95 and 93 follow the Rocky Mountain Trench from the U.S.A. border north to Golden, passing forests and farms, grasslands and wetlands, big rivers, lakes, and hot springs. In contrast, Highway 3 cuts across the grain of the mountains and follows smaller valleys through the Rockies to Alberta.

How the Rockies formed

1) **750 to 550 million years ago**
Ancient seafloor (750 to 550 million years ago)

2) **180 to 60 million years ago**
Mountain building (180 to 60 million years ago)

3) **60 million years ago to today**
Erosion (60 million years ago to today)

How the Rockies formed

1) **750 to 550 million years ago**
Ancient seafloor (750 to 550 million years ago)

2) **180 to 60 million years ago**
Mountain building (180 to 60 million years ago)

3) **60 million years ago to today**
Erosion (60 million years ago to today)

How the Rockies formed

1) **750 to 550 million years ago**
Ancient seafloor (750 to 550 million years ago)

2) **180 to 60 million years ago**
Mountain building (180 to 60 million years ago)

3) **60 million years ago to today**
Erosion (60 million years ago to today)