



Bugaboo Provincial Park

Trail Conditions Report

Updated: June 21, 2023

Bugaboo Provincial Park is a remote mountain wilderness located in the Purcell Mountains of British Columbia. It protects a spectacular landscape of towering granite spires, tumbling glaciers, alpine meadows, and mid-elevation forest. The primary users of the park are mountaineers attracted by the world class alpine climbing, although experienced hikers and scramblers will find a visit to the park very rewarding as well.

The Bugaboos are famous for their volatile weather and wild lightning storms. All visitors to the park should come prepared: intense storms with hail, snow, high winds, and freezing temperatures are common throughout the summer months.

Access to glaciers and steep snow slopes within the park is relatively easy; please don't attempt to travel on this type of terrain without adequate mountaineering knowledge and equipment. There have been numerous accidents and rescues in the past involving inexperienced and ill-equipped persons in technical terrain.

Access Road Condition: The access road is a rough Forest Service Road (~45km). There are numerous soft muddy sections, some large potholes, and a few sections with water running over the road. Travel with caution and watch for resource industry traffic (logging), use of a radio is recommended during vehicle travel.

Cobalt Lake Trail				
Trail Section	Distance (one way)	Elevation Gain	Trail Information	Trail Condition
Parking area to Black Forest Ridge	6.5 km	875 m	Trail switchbacks up an old skid road through a second growth forest, passes through a pleasant stand of alpine larches, then climbs to an alpine pass on Black Forest Ridge.	Open. Trail cleared August 2022.
Black Forest Ridge to Cobalt Lake	2.0 km	140m gain 200 m loss	Trail follows Black Forest Ridge then drops into a pass before climbing back up to Cobalt Lake. This section is a route with no defined trail tread. Route finding required as trail is unmarked and indistinct through the alpine terrain.	Open

Bugaboo Spires Trail				
Trail Section	Distance (one way)	Elevation Gain	Trail Information	Trail Condition
Parking Lot to Conrad Kain Hut	4.5 km	720 m	Flat valley bottom for the first km, then climbs steeply to the hut. Trail passes through granite rock bluffs, climbs a steel ladder, and has exposure to steep drop-offs. Sturdy footwear is required.	Open. Wind felled trees have been cleared.
Conrad Kain Hut to Applebee Dome Campground	1.0 km	200 m	Trail crosses the creek flowing out of Crescent Glacier (follow cairns), then climbs up an old moraine and through boulder fields to the campground on the bare rock slabs of Applebee Dome.	Open. Patchy snow along trail closest to Applebee C/G; ~100m