

Park Map and Information Guide

Babine Mountains Provincial Park Recreation

Visit www.bcparks.ca for more information!

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3726 Alfred Avenue

BC Parks, Skeena Office

Contact Information

- **Leave-no-trace** ethics should be followed in all areas of the park.
- **Fires** are discouraged within the park, especially in alpine areas where firewood is in short supply and fire scars can take a long time to heal. If you do have a fire, please only use dead wood that is lying on the ground for firewood.
- **Firearms** are prohibited in the park except during a valid hunting season. Please consult the current BC Hunting Regulations for further information.
- **Mountain bikes** are only permitted on the trails indicated in this brochure.
- **Horses** are only permitted on the trails indicated in this brochure. The Lyon Creek Trail is open to horse use by letter of permission only. Please contact BC Parks for further information.
- **Motorized vehicles** are prohibited during summer months on all trails into and within the park.
- **Drinking water** is sourced from the lakes and streams in the Babine Mountains. Even "biodegradable" soaps will pollute the water as will food scraps, fish entrails, and dirty dishes. Please help protect this resource by washing yourself, your clothes, and your dishes at least 30 metres from lakes or streams.

Babine Mountains Provincial Park is a unique and beautiful place located just minutes from downtown Smithers. Please use it with respect and help us protect and preserve your parkland.

Enjoy Your Stay

Welcome to Babine Mountains Provincial Park

Welcome to the Babine Mountains Provincial Park, a 31,476 hectare mountainous environment within the Skeena Mountains eco-section that offers some of the finest hiking opportunities in west-central British Columbia. Glacier-fed lakes, rugged peaks, and extensive sub-alpine meadows provide day and overnight hiking opportunities and habitat for healthy populations of mountain goat, bear, moose, marmot, and many species of birds.

Access

Access to the west end of the Park is off of Old Babine Lake Road, which leaves Highway #16 just east of Smithers. Follow the signs to Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park. The Driftwood Road summer parking lot and information map are located 7 km beyond Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park. From here, the road is not passable to vehicle traffic.

To access the east end of the park, turn onto Babine Lake Road, 4 km east of Smithers on Highway #16. The Little Joe, Higgins, and Cronin trailheads are found along this road.

Park Activities

Trails within the park offer a variety of experiences for hikers, bikers, and horseback riders, where permitted.

The following distances and times are for one way hiking.

Trails accessible from the west

Lyon Creek Trail

(11 km, 4-5 hours, moderate to difficult trail)

The trailhead is located 4 km past Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park. A steady climb leads hikers into the sub-alpine (1475m). The trail is well defined and boardwalk spans several swampy sections. In the sub-alpine the grade eases, and hikers can enjoy the spectacular views of the Bulkley Valley and the Telkwa Range. The trail swings east as it descends to cross Lyon Creek before traversing Ramrock Pass (1660m). From this point, hikers descend into Ganokwa Basin. The trail then leads past two mountain lakes and climbs northeastward onto a grassy slope. Trail markers lead hikers to "The Summit", the divide of the Ganokwa, Driftwood and Little Joe watersheds and the intersection of the Lyon Creek, Little Joe Creek, and McCabe Trails.

Harvey Mountain Trail

(5 km, 2 hours, moderate to difficult trail)

The trailhead is located 1km south of the Silver King Trail parking lot. A steady climb takes hikers into an open alpine hillside with views of Silver King Basin, Hudson Bay Mountain, and the Bulkley Valley. A short hike through the alpine leads to the summit of Harvey Mountain (1744m).

McCabe Trail

(10 km*, 3-4 hours, moderate trail)

Highly recommended for family and novice hikers, the McCabe Trail offers relatively easy access to the alpine. The trail departs the Silver King Trail immediately before Sunny Point. After ascending a steep mining road for 100m, the route narrows to an excellent trail on an easy grade. The trail travels along the north slopes of Harvey and Pyramid mountains, and passes Copper Lakes at 8.3 km. It continues upward and eastward until reaching "The Summit".

Silver King Trail

(9 km*, 2-3 hours, easy to moderate trail)

This trail is an old mining road that is an extension of the Driftwood Creek Road. It follows an easy grade for most of the way, emerging into the basin after 7 km. Hikers will enjoy the sub-alpine meadows of Silver King Basin, which are at peak bloom in mid-July. The Joe L'Orsa Cabin is reached at 8.5 km, and the trail continues on another 500m to the abandoned Silver King Mine. From here the **Hyland Pass Trail** climbs 1.3 km to Hyland Pass and then descends for 1 km to join the Cronin Creek Trail.

Fletcher-Gardiner Trail

(13.5 km*, 4-5 hours, difficult trail)

This trail is most enjoyable as an overnight hike to Lower Reisetser (Two Bridge) Lake. The first half of the trail is an old cat-track, while the second half is a single-track trail that ends at the lake. An alluvial fan located 100m along the southern shore of the lake provides an ideal campsite. This is a user maintained site. Please pack out what you pack in. The lake provides fishing opportunities for small Rainbow trout.

*From Driftwood Road Summer Parking Area

Trails accessible from the east

Onion Mountain Trail

(8.6 km, 3-4 hours, difficult trail)

This road/trail leaves Old Babine Lake Road 3.5 km north-west of the Babine Lake Road junction. It provides easy access to the open meadows of Ganokwa Basin, a special attraction in July when the meadows are in bloom.

Little Joe Creek Trail

(8.4 km, 3-4 hours, moderate to difficult trail)

The trail begins from a parking lot accessible by turning left at 30.5 km on Babine Lake Road. It follows a moderate uphill grade along the north bank of Little Joe Creek for 4 km and emerges into an open basin. The **Eagle Pass Trail** (2 km) into Higgins Basin leaves the trail in this area. The Little Joe Creek Trail does not actually lead to the Little Joe Lakes but parallels above them to "The Summit".

Cronin Creek Road/Trail

(15 km, 5-6 hours, moderate to difficult trail)

This gravel road departs Babine Lake Road at 32.5 km. It stays quite level for 10 km, at which point it leaves Cronin Creek and climbs steeply through a series of switchbacks for nearly 3 km. Along the way, visitors will see remnants of past mining operations. At 1800m, the trail reaches a beautiful alpine environment on the northeast shoulder of Mt. Cronin. The trail continues west and ends near the picturesque Hyland Lakes. From here the **Hyland Pass Trail** (2.2 km) leads over Hyland Pass to meet up with the Silver King Trail at the abandoned Silver King Mine.

Higgins Creek Trail

(5.5 km, 3-4 hours, moderate trail)

The Higgins Creek Trail departs the Cronin Creek Trail approximately 600m past the Cronin Creek crossing. This old road climbs the slopes above Higgins Creek to reach a historic mining camp and continues on to the head of the basin. The **Eagle Pass Trail** (2 km) can then be followed to join up with the Little Joe Creek Trail.

The Joe L'Orsa Cabin is located in the beautiful Silver King Basin of Babine Mountains Provincial Park. Access to the cabin is via the Silver King Trail (8.5 km). In winter, the Driftwood Road is not plowed to the summer parking area. It is an additional 4.5 km from the winter parking lot to the summer parking lot.

The cabin was built in 1999 and named in memory of local resident Joe L'Orsa, who spearheaded the effort to create a park in the Babines. This cabin was made possible through the donations of many local businesses.













The cabin replaces the old mining bunkhouse that had been standing for 60 years. The cabin is a 9 x 8.5 metre log structure. It is heated by a wood stove (firewood is provided) and is fitted with a grey water disposal system. There is a galvanized steel counter for visitors to operate their camp-stoves on and a pit toilet located outside the cabin. This is a public facility which has a backcountry fee charge of \$10.00 per night for adults (16+), and \$5.00 per night for children (age 6-15).

The cabin will sleep 15 to 20 people comfortably and is subject to the first-come, first-served rule.



Joe L'Orsa Cabin

BABINE MOUNTAINS PROVINCIAL PARK

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|---|------------------|---|-----------------|---|----------------|
|  | Hiking |  | Parking |  | Park Boundary |
|  | Picnic Area |  | Mountain Biking |  | Secondary Road |
|  | Horseback Riding |  | Accommodation |  | Trail |
|  | Horse Corral |  | Camping |  | Fishing |

