

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

July 9-15

2013

July 8-14

Custom trips also available and can start any date. Call or email for details.

This tour can be combined with the [Stage 2](#) trip offered in conjunction.

Trip Size

8-12 guests
July departure will have a maximum of 24.

Total Days:

7 days/ 6 nights
(5 riding days)

Arrive/Depart:

Castlegar / Beaverdell

Kettle Valley Trail, Biking Stage 1: Castlegar to Beaverdell

The first stage begins in the historic village of Castlegar, located at the confluence of the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers. We'll visit turn-of-the-century towns of Grand Forks, Greenwood, Rock Creek and some wilderness backcountry in between. One of the highlights will be the 'unending' cycle along Arrow & Christina Lakes with a view only the railbed enjoys. Overnight stations will be 'far off the beaten path', where you'll enjoy the serenity of this timeless landscape. Cyclists who enjoy single-track riding will be thrilled with the additional trails located at or near our overnight locations.

This event will support TheBigWild.org to help raise awareness and funding for Canada's wild places.

Itinerary

DAY 1:

For those traveling from Vancouver, we transfer by van to Castlegar, stopping in Beaverdell for lunch en-route (and to pick up those who prefer to leave their cars there). We arrive to Castlegar late afternoon which may allow time for those who want to explore local bike trails.



DAY 2:

Castlegar to Tunnel Station 40 km / 25 miles
Today, we start on the railbed with incredible views of Lower Arrow Lake. The railbed 'hugs the cliffside'

as it climbs to Bulldog Tunnel (almost 1 km long). We'll camp at Tunnel Station, overlooking Dog Creek Valley. We'll have a 'backcountry cookout' and relax under the stars.

DAY 3:

Tunnel Station to Christina Lake 42 km / 26 miles + options

We cycle up a 2% grade to the summit at Farron and then enjoy a long descent to Christina Lake, where boating and swimming are possible. There are also wonderful trails to ride (or hike) in the area, so for those who wish, we'll explore Texas Creek Provincial Park.

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Activity Level:

Moderate
20-30+ miles daily
van supported

Terrain:

The railgrade has a maximum grade of 2%

Cost

Land Cost (current year):
CAD\$995/US\$995 Includes all meals

Bike Rental:
CAD\$140 / US\$140
Mountain bike

Transfers*:
Vancouver to Castlegar:
CAD\$80/ US\$80
Beaverdell to Castlegar:
CAD\$60/ US\$60
Beaverdell to Vancouver:
CAD\$60/ US\$60

*Fares include bike transfer



DAY 4:

Christina Lake to Grand Forks 31 km /19 miles + options

Leaving Christina Lake, we climb back up to the rail grade before continuing on to Grand Forks where we'll have lunch at the museum. For keen cyclists who wish to ride the superb trails around Thimble Mountain, we'll lead a ride on what we consider to be one of the best single-track routes in British Columbia. For those who want a break from the bike, there is lots to explore in town.

DAY 5:

Grand Forks to Rock Creek 66 km / 40 miles

From Grand Forks, we'll continue along the railbed to Greenwood, a town that in 1899 boasted 26 hotels! Many of the buildings have been restored and stand testament to a rich past. You can choose from the many restaurants & cafes in town, and then visit the local museum before continuing on to Rock Creek, located on the Kettle River.

DAY 6:

Rock Creek to Beaverdell 52 km / 32 miles

Today's ride follows the Kettle River as it winds its way towards Beaverdell. You'll want to spend some time at the Kettle River Park where there is an excellent swimming spot and beach. We'll finish the Stage 1 Ride in Beaverdell with dinner and entertainment in the oldest hotel in B.C.

DAY 7:

Van transport will leave from Beaverdell on Sunday morning for Vancouver, arriving around 2:00 pm. For those that are continuing with Stage 2, please refer to the [Stage 2 Itinerary](#).

Camping



Camp sites include a mix of provincial, private and wilderness parks; on 3 of the 6 nights, hot showers are available (on 3 evenings we are at wilderness sites with solar showers and propane heated basins of water to wash).

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What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 6 nights camping
- all breakfasts, lunches & dinners (appetizers daily, gourmet meals, lots of variety, vegetarians gladly accommodated)
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map, route instructions and Great Explorations Travel Guide
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 5% must be charged on trips in Canada.

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**