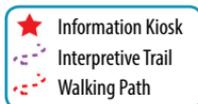


Heritage Nature Trail

Vanderhoof Community Museum



Pick up more free guides!



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Visitor Centre: 250-567-2124

TRAIL DETAILS

Trail Distance: 1.25 km

Trail Rating: **Moderate**

Time Estimate: **45 min**

Wheelchairs: **Accessible**

Dogs: **On leash. Please pick up after your dog.**

Things to bring: **Binoculars, nature guides.**

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

This well groomed, wide, moderate elevation, gravel trail runs through the forest behind the Vanderhoof Community Museum site. The trail is a loop, starting and ending at the parking lot. Along the way visitors will enjoy a look-out spot onto Stoney Creek, wildflowers, mixed deciduous and conifer forest as well as seeing and hearing birds and other wildlife. This trail is appropriate for families and is wheelchair accessible.

HOW TO GET THERE

Coming from the east, drive on Highway 16 and left onto Pine Street (across from the Kal Tire). From the west, the museum site is on the right at the Welcome to Vanderhoof hillside sign. There is ample RV parking in the parking lot behind the Vanderhoof Community Museum.

HERITAGE NATURE TRAIL **POINTS OF INTEREST**

- 1. Vanderhoof Community Museum, Heritage Park and Trail:** The Heritage Park and Trail are situated on the Vanderhoof Community Museum site. The museum is home to numerous historic buildings and artifacts that tell the story of Vanderhoof from the early 1900s.
- 2. Heritage Park:** Climb the hill to the gazebo to overlook the Heritage Park. Displays on the heritage of this area, including a caboose you can walk through, are located within this park.
- 3. Bat Box:** Bats eat flying insects such as mosquitoes. These bat boxes have been placed in and around the community to help increase the population of bats.
- 4. Mixed Forest:** Birch, alder, and spruce trees are the dominant trees species within this mixed stand forest that extends from the low flat floodplain and rises up the valley wall. Keep note how the proportion of deciduous to coniferous trees changes as you walk along the trail.
- 5. Stoney Creek:** This location on Stoney Creek was utilized extensively as a fishing camp for the Saik'uz First Nation village, which is located roughly 15km south of Vanderhoof.
- 6. Moose and Deer:** Look for evidence, such as scat and tracks, of moose and deer along this trail. Moose are the largest member of the deer family in North America, and inhabit forests, rivers and wetlands.
- 7. Stop, Look and Listen:** Stop here and listen for birds and other sounds in the forest. Then look around you at the diversity of wildflowers and plants in the forest understory. You may be surprised!
- 8. Valley Wall:** This hill is the outer southern valley wall of the Nechako River. The valley was formed by glaciers over 10,000 years ago.
- 9. Bedrock Outcropping:** Notice the thin layer of soil above this bedrock outcropping. This thin soil layer supports the lush understory of this area. For the keen-sighted, look closely at the rock outcropping to see if you are able to make out the face shapes. This site was once a quarry.



10. Paper Trees: White birch, or paper birch, is known for its peeling bark that has been used over the centuries by First Nations for building canoes. Look for these trees in this forest.

11. Mountain Biking Trails: The Rip'n the North Bike Club operates a bike park that is located at the top of the valley wall. Trails leading down from the bike park to the Heritage Nature Trail are used by mountain bikers of all skill levels. Ask at the museum or Visitor Centre for more information on the bike park.

12. Understory Vegetation: Shrubs, grasses, berries, and flowers grow within the understory of the tall deciduous and coniferous trees. Understory plant species provide food for large mammals like bear and moose, habitat for birds and insects, and medicines and food for humans.

*Continue and visit the **Vanderhoof Community Museum***