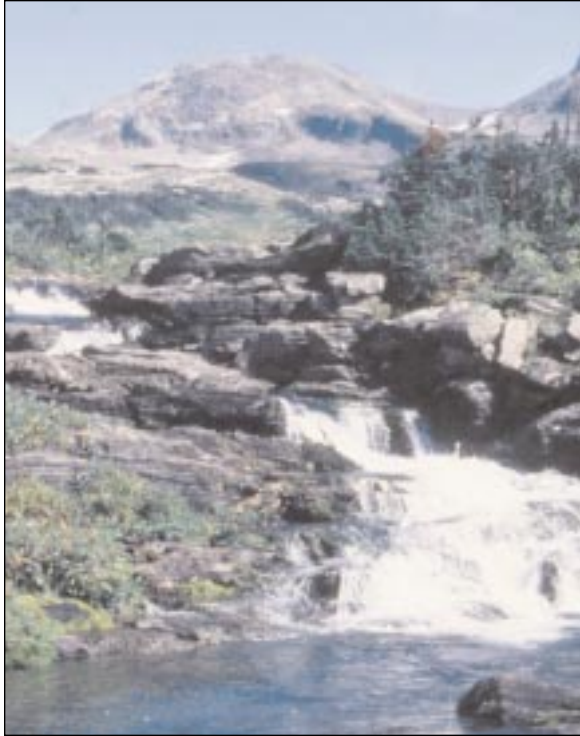




# Monkman

## PROVINCIAL PARK



**W**elcome. Monkman Provincial Park, established in 1981, is nestled in the Hart Ranges of the Central Rocky Mountains and Foothills. It covers 32,000 hectares of diverse, natural landscapes and has an additional 30,896 hectares of protected areas which was added to the southern boundary of the park in 1999. Extensive alpine meadows, jagged mountain peaks, forested valleys, thundering waterfalls and clear alpine lakes are all significant natural features that are found in this amazing provincial park.

**Peace Region**

### How to get to the Park

Monkman Provincial Park is located on the Murray River Road, 60 kilometres south of Tumbler Ridge. Several roads provide access to this community. Turn south on Hwy 29 at Chetwynd, or turn south on Hwy 52 approximately 17 kilometres west of Dawson Creek. Visitors travelling on Highway 2 to or from Dawson Creek can turn south also on Hwy 52 near the British Columbia/Alberta border.



### Maps

It is recommended that you carry topographical maps when travelling in the backcountry. Map 93I/11 and 93I/14 at 1:50,000 scale cover the Monkman Lake Trail.

### Park Hazards

Hikers and campers should be prepared for all weather conditions in this changeable climate. Always carry first aid equipment and extra clothing and food.

Water sources in the backcountry may carry giardia or other parasites. Boil or filter all water when in the backcountry.

### Visitor Information

- ▶ Help us to protect your parkland. Enjoy your visit to Monkman Park, but leave it as you have found it so that future visitors may enjoy the park as you have.
- ▶ Do not litter. In developed campgrounds, place refuse in the receptacles provided. Elsewhere in the park, refuse should be carried out and deposited in a proper disposal area. The park can be kept free of litter if every visitor will regard himself as a personal custodian.
- ▶ Flowers, trees and shrubs are part of the park's natural heritage. Do not damage them.
- ▶ Be extremely careful with fire. Fires are permitted in designated fire rings only. Lightweight stoves should be used for all cooking in the backcountry areas.
- ▶ You will need a British Columbia angling licence if you plan on fishing.
- ▶ There is no hunting in Monkman Provincial Park. For your safety, firearms are prohibited.
- ▶ To help preserve the park's ecology, rock hunting and collecting are not permitted.
- ▶ Please keep to your campsite. Great damage can be done to the park by careless vehicle parking or tent location.
- ▶ Leave your dogs at home. If you do bring pets, keep them on a leash and under control at all times.
- ▶ Be considerate of wildlife. Stress is as harmful to wildlife as it is to humans. Use binoculars to view animals from a distance rather than approaching them closely. Never chase or flush animals from cover.

### For More Information

**BC Parks**

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



**Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection**



## History

Monkman Provincial Park was named after Alex Monkman, an individual who expended a considerable amount of effort in his attempt to build a transportation route from the Peace River farming country down to the Pacific ports. In 1922, he and a group of fur-trappers discovered what is now known as Monkman Pass. It was this pass that provided him with his vision for a railroad, a direct and economical route south. Failing to get government support for his venture, Monkman focused on the alternative which was to build a highway. The Monkman Pass Highway Association was formed in 1936, and over the next three years, many determined volunteers laboured to blaze the new trail. Limited funding, harsh conditions, and the outbreak of the Second World War eventually brought the project to a halt. A railway was later built to the northwest over the Pine Pass, and Monkman's "highway" slowly faded into history. Today, only a few sections are visible along the Monkman Lake Trail, a route that follows parts of the original road.

The park has a diverse water system that includes the Murray and Monkman drainages. Scenic rapids, waterfalls, streams and lakes all contribute to the visual impact of the landscape.

The northern section of Monkman Provincial Park features Kinuseo Falls, where the Murray River plunges 60 metres over a geological fault to the river bed below. This thunderous cascade of water is higher than Niagara Falls and provides many visitors with the highlight of their trip. Above the falls, the folding and faulting which occurred with the uplift of the Rockies many years ago, can be seen as an "S" curve on the far wall. It is possible to jet boat up the Murray River to the base of the falls.

A 42-site campground and day-use area is located in this section of the park. Visitors whose main goal is to take in the breathtaking view the Kinuseo Falls offers, will find additional recreational opportunities in hiking short trails to viewpoints, nature study and scenery appreciation. For those whose goal is more extended hiking, the campground provides an ideal base for backcountry adventures.

To the south lies the main body of Monkman Provincial Park. A 24-kilometre hiking trail winds through this portion of the park, providing backpackers and hikers with an opportunity to experience the unspoiled splendour of this area. Small side trails provide scenic views of some of the waterfalls along Monkman Creek. The trail ends at Monkman Lake, the largest body of water in the park. Three designated backcountry camping areas, with rustic facilities, are provided.

The southeast section of Monkman Park holds several beautiful aquamarine lakes, the source of the Murray River. This area of the park is considered prime grizzly bear habitat and extensive human intrusion is not encouraged.

Recently, the southern boundary of Monkman Provincial Park was extended to include areas with high conservation and recreation features including the upper Fontoniko Creek, the Limestone Lakes area, and the rolling plateau to the west. This addition protects old growth spruce forests, unique geological features and important recreation features.

Monkman Provincial Park successfully conserves representative areas of the Central Rocky Mountains and Foothills regional landscape and its associated wildlife, plants and ecosystems.

The diverse range of habitat in Monkman Provincial Park supports grizzly and black bear, mountain goats, caribou and moose. During the warmer seasons, deer, mountain sheep, gray wolves, fishers, martens, wolverines, marmots, hares, red squirrels, as well as numerous bird species including owls, ptarmigan, grouse, geese and loons have been spotted. Because of the fierce winter

climate, most of the larger animals tend to seek a more hospitable range during the winter months.

Kinuseo Falls present an impassable obstacle to migrating fish, so the fish habitat is not the same above and below the falls. Larger fish are able to follow the Murray River drainage from lower elevations to the falls. Above the falls, only small char, trout, grayling and whitefish inhabit the Murray River and upper Monkman Creek.

Lower elevations in the park are dominated by mature subalpine fir, white spruce and lodgepole pine. The higher elevations support growth of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and white spruce. Above the treeline, only plants adapted to the harsh conditions are found.

Weather conditions in the park tend to be unstable year round. In summer the weather is usually cool, wet and often windy as the Rocky Mountains effectively block the westward movement of moist Pacific air. Visitors are encouraged to be prepared for adverse weather conditions.



*Monkman Lake*



## Facilities



Kinuseo Falls Campground offers 42 campsites that include space for RVs as well as tents. It is equipped with wheelchair accessible facilities, security patrol, firewood, water, pit toilets and horseshoe pits, and serves as a great base for backcountry adventures.



Picnic areas are located at Kinuseo Falls viewpoint and at the campground where a picnic shelter is available.



View the spectacular 60-metre high Kinuseo Falls from a wheelchair accessible viewing platform at the day-use area.



The lakes and rivers within the park contain fish species such as trout, char, grayling and whitefish. Special regulations apply. Consult your current *British Columbia Sports Fishing Regulations*.

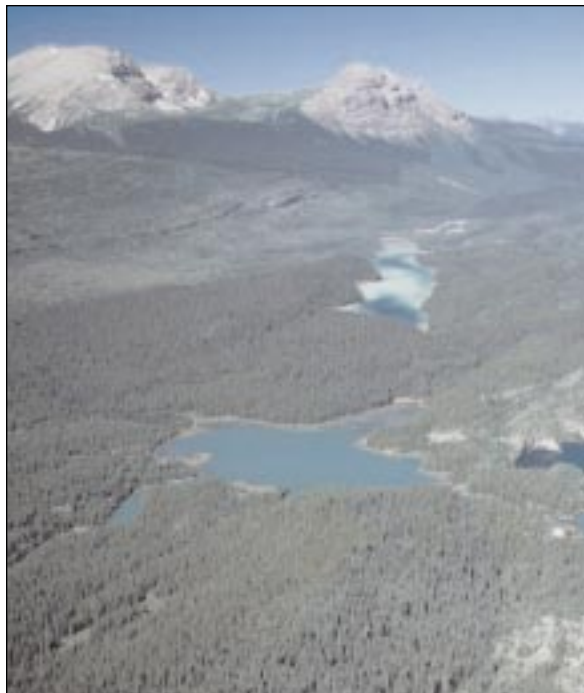


Hiking trails range from a short walk to the 24 kilometre (one way) Monkman Lake Trail.



Backcountry campsites are located at the Murray River Crossing, kilometre 13 of the Monkman Trail, and at Monkman Lake.

**If you spot a Forest Fire Dial 1-800-663-5555**



Holmes Lake

## Trails

Short hiking trails include walks to the viewpoints of Kinuseo Falls and Murray River. The 3-kilometre trail from the campground to Kinuseo Falls follows the scenic route around the perimeter of the beaver pond.

### Stone Corral Trail

This 4-kilometre hiking trail will take you through an amazing area featuring small caves and other limestone formations, ponds and many kinds of moving water, interesting and poisonous plants, fossils and magnificent viewpoints. Allow at least two hours for the hike and remember to bring a flashlight for the caves.

An easy 7 kilometre (one way) day hike follows the Monkman Lake Trail to the Murray River Crossing. Here a suspension bridge leads explorers into the park's interior.

### Monkman Lake Trail

A 24-kilometre (one way) trail along the historic Monkman Pass route leads from the campground to Monkman Lake in the park's backcountry.

Mountain bikes are only allowed up to Kilometre 12 on this trail. Horse and llama use is not permitted in the park.

For your own safety and to help in their maintenance and preservation, keep to designated trails. Short-cutting can cause severe erosion of trails and the surrounding areas.

Special care must be taken in alpine and sub-alpine areas. These are among the most fragile because of the severe conditions and short growing season.

All refuse should be carried out and deposited in a proper disposal area. **"If you pack it in...pack it out"** is a standard practice in any backcountry area.

## Backcountry Campsites

Backcountry campsites are located at the Murray River Crossing, at kilometre 13 of the Monkman Trail, and at Monkman Lake. Each is equipped with a food cache (to store foodstuffs and gear) and a pit toilet. Use these designated areas.

Campfires are permitted in designated backcountry campsites only. Firewood is in short supply, so keep fires small for safety and to conserve firewood for the next hiker. Use of backcountry campstoves is encouraged.



Monkman Creek

## Wildlife Caution

**This is bear country.** All wild animals are potentially dangerous and may be encountered at any time. Be careful when near wildlife. Bears are particularly unpredictable. They are extremely powerful animals that can cause serious injury or death. While the risk of attack is low, you can heighten your safety by following some simple advice:

- ▶ Animals that lose their fear of man and become used to eating human food and garbage are especially dangerous. Female bears with cubs are very dangerous. Never approach or feed bears or other animals.
- ▶ Securely store food in the bear caches provided.
- ▶ Do not cook or store food in your tent. Cook and eat well away from your tent.
- ▶ Keep your campsite clean.
- ▶ Do not burn or bury non-combustible refuse since this attracts animals. Pack out what you pack in.
- ▶ Be alert for bear scats, tracks or trails and do not hike or camp where these are common.
- ▶ Make lots of noise when hiking.
- ▶ Stay calm if approached by a bear. Move slowly away if possible.

More information about bears and other wild animals is available from the BC Parks.