

Nazko Lake Canoe Chain

Nazko Lake Provincial Park features a chain of lakes, ideal for a two-to-four-day canoe trip. The 20-kilometre chain spans six lakes. While there are no facilities for backcountry camping, there are many suitable sites along the way for self-contained groups. White reflective markers make the short portages easy to spot.

Deerpelt Lake – A small scenic lake, Deerpelt Lake is the staging area for the Nazko Lake Canoe Chain. It is recommended that canoeists park here and access the lake chain from the campground. A short paddle takes you to the 50-metre portage over to Nazko Lake.

Note: a very rough and narrow 4x4 road travels along one side of Deerpelt Lake to Nazko Lake. This road offers little room to maneuver a vehicle or turn around, and is very slippery when wet.

Nazko Lake – Nazko Lake is popular for fishing, and powerboats are permitted here, unlike the remaining lakes in the chain. An 800-metre portage (the longest on the chain) leads from Nazko Lake to Tanikul Lake.

Tanikul Lake – Extending about 5 kilometres, Tanikul Lake is the longest on the chain. Rock cliffs border most of the lake, creating a wonderful sense of isolation. Near the north end, two waterfalls tumble down the cliffs during the spring runoff. A short portage leads from Tanikul Lake to a small unnamed lake. A 200-metre portage leads on to Nastachi Lake.

Nastachi Lake – This lake is very shallow, and later in summer abundant water lilies and other aquatic plants can make canoeing difficult. A 300-metre portage leads from Nastachi Lake to Tzazati Lake.

Tzazati Lake – Tzazati Lake has a forested shoreline, with marshes near the lake's inlets and outlet.

Nazko River/Tchusiniltit Lake – This is the final section of the canoe chain, with one 450-metre portage where the river narrows. You may see mule deer along the steep rocky hillsides and narrow wetlands that border the river.

Wildlife

Nazko Lake Park protects a wide variety of ecosystems. Correspondingly, wildlife is plentiful and diverse. Keep your eyes open for American white pelican, moose, mule deer, black bear, beaver, river otter, belted kingfisher, common loon, greater yellow legs, golden and bald eagle and sandhill crane.

American White Pelican – The American white pelican has been legally designated an endangered species in British Columbia. These spectacular water-fowl feed in Nazko Lake Park, but do not nest here. There is only one nesting site in British Columbia. Pelicans feed on fish, amphibians and crayfish by dipping their bills into the water while swimming. During nesting season they fly up to 164 kilometres from the nest site to find food.

These magnificent birds have wingspans of up to 3 metres, and can weigh 7 kilograms. Their plumage is snowy white with black wing tips. The huge bill and pouch are yellow-orange and there is a plate on the upper mandible of both sexes during breeding. Although male and female pelicans are similar in appearance, the females are slightly smaller. These pelicans spend winters in California and Mexico.

Please do not disturb the pelicans (or any wildlife) by approaching too closely.

Access

Travelling west on Hwy 20, turn right on the Alexis Lakes Road, shortly after Bull Canyon Park. This road eventually passes two Forestry Recreation Sites then turns left onto the 4600 Road. The access road to Loomis Lake and the Nazko Lake Canoe Chain is on the right 11.5 kilometres from this junction, just past the 45-kilometre marker. In the spring and fall, this route can be very muddy and slippery. The alternate route is recommended during wet weather.

Alternate route

Travelling west on Hwy 20, turn right on the 1300 Alex Graham/Raven Lake Forest Service Road, 21 kilometres west of Riske Creek. Continue on this road for approximately 45 kilometres, staying left at the junction of the 1500 Road. Turn left on the 4600 Road. The access road to the Nazko Lake canoe chain is on the right, just past the 45-kilometre mark.

Note: These roads are active logging roads. For your safety, use headlights at all times.

Visitor Information

- ▶ Nazko Lake Park is popular for rainbow trout fishing. Visitors planning to fish should refer to the *Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis*. A valid angling license is required.
- ▶ Black bears live in the park. Always store food out of reach of bears and keep a clean campsite.
- ▶ **All garbage must be packed out of the park.** Garbage left at campsites attracts bears. The park is a wilderness area and is not regularly serviced or patrolled. Please practice "no trace" camping.
- ▶ Camp in cleared areas only and use a portable stove for cooking. Boil or filter all drinking water. Pets must be kept under control at all times. Firearms are prohibited, except during hunting season. Please check the Hunting Regulations.

Maps

1:50,000 topographical maps:

93B/5 Loomis Lake
93 B/6 Stum Lake
93 B/12 Clisbako River

Available at surveyors' offices and map retailers.

For More Information

BC Parks

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



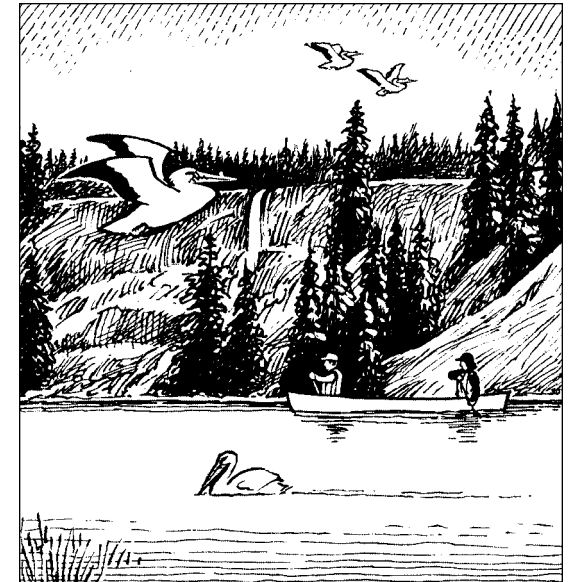
Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection



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PROVINCIAL PARK



Welcome to Nazko Lake Provincial Park. The park is 7,918 hectares in size and is located 167 kilometres northwest of Williams Lake in the Chilcotin Plateau. Nazko Lake Park was recommended for protection under the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan in 1995 because of its recreational value as a canoeing destination and to conserve habitat for species such as the endangered American white pelican. Much of the upper watershed of the Nazko River is protected in the park, including the extensive wetland complexes around Goering Lake that empty into Nastachi Lake. The river flows northward, connecting a series of long thin lakes, and incising a wide canyon into the plateau. There are two rustic vehicle-access campgrounds within the park; the first located on Loomis Lake, and the other at Deerpelt Lake. Facilities are limited at both sites to only a pit toilet and picnic tables. Note: Loomis Lake is not connected to the canoe chain.

Cariboo/Chilcotin/Coast