



Top of the World Provincial Park

Trail Conditions Report

Updated: Oct 29, 2009, next update June 2010

Top of the World Provincial Park, is part of the Top of the World Plateau, most of which is at an elevation in excess of 2,200 metres. The jagged peaks of the Hughes Range form a backdrop to the west of the park, and the Van Nostrand Range dominated by Mount Morro--at 2,912 metres marks the highest point in the park. Several high mountain lakes are found in this park such as Sparkle, Dolomite, and Fish Lakes.

Weather conditions are typical of the southern Rocky Mountains. About half of the days in summer are sunny, with temperatures soaring to 30 degrees Celsius. At nights, the thermometer will often drop below the freezing mark. In July and August, precipitation, mostly in the form of rain, totals about 110 mm. Fish Lake is usually free of ice by mid-June, with freeze-up occurring in late October. The access trail is passable on foot from early June to November. Snow and wet spots are present until late June. Alpine meadows and trails are not free of snow until mid-July. **Be prepared for all types of weather and have proper backcountry supplies.**

Top of the World Trails

Trail Section	Distance (one way)	Elevation Gain	Trail Information	Trail Condition
Parking Lot to Fish lake 1.5-2 hrs	6.7 km	212 m	The trail passes through cool, dense forest, along riverside and past slide areas to Sayles meadow.	Winter conditions
Parking lot to Fish lake via Horse Trail 1.5-2 hrs	6.7 km	212 m	This alternate route to Fish Lake travels along the opposite side of the river as the main Fish lake trail. This trail passes by the short Crazy River and Crazy Creek loop, both of which bubble out of the ground. They result from the subterranean drainage of a portion of the karst plateau which comprises most of the park.	The section from the trail head to Sayles meadow involves fording the Lussier river and is not recommended for hikers. The second section from Sayles meadow to Fish Lake is bridged and is a good option as it passes by Crazy River and Crazy Creek.

Fish Lake to Coyote Creek Campsite and the Sugarloaf 1.5-3 hrs	7 km	368 m	This is a fairly strenuous hike. It starts approximately 100 metres north of Fish Lake and is clearly signed. The trail branches left to Sugarloaf at km 5.6. The main trail continues to Coyote Creek Campsite.	Winter conditions
Lakeshore Trail .5-1hrs	2 km	0 m	Suggested hiking time, 30 minutes to one hour. This is a pleasant stroll around Fish Lake, offering many different views of the lake and the surrounding peaks.	Winter conditions
Fish Lake to Summer Pass 2-4 hrs	4 km	430 m	The trail begins at the north end of Fish Lake via Lakeshore Trail, continuing on the alpine meadows trail to the talus slope (whereas it becomes a route) to Summer Pass.	Winter conditions
Fish Lake to Wildhorse Ridge 2-4 hrs	3.2 km	640 m	The trail begins at the bottom of the slide to the west of Fish Lake. On the north side of the creek the trail switchbacks steeply for about 20 minutes, then levels out to follow the creek. The trail then encounters a small ravine and rock slide. Past the ravine, the trail switchbacks up the south-facing slope. The ridge offers a fine view of Mount Doolan and Dolomite Lake. It's uphill all the way, but the scenery and alpine flowers make it worthwhile.	Winter conditions Route at upper elevations, not routinely maintained
Fish Lake to Sparkle Lake 1-2 hrs	2.8 km	350 m	The trail follows the first section of the trail to Wildhorse Ridge. At the top of the first steep pitch, it branches and crosses the creek. Follow the trail through the trees to a rock slide. Traverse the western edge and slowly gain elevation until the top southern edge is reached. Proceed through a small band of trees to a large slide path. The trail stops here. Sparkle Lake is directly ahead at this point. Please walk on the rocks to prevent damage to moss and meadows. From the lake, two ridges give spectacular viewpoints. Overnight camping is not permitted at Sparkle Lake.	Winter conditions Route at upper elevations, not routinely maintained
Fish Lake to Alpine Viewpoint 1-2 hrs	3.2 km	600 m	The trail starts approximately 100 metres north of Fish Lake and then is blocked by a large slide path; the rest of the journey involves picking your way through scree until attaining the ridge. Caution must be exercised while ascending and descending the scree slope so that dislodged rocks will not strike anyone climbing below. It is best to travel abreast of or directly behind one another. This hike culminates with panoramic views from the ridge of Fish Lake, Lussier Valley, the alpine meadows and Mount Morro. No camping is permitted at the viewpoint.	Route at upper elevations Winter conditions
Coyote Creek Campsite to Sugarloaf 1hr	1.5 km	300 m	Head south along coyote creek trail until you reach the sign pointing you west up Sugarloaf peak	Winter conditions Route at upper elevations