

Access

Air: Several companies have permits to land float-planes on Turner Lake. They operate out of Nimpo Lake on Hwy 20, east of the park.

Hiking: to get to the trailhead, leave Hwy 20 at the base of “the Hill” and drive 11 kilometres to the end of the old Tote Road. This drive requires a high-clearance, 4x4 vehicle. At the Janet Creek junction with the Atnarko River, spring run-off can make the road impassable for about a month, usually in June. Fishing is not permitted in the Atnarko River upstream of Atnarko Campground since this is a very important spawning area for steelhead and salmon. Camping is prohibited along the Tote Road and at the trailhead. This area has a high density of grizzly bears. Plan to hike the first section of the trail between Hwy 20 and the Stillwater Bridge in the late morning or early afternoon, when the bears are less active.

Hiking Trails

Hunlen Falls Trail – 16.4 kilometres; 6–9 hours one way; 800 metres elevation change. Difficult. Trail is open to hiking only.

The trailhead is at the end of the Tote Road (as described in the *Access* section). Stillwater Lake, 3 kilometres along the valley bottom from the trailhead, is the last source of water before Turner Lake. The trail climbs steeply up 78 switchbacks to a viewpoint 600 metres above the Atnarko River. It then rises more gently, following the route of Hana-Lin, a Native trapper, for whom Hunlen Falls is named. Finally, the trail emerges at Turner North Campground. Camping fees apply at all camping areas along the Turner Lake Chain.

The Hunlen Falls Loop Trail heads north to a foot bridge at the outlet of the lake, then to a viewpoint opposite Hunlen Falls (breathtaking, with a vertical drop of 260 metres). Use extreme caution at the look-out as there are unprotected sheer drops. The trail loops past another viewpoint high over Lonesome Lake then rejoins the main trail.

Junker Lake Trail – 12 kilometres; 2–4 hours. Easy/Moderate. This trail branches south from the Hunlen Falls Loop Trail after crossing the bridge. It is very wet and overgrown in some areas, but your reward is the spectacular mountain view from Junker Lake. There is a campsite near the beach at the end of the trail.

Sunshine Lake Trail – 4 kilometres. Access is by canoe only. The trail leaves the south shore of Kidney Lake and climbs through mature fir and pine forests to reach a primitive campsite on this picturesque mountain lake. There is good trout fishing at the lake outlet.

Ptarmigan Lake Trail – 12 kilometres; 5 hours; 600 metres elevation change. Moderate.

This trail begins near Turner North Campground and climbs steadily through a mature pine forest into the alpine. Large cairns, named Stone Women by the girls’ youth crew that built them, mark the route to Ptarmigan Lake. The campsite is reached by following smaller cairns across Goat Creek where it flows out of the north end of the lake. Due to its high elevation, Ptarmigan Lake may remain frozen later than Turner Lake.

Panorama Lakes Loop Trails

This trail system consists of two loop trails that can be hiked in either direction. The trails connect Ptarmigan Lake with Janet Lake, Molly Lake, Echo Lake and Rosemary Pass. Since these trails are in the high sub-alpine and alpine, they are marked by cairns (difficult to see in bad weather). You should bring a topographic map and compass, and know how to use them. Stay on the trail wherever possible, to avoid damaging the delicate alpine vegetation.

► **Ptarmigan Lake/Echo Lake/Rosemary Pass** – 14 kilometres. Moderate. This loop starts at the Echo Lake/Ptarmigan Lake trail junction, and climbs to the top of the ridge between South Goat Creek and Ptarmigan Lake. As the trail descends toward Echo Lake, the hanging glaciers of Glacier Mountain dominated the view. The route is very steep in sections. Watch for cairns, especially the two large ones located on either side of a narrow valley just before Echo Lake. The trail follows the north shores of Echo and Gem lakes, leading to a long uphill traverse. Enjoy the views of Panorama Ridge with its hanging valleys, horned peaks, glaciers, and waterfalls. From Rosemary Pass the trail descends to the east side of Rosemary Lake, crosses the creek and follows the west shore of Ptarmigan Lake.

► **Ptarmigan Lake/Molly Lake/Rosemary Pass** – 14 kilometres. Moderate. This loop starts at the Ptarmigan Lake campsite and follows the cairns north towards Whistler Pass before turning west to Janet Lake. It travels southwest along the north side of Janet Lake, and then climbs to the boulder-strewn skyline of Janet Pass. Several small lakes are visible from here: Molly Lake is downhill and on the right. On the east shore of Molly Lake is a primitive campsite with spectacular views of the Talchako Mountains. To continue to Rosemary Pass, follow the cairns leading eastward. This is a steep climb. Return to Ptarmigan Lake as described above.

Safety and Conservation

- You are in bear country. Keep your campsite clean and store food and garbage out of reach of bears. Clean fish and dispose of entrails in deep water well away from your campsite.
- Practice no trace camping: pack out all your garbage. Camp in designated sites only. Use a portable stove for cooking. If you must have a campfire, keep it small and use a designated fire ring. Wash and dispose of gray water at least 100 metres from water sources. Plants, animals and rocks are part of the park’s heritage. Do not damage or remove them.
- Pets must be kept under control at all times.
- Drinking water should be boiled or treated.
- Fishing: a valid license is required. Consult the *Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis* for details.
- Firearms are prohibited.
- Do not forget insect repellent!

Maps

1:50,000 topographic maps: 93 C/4 Junker Lake; 93C/5 Atnarko

Available at surveyors’ offices and map retailers.

For More Information

BC Parks

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

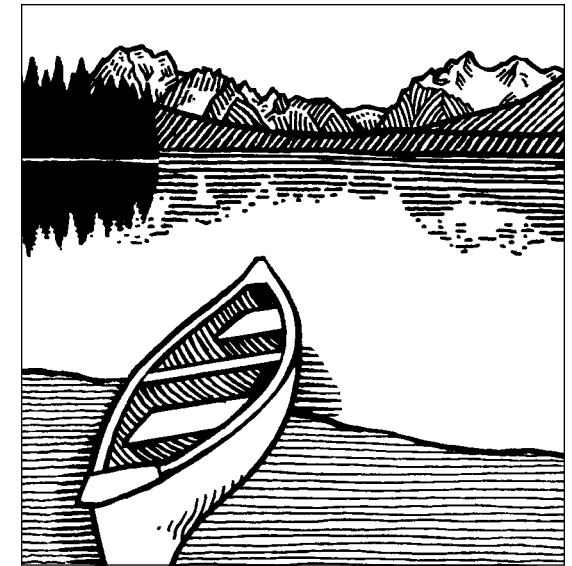


Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection

02/2003



PROVINCIAL PARK Hunlen Falls/Turner Lake Chain



Welcome. This area of spectacular natural beauty provides opportunities for extended hiking and canoeing trips. It lies south of Hwy 20, on the eastern slope of the Coast Mountains.

The Turner Lake Canoe Chain spans six lakes and a distance of 24 kilometres. With crystal clear water, white sand beaches, mountain views and excellent trout fishing, this three-to-five-day trip rivals the best in British Columbia. The chain’s four portages range between 300 metres and one kilometre in length with very little elevation change. The numerous campsites are indicated with red markers, while portages have white markers. Food caches are located at the campsites, and must be used in order to reduce the risk of a bear encounter. An overnight camping fee is in effect. Canoes are available for rent at Turner North Campground.

Cariboo/Chilcotin/Coast