

## Discover The Peace Region

The Peace region is a land waiting to be discovered.

Arrive in spring as the aspen woodlands come alive with the songs of migrant warblers. This is the season when grizzly bears, awake from their long winter's nap, roam the avalanche chutes in search of new greens, and stone sheep gather at mineral licks to replenish precious nutrients lost over the harsh winter months.

Linger through the long days of summer when sharp-tailed grouse raise their chicks in the grasslands east of the Rockies, where bison still roam and homesteaders built new lives by farming the land. While the air grows warm and still, the mountain meadows come alive with newly emerged butterflies.

Stay until fall when the alpine tundra turns to a Persian carpet of flaming reds and oranges, and the white-tailed ptarmigan changes its plumage from dull rock brown to stunning winter white. As autumn days draw in, the chilled morning air rings with the sounds of rutting deer, elk and caribou – the hunted quarry of the Sekanni and Beaver First Nations peoples.

Return in winter when a blanket of snow covers the land where dinosaurs roamed and rich coal beds and oil fields lie deep beneath the surface. This is the season when the boreal forests stand cold and snow-capped against an ice blue sky, and wolves and lynx track prey across a frozen and silent landscape.

Come explore the Peace region in all its seasons.

Mountain Goat PHOTO Vance Hanna



Spruce Grouse (female) PHOTO PhotoCanada.com

## More Information

*British Columbia Wildlife Watch* is a multi-partner program designed to promote educational, recreational and commercial opportunities to view fish and wildlife in their natural habitats. Partners include government, communities and industry who treasure our wildlife heritage and want to protect it for future generations.

### Internet Sites

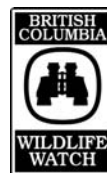
- ▶ Wildlife Viewing in BC [wapwww.gov.bc.ca/fw/wild/wildlife\\_viewing.htm](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/fw/wild/wildlife_viewing.htm)
- ▶ BC Parks [wapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/)
- ▶ Species at Risk [wapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/serisk.htm](http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/serisk.htm)

### Associations

- ▶ Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, #307-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver BC V6H 4A9 Tel: 604-737-3057 [www.naturalists.bc.ca/](http://www.naturalists.bc.ca/)
- ▶ Guide Outfitters Association of BC, Box 94675, Richmond, BC V6Y 4A4 Tel: 604-278-2688 [www.goabc.org](http://www.goabc.org)

### Publications

- ▶ British Columbia Road and Recreational Atlas, 5th edition, Informap
- ▶ British Columbia Wildlife Viewing Guide, Lone Pine Publishing



# Wildlife Viewing



## in the Peace Region



FRONT PANEL: MOOSE PHOTO Jared Hobbs | Warbler PHOTO PhotoCanada.com

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DESIGN [www.sagedesign.ca](http://www.sagedesign.ca)





Wood Bison PHOTO Province of BC

## Viewing Highlights

- ▶ Pink Mountain – Look for plains bison, caribou and several species of arctic/alpine butterflies.
- ▶ Breeding warbler populations attract birders. Many warbler species that occur in B.C. are most abundant in this region.
- ▶ Approximately 4.5 million hectares of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area lies within the Peace Region. This wilderness area, with minimal development, supports large mammals such as grizzly bears in globally important population densities.
- ▶ Dinosaur fossils and tracks await in Tumbler Ridge.
- ▶ Highway 29 – Fort St. John to Chetwynd. Use highway pullouts through the Peace River valley from which to view mule deer, moose, Canada geese, eagles and songbirds.
- ▶ Alaska Hwy – Tetsa River to Liard River. Look for wildlife in the Tetsa River valley. Caribou and stone sheep are attracted to mineral licks along the highway in Stone Mountain and Muncho Lake provincial parks (dawn and dusk).
- ▶ Liard River Hot Springs. Unique lake chub inhabit the warm water, and moose are attracted to the warm marsh areas (spring to fall). Wood bison may be seen along the highway north of the hot springs.

## Wildlife Viewing Tips

- ▶ The goal of wildlife viewing is to safely observe wildlife undertaking natural behaviour in their natural habitat.
- ▶ Use field guides to identify wildlife and signs, such as tracks, droppings, and nests.
- ▶ Use guides and local knowledge to enhance your viewing experience. Ensure your guide has a permit to conduct commercial wildlife viewing.

- ▶ Move slowly and quietly. Avoid wearing bright clothes.
- ▶ Early mornings and dusk are often best, but experiment with different viewing times. White-tailed deer are active in the late afternoon and early evening.
- ▶ Try different viewing strategies. Scan peaks with binoculars. Look for moose and bears in old burned or cleared areas where there is abundant shrub growth. Check for wildlife near lakes and wet areas, sources of food and cover.
- ▶ A diversity of species can be seen along edges between habitats.
- ▶ Be patient and remember there is no guarantee that you will see wildlife. If you do not, simply enjoy the natural beauty of northern B.C.

## Responsible Viewing

### Respect the Needs of Wildlife

- ▶ Use responsible viewing practices. Avoid harassing wildlife, causing disturbances at feeding areas, damaging critical habitats or causing disturbances at breeding sites, which can leave eggs and young animals vulnerable to predation.
- ▶ While viewing or photographing wildlife, use viewing blinds, natural features or your car to minimize wildlife disturbance. View from a distance and use telephoto lenses, binoculars or spotting scopes. Watch animal behaviour for signs of disturbance or alarm. If this occurs, alter your behaviour.
- ▶ Never feed wildlife. It is unsafe, illegal and often leads to disaster for animals if they continue to seek human food sources.
- ▶ Avoid sensitive habitats (nests, dens, feeding areas) and times when wildlife are particularly vulnerable (denning, feeding, mating, raising young).
- ▶ Keep pets leashed and under control or leave them at home.

### Protect the Environment

- ▶ Stay on designated roads, trails and viewing platforms wherever possible to avoid trampling vegetation, and so wildlife can become accustomed to human movement.
- ▶ Practice “no trace” viewing. Do not take plants, rocks, flowers or fossils as souvenirs. Please take your garbage with you or use appropriate facilities if they are provided.

## Stay Safe

- ▶ Do not approach, chase or touch wild animals. They are unpredictable and potentially dangerous.
- ▶ Bears can be seen throughout the region. Learn how to be safe in bear country. Information is available at [wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/pub/bearwld.htm](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/pub/bearwld.htm)
- ▶ Yield to bison. They are massive animals – up to 1,400 kg – and can run at speeds over 60 km/hr.
- ▶ Find out about hunting seasons in the areas you visit at [wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/fw/wild/synopsis.htm](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/fw/wild/synopsis.htm).
- ▶ If your car is 2-wheel drive, use only paved or well gravelled roads in the Peace region. High amounts of clay and the likelihood of precipitation, even in the summer, can make passage impossible.
- ▶ Wildlife may unexpectedly cross roads. Obey traffic speed limits to help avoid collisions.
- ▶ If using industrial roads, enquire about safe travel times and yield to heavy equipment.

## Respect Others

- ▶ Be respectful of the rights of private property owners. Ask permission to cross private property and be sure to leave gates as you find them.
- ▶ Share the view with others trying to watch wildlife.
- ▶ You will likely encounter others undertaking industrial, commercial or other recreational activities. Please be aware and considerate of their activities.

## Report all Poachers and Polluters

- ▶ There are laws to protect wildlife from harassment and disturbance. If you see something inappropriate, document the details and report it to the nearest conservation officer, local authority, or call: 1-877-952-7277.

Elk PHOTO Vance Hanna





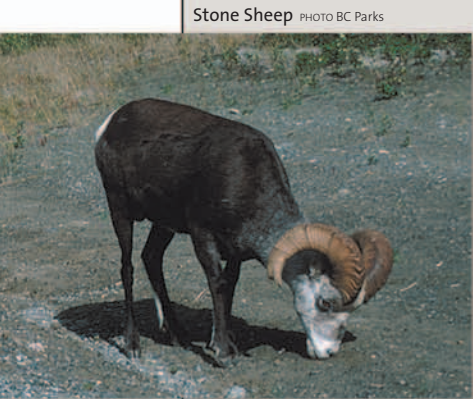
Great Grey Owl PHOTO Mike Stini



Caribou PHOTO Jared Hobbs

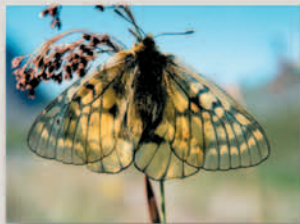


Northern Goshawk PHOTO Province of BC, Rick Kline



Stone Sheep PHOTO BC Parks

Parnassius eversmanii PHOTO Maria Leung



Mule Deer PHOTO Jared Hobbs



Monkman Park PHOTO BC Parks



Parks and Protected Areas

Map #	Location Name	Access	Highlights	Deer	Moose	Stone Sheep	Mtn. Goat	Caribou	Elk	Carnivores	Raptors	Waterfowl	Shorebirds	Songbirds	Grouse/ Ptarmigan	Other	Facilities
1	Bear Flats	P	deer, small mammals, waterfowl	Yr	Yr					Yr	Sp+F	Sp-S		Sp-S			RT
2	Beatton River Corridor	P	deer, moose, raptors	Yr	Yr				W	Yr	Sp-S			Sp-S			
3	Beatton/Charlie Lake Park	P	songbirds, small mammals	Yr	W						Sp-S	Sp-S	Sp-S	Sp-S			C D T
4	Boundary Lake	P	migrating snow geese, tundra & trumpeter swans	Yr	Yr							Sp+F	Sp+F	Sp+F			
5	Bullmoose Flats and Mountain	P	mountain goat, alpine birds	Sp-S	Yr		Yr	W	Yr							marmots Sp-S	T
6	Cecil Lake	G	one of the largest colonies of eared grebes in BC									Sp-F	Sp-F	Sp-F			
7	Dinosaur Lake	B	eagles								Yr					fish Sp+F	
8	Dunlevy Creek/Butler Ridge Park	G W	species & habitat diversity	Yr	Yr	Yr			Yr		Yr			S	Yr	marmots S, fish Sp-S	D T
9	East Pine	P	deer, elk, songbirds	Yr	Yr				Yr	Yr	Sp-S			Sp-S	Yr		C D
10	Fish Creek Demonstration Forest	P	songbirds, small mammals, deer	Yr						Yr				Sp-S			D T
11	Fort Nelson River	P	bird viewing		Yr						Sp-F	Sp-F	Yr			gulls, swallows Sp-S	R
12	Fort St. John Potholes	G	waterfowl	Yr						Yr	S	S			Yr	muskrat Yr	
13	Graham Laurier Park	H W	wilderness, large mammals	S	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Sp-S			Sp-S	Yr		
14	Inga Lake Spawning Channel	G	demonstration spawning channel for rainbow trout									Sp-F	Sp-S	Sp-F		fish Sp-F	C D V
15	Kiskatinaw Park	G	songbirds, deer, moose	Yr	Yr						Sp-S			Sp-S			C D
16	Liard River Hotsprings Park	P	unique lake chub in warm waters	Yr	Yr				Yr	Yr	Yr	Sp-F	Sp-S	Sp-S	Yr	bats Sp-S, lake chub Yr	C D L T V
17	McQueen's Slough	G	marsh and riparian habitats								Sp-F	Sp-F	Sp-F	Sp-F		beaver, muskrat Sp-F	D T V
18	Mount Bergeron	G P W	eastern & western songbirds	S	Yr				S	Yr	Sp-S			Sp-S	Yr		T
19	Muncho Lake Park	P	stone sheep and caribou mineral lick	Yr	Yr	Sp-S		Yr		Yr	Sp-F	Sp-F	Sp-F	Sp-S	Yr		C D L T V
20	Nevis Creek	ATV C 4X4 H W	diverse mountain habitats, large mammals	S	Yr	Yr		Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr			Sp-F	Yr		T
21	Nonda Creek	G W	mountain habitats		Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr		Yr	Sp-S			Sp-S	Yr		
22	Northern Rocky Mountains Park	B F H	wilderness, large mammals		Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Sp-S			Sp-S	Yr		L
23	Onion Lake	ATV G H	mountain goat	S	S		Yr	S		Yr				Sp-S	Yr		C T
24	Peace River Corridor	B	major river valley & associated habitats	Yr	Yr				Yr	Yr	Yr	Sp-F	Sp-F	Sp-F	Yr		C D
25	Pine Pass	P	raptor migrations	S	S					Yr	Sp-S			Sp-S	Yr		C D
26	Pink Mountain	C 4x4 H	caribou, plains bison, Arctic/alpine butterflies	S	Yr			W-S	S	Yr	Yr			Sp-F	Yr	butterflies S, bison Sp-F	H
27	Radar Lake Demonstration Forest	G	songbirds, waterfowl	Yr	Yr						Sp-S	Sp-S	Sp-S	Sp-S	Yr		T
28	Sikanni Chief Falls	G	mountain goat	S	Yr		Yr			Yr				Sp-S	Yr		
29	Stone Mountain Park	H P W	ungulate viewing along highway, wildflowers		Yr	S		S						S	S		C D T V
30	Swan Lake Park	P	waterfowl	Yr	Yr							Sp-S	Sp-S	Sp-S		fish S	C D T V
31	Toad River	P	elk, caribou, songbirds		Yr			Yr	S	Yr				Sp-S	Yr		C D L
32	Tumbler Ridge Dinosaur fossil sites	P	fossils & tracks – Flatbed Creek & museum exhibits													fossils/tracks Sp-F, exhibits Yr	T V
33	Wapiti Lake Park	G W	mountain lake, large mammals	S	S		Yr	S	S	S				Sp-S	Yr		D T
34	Wokkpath Trail	H W	hoodoos, large mammals		Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr		Yr	Sp-S			Sp-S	Yr		T

KEY – ACCESS ATV – All terrain vehicle B – Boat C – Cycle F – Fly 4x4 – 4 wheel drive access G – Gravel 2 wheel drive road H – Horse P – Highway/paved W – Walk/hike

SEASONS Sp – Spring (late March - late June) S – Summer (late June - late Sept) F – Fall (late Sept - late Dec) W – Winter (late Dec - late March) Yr – Year round (Note: viewing seasons are affected by weather patterns which vary annually.)

FACILITIES C – Camping D – Day use L – Lodge R – Highway rest stop T – Trails V – Viewing blinds/platforms/info NOTE Carnivores include wolf, coyote, fox