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THE BULKLEY-NECHAKO

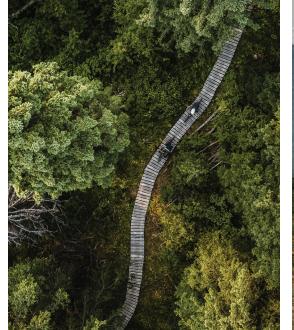
Centrally located in British Columbia between Prince George and Prince Rupert, the Bulkley-Nechako contains over seventy-three thousand square kilometers of wilderness recreation. The region is an outdoor enthusiast's paradise.

This activity guide provides a snapshot of what this amazing region has to offer. From the snow-capped peaks of the Skeena and Babine Mountain Ranges to the endless rolling hills of the Nechako Valley, the opportunities are as varied as the landscape.

In the pages of this guide, you will find the top picks for the Bulkley-Nechako's most popular activities. Check out our website at **www.visitbulkleynechako.ca** for more information and directions to the listed activities, accommodations (including hundreds of free camping spots), local events and services. Using our **Bulkley-Nechako Discovery App**, you can access a personalized adventure guide for any month of the year. If you are on the road, pop into any of the Visitor Information Centres located in the region's communities for further information or directions.

While the top picks are included, we encourage you to step off the beaten track. The Bulkley Valley, which includes Smithers, Telkwa, and Houston, is a hub for sports fishing, mountaineering, skiing, and snowboarding. The Lakes District, which includes the communities of Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, and Granisle, has over 300 lakes, exceptional fishing, and world-class mountain biking trails. The Nechako Valley, encompassing Fort St James and Vanderhoof, abounds in BC and Dakelh First Nation's history, remote fishing resorts, outfitter lodges, and hiking opportunities.

The Bulkley Nechako offers rich and vibrant cultural experiences, and while we have included many of the festivals, local First Nations events, community events, community markets and galleries, there is simply so much more in the region to discover.













WHERE TO BE ON TOP ...

The landscape of the Bulkley-Nechako is so diverse that you can climb to the highest peaks in the morning and be relaxing lake-side in the evening. Even our low-lands are high – the Interior Plateau is approximately 300m above sea level! Here are our picks for the peaks and trails in the region.

HIKING

SMITHERS Crater Lake, Babine Mountains Provincial Park, Hudson Bay Mountain

TELKWA Caribou Trail, Telkwa Wagon Trail, Tyhee Lake Trail

HOUSTON Story Lookout, China Knows Mountain, Buck Falls, Owen Lookout Trail

GRANISLE Red Bluff Park, Whiskey Jack Trails, Skinhead Trail

BURN LAKE Norse Creek Falls, Rod Reid Nature Trail

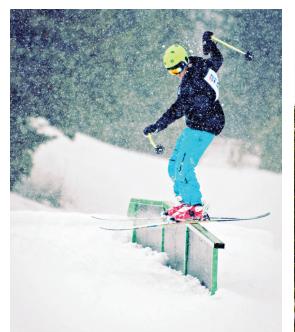
FRASER LAKE Mouse Mountain Age Friendly Trails, Fraser Mountain Trail

FORT ST. JAMES Mount Pope, Black Point Trail

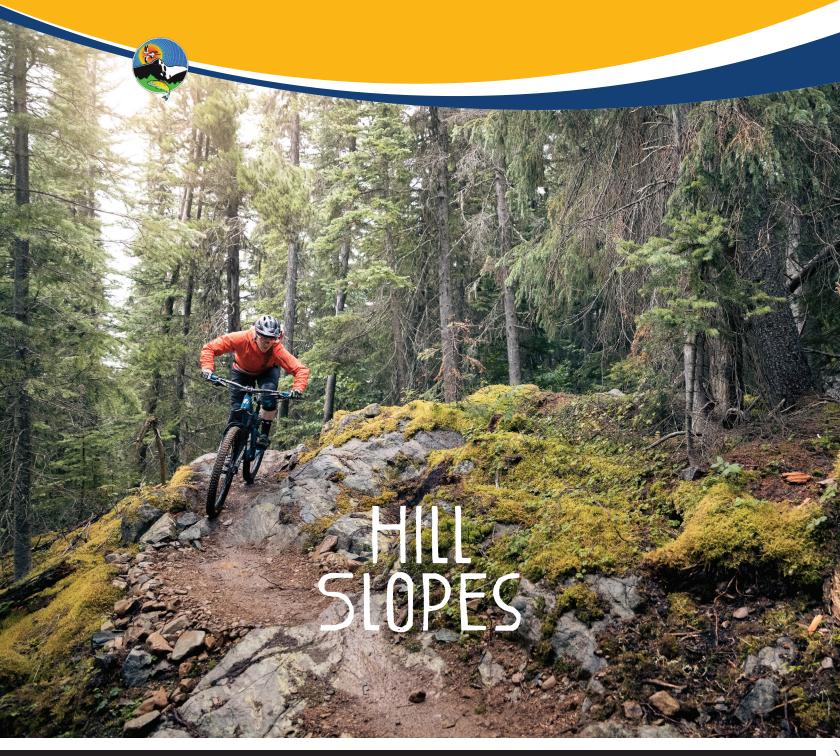
VANDERHOOF Greer Creek Falls, Sinkut Mountain, Cheslatta Falls

DOWNHILL SKIING

SMITHERS Hudson Bay Mountain Resort, Hankin-Evelyn Backcountry Ski Area **FORT ST. JAMES** Murray Ridge Ski Hill













STEEP IN EXCITEMENT...

Excitement is what you'll get when adventuring on one of the numerous mountains and hills in the region. Our top picks are listed below but check **www.visitbulkleynechako.ca** or at a VIC for more sites and details.

SNOW SHOEING

SMITHERS The Prairie on Hudson Bay Mountain, Canyon Creek Trails Rec Site

TELKWA Bulkley River Recreation Site, Tyhee Lake Trails

HOUSTON Morice Mountain Alpine Cabin, Equity Ice Falls, Morice-Klinger Trails

GRANISLE Findlay Falls, Paul Lake, Whiskey Jack Trails

BURNS LAKE Kager Lake Recreational Area, Omineca Ski Club

FRASER LAKE Mouse Mountain Age Friendly Trails

FORT ST. JAMES Murray Ridge Ski Area

VANDERHOOF Waterlily Lake Trails, Wonder & Expected Lakes

MOUNTAIN BIKING

SMITHERS The Bluff, Ptarmigan and Piper Down Rec Sites, Cronin Pass

TELKWA Call Lake Provincial Park

HOUSTON Mount Harry Davis, Owen Lookout

BURNS LAKE Boer Mountain Trails, Kager Lake

FRASER LAKE Fraser Mountain

FORT ST. JAMES Pope's Slope Biking Trails, KDL Bike Park **VANDERHOOF** Rip'N the North Bike Park, Telegraph Trails

CLIMBING

TELKWA Ganokwa Falls **HOUSTON** Owen Hat, Nadina

Mountain Provincial Park

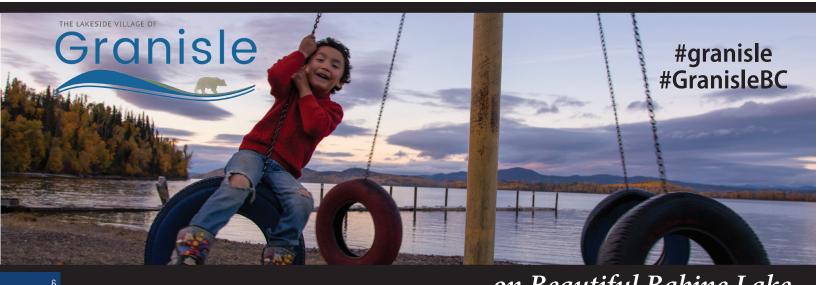
BURNS LAKE Foxy Canyon (Ice Climbing)

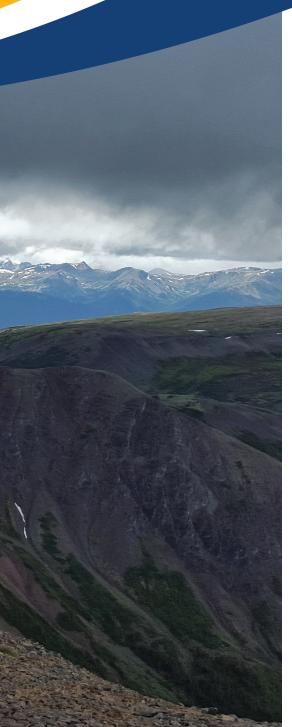
FRASER LAKE Fraser Mountain **FORT ST JAMES** Mount Pope











POWER OF DIRT & SNOW...

The thrill of hills, jumps and the great outdoors come together on the trails and designated ATVing and snowmobiling areas. Here's a sample of the many outdoor recreation spots in the region.

ATVING

SMITHERS Dome Mountain, The Onion TELKWA Telkwa Pass, The Microwave, Mount Sinclair HOUSTON Sweeney Mountain, Sibola Mountain

GRANISLE Fulton River, Granisle Loop, Whiskey Jack Trails

BURNS LAKE Cheslatta Trail, Babine Lake Road Trail System

FORT ST. JAMES Sowchea, Dickinson Loop

SNOWMOBILING

SMITHERS Dome Mountain, The Onion TELKWA Teklwa Range, Mount Sinclair GRANISLE Fulton River, Granisle Loop HOUSTON Telkwa Range, Dungate Meadows, Sibola/Rhine Ridge BURNS LAKE Ailport, Thousand Islands Riding Areas

FORT ST. JAMES Sowchea, Dickinson Loop

BACK COUNTRY SAFETY

Hiking Boots or Athletic Shoes: Make sure to choose footwear that will keep you safe on the trails.

Water: Always carry water with you while hiking. Keep in mind that fluid loss is heightened in winter and summer. Carry a water filter and/or purification tablets.

Navigation: Bring a physical waterproof/tear resistant trail map and a compass. Learn how to use these tools before you head out.

Food: Pack enough food for your trip and then add a little more. A reasonable goal is 0.5-1.5kg (or 2,500 to 4,500 calories) per person per day, depending on your size and exertion level. Great trail options include fruit, nuts, energy bars, trail mix, granola, jerky, and chocolate.

Sunscreen and Insect Repellent:

Apply regularly to protect yourself. Even on cloudy days, exposed skin can lead to sunburns. SPF 30 is recommended.

10 Essentials when in the Backcountry

Rain Gear and Extra Clothing: Be prepared for changing weather.

Take a rain jacket and dress in layers.

Avoid cotton base layers as cotton traps water against your skin and is slow to dry. Choose synthetic fabrics when possible.

First Aid Kit: Choose a compact and weatherproof first aid kit. Know how to use each item. Make sure to ask all of your backcountry party members if they have any allergies or conditions.

Headland and Flashlight: A small headlamp or flashlight will be useful if you find yourself on the trail after sunset. Carry an extra set of batteries.

Matches or Lighter: In an emergency, you may need to keep yourself or someone else warm until help arrives. Carry matches in a waterproof container.

Tools: A knife is an important tool to carry when hiking. A physical list of emergency numbers for the area and a lightweight emergency blanket can also be useful additions to your pack.













ROOM TO MOVE ...

With hundreds of kilometers to roam, the Bulkley-Nechako has open skies, clear views and lots of room to improve your golf swing, adventure through the snow, or just set-up camp and enjoy the beauty. Below is a small sample of what is available in this diverse and vast region.

GOLFING

SMITHERS Smithers Golf and Country Club, Smithers Par 3 and RV

HOUSTON Willow Grove Golf and Country Club

FRASER LAKE Molyhills Golf Course

FORT ST. JAMES Stuart Lake Golf Course

VANDERHOOF Omineca Golf Course

X-COUNTRY SKIING

SMITHERS Bulkley Valley Nordic Centre, Canyon Creek Trails

TELKWA Bulkley River Recreation Site

HOUSTON Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club

GRANISLE Granisle Loop, Whiskey Jack Trails

BURNS LAKE Omineca Ski Club

FRASER LAKE Mouse Mountain Age Friendly Trails, Fraser Lake Shoreline Trails

FORT ST. JAMES Stuart Lake, Murray Ridge Trails

VANDERHOOF Waterlily Lake Trails, Riverside Park, NVSA Trails

CAMPING

SMITHERS Twin Falls Recreation Site, Riverside Municipal RV and Camping

TELKWA Tyhee Lake Provincial Park, Bulkley River Recreation Site

HOUSTON Bymac Park, Morice Lake Provincial Park

GRANISLE Red Buff Provincial Park, Lion's Beach,

New Beach Municipal Campground

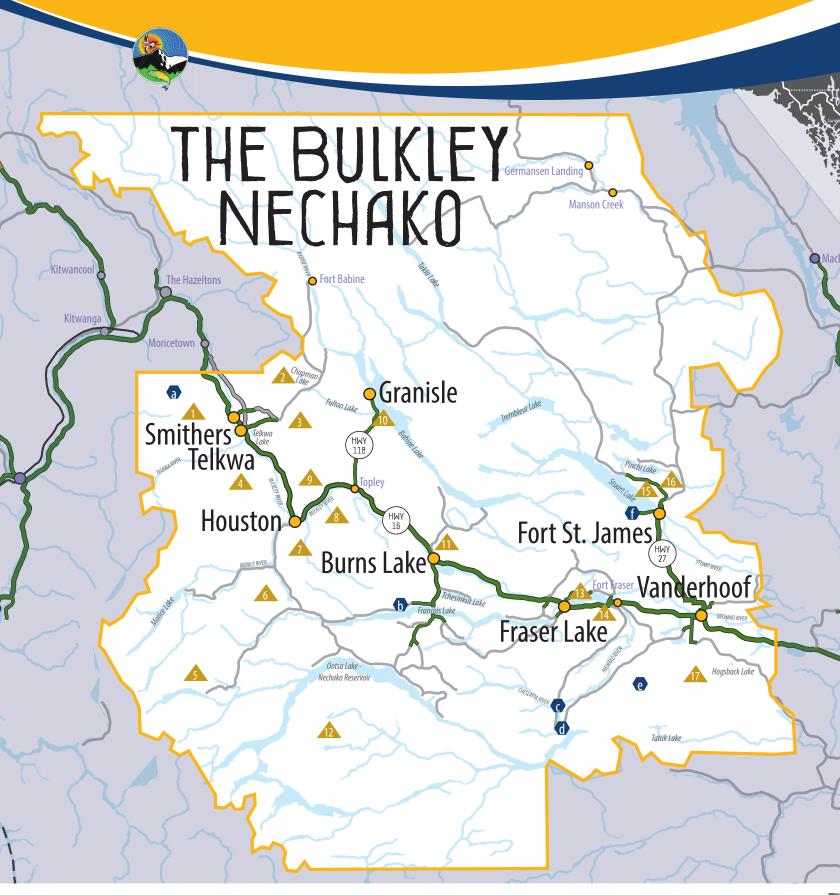
BURNS LAKE Burns Lake Municipal Campground, Kager Lake Recreation Area

FRASER LAKE White Swan Park, Peterson's Beach, Beaumont Provincial Park

FORT ST. JAMES Paarens Beach and Sowchea Bay Provincial Parks, Cottonwood Park

VANDERHOOF Hogsback Lake, Riverside Campground, Cobb Lake





ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

FREE Electric Charging Stations in the Bulkley-Nechako

SMITHERS 3749 Second Ave Parking Lot, Smithers, One ChargePoint Leviton unit with 2 outlets.

HOUSTON Houston Visitor Centre, Steelhead Park, 2 EV Plug (J1772)s. BURNS LAKE 313 Highway 16 W, Burns Lake. 2 EV Plug (J1772)s.

ROAD WISE

Each community within the Region has a Visitor Information Centre (VIC) that will have local information about road conditions for the vehicle you are driving. Some roads are only suitable for truck or off-road vehicles, or are access roads for industry. Be wise, and plan ahead!



LEGEND

- 1 Hudson Bay Mountain
- 2 Mt. Cronin/Babine Mountain
- 3 Dome Mountain
- 4 Telkwa Range
- 5 Sibola Mountain Range
- 6 Nadina Mountain
- 7 Morice Mountain
- 8 China Knows Mountain
- 9 Mount Harry Davis
- 10 Red Bluff Park
- 11 Boar Mountain & Kager Lake Rec Site
- 12 Michel Peak Tweedsmuir Provincial Park
- 13 Mouse Mountain
- 14 Fraser Mountain
- 15 Mount Pope
- 16 Murray Ridge
- 17 Sinkut Mountain



- a Hankin-Evelyn Backcountry Skiing
- b Nourse Creek Falls
- c Cheslatta Falls
- d Kenney Dam
- e Greer Creek Falls
- f Sowchea & Paarens Beach Provincial Parks

X MARKS THE SPOT...

It is easy to get to the spot you want when you are in the middle of BC! Highway 16 is the main corridor that links the communities within the region, yet there are many less traveled roads that lead to lifelong memories.

BY AIR

SMITHERS REGIONAL AIRPORT (YYD) is located 5 km north of the Town of Smithers. It has multiple air connections daily.

Flying out of YYD:

AIR CANADA Offers daily service to Vancouver.

CENTRAL MOUNTAIN AIR Offers daily scheduled flight service to and from Prince George, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver, into Smithers.

LOCAL FLIGHT OPERATORS who cater to tourists within the region:

SMITHERS Mustang Helicopters, Northern Thunderbird Air, Silver King Helicopters, Canadian Helicopters, Highland Helicopters, Tsyatas Aviation Services, Alpine Lakes Air

TELKWA Alpine Lakes Air

HOUSTON Westland Helicopters

BURNS LAKE Lakes District Air, Westland Helicopters

FRASER LAKE Danish Aviation

FORT ST. JAMES Tsyatas Aviation Services, Interior Helicopters

VANDERHOOF Guardian Aerospace, Yellowhead Helicopters

BY LAND - HIGHWAY 16

The Bulkley-Nechako is located in the heart of BC on Canada's Yellowhead Trans Canada Highway, or "Highway 16". If you are starting your journey from the East, Vanderhoof is only 99 km/61 miles west of Prince George; and if you're starting from the West, Smithers is 350 km/218 miles from the Port of Prince Rupert on the Pacific Ocean. Being in the heart of the province makes the Bulkley-Nechako easy to find, from whatever direction you find yourself coming.

RVING

Sani-Dump Sites & Potable Water

SMITHERS Smithers Visitor Centre, 1411 Court Street

TELKWA Tyhee Lake Provincial Park (sani-dump only)

HOUSTON Municipal Sani-Dump, Hwy. 16 and Butler Avenue

GRANISLE Visitor Information Centre, # 3 Babine Dr

BURNS LAKE Burns Lake Municipal Public RV Dump Station, Railway Ave

FRASER LAKE Fraser Lake Municipal Sani Dump Station, Hwy. 16 behind the VIC

FORT ST. JAMES Cottonwood Park, 1995 Lakeshore Drive

VANDERHOOF Riverside Campground, 3100 Burrard Ave









TRANQUIL DAYS & NIGHTS ...

Take advantage of the countless lakes within the Bulkley-Nechako. Pristine waters can be found at every stop on your travels from world class fishing to amazing paddling experiences. Here are the highlights of the countless lakes and water activities in our region.

ICE FISHING

TELKWA Tyhee Lake

GRANISLE Timber Lake, Skinhead Lake **HOUSTON** Klinger Lake, Irrigation Lake

BURNS LAKE Co-op Lake, Guyishton

Lake

FRASER LAKE Fraser Lake

FORT ST. JAMES Stuart Lake

VANDERHOOF Sinkut Lake, Cluculz Lake

PADDLING

SMITHERS Suskwa River, whitewater on the Babine River

TELKWA Telkwa River, Bulkley River, Tyhee Lake

HOUSTON Nanika-Kidprice Provincial Park, Morice River, Silverthorne Lake, Klinger Lake

GRANISLE Babine Lake, Skinhead Lake **BURNS LAKE** With 3,000 miles of lake shore it is hard to pick 2, Takysie and

Francois Lake

FRASER LAKE Fraser Lake, Stellako River (canoe rentals available)

FORT ST. JAMES Nation Lakes Canoe Trip, Takla/Stuart Lake Canoe Trip

VANDERHOOF Hogsback Lake, Nechako River, Cobb Lake

LAKE FISHING

SMITHERS Chapman Lake, Dennis Lake

TELKWA Round Lake

GRANISLE Babine Lake, Timber Lake

HOUSTON Owen Lake, Nadina Lake

BURNS LAKE Uncha Lake, Takysie Lake

FRASER LAKE Fraser Lake, Francois Lake

FORT ST. JAMES Stuart Lake, Pinchi Lake

VANDERHOOF Stern Lake, Cobb Lake, Cluculz Lake

SWIMMING-BEACHES

SMITHERS Lake Kathlyn, Seymour Lake

TELKWA Tyhee Lake

HOUSTON Sunset Lake, Irrigation Lake

GRANISLE Babine Lake

BURNS LAKE Burns Lake, Augier Lake

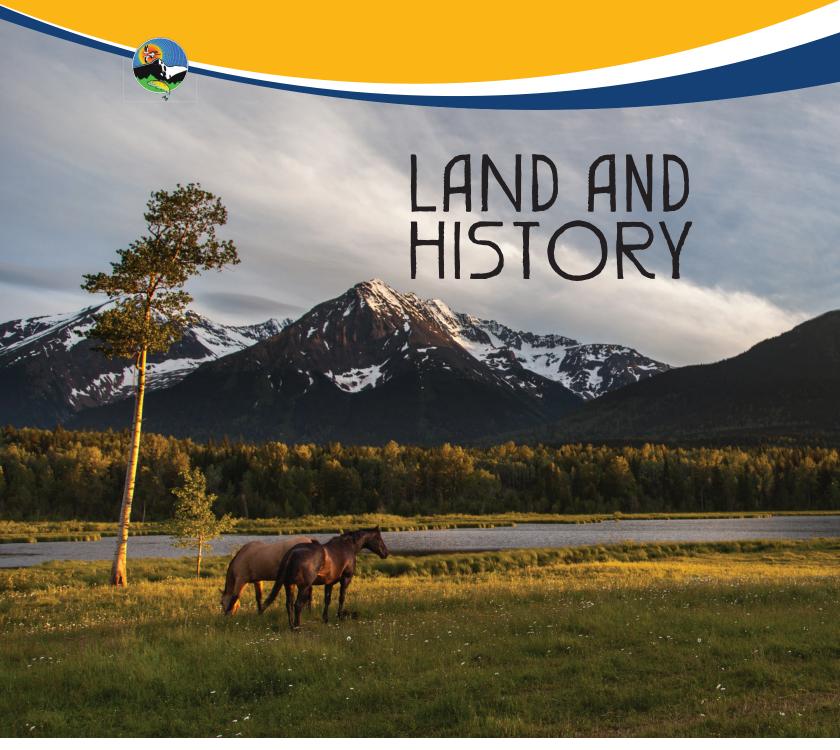
FRASER LAKE Fraser Lake (White Swan Park and Beaumont Provincial Park)

FORT ST. JAMES Stuart Lake, Parrens

Beach, Cottonwood Park

VANDERHOOF Hogsback Lake, Cobb Lake, Riverside Park

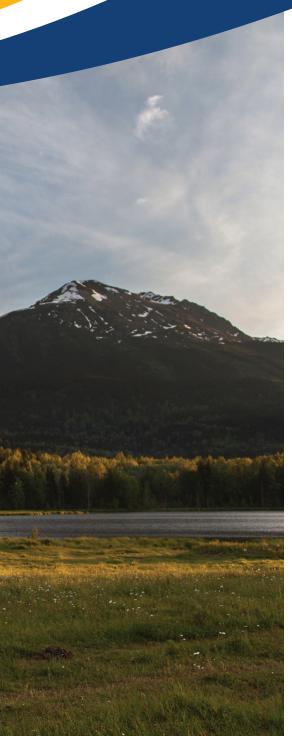




FRASER LAKE BRITISH COLUMBIA









THE STORY OF THE LAND ...

Our story is diverse and embedded in the modern culture of the Bulkley-Nechako. Indigenous stories tell of times many centuries before contact. Within the past 150 years explorers and prospectors have woven their story into its fabric. Visit one of these must-sees, and ask at a VIC for more cultural sites.

MUSEUMS & STOPS OF INTEREST

SMITHERS Bulkley Valley Museum, Smithers Art Gallery

TELKWA Telkwa Museum, St. Stephen's Anglican Heritage Church

HOUSTON Heritage Park Walking Trail

GRANISLE Museum & Visitor Information Centre, Fulton River Spawning Channel

BURNS LAKE Lakes District Museum

FRASER LAKE Fraser Lake Museum & Visitor Information Centre

FORT ST. JAMES National Historic Site, Greensides Chainsaw

Carvings, Our Lady of Good Hope Church

VANDERHOOF Vanderhoof Community Museum

INDIGENOUS CULTURE

SMITHERS Dze L K'ant Aboriginal Day Festival, Moricetown Interpretive Centre, Moricetown Canyon

GRANISLE Granisle Days - Lake Babine Nation Traditional Dancers

BURNS LAKE Aboriginal Day Celebrations, Burns Lake Band Clan Carvings commissioned by Ben Gerow

FRASER LAKE Indigenous Pictographs - Nadleh Whut'en Band, Stellat'en First Nation Salmon Fest

FORT ST. JAMES Carrier Pictographs, Metis Day, FSJ National Historic Site, Chief Kwah's Grave

VANDERHOOF Aboriginal Day, Saik'uz First Nation display - Vanderhoof Community Museum, Mary John Walk, murals around Vanderhoof

















FIND YOUR RHYTHM ...

There are many outdoor music events held within the region each year. Choose from this list of main attractions, and visit **www.visitbulkleynechako.ca** or a VIC for more events happening during your stay in the region.

MUSIC

SMITHERS Midsummer Music Festival, Spirit of the North Classic Music Festival

TELKWA Telkwa BBQ

HOUSTON Gospel Music Festival, Music in the Park

BURNS LAKE Hay Fever Music Festival

FRASER LAKE White Swan Music Festival FORT ST. JAMES Music on the Mountain

VANDERHOOF Concert in the Park, Northern Orchestra Concert Series

CELEBRATIONS, FAIRS & FESTIVALS

SMITHERS Bulkley Valley Exhibition

HOUSTON Winter Festival, Pleasant Valley Days

GRANISLE Granisle Days

BURNS LAKE Aboriginal Day Celebration, Lakes District Fall Fair, Big Pig Mountain

Bike Festival

FRASER LAKE Mouse Mountain Days

FORT ST. JAMES FSJ Winter Festival, Caledonia Days, Metis Days

VANDERHOOF Vanderhoof Rodeo, Equifair, Nechako Valley Exhibition

GALLERIES

SMITHERS Smithers Art Gallery

GRANISLE The Crafter's Hut

BURNS LAKE 4 Circle Arts Gallery, Lakes Artisan Centre

FRASER LAKE Fraser Lake Museum & Visitor Information Centre

FORT ST. JAMES Pope Mountain Arts Centre

VANDERHOOF Vanderhoof Community Museum, Public Library Art Exhibitions

COMMUNITY MARKETS

SMITHERS Bulkley Valley Farmers' Market - Outdoor May-Oct, Indoor Oct-Dec

HOUSTON Houston Farmers' Market - Jun-Oct

BURNS LAKE Burns Lake Community Market - Jul-Aug

FRASER LAKE Fraser Lake Community Market - Jun-Sep

FORT ST. JAMES Fort St. James Farmers' Market - May-Sep

VANDERHOOF Vanderhoof Farmers' Market - Jun-Sep









CAPTIVATING WATERWAYS...

The land within the Bulkley-Nechako is connected through thousands of kilometers of waterways, from the smallest creeks to major rivers like the Nechako and Nadina. Here is a small sampling of the amazing waterways in our region.

RIVER FISHING

SMITHERS Bulkley River, Kispiox River, Babine River

TELKWA Telkwa River, Bulkley River

HOUSTON Morice River, Bulkley River

BURNS LAKE Cheslatta River

FRASER LAKE Stellako River

FORT ST. JAMES Stuart River, Necoslie River **VANDERHOOF** Nechako River, Stuart River

BIRDING

FRASER LAKE White Swan Park

VANDERHOOF Nechako Migratory Bird Sanctuary

FISH HATCHERIES

SMITHERS Toboggan Creek Fish Hatchery

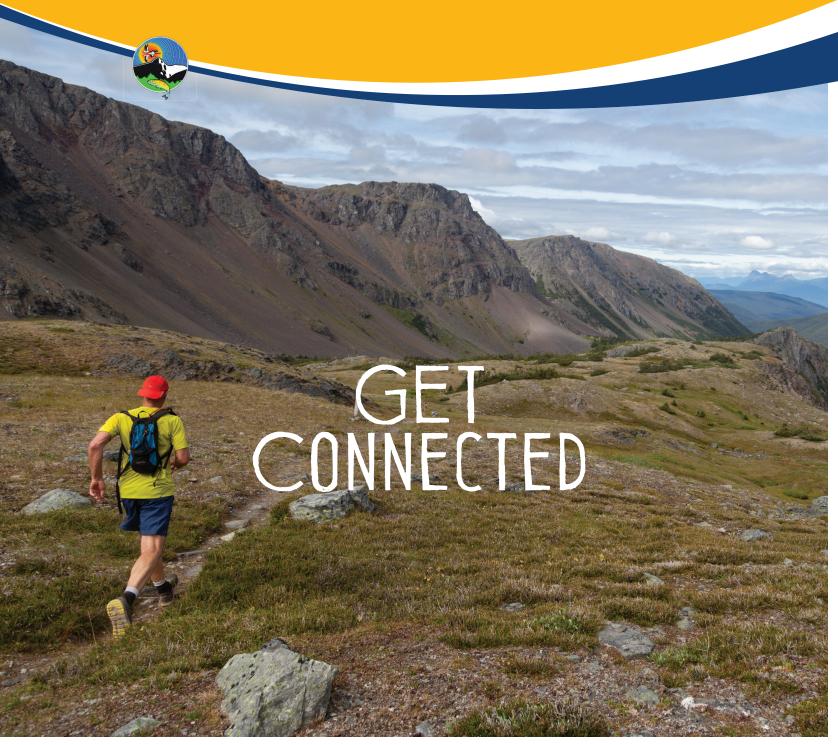
HOUSTON Buck Creek Canfor Hatchery

GRANISLE Fulton River Spawning Channel

VANDERHOOF Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre







SOCIAL MEDIA

Whatever town you are in, use these hashtags to get **local info** and to **upload your photos!**

#visitbulkleynechako #bndiscoveryapp

#smithersbc

#telkwa #villageoftelkwa

#granisle #GranisleBC

#HoustonBC #naturallyamazing #pleasantvalley

#visitburnslake

#fraserlake

#fortstjames #fortstjamesNHS

#Vanderhoof



LEGEND

Vanderhoof V Granisle G
Fort St. James FSJ Houston H
Fraser Lake FL Telkwa T
Burns Lake BL Smithers S

Granisle G Region-wide ALL Houston H Telkwa T Smithers S

JANUARY - MARCH

Caledonia Classic Dog Sled Races – FSJ Fort St James Winter Festival – FSJ Family Day on the Lake – FL Cold Smoke Snowmobile Drag Races – BL

Winter Festival - H

APRIL - MAY

Vanderhoof Rodeo – V Stoney Creek Elders Fishing Derby – V Victoria Day Weekend Celebration – FSJ Grassy Plains Mud Bogs – BL Pleasant Valley Days – H Schnai Dai - Ski season Finale at Hudson Bay Mountain Resort – S

JUNE

Equifair – V
Hooterville Hoot Show and Shine – V
Chicken Races – FSJ
White Swan Music Festival – FL
White Swan Classic Car Show – FL
Aboriginal Day Parade – BL
Father's Day Fishing Derby – G
Houston Mud Drags – H
Midsummer Music Festival – S
Music in the Park – T
National Indigenous
Peoples Day – ALL

THE SIGHTS, THE SOUNDS...

Be amazed as you journey through the Bulkley-Nechako. Along the way, check the local **CALENDAR-OF-EVENTS** listings for each community, as there are events and hidden away spots that are well worth the stop.

JULY

Concert in the Park – V

Stuart Lake Annual Fishing Derby – FSJ
Chicken Races – FSJ
Night Market – FSJ
Mouse Mountain Days – FL
Classic Car Show and Shine – BL
Summer Music Festival – BL
Hay Fever Music Festival – BL
Houston Drag Races – H
Houston Logger Sports – H
Gospel Festival – H
Morice Mountain Cabin Run – H
Lawnchair Lounge – S
Canada Day Celebration – ALL

AUGUST

Vanderhoof Air Show – V
Nechako Valley Exhibition – V
Music on the Mountain (MOM)
Festival – FSJ
Chicken Races – FSJ
Heritage Day Rendezvous Wkd – FSJ
Dennis Hiatt Memorial Mud Bogs – FL
Big Pig Mountain Bike Festival – BL
Granisle Days – G
Bulkley Valley Drag Races & Houston

Show & Shine – H Music in the Park – T Hah Nic Na' Aah Mountain Half Marathon – S Bulkley Valley Exhibition Fall Fair & Rodeo – S Lawnchair Lounge – S

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Metis Day – FSJ

Stellat'en First Nation Salmon Fest – FL

Lakes District Fall Fair – BL

Multicultural Harvest Celebration – H

Telkwa BBQ and Demolition Derby – T

Music in the Park – T

Fly Fishing Film Festival – S

Best of the Fest, Banff Film Festival – S

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Parade of Lights – V Annual Night Market – FSJ Santa Claus Parade – FL Parade of Lights – BL Light Up – H Christmas in the Valley – S Plaid Friday – ALL

