

Hiking Hut to Hut in British Columbia

Wells Gray Park, British Columbia

September 1 - 7, 2008 (Monday-Sunday)

Rarely is it possible to combine hiking in remote wilderness with a warm hut and comfortable bed at the end of the day – but on this trip, you can have it all! Our hiking journey takes place in Wells Gray Park, one of the best-kept secrets in Canada and the only park with a hut system. The park encompasses a 1.5 million acre watershed and completely protects the Clearwater River basin. Here you will find lush meadows full of wildflowers, beautiful peaks, pristine lakes, and water so clean you can drink it without filtering it. And staying in well stocked, cozy huts leaves you free to travel carrying only your clothes. If you have been wanting to hike in remote and beautiful Canadian wilderness, and love the idea of a warm bed at night, please join us as we spend five days roaming this unique ecosystem.

Our hiking trip begins at 5 p.m. on Monday September 1, at our lodging in Clearwater, British Columbia. We'll gather to introduce ourselves and then go out together to share a welcome dinner. That night we'll review the plans for the trip and make a final clothing check. We leave at 9 a.m. the next morning and drive about an hour to our trailhead. Our hike to the first hut, Trophy Mountain Chalet at 7000 ft, will take 2.5 to 3.5 hours and includes some steep uphill hiking. We travel through mature forests and lush meadows while gaining 1700 ft. After settling in we go for a short hike to start exploring this area of small peaks, lakes and meadows. The next day we go for a longer day hike, with the opportunity to walk along ridges, watch for marmots and picas, and go for an invigorating swim in one of the numerous lakes. Leaving the hut on the third day, we hike about 7 miles off-trail through alpine meadows, dropping down to the Valley of the Lakes for a lunch break, and then crossing Eagle Pass at 6700 ft. The 6 to 8 hour hike includes crossing a field of boulders and some steep up and downhill trail until we reach our destination at Discovery Cabin, which is located in a very remote and wild valley. We stay there two nights again, using our second layover day to hike to the top of Table Mountain, with spectacular views in all directions. Our final day is again a 6 to 7 hour hike, first up the ridge of Table Mountain and then descending into the forest to the Phillip Lakes, perhaps for a final swim, and then back down to the van. We'll return to our lodging and, after taking showers, rejoin the group for our farewell dinner. During our five-day hike we will most likely not see another human being.

The huts are comfortable, well heated and fully equipped. Trophy Mountain Chalet has a large living area downstairs, and one large room upstairs divided into sleeping compartments. In the Discovery Cabin there is a large open loft instead of a second floor. Neither cabin has running water, as septic systems would be intrusive in this environment. Instead there are outhouses or a composting toilet, and a small room with a washbasin for washing up at the end of the day (not to mention numerous opportunities to go jump in a lake). This trip is suitable for women in good physical condition with some previous hiking experience. We are delighted to be working with Wells Gray Chalets and Wilderness Adventures on this adventure.

To reserve a place on this wilderness hiking journey, please send your deposit of \$300 or the full trip fee of \$1350 (deduct \$50 if you register by 5/1) to the Adventures in Good Company office, register on our web site, or call to register by phone. The trip fee includes guide services, two nights double occupancy motel accommodation, four nights hut accommodation, and meals from dinner on Monday through breakfast the following Sunday. Participants provide a sleeping sack, a small backpack, clothing, and other personal items. Van transportation is available from Seattle leaving at 8 a.m. on September 1 and returning by 6 p.m. on September 7 on a cost-share basis. It is also possible to fly into Kamloops, B.C.

Three months before the trip we'll send you information to help you prepare for your journey, including a detailed packing list. The names of other participants will be sent out a month in advance for those who wish to do any pre-trip networking. Please call us with any questions; we'd be delighted to welcome you to the Canadian wilderness!

A d v e n t u r e s i n G o o d C o m p a n y

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