

TRAVELOGUE – IF YOU GO . . .

The High Rim Trail may be accessed by six trailheads: Philpott Road at highway 33; Goudie Road; Postill Lake Road; Beaver Lake Road; Oyama Lake Road; and Kalamalka Provincial Park. The trail is estimated to be 55 – 60 kms in length.

To hike from the south end start at highway 33 and Philpott Road, cross the highway, climb over a stile located a few metres back towards Kelowna, and hike about 1 ½ kms (.9 mi.) or one hour south to Mission Creek where the trail begins at km 0 and 620 m (2,040) ft. Return to the highway on the same trail. On the north side of Highway 33, a large sign directs you up a hill (“Cardiac Hill”) and then the trail travels, about 4 kms (2.5 m) to the Cardinal Canyon Bridge. At the creek, cross a log bridge with handrails and continue hiking through dense brush passing the ‘babbling brook’ sign and up the hill. Viewpoints along the way include Little White Mountain, a Larch forest, and views of Black Knight Mountain. The distance to the Goudie Road trailhead is about another 4 kms (2.5 mi.)

The Goudie Road trailhead is a second access to the trail. Coming from the south, cross Goudie Road and continue north past the kiosk. Follow the pink and black flagging tape leading through a path of woods on to a road and then eventually onto the trail passing ‘frog pond’ about 5 kms (3 mi.) north of Goudie Road. Pass another viewpoint, this time looking at Shorts Creek Canyon. Continue on, crossing another road until you reach the Grand View at an elevation of 1380 m (4,535 ft.) Views extend from Little White Mountain on the left (south) to Terrace Mountain on the right (north). Further to the south snow-topped Brent Mountain and Apex Mountain appear. To the west, Mt. Boucherie, McDougal Ridge and Blue Grouse are in the foreground and White Rocks Mountain appears in the background. The total distance from Goudie Road to the Grand View is about 8 kms (5 mi.) From the Grand View hike along a trail passing James Lake (3 kms on your right) about 10 kms (6 mi.) to Postill Lake Road. Just before the Postill Lake Road you descend into the Kelowna Creek canyon and cross the ‘World Youth Corps. Bridge’ at an elevation 1240 m (4,068 ft.)

The Postill Lake Road trailhead is a third access to the trail. Continuing from the Postill Lake trailhead north to Beaver Lake Road is another 5 kms (3 mi.), including a crossing of the Trail Workers’ Bridge over Vernon Creek at 1205 m (3,952 ft.), joining the Beaver Lake Road at an elevation of 1340 m (4,400) ft.) Mature Engelmann spruce and Douglas maple are found at the bridge.

From the Beaver Lake Road trailhead, a fourth access to the trail, to Wrinkly Face Provincial Park is about 1 ½ hours passing through meadows and dense forest of fir, cedar, and spruce. Pass the ‘Four cedar sisters’ and other stands of mature old growth such as Balsam fir, Engelmann spruce, Douglas fir and Sub alpine fir. Along this section of the trail are interesting geological features such as ridges of volcanic and basalt rock formations. Then on to the Monolith at 1,440 m (4,729 ft.) Carefully climb the log ladder to the top of the huge rock with great views of Oyama Lake. North of the Monolith, bypass an old clear-cut in an area of large firs. Cross a forest road uphill and then pass on your right before crossing the Cum-a-long Bridge over Oyama Creek, elevation 1270 m (4,160 ft.) Cross Oyama Lake Road at an elevation of 1310 m (4,300 ft.) From a recent clear cut there are views of Terrace Mountain, Shorts Creek Canyon and Sugar Loaf Mountain to the west. From the Beaver Lake Road trailhead to Oyama Road is approximately 11 kms (7 mi.)

Continuing north from the Oyama Lake Road trailhead, a fifth access to the trail, pass Towgood Lake and Damer Lake and continue about 5 kms (3 mi.) to the microwave station lookout. At 1295 m (4,248 ft.) there are spectacular views of Cosens Bay, Turtlehead Point and Cougar Canyon. The trail continues from the microwave station turning downwards to the right (north). It is well marked with pink and black tape, eventually reaching the park boundary. The trail continues about 10 kms. (6 mi.) to the Cosens Bay parking lot. This last section has been flagged and relocated by B.C. Parks.