

Welcome to the West Kootenays. We are happy you are here. We request you respect our nature, our places and our people the same way locals do. Here is our code of conduct:

SHARE YOUR LOVE, SHARE THE CODE

If you enjoyed your time in the Kootenays, be sure to pass a recommendation along to friends and family, and remind them to follow our code of conduct.



KEEP YOURSELF SAFE AND THE WILDERNESS WILD (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/>)

Wildlife can be anywhere at any time. Don't feed the wildlife and keep your distance.

Respect pet restrictions and use a leash for pets if and when they're allowed.

Carry bear spray and make lots of noise.

Carry your trash out with you.

Be sure to have the proper license for fishing and hunting.

Respect the snowmobile closure areas.

ASK IF YOU DON'T KNOW

Information is the key to be a responsible visitor. Kootenay people are friendly and knowledgeable. Stop in at the local Visitor Centre, outdoor retailer or outfitter, contact a local club and ask for assistance and tips.



THINK BEFORE YOU LIGHT A FIRE

Wildfires are a serious threat to our communities and landscapes.

Check for and respect fire bans.

Never leave a campfire unattended.

Put your campfire out completely when you leave (ashes should be cool to the touch).

If you smoke, make sure your butts are fully extinguished and dispose of them in designated waste facilities.

CAMP RESPONSIBLY

Only camp in designated camping areas.

Pack out all your waste and dispose of into designated wildlife-proof garbage containers.

Keep a clean campsite.

Pay your camping fees and respect quiet hours and other rules.

PREPARE FOR ALL ADVENTURES

In some parts of the Kootenays, there is limited cell service.

Always let someone know your plans before adventuring into the wild.

Remember the 3 T's - Trip-planning, Training and Taking the essentials.

Be prepared with food, water, maps and first aid supplies.

Wear appropriate footwear and clothing and be prepared for sudden weather changes on the water and in the mountains in ALL seasons.

If you're new to a sport or to the region, consider hiring a certified guide for hiking, biking, skiing, snowmobiling, paddling, ATving and fishing. Take a course or some training.

Always adventure with someone, never alone.

Be avalanche aware and always carry the safety gear.

Avoid risking your life for a selfie.

RESPECT TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Stay ON the trail and share the trail with other users and wildlife.

Cyclists yield to everyone and hikers yield to horses.

Be friendly with people you encounter on the trail.

Enjoyed the local trails? Consider showing your appreciation to the local trail group by making a donation or buy a local trail pass.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Respect speed limits.

Share the road with cyclists.

Some Forest Service Roads are active logging/mining roads, be informed and yield to trucks.

Ensure your vehicle is equipped for the journey before setting off (such as 4x4, high clearance, and winter tires) and check driving conditions before you hit the road: drivebc.ca.

RESPECT EVERYTHING LOCAL

Respect and honour Indigenous Peoples as stewards of the land and waters you are travelling through.

Respect private property and stay out of places you're not allowed to go, including private parking spaces.

Support local businesses as much as possible and prioritize buying food, beverages, arts, crafts and products made or grown locally. By doing so, you're helping our communities thrive.

STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Ensure vehicles, trailers, boats, bikes and boots are cleaned, drained and dried before and after visiting an area.

Take only pictures and leave the local flora in its natural habitat.

DISPOSE OF YOUR WASTE APPROPRIATELY

Keep the environment and the communities clean.

Minimize single-use plastic.

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.

Pick up your and others' garbage.

Clean up after your pets.

Whenever available, use public washrooms and outhouses.

- RESOURCES:
- Adventure Smart: <https://www.adventuresmart.ca/>
 - Avalanche Canada: <https://www.avalanche.ca>
 - BC Wildfire Service: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>
 - Highway Conditions: <https://drivebc.ca>
 - Invasive Species Council of BC: <https://bcinvasives.ca/resources/programs/play-clean-go/>
 - Leave No Trace: <https://lnt.org/>
 - Trail Forks Trail Karma: <https://www.trailforks.com/karma/>
 - Trails BC - A Trail User's Code of Ethics: <https://trailsbc.ca/travel-tips/trail-users-code-ethics>
 - Wild Safe BC: <https://wildsafebc.com/>
 - Wildlife in BC, Ministry of Forest, Land and Natural Resources (fishing licence, snowmobile closures): <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/>

#kootrocks #explorebc

We thank you for being a responsible visitor!