

Note – all registrants will receive a copy of the Lillooet Hiking Guide ‘Canyon to Alpine’ in their welcome / information packages – some of the hikes are referenced in the descriptions that follow
Note – binoculars recommended on all field trips

Early morning birding Friday and Saturday, 6 – 8 AM (FULL)

Pre-registration is required for the birding outings. The groups will be kept small and carpooling will be required. Birders will gather and leave from the Reynolds Hotel, 1237 Main Street. There is parking there for extra vehicles and the Cookhouse Restaurant will be open early for 'early bird breakfast specials'. Accomplished birders Alan Burger, Ian Routley, Jeff O'Kelly and Aleda Johnson, and Ken Wright will be leading the morning bird trips. The sites are close to town.

Bat field trip Thursday, May 4th, 8:30 PM (FULL)

Pre-registration required. Profits from this outing will go towards the purchase of bat field work equipment. Lillooet naturalists Vivian Birch-Jones, Ian Routley and Kim North will lead this trip. We will carpool from the REC Centre (after the Butterfly talk) at 8:30 PM and drive to Splitrock Environmental (10 minute drive) at the Lower Spawning Channel. Some of our bat 'locator' equipment such as the Petterson and the Echo Meter Touch will be demonstrated. This is a 'hot spot' for nighttime activity of all kinds of insectivores. Easy walking but uneven ground – head lamp or flashlight recommended.

1. Xaxli'p Community Forest and Birding with Ken Wright **(FULL)**

Join naturalist Robin Strong, RFT, on a tour of the Xaxli'p community forest. This is an ecosystem-based community forest developed by Xaxli'p community members and consultant Herb Hammond RPF. See an example of how indigenous communities are redefining sustainability in their community forest (www.xcfc.ca). The trip will include a visit to a cultural eco-restoration site. Naturalist Ken Wright will be along on the tour to highlight birds and wildlife in the scenic Fountain Valley. Driving and easy walks. Bring lunch and water.

2. Hike Camelsfoot Fire Lookout (FULL)
Join avid hiker and naturalist Maria Mascher for a scenic drive and hike that offers panoramic views of the Fraser Canyon and mountain ranges. This hike climbs through a dry forest to the old fire lookout at 1550 metres above the Fraser River. It is a 5 - 6 hour hike, with an option to turn back at the first lookout. See Hike #21 in your Guide. This is a difficult hike: 6 km up with an elevation gain of 750 metres. Drive is 30 minutes including rough gravel road with washboard. Bring lunch, water and a walking stick.

3. Hike Fountain Ridge (FULL)
Join naturalists Kevin Aitken and Scott Bodaly for a diverse hike along Fountain Ridge with dramatic views overlooking the Fraser River and Canyon. This hike starts by winding through an old gnarly forest and climbs up the ridge via switchbacks to a lovely rolling shoulder walk along the ridge. There are magnificent old growth trees along the way and diverse habitats. See Hike # 29 in your Guide. This is a moderate to difficult hike of 4.5 km with an elevation gain of 550 metres. Short drive from town on paved road. Bring lunch, water and a walking stick.

4. Red Rock Hike, Jade and S7istken (pithouse) (FULL)
Join historian and miner, George Vanderwolf, and his daughter Carol for a leisurely hike up to Red Rock above town. This is a steep hike but there will be many stops for stories and history as well as opportunities to enjoy the views. See Hike #7 in your Guide. Elevation gain is 500 meters over 3.4 kilometres and the pace will be slow, allowing four hours for the trip. This walk/hike starts at 10 a.m. allowing time for a visit at the Farmer's Market – trip leaves from the Farmer's Market (across from the Post Office). The trip will include George showing a jade monument at the Post Office and talking about the mining history here. After the brief jade talk there is a visit to the S7istken (pithouse) where T'it'q'et elder, Bill Machell, will have the fire going and will talk about the First Nations in the area. Very short drives on paved road. Limited parking, carpooling required. Bring lunch, water and a walking stick.

5. Restoration Site, Splitrock, Reptiles and S7istken (pithouse) **(FULL)**

Our self-taught restoration expert, Kim North, will lead you through the restoration site at the confluence of the Fraser and Seton Rivers and talk about this project which started ten years ago. This will be followed by a visit to the nearby native plant nursery, a First Nations' award-winning business on Sekw'el'wás territory, and a walk around the lower spawning channel. One of our citizen science initiatives has been reptile monitoring. Kamloops naturalist and reptile expert, Andy Raniseth, will be along on the trip. We finish with a visit to the S7istken (pithouse) where T'it'q'et elder, Bill Machell, will have the fire going and talk about the First Nations in the area. Easy walks. See Hikes #2 and #3 in your Guide. Carpool on mostly paved roads. Bring lunch and water.
6. Backcountry Birding with Ian Routley **(FULL)**

Join expert birder and naturalist Ian Routley for a drive into the back country to explore some of our wild out-of-the-way places and habitats. Sturdy vehicles required - we will assist with this if participants are not equipped. Driving with stops and easy walks along the way. Bring lunch and water, binoculars, scope if you have one, and walking stick.
7. Wildflowers/Butterflies/St'at'imc Plants **(FULL)**

Accompanied by naturalist Eleanor Wright, Restoration Ecologist Odin Scholz will take you on a drive/walk to seek out spring wildflowers. Butterfly enthusiast Bob Scafe from the Nicola Naturalists will be along to add his expertise for any butterflies or moths seen along the way. As well, Candice Jack, from Xwisten, will talk about the food and medicinal use of the plants by St'át'imc people. Carpooling on mostly paved roads, easy walks. Bring lunch and water.
8. Xwisten Fraser River Fishing Rocks and Archeology **(FULL)**

This is a walking tour along the Bridge River fishing grounds led by Xwisten First Nations who will show their traditional fishing methods and demonstrate how the salmon is prepared for wind-drying. A tour to the archeological site is part of this trip with a visit to a reconstructed S7istken (pithouse) - the traditional winter home of the St'át'imc. A traditional lunch is included and is served at the confluence of the Bridge and Fraser rivers. Carpool on paved roads and easy walks. Bring water and walking stick.

9. Lillooet Invasive Species and Ethnobotany **(FULL)**

Jacque Rassmussen, P.AG. of the Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society and Lem7ya, St'át'imc Language and Culture teacher, are hosting a workshop featuring invasive species and ethnobotanically-significant plants. Ethnobotany is the use of plants for food, medicine and technology by indigenous cultures. There will be a presentation followed by a local walk. The presentation will give a broad overview of local, regional and provincial invasive species and their impacts to our ecosystems. It will also highlight the use of local native plants (and some invasives) by the St'át'imc for food, medicine and technology. On the walk, we will point out plants featured in our talk and "show off" our diverse local ecosystems. A light lunch will be provided (thanks to the Lillooet Community Foundation). Carpool on mostly paved roads. Easy walking. Bring water.

10. Lillooet Area Geology with Pierre Friele **(FULL)**

Join Pierre Friele, M.Sc., P.Geo, local terrain specialist, for a fascinating glimpse of some of the geological features in and around Lillooet. Pierre has lived and worked in the Sea to Sky corridor his whole career, and knows the area well; he has led wonderful geology tours for the Lillooet naturalists in the past. Dr. June Ryder, Ph.D., who has written seminal geoscience papers on Quaternary geology in BC, mentor to many, including Pierre, may tag along and lend her expertise to the trip. We will meet in Lillooet at the cemetery pullout and start with a vista of the Fraser River terraces to discuss the glacial history of the area. We then carpool to other sites, such as north on Hwy 99 to the active slide at Fountain and the slow moving Pavilion earthflow, and south on the Texas Creek road to view the Texas Creek rock avalanche. There will be other sites and many tidbits to pique the interest along the way. Carpool to various sites mostly on paved roads. Easy walks, bring your lunch and water.

11. Spray Creek Ranch Tour and Lunch **(FULL)**

Join farmers and naturalists Tristan and Aubyn Banwell on a tour and nature walk at Spray Creek Ranch. This diversified 260-acre organic farm uses ecological principles to produce wholesome food, raising cattle, pigs and chickens on pasture in a rotational grazing system. With Tristan's rural upbringing and a BSc in Conservation and Aubyn's artistic eye, green thumb and culinary background, they are working to encourage diversity, improve soil health and create space for nature while providing local markets with diverse meats of known provenance and unparalleled quality. Fifteen km drive on mostly paved road. A delicious farm-to-table lunch prepared with local ingredients provided. Easy walks. Bring water and walking stick.

12. Koaham Train Shuttle to Seton Portage and Tsal'alh
(FULL) Join local naturalist, Christine Galliazzo, RPF, on a circle tour to Seton Portage. It begins with a spectacular train trip along Seton Lake, through the First Nations community of Tsal'alth, to Seton Portage. Easy 2 km nature walk between Seton and Anderson Lakes with a knowledgeable First Nations guide. Return to Lillooet on a bus tour back over a mountain pass and through the Bridge River Valley. Lunch included and provided at Seton Portage. Bring your own water.
13. Species at Risk Nature Walk with Francis Iredale
(FULL) Francis Iredale is a knowledgeable Wildlife Biologist who has worked on many projects in our area from bats to bears. Join Francis and a Lillooet naturalist for some nature walks close to town to see features of interest and hear about the species and habitats of the Lillooet area. Francis will also talk about wildlife projects that he has been a part of in partnership with the Lillooet naturalists and local First Nations. Lunch will be at the picnic spot at Naxwit. Easy walks close to town. Bring lunch, water and walking stick.