

EXPERIENCE
MACKENZIE
BRITISH COLUMBIA



EXPERIENCE MACKENZIE...

A NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

Mackenzie sits in the epic Rocky Mountain Trench, a small town in a massive landscape. From here, every imaginable adventure is close at hand. Scramble to the tops of peaks for a panoramic view, hike amazing alpine ridges, and ride bikes through the lush forest. Float soundlessly on glassy lakes and cast a line into the waiting mouths of hungry fish. Glide along a moonlit trail on cross-country skis, growl up snow-clad slopes on a snowmobile, or snowboard silently through deep, fluffy powder. Everywhere you go, keep your eyes peeled for wildlife and watch for the perfect photo. When the landscape around you is this big and this full of adventure, you'll take home the ultimate souvenir — an experience you will never forget.



WINTER PARADISE

Little Mac Ski Hill, just a couple minutes from town, is the perfect spot to take the family for a day of playing in the snow. It's a great hill for beginners and for skiers or snowboarders who are into gravity-defying antics, there's a terrain park with several different features.





EXPERIENCE
SUMMER



LOCATION
MAP



EXPERIENCE
WINTER

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MACKENZIE

AT A GLANCE

This northern town is at the heart of a spectacular wild landscape. Surrounded by mountains, lakes, and rivers, it is a place where connecting to nature is as simple as walking out the front door. Around town, everything you want or need is within walking distance and countless activities are just a short drive away.



WORLD'S LARGEST TREE CRUSHER

At over 50 feet long, 35 feet wide, and 20 feet high, weighing in around 175 tonnes, this is one serious piece of machinery. The only one of its kind in the world, Mackenzie's "G175 Tree Crusher" cleared over 2500 acres of forest in preparation for the flooding of Williston Reservoir in the mid 1960s, before it became apparent that the giant machine was unsuited for the terrain (it spent as much time stuck in the mud as it did actually working). After being semi-abandoned in the bush for twenty years, the machine was finally relocated into town in 1984. Now prominently displayed, the Tree Crusher makes for the ultimate photo opportunity.

BRIEF HISTORY

Mackenzie is located on the traditional territory of the McLeod Lake Indian Band. Incorporated in 1966, Mackenzie is one of British Columbia's youngest towns. Mackenzie was named for Scottish explorer, Alexander Mackenzie. When the explorer travelled here in the late 1700s, he was looking for an overland route to the Pacific, which he eventually found with the help of local First Nations. Here, he famously canoed the Parsnip River across the continental divide and, after navigating the Fraser River, walked 420 km to the coast. The young adventurer (he was just 25 years old when he completed his ambitious expedition) charted many of the region's rivers, including the Finlay and Parsnip, located just north and south of the townsite, respectively.

TWO WHEELS TO FREEDOM

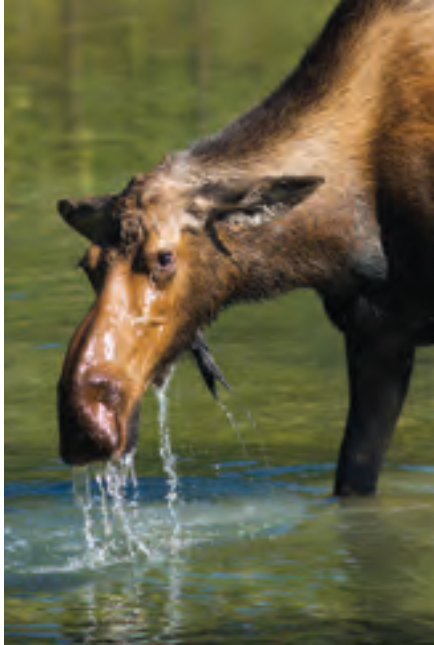
Mountain biking in Mackenzie is great for all ages. Ranging from epic cross-country treks to short downhill trails or mellow pedalling around a lake, there's something here for everyone.



EXPERIENCE MACKENZIE...

SUMMER

IN A NORTHERN TOWN, LONG SUMMER DAYS ARE PERFECT FOR GETTING UP IN THE MOUNTAINS AND OUT ON THE LAKES. MACKENZIE HAS EVERYTHING FROM SHORT HIKES AND LAZY PADDLES TO RIDGE CLIMBS AND DOWNHILL BIKE TRAILS, ALL OF WHICH ARE EASILY FOLLOWED UP WITH FRESHLY CAUGHT FISH COOKED ON AN OUTDOOR FIRE.



Lace up those boots, pack some water and snacks, and start walking. Mackenzie is surrounded by a mostly-wild landscape with countless opportunities for exploration on foot. The town sits at the base of one of the world's most amazing mountain ranges: the Rocky Mountains. A group of peaks that stretches from close to the Yukon border in the north almost

all the way to Mexico in the south, the mountain range is known everywhere along its impressive length for great hiking opportunities, and Mackenzie is no exception. Only here, you won't find hoards of people on the trails; you'll likely have the path to yourself. An unbroken vista of Williston Lake, neighbouring peaks, and a vast northern wilderness awaits your alpine explorations. For those not keen ascending and descending mountainous terrain, Mackenzie has plenty of options for lower elevation excursions as well. Whenever heading out for a hike, remember that this is a wild landscape and that means you might encounter wildlife. Make noise on the trails and always pack out any garbage.



TRAILS, PARKS, AND REC SITES

Once you get up high enough, the alpine ridges above Mackenzie are open to endless hiking opportunities above the tree line. Check out Morfee Mountain for a hike that rewards you with a great view and some great ridge walks. Down in the forests below check out a local favorite, John Dahl Regional Park. Here, there are three short trails with views of Morfee Lake. Gantahaz Lake is close to town as well,

and has a great trail that follows the shoreline of this scenic lake. Similarly, there are several Provincial Parks and Forestry Recreation Sites just a short drive away. Many of these have campsites or boat launches that also include hiking trails. Check out Heather-Dina, Whiskers Point or Tudyah Lake and, for the adventurous, try climbing Mt. Murray, Kimta Creek Trail or Canty Lake Trail.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Mackenzie may be one of BC's youngest towns, but the geological landscape that surrounds it is, well, getting on in years. The Rocky Mountains were formed over 50 million years ago. The Rocky Mountain Trench, in which Mackenzie sits, is a unique and bizarre geological formation. Its width ranges from three to six kilometres, its elevation above sea level is anywhere between

600 and 900 metres, and the whole thing stretches for about 1600 kilometres, from not far north of Mackenzie all the way to Montana. If you look at it from an elevated position, it's kind of like looking at a giant's highway. It's no surprise, then, that the Trench has a First Nations history of travel and trade that goes back thousands of years. Rivers and lakes — both manmade and

natural — punctuate its entire length and today, the Trench is popularly used for all kinds of outdoor recreation. In Mackenzie, it's all about the views. And we're talking some seriously staggering views here. It's one of those places that render you speechless... or maybe that's just you catching your breath after the hike up.





MOUNTAIN BIKING



Biking has been around for centuries and the bike in some form or another is ubiquitous in most parts of the world. It can be a form of recreation and a viable means of transport — at the same time. In the last several decades, bike technology has seen

mountain bikes get lighter, more responsive, and equipped with the means to handle some serious terrain. If Mackenzie is all about the mountains, then it stands to reason that mountain biking is a big deal here, too.



TRAILS

As the sport gains popularity, trails built specifically for mountain biking are being developed all across the province. In Mackenzie, most mountain bikers share trails with hikers. Morfee Mountain is a great option for a fun ride — it's a solid uphill slog and a fast cruise down. To hone skills (or just play around on some fun dirt jumps with the kids), there's a great bike park at Little Mac Ski Hill, a few minutes' ride from town.

AT THE BEACH

When the weather's warm, there's no better way to spend the day than at the beach. In the spring, low water levels on Williston Lake reveal vast stretches of sandy beaches. Check out Alexander Mackenzie's Landing, a BC Hydro recreation site that includes a sandy beach, picnic area, and RV site and campground. While Williston's many beaches are definitely worth checking out, Mackenzie is surrounded by great lakes suitable for a family outing. Morfee Lake is popular with locals and has boat launches — as well as a family-friendly swimming and beach area. Gantahaz Lake is another popular picnic spot and further afield, there's Carp, Heather-Dina, Tudyah, and McLeod.



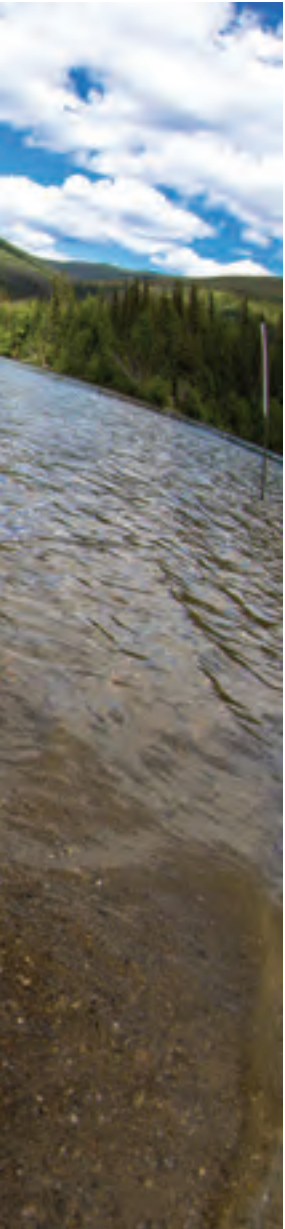
WILLISTON LAKE

A manmade reservoir created in 1968 when the W.A.C. Bennett Dam was built across the Peace River in nearby Hudson's Hope, Williston is the largest reservoir (and largest body of water) in British Columbia, and one of the largest in the world.

CAMPING

Who's got the marshmallows? Kicking back around a campfire with friends and family is the ultimate summer pleasure. Most of the camping around Mackenzie is either in provincial parks or at Forest Recreation Sites. The rec sites are a bit harder to find, but with the right map and a little local knowledge, you can end up at some unbelievably beautiful spots. Check out sitesandtrailsbc.ca to pinpoint your destination

(search by location). Make sure before you go that your vehicle is up for the road. Mackenzie Municipal RV Park is a good spot for easy camping in town, as is Alexander Mackenzie's Landing, on the shores of Williston Lake. Several provincial parks in the area offer great summer camping. Check out Heather-Dina, Pine Le Moray, Whiskers Point, Carp Lake, and Tudyah Lake, all found at env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks.





To Gantahaz
Subdivision
6 km

Hwy 39

(Motorboats allowed)

Morfee
Lake

Second
Beach

(No motorboats
allowed)

First
Beach

Little Mac
Ski Hill

John Dahl
Regional
Park

LEGEND

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Visitor Info Booth
- Hotel / Motel
- Gas Station
- Restaurant
- Groceries
- Restrooms
- School
- Church
- Sikh Temple
- Post Office
- Sani Station
- Liquor Store
- Bus Station

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Hospital
- RCMP
- Firehall

PLACES OF INTEREST

- Tree Crusher Park
- Parks
- Recreation Centre

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- Boat Ramp
- Boating
- Canoeing
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Bicycle Path
- Picnic Area
- RV Camping
- Tenting
- Golf
- Shopping Centre

WINTER ACTIVITIES

- Snowmobiling
- Snowmobile Parking
- Skiing
- Cross Country Skiing
- Tobogganing
- Snowshoeing





MACKENZIE

BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA



MACKENZIE QUICK FACTS:

ESTABLISHED 1966

POPULATION APPROX. 4500

ELEVATION 700 M (2300 FT)



PADDLING

A paddle dips soundlessly into glassy water, smoothly propelling the boat forward into the early morning. The birds are out and busily chirping in the shoreline trees; a fish jumps and sends ripples through the mountain

landscape reflected on the surface of the lake. In the distant tall shoreline grass, a moose munches some greenery. Everything here has a timeless feel to it: this could be a scene from a thousand years ago. The peaceful and unobtrusive nature of canoeing or kayaking in a fresh water system is easily attainable in Mackenzie and it's the perfect way to get up close and personal with the spectacular northern Rocky Mountain landscape.

TRAVELING IN TIME

The lakes and rivers around Mackenzie are just itching to be explored by canoe.

Setting out in a small craft, you'll be following paths that were invisibly etched on the landscape by First Nations as they travelled the region, seasonally hunting and fishing, or undertaking longer journeys for trade.

The town's namesake explorer travelled here in a birchbark canoe. Paddling these waterways is the closest you can get to time travel. Navigating lakes and rivers in a remote landscape has never been easy, however. Mackenzie himself ran into all kinds of trouble navigating tricky currents and forbidding canyons, so wherever you go, make sure you're well prepared with provisions and knowledge. If you're in doubt, ask.

FISHING





I once watched incredulously as a friend stripped down and dove into an icy river, in an attempt to unsnag a line that had wrapped around a rock while he was reeling in a feisty fish. I realized then, as I stood on the riverbank waiting, that those who love fishing really love fishing. Around Mackenzie, anyone with this passion (as well as casual anglers) can easily indulge in the sport. The essence of fishing is neatly summed up by naturalist, philosopher and writer Henry David Thoreau, when he said, "Everyone should believe in something; I believe I'll go fishing."

WHERE THEY'RE BITING

Morfee and Williston Lakes are obvious choices for folks wanting to catch some fish around Mackenzie. Williston is well stocked with rainbow and bull trout, as well as char and other species. A bit further afield, but worth the drive, is Tudyah Lake Provincial Park or the Dina Lakes chain in Heather-Dina Lake Provincial Park. The rivers that feed the lakes are great fishing spots as well (like the Parsnip River, which drains out of the south end of Williston Lake) but any aquatic explorations should be treated with caution. Don't forget to pick up the appropriate license before you head out.



TAKE FLIGHT

There are hundreds of species of our feathered friends to be spotted around Mackenzie, including plenty of rare migratory birds, stopping in for a brief rest on long journeys. A variety of owls, eagles, and hawks are among the larger birds in the area and innumerable waterfowl and songbirds regularly set up shop around the marshes, lakes, and rivers. The best spot for local bird watching is the Mackenzie Nature Observatory at Mugaha Marsh. Here, volunteers and biologists work together to catalogue species and provide important data for province-wide studies. If you're interested in volunteering during your visit, going to the marsh to do some bird watching, or getting a tour of the bird-banding station, check them out at mackenzienatureobservatory.ca.





GOLF

Winston Churchill described golf as “a game whose aim is to hit a very small ball into an even smaller hole, with weapons singularly ill-designed for the purpose.” The game, despite being the brunt of plenty of jokes (mainly made by golf aficionados), has origins that go back to the 1400s in Scotland. It’s been around for a long time and it’ll still be here for ages. Golf is a great way to get outdoors with friends and spend some time in a scenic setting. Mackenzie Golf & Country Club is a fun nine-hole course, with a pro shop for rentals and a restaurant/lounge for hoisting a celebratory drink after you’ve hit your very small ball into an even smaller hole nine times.



FUN IN THE SNOW

For about five months a year, Mackenzie transforms into a snowy paradise — the only way to truly find out what it's like is to get out there and experience it for yourself. As Dr. Seuss said, "You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so...get on your way!"

EXPERIENCE MACKENZIE...

WINTER

PICTURE A SNOWY SLOPE TRAILING AWAY INTO THE DISTANCE, SOUNDS MUFFLED BY THE BLANKET OF WHITE LAID ON THE LANDSCAPE. EVERYTHING IS QUIET. YOUR BREATH BURSTS INTO THE AIR LIKE PUFFS FROM A STEAM TRAIN. THE COLD AIR INVIGORATES. AS YOU START YOUR DESCENT THROUGH FLUFFY SNOW, THERE'S NO WAY TO CONTAIN THE MILE-WIDE GRIN THAT SUDDENLY SPLITS YOUR FACE. WINTER BRINGS OUT THE KID IN ALL OF US. PLAYING IN THE SNOW IS SOMEHOW DEEPLY SATISFYING, WHETHER YOU'RE TRUDGING THROUGH A SILENT LANDSCAPE ON SNOWSHOES OR FEELING THE ICY AIR AS YOU FLOAT DOWN THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN. WELCOME TO WINTER IN MACKENZIE.

HIT THE SLOPES





DOWNHILL SKIING + SNOWBOARDING

Mackenzie gets a lot of snow. And the people who live here know exactly what to do with it. Within walking distance from town is Little Mac Ski Hill, a super fun beginner hill. There's even a separate tobogganing slope, for kids too young to strap on skis or for folks who are just kids at heart.

If you're looking for something bigger to ski down, just forty minutes away is Powder King Resort, a ski hill located in the Pine Pass. It's pretty much in the middle of nowhere, but here's the thing: everybody knows about it. Powder King — or just PK — is the kind of place that hardcore skiers and snowboarders all over BC talk about, usually wistfully

hoping for the day they'll somehow get to go there. Why is this out-of-the-way ski hill so revered? Well, all the snow that Mackenzie gets, Powder King gets — and more. Average annual snowfall in the Pine Pass is 12.5 metres (41 feet). That's a lot of powder... hence the name. Known for all this snowfall and some awesome terrain, the mountain is a destination for skiers and boarders from across northern BC and beyond. In a way, it doesn't hurt that it's somewhat hard to get to (unless you're in Mackenzie, that is), because here waiting in line for the chairlift is pretty unlikely. Plus, with most of its runs named after Beatles' tunes, your ski trip is guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

With over 30 km of groomed trails, including 2.5 km of them that are lit at night, and three warming huts located out on the trails, Mackenzie has got this skiing thing figured out. Most of these trails start at the Mackenzie Golf & Country Club and are maintained by a volunteer organization, Mackenzie Nordiques Cross Country Ski Club. In John Dahl Regional Park, the hiking trails of the summer double as ski trails in the winter.





MAKING TRACKS

There really is no limit to what you can explore on snowshoes. Want to scale a nearby mountain for a view of the frozen landscape? No problem. If the lakes and rivers are iced over, these become pathways through the

staggeringly big landscape. And snowshoes, like canoes, have been used as a form of travel for millennia, so getting out into the quiet snowy forest feels like stepping back in time.

SNOWMOBILING



Whoever said, “the world is your oyster” was probably thinking of somewhere like Mackenzie. Travelling around the winter landscape here typically means hopping on a sled. The town is small and the surroundings are big — the best way to see them is on a snowmobile. There is a huge network of trails (over 100 km of them) accessible right from town. And once you’re out there, there’s no shortage of places — open bowls, hills, and epic ridges — to explore in the deeper snow.



Relaxing, rewarding, entertaining... and delicious. This sums up the typical ice-fishing excursion in Mackenzie. Morfee Lake is a local favourite; head there to get started and ask around for tips and tricks.





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