

## Allan Creek Snowmobile Trail

This is one of the main snowmobiling areas in Valemount. It also has a very large alpine and sub alpine area for hiking, with spectacular views of the surrounding mountain ranges and glaciers. There is a cabin not far from the lake that can be used if there is bad weather or an overnight stay is needed.

Allan Creek is one of the largest riding areas located near Valemount. On the 7 km groomed trail to the alpine warming hut, riders will gain an impressive 2000 feet of elevation on the short ride in. Beyond the trail is an endless system of bowls, meadows and steep hills that make Allan Creek one of the easiest and one of the most difficult areas to ride. Its endless and varying terrain make Allan Creek a favorite for riders of all levels of snowmobile experience.

**Hiking time:** 1 to 1 1/2 hours

**Getting There:** For winter snowmobiling from Valemount drive South to the Alan creek parking area on the right and follow the groomed trail to the alpine area. The groomed trail is about 10 km long.

For summer hiking drive South from Valemount 32 km to the Albreda River Forestry Road and turn right. Follow the signs from there. It is about 12 km to the end of the drivable road.

## Camp Creek

The Camp Creek cross-country trail system offers great snow and easy access for every level of skier. Ample parking is available at the trailhead, with a cook shelter and picnic tables. Regularly groomed trails range from beginner to advanced. All trails are signed.

**Getting there:** 14 km south of Valemount, on the eastside of Highway 5, 2.5 km on the Camp Creek Road.

## Canoe Mountain

This is a rough 13 km long Forestry road that will take you to the 8500' (2600 meter) summit, where on a clear day you will get a spectacular view of Mount Robson as well as the surrounding Monashee, Cariboo and Rocky Mountain Ranges.

**Getting there:** Drive South from Valemount 15.4 km on Highway 5 and then turn left onto the forestry road that leads to the top of the mountain. You will know you are on the right road when just after leaving the highway you pass a small metal covered garage on your left.

## **Clemina Hut Trail**

This is one of the main snowmobiling areas with a 21 km groomed trail. However, there is some very good hiking here as well. Park a little before the 19 km sign on the Clemina road and take the trail that leads down to the creek. Turn left and follow the creek until you find a place to cross. It is a short walk to the cabin. From the cabin to the subalpine valley that overlooks Dixons Glacier is a one to two hour hike. There are several small lakes in the hanging valley above the cabin as well as some very nice alpine ridges to hike along. You can get a beautiful view of Dixon's glacier and the surrounding area with its multi colored lakes and high peaks from a vantage point at the South end of the small hanging valley above the cabin.

**Getting There:** Turn North off highway 5, 30 km South of Valemount at the 1360 rd sign. At 3.2 km stay to the right and at 7.5 km stay to the left onto a secondary looking rd. Take the right hand fork at 12.5km and the left fork a little past the 17 km sign. Park just before the 19 km sign.

## **Cranberry Marsh**

Enjoy spectacular blue skies and crisp mountain air, surrounded by three breathtaking mountain ranges while you ski on groomed trails across the frozen waters of Cranberry Marsh. This area is perfect for the beginner skier, as well as those who enjoy a leisurely cross-country skiing experience on beautiful flat trails.

**Getting there:** From Highway 5, follow 17th Avenue to McKirdy Road, turn left on McKirdy Road, and look for Canoe View Park on the right side. Access the trails from Canoe View Park

## **Jackman Flats Provincial Park**

There are four different trail loops varying in length from 1.4 km to 6.2 km for hiking or cross country skiing. Trails are regularly groomed in winter for cross country skiing. This 615 hectares of flat to rolling terrain with very sandy soil is home to many different types of plant and animal life, including almost 40 species of birds. There are also more than 100 dunes, some have been stabilized by trees and bushes but more than half are still subject to ongoing change. Three species of Lichens, one of which is found in no other place in the province are considered endangered.

### **Hiking Time/Distance:**

**Pine Tree Trail** - 1.4 km - easy

**Lichen Loop** - 2.3 km - easy.

**Juniper Trail** - 3.4 km - intermediate

**Big Dune Trail** - 6.2 km - intermediate-advanced.

**Getting there:** Jackman Flats reserve is located 13 km North of Valemount on highway 5

## Little Lost Lake

2 km one way with a moderate elevation gain of 300' (100 meters). There are two different falls above the lake. If you would like to hike to the falls allow another hour and a half for a round trip from the lake to the falls and back to the lake.

**Hiking time:** 1.5 to 2 hours

**Getting there:** From Valemount, travel north on Highway 5 to the Tete Jaune Junction. Take Highway 16 east toward Mount Robson for about 1.5 km and park at the avalanche gate just east of the weigh scales. The trail starts at a BC Forest Service trail sign about 100 meters back toward the weigh scales.

## McKirdy Meadows Trail and Cabin

A vigorous climb to alpine meadows not far from Valemount. From the Forest Service trail sign at the far end of the old Swift Lookout clearing, the trail descends for a short distance and crosses a ravine behind the lookout tower, then climbs steeply for 3.2 kilometers to timberline. Once in the alpine one may wander anywhere. At a low point in the trail not long after reaching the first large alpine meadows, a signed and marked route leads left off the main trail. This will take you to the YORA Swift Creek (McKirdy) cabin. Registration is required if you want to stay in the cabin, and there is a small fee.

**Hiking time:** 1 ½ to 2 ½ hours to reach the alpine meadows or a day for the round trip.

**Getting there:** Follow 5th Avenue eastward through Valemount, across the railway tracks to the end of the street. Turn right and proceed south for a short distance to Hillside Drive. Turn left on Hillside and watch for signs indicating the Swift Mountain Forest Road. Take this road upwards to the right from Hillside Drive and past the village telephone and television relay site with its clusters of towers and dishes, which should be on your left. Cross a cattle guard and continue up the mountain. The road from this point is steep. In wet weather four wheel drive may be required. Park at an abandoned forest fire lookout site on top of a minor summit at the end of the road.

## Mica Mountain Mine Trail

3.5 km, one way with an extreme elevation gain of 3000' (900 meters) to the mica mine where you can still see large mica flakes at the mouth of the mine. The mine is at about 7000' (2100 meter) on a steep alpine slope. Mules were once used to haul the mica down from the mine.

**Hiking time:** 8 hours

**Getting there:** Travel North from Valemount on highway 5 to Blackman Road. Turn left onto Blackman Road and follow it for several km. Turn left onto Old Tete Juane road. Follow this for about 3km to the Mica Mountain forestry road. If you reach the rail road tracks you have gone about 150 meters too far. Turn left onto Mica Mountain and follow it for about 9.5 km to a not so easy to see trail head sign.

## Mount Terry Fox Trail

6 km one way trail with an extreme elevation gain of 6000' (1800 meters). This trail takes you to the top of Mount Terry Fox by way of 17 switchbacks. The trail was built in 1981 in Honor of Terry Fox and a monument was placed on a table top like mountain which is North of the summit. To get to both the monument and the summit allow a long day. There are several view points of the Robson valley and the surrounding mountain ranges on your way up so there is no shortage of rest stops along the way. There is no water on this hike until you get to a small alpine lake on the other side of the radio tower ridge.

**Hiking time:** day trip

**Getting there:** Access is across the highway from the Terry Fox View point on Highway 5, 6 km North of Valemount.

## Packsaddle Creek

This 6 km loop has a moderate elevation gain of 500' (150 meters). A number of Valemount residents made an effort in the late 1960's and early 1970's to build a rough hiking trail along the length of the Packsaddle Creek valley a few km east of town. Although the trail was never completed to the headwaters of the stream, a roughly 3.5 to 4 km portion has been sporadically maintained and remains an easy way to explore a sizeable mountain stream almost on Valemount's doorstep.

**Hiking Time:** 1.5 to 3 hours

**Getting there:** Travel east through Valemount and cross the railroad tracks. Turn right on Whisky Fill Road and follow it for approximately 3 Km to Canoe Forest Road and turn left. Follow Canoe Forest Road for about 4 Km to a major intersection and a group of signs. Take the Selwyn Traverse, which is marked by signs, for about 1.5. At the junction of the Selwyn Traverse and the Packsaddle Creek Loop follow the Packsaddle Creek Loop directly uphill. The trail runs southeast through dense second-growth forest to the lip of Packsaddle Creek's ravine. Descend past the South Ridge trail turnoff (may be unmarked) as the trail begins contouring along the hillside and down to the creek.

## Rearguard Falls Provincial Park

Witness the end of a 1200 km journey upstream by the mighty Chinook Salmon, the largest of the five Pacific salmon. Make sure you bring your camera when you stop in mid- to late- August to capture a glimpse of these remarkable fish trying to leap up the falls.

**Getting there:** To reach the trail leading to the falls, drive five km east of the Tete Jaune junction on Highway 16, and look for the signs and parking area on the south side of the highway. An easy 10-minute walk leads to a newly re-designed and re-built viewing area of Rearguard Falls.

## **R.W. Starratt Wildlife Sanctuary and Cranberry Marsh Trail**

Several trails and walkways provide easy access to observation towers where the rich wildlife and birdlife of the wetlands can be observed. Cranberry Marsh trail is a beautiful 7 km walk on flat terrain through wetlands. The Sanctuary is an important stop for waterfowl on their migration routes, and many other species of wildlife can be seen throughout the year. Bicycles allowed. Dogs on leash.

**Hiking Time:** 1.5 to 3 hours

**Getting there:** From Valemount drive South 2 km

## **Selwyn Traverse Trail**

A 6 km loop running along the hillside from Swift Mountain Forest Road almost to Packsaddle Creek. Horseback riding, skiing, hiking, and snowshoeing have been done by residents along this trail system. However, many parts of the trail are on steep, narrow side slopes not accessible by snowmobiles. Although side trails lead down the mountain at many points along the trail, they pass through private property. You will cross 5 small to medium mountain streams on this hike. Forests vary from Douglas fir stands to almost pure aspen.

**Hiking Time:** 2 to 5 hours

**Getting there:** Drive to the end of 5th avenue and turn right after crossing the tracks, go a short distance then take the first left onto Hillside drive. Follow this watching for a sign indicating the Swift Mountain Forestry road; follow this road to the right up the hill for another 2.2 km to the Selwyn Traverse trail head sign on the first main switchback you come to. You will want to spot a vehicle at the other end. To get there after crossing the rail road track on 5th avenue turn right and continue on the pavement for 4.3 km to the Canoe Forest Service rd. turn left here and drive to the parking area on the left at 5 km. This is the parking area for the Selwyn Traverse as well as for the Packsaddle loop.

## **Ski Hill Mountain Trail**

2 km trail with an extreme elevation gain of 1500' (450 meters) to the first lake. Very good alpine hiking as well as a beautiful view of Mount Robson and the surrounding mountain ranges.

**Getting there:** From Valemount drive South on highway 5 taking the first road to the right past the Holiday Inn. Just after leaving the highway stay to the left, drive for approximately 2 km and then take the right hand fork which leads to the West Ridge Forestry Road. Watch for the trailhead sign at 14.5 km on the West Ridge Forestry road.

## Swift Creek Loop

A 10 km loop with a moderate elevation gain of 1000' (300 meters). There is a good view point of the valley about 1 km from Main street. Access a shorter one way hike of 7 km by getting dropped off at the trail head sign at 2 km on the Swift Mountain Forest Service road. Or if you like downhill mountain biking go another km up the road for a steeper run to the creek.

**Hiking time:** 2 to 3 hours

**Getting There:** Start from the West end of Main Street just across the Swift creek bridge for the 10 km loop. For the shorter 7 km hike (mostly downhill) cross the track at the end of 5th Ave and take a right for a short distance and then the first left onto hillside drive. Drive about 1 km and take the first right onto Swift Mountain forest service road. You will see the Swift Creek Loop sign on your left after about 1 km. You will need to be dropped off here or have a car spotted at the Swift Creek bridge on Main Street if you don't want to hike all the way back up to your vehicle.

## Swift Mt. Summit Trail

A trail through subalpine fir and pine forests between Swift Creek and Crooked Creek in the Rocky Mountains overlooking the Rocky Mountain Trench. Extreme elevation gain of 3000'.

**Hiking time:** 3 – 5 hours

**Getting there:** Travel north from Valemount on Highway 5 for 1 Km. Turn right on Loseth Road. Watch for railroad tracks paralleling the road on your right, then take the first side road which crosses the tracks, Swift creek Forest Service road for about 10 km. Keep right at all major intersections. The road climbs the mountainside, bearing northward into Crooked Creek valley, then looping back in an easterly direction toward Swift Creek. Once out of the Crooked Creek drainage and with the main Robson Valley (Rocky Mountain Trench) on your right, take a left fork up the hillside. Good clearance and 4 wheel drive is needed if you want to drive further, since "water bars" have been built to reduce erosion along this road. Park at a landing at the top of the road (or sooner) and find the fireguard going up the slope at the same point where the road enters the top landing.

## **Tete Jaune Salmon Spawning Grounds**

An easy walk to a salmon spawning area and unique riverine ecosystem along the Fraser River. From the BC Forest Service Tete Jaune Salmon Spawning Grounds Recreation site the trail down the McLennan River and through a typical bottomland forest to the Fraser. Extensive areas of open country and numerous back channels make this a very interesting area to explore. Salmon may be spawning in late July and August.

**Hiking time:** 20 to 45 minutes

**Getting there:** From Valemount drive North on Highway 5 to Blackman road (about 8 km) and turn left. Follow Blackman road to Old Tete Jaune road and turn left again. Follow Old Tete Jaune road to the rail road crossing, Just past the crossing a sign marks the entrance to the salmon spawning recreation site.

## **West Ridge Trail**

This 5km trail was built by the Valemount Snow-Goers snowmobile club for snowmobile use in winter, but also makes a pleasant summer hike on a high, timbered bench of the Premier Range west of Valemount. The route connects two separate logging roads together atop the West Ridge bench and has access to a log-cabin warming shelter along the way.

From March to June, it is common to see grizzly bears, including females with cubs, on or near the West Ridge road and the rest of the West Ridge bench lands. Use caution.

**Hiking time:** 4 to 6 hours

**Getting there:** Drive across Highway 5 from east to west at the main Valemount intersection (5th Avenue) and turn left along the frontage road parallel to the highway. At the end of the frontage road turn right onto Cranberry Lake Road. Follow this road for a few kilometers, and pass a sign that says, "end of maintained public road". Just past this sign is a "T" intersection with the McLennan Forest Road. Turn right, and follow this road for about 2 km. Just past a fenced field, begin watching for a little-used branch road angling uphill to the left. This is the foot of the trail. Park and proceed to the upper trailhead.