

# Itcha Ilgatchuz Park in The West Chilcotin



Photo courtesy Miriam Schilling

The Itcha Ilgatchuz Ranges (also spelled Ilkachuz, Ulkatcho and numerous other ways) are a vast, unroaded wilderness region and excellent example of lonely, barren shield volcanoes that rise up to 7900 feet above sea level or over 4000 feet above the Chilcotin Plateau.

## No Roads

There are no roads in this vast wilderness and its remoteness from even the smallest Chilcotin communities protects it from the ravages of over-enthusiastic visitors that can unknowingly destroy its fragile ecosystem. What it does provide is some of the most extraordinary trail-riding and hiking in British Columbia.

Made up of alpine grasslands with some of the rarest of alpine plants, and the pristine wetlands important to wildlife, the area was designated a park in 1995

## The Itcha Ilgatchuz Park in the West Chilcotin is sponsored by:

*The West Chilcotin Tourism Association Website is your one stop shop for all the information you need about the West Chilcotin. We have detailed information about communities, accommodations and activities within the region as well as weather, parks, maps and links to all the stops along our Circle Tour from Port Hardy to Bella Coola, Anahim Lake through the Chilcotin to Williams Lake, and on to Vancouver. See our spectacular images of scenery, wildlife and more.*



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to protect the home of the largest and healthiest Woodland caribou herd in British Columbia.



Photo courtesy Miriam Schilling

## The Wildlife

Itcha Ilgatchuz Park is home to varied wildlife that includes large animals such as caribou, moose, mule deer, mountain goat, black and grizzly bears. Wolves, coyotes and fox are common, as are many smaller fur bearing animals. Caribou herds are commonly seen from the back of a horse and their innate curiosity will often allow you to get quite close to them for some great photo opportunities.



Photo courtesy Miriam schilling

## Hiking in the Park

The Itcha Ilgatchuz Ranges are very popular with hikers although the area is so large you will rarely run into anyone else in the alpine. There are numerous unmaintained hiking trails throughout the two mountain ranges. Camping is permitted but firewood is limited and you are asked to only use downed or dead wood.

There are two very rustic cabins near Itcha Lake for public use that will hold up to six people each. These cabins are maintained by the Itcha Cabin Society and donations towards their maintenance are requested. Be prepared to camp outside if the cabins are full.

There are quite a few fish bearing lakes and streams in the park. Make sure you have a fishing license and small fishing pole, so you can catch your supper!

