

# Tweedsmuir Park Bella Coola

## Tweedsmuir Park

Welcome to Tweedsmuir Park. At 981,000 hectares it is the largest of the many hundreds of parks in British Columbia. It was named for the Baron Tweedsmuir of Elfield, John Buchan, 15th Governor General of Canada when established in 1938.

Tweedsmuir Park offers numerous recreational opportunities in a pristine wilderness setting. The park is accessible via highway 20 at its southern end, but traffic is limited and the park still has the feel of a true wilderness.



Photo courtesy Michael Wigle

## Hiking

There are a number of hiking trails ranging from day hike trails such as Kettle Pond and Burnt Bridge taking only an hour or two to complete, to the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail that can take very experienced hikers more than a month to complete.

## Tweedsmuir Park is sponsored by:



Photo courtesy Michael Wigle

Another recommended hike is to the famous Hunlen Falls, third highest free falling waterfall in Canada. It is also possible to hike in the alpine which provides magnificent views of the Coast Range Mountains. You can find extensive information and links to maps and brochures for these trails on the BC government web site for Tweedsmuir Park.

## Fishing

Tweedsmuir Park is also well known for its famous fishing holes. The pristine Atnarko River drops down from the Chilcotin Plateau to make its way through the east end of the Bella Coola Valley. Both the Atnarko and the Bella Coola River are probably best known for their angling and famous for Chinook, Sockeye, Chum, Coho and Pink Salmon fishing. It is also possible to fish for char and trout in these two rivers. Lakes are loaded with Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout.

## Grizzly Bear Watching

In the autumn, mid August through mid October, the main attraction are the park's Grizzly Bears. The best way to view them is to drift the Atnarko River. As the Salmon spawn and die they make an easy meal for the bears which come from all over the park to congregate on the river to feast and fatten up for the winter. In addition to the bears you are also likely to see other wildlife, which includes: bald eagles, deer, humming birds, and black bears.



Photo courtesy Michael Wigle

Additional points of interest are the Turner Lake chain, which is a favourite with canoeists, and Lonesome Lake, which was made famous by Ralph Edwards who brought the Trumpeter Swan back from the edge of extinction.

## The Bella Coola Valley's Finest Accommodation

Visit historic Tweedsmuir Park Lodge, set within BC's largest Provincial Park. We are the ideal base from which to experience the pristine wilderness.

- > Grizzly bear viewing
- > Scenic river drifts
- > Interpretive hikes
- > Guided fishing adventures

The Lodge features eleven private chalets, world class cuisine, stunning scenery, superior amenities and relaxed West Coast hospitality.

Tweedsmuir Park Lodge is located on the Chilcotin-Bella Coola Highway, approximately 63 kms east of the town of Bella Coola.

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