



The  
**Hazeltons**  
COMMUNITY GUIDE





# GETTING HERE

The Hazeltons are located 290 km (180 miles) east of Prince Rupert and 68 km (45 miles) northwest of Smithers on the paved Yellowhead Trans Canada Highway 16. Connections with the British Columbia and Alaska State Ferry systems are made at Prince Rupert. At Kitwanga, 50 km (30 miles) west of New Hazelton, the Stewart-Cassiar Highway 37 heads northward to the Yukon and Alaska.

## PROXIMITY TO OTHER COMMUNITIES

### Local Region:

- Smithers - 68 km
- Terrace - 144 km
- Kitimat - 200 km
- Prince Rupert - 287 km

### Urban Centres:

- Prince George - 445 km;  
5-hour drive, 50 min flight (via YYD)
- Whitehorse - 1,189 km;  
16-hour drive, 5-hour flight (via YYD)
- Kelowna - 1,119 km;  
12.5-hour drive, 3-hour flight (via YYD)
- Calgary - 1,229 km;  
13-hour drive, 4-hour flight (via YYD)
- Edmonton - 1,184 km;  
13-hour drive, 2.5-hour flight (via YYD)
- Vancouver - 1,222 km;  
13-hour drive, 2-hour flight (via YYD)
- Victoria - 1,311 km;  
17-hour drive, 3-hour flight (via YYD)
- Seattle - 1,334 km;  
15-hour drive, 4-hour flight (via YYD)



## TRANSPORTATION

### Air

#### Smithers Regional Airport (YYD)

- Airlines: Air Canada, Central Mountain Air, Northern Thunderbird Air
- Flights: Direct to Vancouver & Prince George; Multistop to Kamloops, Kelowna, Calgary, Edmonton; charter flights

#### Northwest Regional Airport (YXT)

- Airlines: Air Canada, Central Mountain Air, WestJet
- Flights: Direct to Vancouver & Prince George; Multistop to Kamloops, Kelowna, Calgary, Edmonton; charters flights

### Rail

- Take Via Rail from the stop at the end of Laurier Street. Go West to the coast, terminating in Prince Rupert, with scenic views of remote settlements, Kitwanga, the Seven Sisters mountain range, and the Skeena River. Eastbound trains go to Jasper, Alberta.

### Highway

- The Hazeltons are on Highway 16, and a small distance (55 km) from the turnoff to the Stewart-Cassiar Highway (Hwy 37).





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VIA RAIL'S JASPER-PRINCE RUPERT PASSENGER TRAIN, SOMETIMES CALLED THE "SKEENA TRAIN", RUNS THROUGH THIS REGION AND OFFERS SPECTACULAR VIEWS ALONG THE WAY.

## The HAZELTONS COMMUNITY GUIDE

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This guide is a collaborative publication of the REGIONAL DISTRICT, DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON and VILLAGE OF HAZELTON with support from NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST and DESTINATION BC.

This document is available electronically from [www.hazeltonstourism.ca](http://www.hazeltonstourism.ca)

All information was accurate, to the best of our knowledge, at time of printing.

PRINTED IN CANADA



### HAZELTONS VISITOR CENTRE

4070 9th Avenue, New Hazelton BC, V0J 2J0

[tourism@newhazelton.ca](mailto:tourism@newhazelton.ca) • [www.hazeltonstourism.ca](http://www.hazeltonstourism.ca)

May long weekend until the end of September:

250-842-6071 (Off -season: 250-842-6571)

## PHOTOS

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*HAZELTONS TRAILS, RECREATION SITES & PARKS Section:* Ben Heemskerk, Andrew Webber, Recreation Sites & Trails BC, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, Barbara Schwab, Brenda Schwab, David Schwab & others as noted.

*HANDS OF HISTORY TOUR Section:* Arlon Gislason, Mike Weeber, Ken Newman, Andrew Webber, Archival images courtesy of Royal BC Museum, BC Archives & others as noted.

## DESIGN

Sandra Smith, DESIGNWORKS BC



# WELCOME

Named after the hazel bushes which paint river-carved terraces, the Hazeltons are situated amidst a majestic landscape dominated by 3000 foot walls of the rugged Roché de Boule Range. The area offers an unsurpassed combination of attractions: scenic beauty, wilderness recreation, aboriginal culture, trophy salmon fishing, and a friendly frontier lifestyle.

The Hazelton area is comprised of two municipalities (the Village of Hazelton and District of New Hazelton), four unincorporated communities (South Hazelton, Two Mile, Kitwanga and the Kispiox Valley), and seven First Nations' villages: six of which are of the Gitksan people - (Gitanmaax, Glen Vowell, Kispiox, Gitwangak, Gitanyow, and Gitsegukla) - and one of the Wet'suwet'en people - (Hagwilget).

Easily accessible along Yellowhead Highway 16, the Hazeltons are a 'must see' for any tourist travelling in Northwest British Columbia. Visitor services are available for every need. Quality attractions, authenticity, accessibility, and hospitality are all part of the Hazeltons experience.



HAGWILGET PEAK & THE BULKLEY RIVER



# HISTORY

## THE HISTORIC HEARTLAND

The Hazelton area has for centuries been the home of the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en people. Starting in the 1860's, the region also became home to growing pioneer communities. This unique sharing of an unequalled wilderness setting around the confluence of the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers, has made the Hazeltons the "Historic Heartland of Northwest BC" and one of the oldest communities in northern British Columbia.

Our resource rich area has nurtured vital northwest coast First Nations' cultures that have used the Hazelton area as a centre of residence and commerce for over 8000 years. The Skeena, or 'River of Mist', was a trade route which allowed 20 metre (60-foot) cedar canoes to navigate from the Coast upriver to totem-filled villages with magical names like Temlaham, Gitanmaax, and Kispiox.



THE CHARACTERISTIC FIGURES ON TOTEM POLES ARE SYMBOLS COMPARABLE TO FAMILY CRESTS. THEY ILLUSTRATE HISTORICAL EVENTS THAT OCCURED IN A HOUSE'S PAST.



# ATTRACTIONS

## **HAZELTONS VISITOR CENTRE & MUSEUM**

Conveniently located on Highway 16 in New Hazelton: Open May long weekend until the end of September: 250-842-6071.

## **HAGWILGET BRIDGE**

This suspension bridge is a breathtaking 262ft (80m) above the raging Bulkley River. It is a must see and, although the walk across is a little scary, it is worth it. For a beautiful view take a short, scenic hike down to the river below.

## **ROCHÉ DE BOULE**


This majestic mountain towers over New Hazelton and offers a fantastic photo opportunity, no matter the weather.

## **THE "TOTEM POLE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD"**

Totem Poles are part of the Hazelton's rich Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en First Nations culture. Over 50 standing totem poles located in seven scenic First Nations villages including 'Ksan Historical Village, Kispiox, Kitwanga, and Gitanyow. There are totems in Gitanyow and Gitsegukla that were painted by Emily Carr. Find more information & directions at the Visitor Centre.

## **HANDS OF HISTORY SELF-GUIDED DRIVING TOUR**

Take a scenic route to explore the history and culture of the Historic Heartland. Throughout the Hazelton area there are signs with stories of our past placed at historic locations. You can have a day-long adventure following our auto tour map to all of the signs, enjoying their stories and seeing the stunning sights that Hazelton has to offer. This is a great way to enjoy the colourful history of the area (*see page 28 for the Auto Tour maps*). For more information please go to the Visitor Centre.



**HAGWILGET CANYON BRIDGE: DRIVE OR WALK OVER THIS SINGLE-LANE STEEL SUSPENSION BRIDGE, PEER DOWN AT THE RAGING BULKLEY RIVER BELOW, THEN VISIT THE HISTORICAL MARKER AT THE PULL-OUT.**



## 'KSAN

World renowned 'Ksan Historical Village and Museum offers interpretive tours and a 65-unit, fully serviced RV campground.

'Ksan is a replica of a First Nations' village. This is a breathtaking display of culture. Take a tour, visit the gift shop with stunning First Nations' art and, throughout the summer, enjoy an evening performance by the 'Ksan Dancers (Wednesdays in July-August). There is a lunch restaurant (soup/sandwich) and also a campground right on the river. In fact, this is where the Bulkley and Skeena rivers meet.

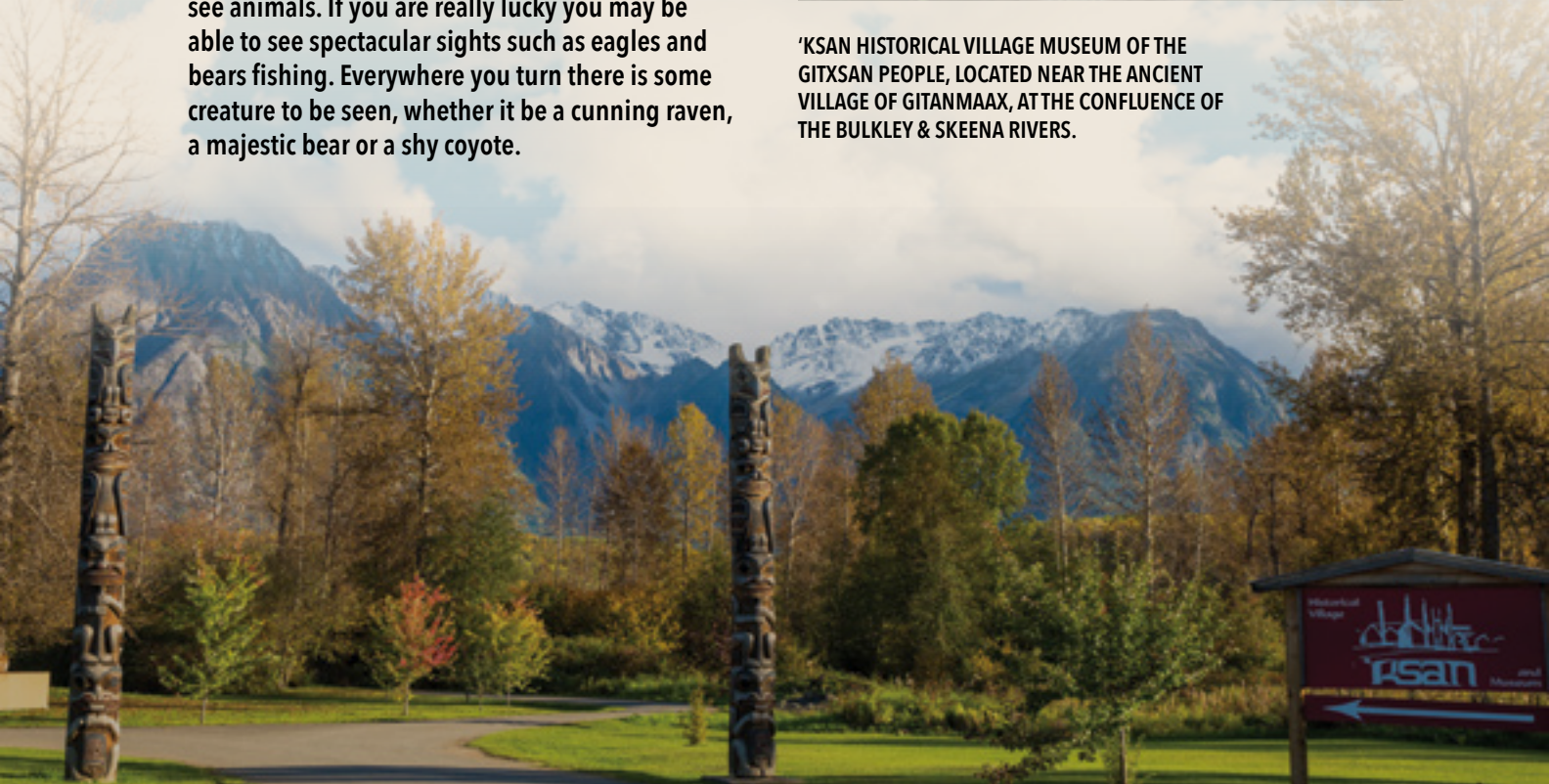
Open May-September, 10am-5pm, 7 days a week.  
Find more info at [www.ksan.org](http://www.ksan.org)

## WILDLIFE

The Hazelton area is home to many splendid creatures. As you drive through the area, look out for grizzly bears, black bears and even the rare white Kermode bear. You may also see deer, moose, eagles, hawks and many other smaller creatures. Always have your camera ready as you never know when you will happen upon the next natural wonder. The river is the ideal location to see animals. If you are really lucky you may be able to see spectacular sights such as eagles and bears fishing. Everywhere you turn there is some creature to be seen, whether it be a cunning raven, a majestic bear or a shy coyote.



'KSAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE MUSEUM OF THE GITXSAN PEOPLE, LOCATED NEAR THE ANCIENT VILLAGE OF GITANMAAX, AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE BULKLEY & SKEENA RIVERS.





...CONT'D

# ATTRACTIONS

## **"OLD TOWN" HAZELTON**

A visit to historic "Old Town" Hazelton transports you back to the pioneer days when riverboats were travelling the Skeena and the area was first being settled. Visit this authentic frontier community and check out some of the antique machinery displays, heritage sites, museum, and much more. *(see pages 12-15 for maps & directory)*

## **HAZELTON PIONEER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**

Located in the library in Old Town, this museum is one of the treasures of our area. They have collected pictures and artifacts that can only be found here. It is a great opportunity to see what Hazelton was like in the days of pioneers and mule trains.

## **HAZELTON FARMERS' MARKET**

This runs May through September, Sundays 10am to 2pm at the Hazelton Area Visitor Centre at Hwy 16 & Hwy 62 in New Hazelton.

This is a great opportunity to buy tasty treats, local meat, vegetables, and crafts. Everything sold at the market is grown or produced within the Hazeltons and surrounding communities.

Find more info at [www.hazeltonfarmers.ca](http://www.hazeltonfarmers.ca)

## **FISHING**

Renowned salmon, trout, and steelhead fishing happens here. This is home of record size Kispiox River steelhead.



THE VILLAGE OF HAZELTON (OLD TOWN) HAS AN 'OLD FRONTIER SPIRIT' AND A COMFORTABLE REMOTENESS THAT CARRIES THE FEELING OF BEING "AWAY FROM IT ALL". IT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST EUROPEAN SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHERN BC (FOUNDED 1866) & WAS HOME TO MANY "FIRSTS" BETWEEN PRINCE GEORGE & PRINCE RUPERT, INCLUDING THE FIRST BANK, FIRST HOSPITAL, FIRST TELEGRAPH OFFICE, & FIRST NEWSPAPER.





# EVENTS

## **ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS INCLUDE:**

### **Kispiox Valley Rodeo (1st weekend of June)**

This is the "Biggest Little Rodeo in The West"! Please come on out and join in on the fun!

### **Canada Day (July 1)**

Canada Day is our biggest celebration of the year. All of the Hazeltons gather together for a pancake breakfast, kids' games, parade, music and a soapbox derby. There is fun to be had by everyone.

### **Kispiox Valley Music Festival (last weekend in July)**

This is a fun 3-day music festival with on-site camping and musicians from across Canada and around the region. Find info at [www.kvmf.ca](http://www.kvmf.ca).

### **Pioneer Days (August)**

Pioneer Day is hosted in the Village of Hazelton every second Saturday in August to celebrate our town's heritage. There is a parade, wagon rides, vendors and kids' activities.

### **Gitxsan Cultural Days (3rd weekend in August)**

Everyone is welcome to join in and celebrate the rich heritage and culture of the Gitxsan and Aboriginal people! This weekend of festivities usually features live music, cultural dancers, drummers and singers, local artists, craft vendors, moose calling and soapberry making contest, and more! Held at 'Ksan Campground.

### **Winter Fest in New Hazelton**

This event takes place in Allen Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in December. It's a time for the community to come together and enjoy winter. There's a free barbecue, hot chocolate, Christmas carols, Santa Claus and fireworks.

### **Christmas in Old Town / Village of Hazelton**

This event includes street vendors, roasted chestnuts, caroling, horse-drawn sleigh rides, etc. and takes place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in December each year.

A PASSIONATE COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE HAZELTONS HELP COORDINATE SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL EVENTS INCLUDING THE KISPIOX RODEO – ONE OF THE OLDEST RODEOS IN BC – AND THE KISPIOX VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL. BOTH EVENTS INCLUDE CAMPING ON-SITE AND DRAW PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD.





# SUMMER RECREATION

View our maps on the following pages and stop in at the Visitor Centre for suggestions that cater to your needs and the activity of the season. You'll find plenty of options for the following recreational opportunities:

**HIKING**

**PICNICKING**

**CYCLING**

**FISHING**

**BOATING**

**ROCK CLIMBING**

**WALKING**

**WILDLIFE VIEWING**

**SWIMMING**

**CAMPING**

**CANOEING**

**JOGGING**

**GUIDED TRIPS:** Some local companies offer guided adventures including:

- Horseback Riding
- Mountain Horse Pack Trips
- River Rafting & River Expeditions
- Hiking
- Snorkelling with Salmon
- Fishing
- Cultural & Totem Pole Tours



HIKING ABOVE BLUE LAKES

## **BERRY PICKING**

If you know where to look, wild berries are plentiful. Look out for Saskatoon berries, raspberries, wild strawberries, gooseberries, soapberries, huckleberries, wild blueberries, wild cranberries, wild black currants, thimble berries and salmon berries.

PADDLE BOARDING ON ROSS LAKE







CAMPING AT 'KSAN



NORTHERN LIGHTS



RIDING HORSEBACK IN TWO MILE



# WINTER

## RECREATION

Winter in the Hazeltons can be a bit chilly, but there is fun to be had. Bundle up, get your thermos ready and head outside!

### **SKATING**

When it's cold enough, you can skate **OUTDOORS** on Ross Lake and Seeley Lake. New Hazelton has a small, lighted outdoor skating rink that is perfect for some exercise or a game of hockey.

Near Hazelton, you can skate **INDOORS** at the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre. This new facility, due to open its doors in late 2018, has an NHL-sized ice rink, fitness centre and gymnasium.

### **ICE FISHING**

If the weather is cold enough, both Ross Lake and Seeley Lake will freeze and provide a great ice fishing spot.

### **TOBOGGANING**

Pick a hill and slide down or ask a local for their favorite spot. This is a good, old-fashioned way to have a day of fun. Just don't forget your hot chocolate.

### **SNOWMOBILING**

Find a guide to take you up into the mountains, along trails or to the lake. The Hazeltons are a great location for snowmobiling adventures. **CAUTION:** local terrain is challenging and snowmobiling unguided in unfamiliar areas is **NOT** recommended.

### **WINTER FEST**

This event takes place in early December in Allen Park in New Hazelton. It's a time for the community to come together and enjoy winter. There's a free barbecue, hot chocolate, Christmas Carols, Santa Claus and fireworks. Visit Old Town as well to see "Christmas in Hazelton" the second Wednesday of December! See the tree lighting ceremony, enjoy hot chocolate, sleigh rides and more!

### **CROSS COUNTRY SKIING & SNOWSHOEING**

When the conditions are right you can ski just about anywhere. You can ski and snowshoe on Ross Lake and Seeley Lake, and you'll find groomed ski trails on Bulkley Canyon Road. Find more info at [newhazeltonccskiing.tumblr.com](http://newhazeltonccskiing.tumblr.com)

### **BACKCOUNTRY SKIING**

If you are equipped and in-the-know, there's lots to be had. Certified guides in the area can be hired to take you on a tour.

### **HELI & CAT SKIING**

In the Hazeltons, Skeena Heli Skiing operates out of Bear Claw Lodge in the Kispiox Valley and Skeena Cat Skiing operates up the Suskwa Valley. Find out more at [www.skeenaheliskiing.com](http://www.skeenaheliskiing.com) and [www.skeenacatskiing.ca](http://www.skeenacatskiing.ca).







# "OLD TOWN"

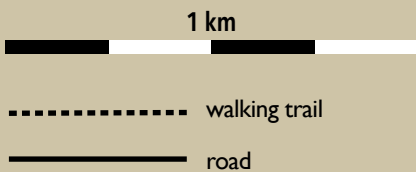
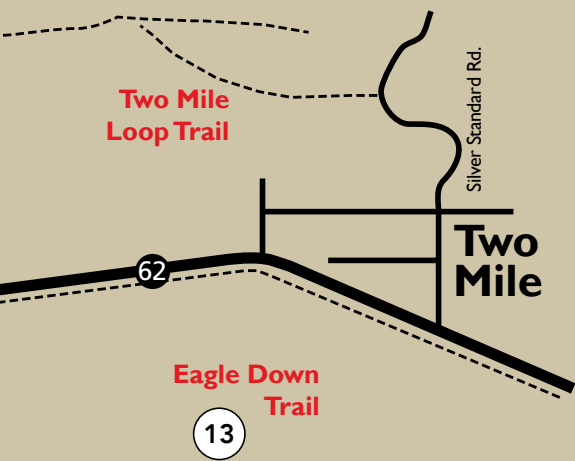
## VILLAGE OF HAZELTON MAP



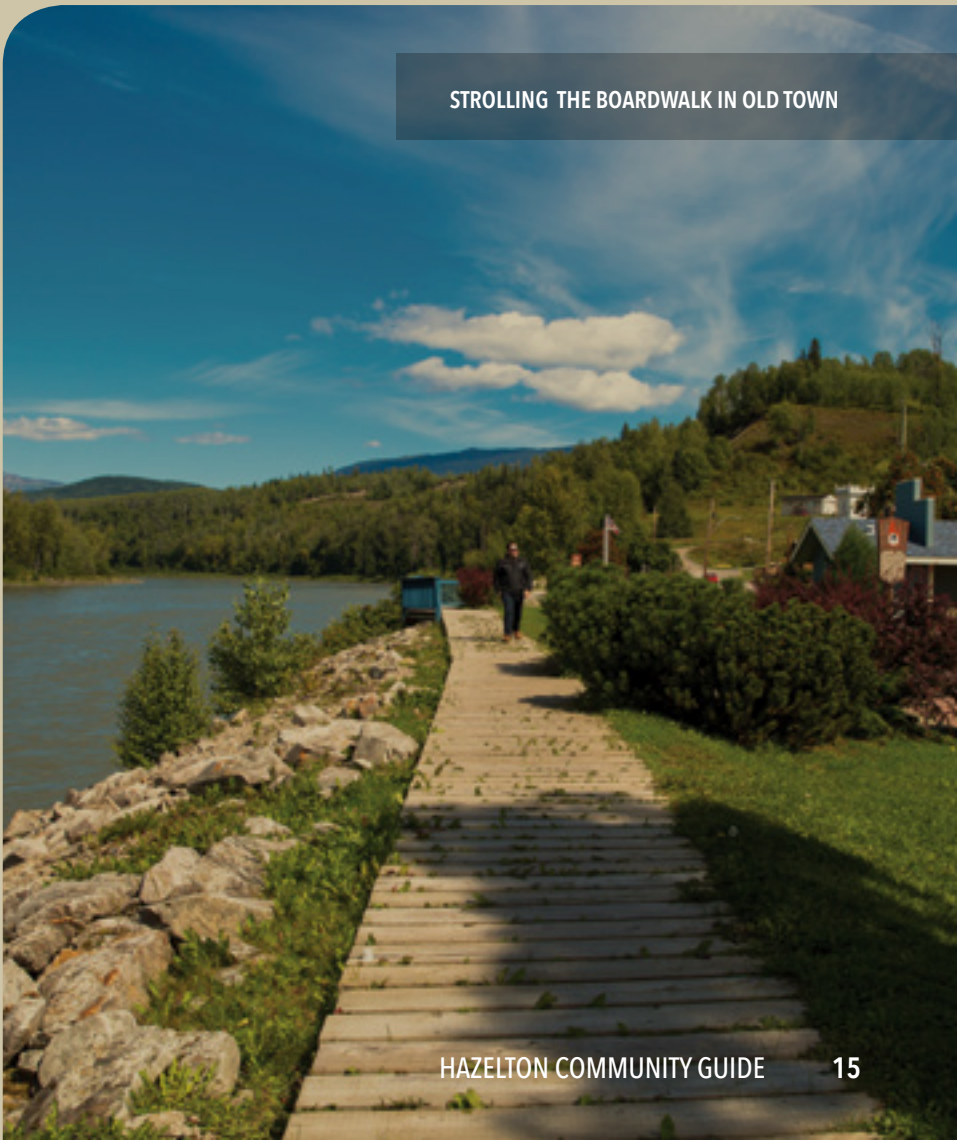
see trail maps & descriptions on pages 20-27 in the Hazelton Trails, Recreation Sites & Parks section







ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH IN OLD TOWN



STROLLING THE BOARDWALK IN OLD TOWN



# "OLD TOWN" VILLAGE OF HAZELTON WALKING GUIDE



Ferry Rd

Hankin St

Government St

Omineca St

River Rd

Wrinch

Clifford

Omineca

Bay St

Field St

Bench Rd

Pack Train Trail

## Points of Interest

**1 Hazelton Public Library and Pioneer Museum.** Here one can explore Hazelton's rich pioneer history. The Collins Overland Telegraph Line, early voyages up the Skeena River by canoes and paddlewheel boats, the history of local bridge construction and British Columbia's first northern hospital, are only a few of the historic features of Hazelton that this museum explores. The library offers free internet access, friendly service, and a rich local history collection.

**2 In Polly Sargent Park** one can enjoy a stroll along the Skeena River and explore a number of artifacts from Hazelton's steamboat days.

**3 Bastion Park.** Once the site where the Hudson's Bay Company built their first post in Hazelton (c.1886), this spot on the Skeena River was the upriver terminus for the Hudson's Bay Company and other trading companies who supplied goods for mining towns, railway crews, farms, and locals.

**4** Take a stroll along the **Pack Train Trail**. This is the trail head where pack traders began their long journeys with dogsleds and mules to deliver their goods, often traveling several hundred miles east, south and north of Hazelton.

**5 Ore Cart & Municipal Office** c.1931 (former Triangle Motors & gas service)



**6 Hospital Lightplant Motor**



**7 Ore Wagons**

One is on the roof of Inlander Building and another one is in front of the Hazelton District Public Library.



**8 Peter Yeovil Kitanmaax Lightplant Motor** in front of the Polly Sargent Park Washrooms.



**9 'Ksan Historical Village and Museum** attracts worldwide attention. With 7 traditional Gitksan long houses, several totem poles, Kitanmaax School of Art, and a large collection of native artifacts, this living Museum preserves the rich history and culture of the Gitksan First Nation people.

 **Hands of History stop (tour details on p. 28)**

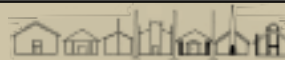
100 metres



----- walking trail

———— road

9



**'Ksan Historical Village and Museum**



Bulkley River



# FOUNDED IN 1866

## Historic Sites & Buildings of "Old Town"



**A** **S.S. Hazelton** 90 foot (27m) steam powered sternwheeler replica & S.S. Essington paddlewheel (site of the Union Bank of Canada, 1910, & first dance hall; converted to third Hazelton Hotel 1938-1956)



**N** **BC Café** c.1931 (1910-1920 several shops on site; 1921 first BC Café)



**O** **York House** c.1906 (renovated 1980s, moved to site from Government St. c.1930)



**P** **Myros Building** c.1928 (used as a store and post office until the 1960s)



**Q** **Martin House** c.1900 – restoration 1980's (former boarding house)



**R** **Mahoney House** c.1910 (jail & RCMP residence; c.1915 Omineca Hotel & laundry on site)



**S** **Smith House** c.1948 (former stable site)



**T** **Grant House** c.1916 with second story addition (site of Realty, Insurance & Notary Offices c.1916)



**U** **Sargent House** c.1905 – renovated 1920's



**V** **Tri-Town Theatre** c.1937 with additions c.1960 (first used as a community hall)



**W** **RCMP Building** – Offices & Dwelling c.1926 (B.C. Police Station until 1973)



**X** **Blackstock House** c.1919 (moved to site 1936)



**Y** **Galloway House** c.1910 (c.1902-1928 livery stable & two hotels on site)



**Z** **Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Education Society** c.1938 – redeveloped in 1980's (site of icehouse & first and second Hazelton Hotels)



**ZZ** **Cunningham House** c.1910 – dwelling converted to duplex (mess house for riverboats)



**B** **Peter's Anglican Church** Gothic style c.1900 (once site of Anglican school)



**C** **Dwelling** c.1920 (site of Newspaper office c.1886)



**D** **Little House** c.1910 (residence of first bank manager)



**E** **Hudson's Bay Factor's House** c.1921– Craftsman style (town hall site 1911-1928)



**F** **Dwelling** c.1921 (late 1800's –1920 Anglican Mission House and Rectory site)



**G** **Sunrise Café** c.1920 (former Shanghai Café. Laundry and other buildings on site c.1920)



**H** **Marshall Brothers Building** c.1932-38 (former truck stop, morgue, town office)



**I** **Trading Post** c.1928 (former Hudson's Bay store)



**J** **Dwelling** c.1931 (formerly Ping Yee's Café)



**K** **Pentecostal Church** c.1921 – Tudor style architecture (third faith to occupy building)



**L** **Marshall House** c.1906 (at one time, manse for the United and Methodist Churches)



**M** **Government Agents' Offices** c.1909 (with 1 storey addition)



# “NEW TOWN”

## NEW HAZELTON MAP



see trail maps & descriptions on pages 20-27 in the Hazeltons Trails, Recreation Sites & Parks section







LOOKOUT / WATERFALL TRAIL







# HAZELTONS

TRAILS,  
RECREATION SITES  
& PARKS



## Recreational Features

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  Boat Launch |  Hiking     |  Canoeing |
|  Boating     |  Jogging    |  Cycling  |
|  Camping     |  Picnicking |  Fishing  |

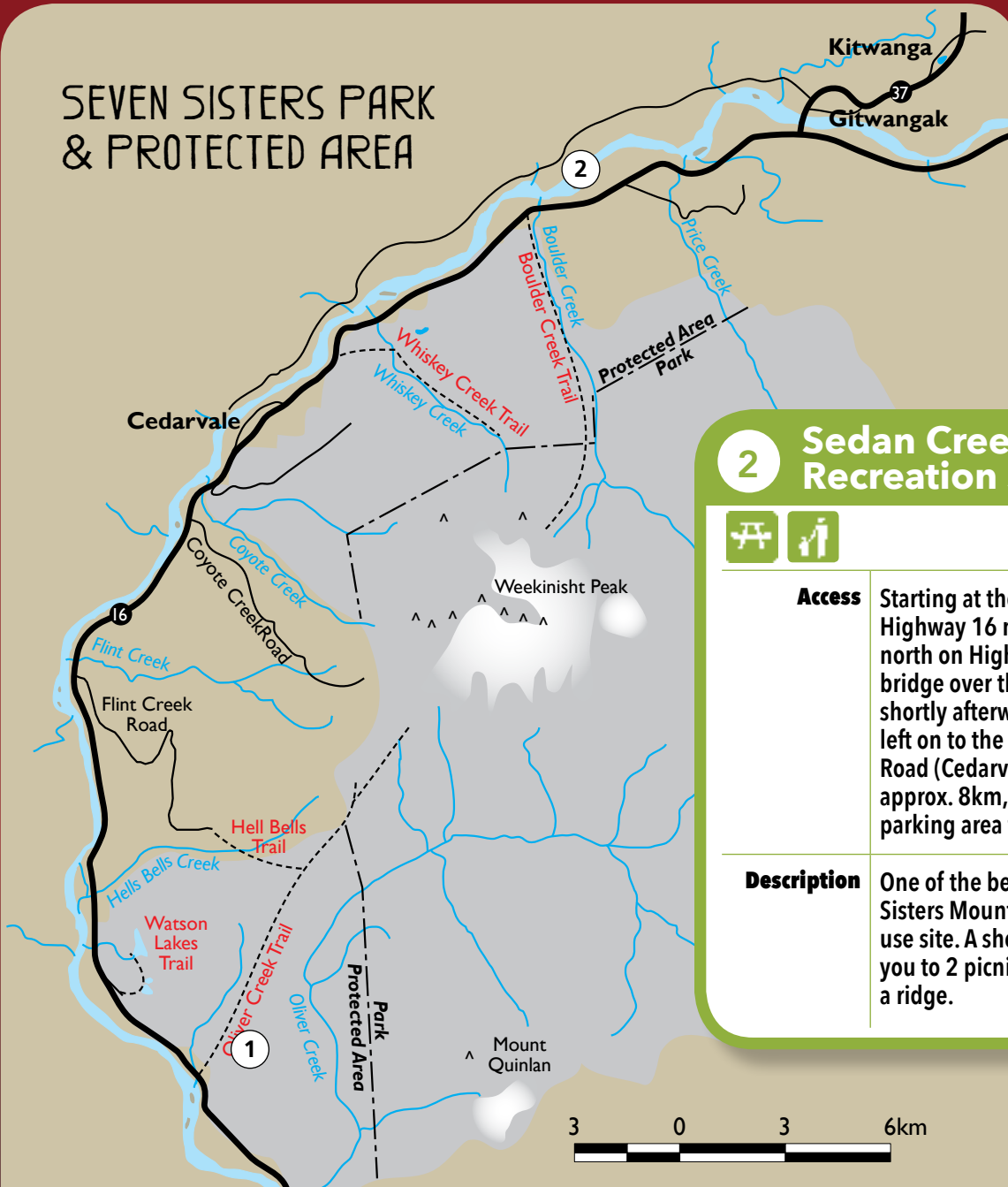
- |  |
|--|
|  Rock Climbing    |
|  Swimming         |
|  Walking          |
|  Wildlife Viewing |

## Difficulty Level

-  **Easy**
-  **Moderate**
-  **Difficult**



# SEVEN SISTERS PARK & PROTECTED AREA



## 2 Sedan Creek Recreation Site



Easy

**Access** Starting at the junction with Highway 16 near Kitwanga, drive north on Highway 37, crossing the bridge over the Skeena River and shortly afterward the rail line. Turn left on to the Cedarvale-Kitwanga Road (Cedarvale Backroad). At approx. 8km, there is a sign and parking area for three vehicles.

**Description** One of the best views of the Seven Sisters Mountains is from this day-use site. A short (easy) trail takes you to 2 picnic tables at the crest of a ridge.

## 1 Watson Lakes Trail



Moderate

**Access** Approx. 80km west of the Hazelton Area Visitor Centre, (36.9km west of Kitwanga junction and about 2km after Hells Bells Creek), an unmarked 700 metre access road leaves Highway 16 on the left side of the highway.

**Description** Covering nearly 40,000 hectares, Seven Sisters Park and Protected Area is named for the spectacular set of peaks visible from Highway 16 between Hazelton and Terrace. The area offers a variety of trails, catering to all levels of ability. Many of the trails are a legacy of mining and mineral exploration. The Watson Lakes Trail is the most suited for families. There is one short steep pitch but otherwise it is an easy 3km trail passing three scenic lakes and on the ascent views across the Skeena River to Mt. Knauss. At 1km, there is a lakeside picnic and camping site.

3

### Nature's Way (Kitwanga)

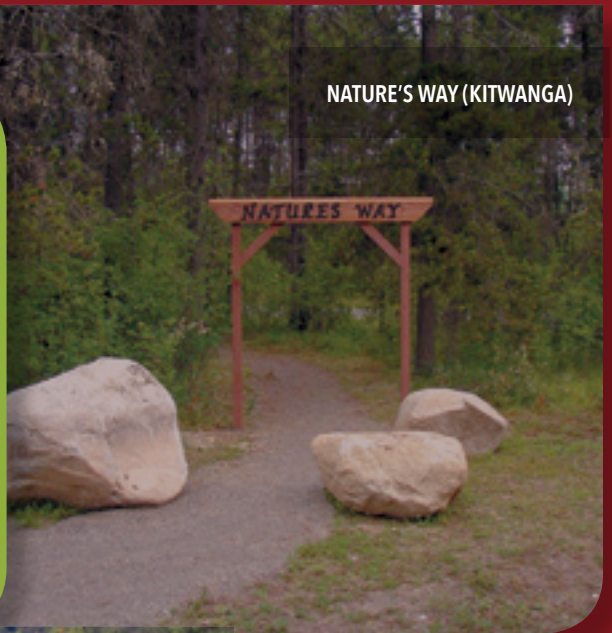


Easy

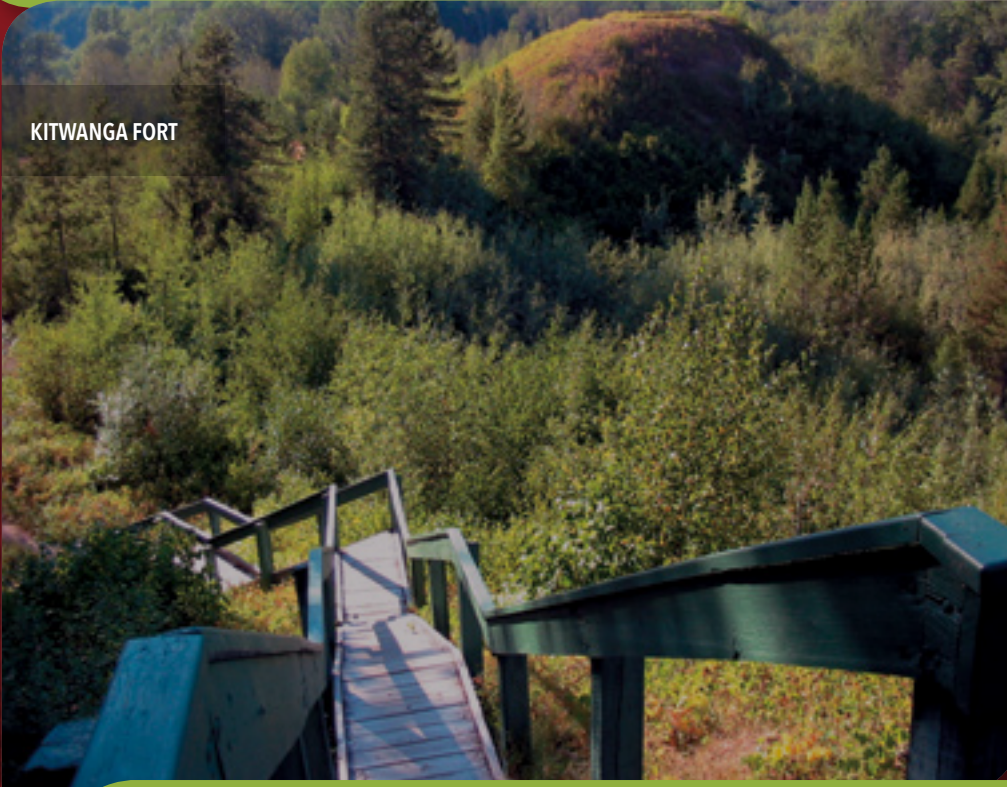
**Access** From the junction with Highway 16, at 4.3km north along Highway 37, turn left on to the Kitwanga North Road. Sections of the trail are visible on the left side.

**Description** A 3.2km loop through Kitwanga, linking the Recreation Centre with the sports fields, featuring viewing platforms over Mill Pond.

NATURE'S WAY (KITWANGA)



KITWANGA FORT



4

### Gitwagak Battle Hill /Kitwanga Fort National Historic Site



Easy

**Access** At 4.3km north along Highway 37, turn left onto Kitwanga North Road into the community of Kitwanga. A pull-out is located on the left side at 1.7km. Visitors must descend and ascend a long staircase to reach the fort.

**Description** At a strategic location overlooking the Kitwanga River and along a "Grease Trail" trading route, in the 1700s Gitxsan people constructed a hilltop fort. Parks Canada relates the fascinating story of 'Nekt's fortress through a series of interpretive panels along a short walk to the hill top.



ELIZABETH LAKE

## 5 Elizabeth Lake Recreation Site



**Access** Approx. 54.5km on the Kispiox Valley Road; right turn approx. 8km after Cullen Creek.

**Description** Small, semi-open site on a lake popular with paddlers. 3 campsites and overflow space. Wheelchair accessible outhouse and a dock. Access may be prohibitive for large RVs and trailers.

## 6 Upper Kispiox Recreation Site



**Access** Approx. 41km on the Kispiox Valley Road, on left side.

**Description** Located on an open grassy field on the Kispiox River, with 4 defined campsites and 2 outhouses. Abundant space for overflow camping and parking. A rustic launch provides river access for "car top boats".

## 7 Pentz Lake Recreation Site



**Access** At approx. 26km on the Kispiox Valley Road (after the Rodeo Grounds) turn left, cross the Kispiox River and turn right on to Poplar Park Road. Site is 11.8km north, approx 5km after junction with Helen Lake Road and 500 metres after McCully Creek.

**Description** Two day use sites are connected by a 400 metre trail. South site has a boat launch and picnic tables; north site has a dock & raft and picnic tables.

## 8 Keynton (Bell) Lake Recreation Site



**Access** 6.8 km north of the junction with Highway 16 near Kitwanga, from Highway 37 turn right on to the Kitwanga Backroad (Hazelton-Kitwanga Road). At approx. 16.5km, turn left on to the Burdick Road, keep right, for approx. 1.5km. (No access from Hazelton/ Kispiox Valley.)

**Description** A beautiful semi-open forested site on a small lake, offering 8 campsites. Good bird watching. Popular with anglers seeking pan-sized cutthroat trout in spring and fall.

9

## Skeena/Anlaw Trail



Easy to Moderate

**Access** Beginning at 1.3 km north of the junction with Highway 62 on the Kispiox Valley Road, the trail parallels the Road on the left side for 200 metres then turns towards the Skeena River.

**Description** A pleasant 3.5km walk upstream, north from Hazelton to the Anlaw or Four Mile Bridge. Gorgeous views of the Skeena River and Roché de Boule Range. Culturally modified trees are also seen along this route. One may return via the same trail or alongside the Kispiox Valley Road.

10

## Anderson Flats Provincial Park



**Access** At approx. 3.7km west of the Hazelton Area Visitor Centre (in New Hazelton) on Highway 16, turn right into South Hazelton on Omineca Avenue; after 700 metres descend the hill by turning right on to Hazelton Station Road.

**Description** Exceptional views of the Roché de Boule Mountain Range and easy access to the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers are to be enjoyed at Anderson Flats. This recreation site at the Rivers' confluence is favoured for recreational fishing.

11

## Seeley Lake Provincial Park



**Access** 9.8km west of the Hazelton Area Visitor Centre (in New Hazelton) on Highway 16.

**Description** The Hazelton Mountains form a beautiful backdrop to this picturesque lake. The park offers a small, sandy beach for swimming, short lakeside trails and a viewing platform.



SEELEY LAKE



EAGLE DOWN TRAIL



12

## Lookout/ Waterfall Trail

LOOKOUT/WATERFALL TRAIL



**Easy to Moderate**

**Access** The trailhead for the New Hazelton Lookout Trail is located off of a parking lot at the south end of Laurier Street in New Hazelton.

**Description** Ideal for a short afternoon family hike. A 15 minute walk through forest leads to a beautiful waterfall. At the top of the path after a 30 minute walk is the lookout, affording a great view over New Hazelton, Two Mile and surrounding mountains.



13

## Eagle Down Trail



**Easy**

**Access** Can start walk from Hazelton Area Visitor Centre walking the shoulder of Highway 62 or park at Hagwilget Canyon or in the Village of Hazelton.

**Description** Ideal for a leisurely way to experience the beauty and history of the Hazeltons, the Eagle Down Trail links five communities: Hazelton, Gitanmaax, Two Mile, Hagwilget and New Hazelton. Interpretive panels tell of the rich First Nations, pioneer and natural history of the area. A highlight is the Hagwilget Canyon Bridge, 80 metres above the Bulkley River. Trail is suitable for walking, jogging and cycling. Total distance from the Visitor Centre to the Village of Hazelton is 7km.





## 14 Blue Lakes Recreation Trail



**Moderate to Difficult**

**Access** 9.2km east of the Hazelton Area Visitor Centre (in New Hazelton) on Highway 16, turn right on to a gravel road (near Mudflat Creek). Take the first fork right at 200 metres, follow signs from this point. 4wd required to travel entire 4.2km from highway. (Check *Recreation Sites and Trails BC* or the Hazeltons Visitor Centre for current information on trail access.)

**Description** Described as the “signature trail” of the Hazeltons area, the Trail follows a path to historic mining claims, through open hemlock forest, to reward with stunning views of alpine lakes and peaks. There are some steep sections but generally a gradual climb gaining 400 metres from the parking area at 4.2km along the road. The round trip from the parking area is 10km.

## 15 Ross Lake Provincial Park



**Easy**

**Access** 3.3km east of the Hazelton Area Visitor Centre (in New Hazelton) on Highway 16, turn left at Ross Lake Road. The park is 4km along Ross Lake Road.

**Description** Popular with locals for swimming and afternoon BBQ's, the park offers a pleasant beach and a boat launch (electric motors only). The 3.5km Rainmaker Trail circles the lake, providing excellent views of the surrounding mountains, lakeshore vegetation and wildlife. Perimeter Trail is a 2km branch from Rainmaker Trail, through mixed forest; optional trail connection back to New Hazelton.





## 16 Station Creek Recreation Trail



Easy to Difficult

**Access** A gravel road extends from the south end of McBride Street in New Hazelton. This road is gated at 800 metres.

**Description** For the first 3.5km from the end of McBride Street the path gains about 200 metres in elevation, then rises steeply beyond this point. For experienced, equipped hikers only, this is also the route leading to Hagwilget Peak. In its lower reaches it is a well constructed trail through an attractive section of thick forest.

## 17 Sidina Mountain Recreation Trail



Moderate to Difficult

**Access** 3km from the start of the Kispiox Valley Road in Gitanmaax, turn right on to the Salmon River Road. After the Shegunia River at 9km the road becomes the Babine Slide FSR. Follow this road for 6km (1km beyond Pine Nut Creek), turn right on to the old logging road, for 4km.

**Description** Gaining 1000 metres in elevation over 6.3kms, the trail ascends to alpine slopes on the southwest shoulder of Sidina Mountain and panoramic views of the Roché de Boule and Kispiox Ranges and the Kispiox and Skeena Valleys. (Note: Trail condition cannot be guaranteed due to irregular maintenance.)

## 18 Suskwa River Recreation Site



**Access** **Please note:** there is a gate at 15km on the Suskwa FSR. Recreationists are encouraged to get permission from the local First Nation before entering. On Highway 16, 11.7km east of the Hazelton Area Visitor Centre, turn left on to the Suskwa Forest Service Road. At 15km, cross the bridge over Suskwa River and immediately turn left. Site entrance sign is a further 2km on the Iltzul Forest Service Road.

**Description** Scenic site on the north side of the Suskwa River. 3 unit campsite, plus space for overflow parking and camping. Rock climbing wall is nearby.

# HANDS OF HISTORY

## AUTO TOUR

Welcome to one of British Columbia's most historic and scenic areas. Immerse yourself in centuries of First Nations culture and learn dramatic tales of pioneer settlement by taking the "Hands of History" self-guided driving tour. The tour is marked by a series of distinctive "Hand of History" signposts. Each of these markers displays a Gitksan design of peace, an open hand, and a short description of a person, historical event, or landform that played an important part in the history of the Upper Skeena region.

The entire tour covers 150 miles or 240 kilometres but is easily modified to fit your schedule and interests. Depending on your pace, the tour will take 4 to 8 hours. The route is described in two segments, each commencing at the Visitor Centre on Highway 16 in New Hazelton. The first segment takes you across the heights of Hagwilget Canyon Bridge, to the riverfront, pioneer community of Hazelton, to 'Ksan Historical Village & Museum and into Kispiox Village and its display of totem poles. The second part of the tour follows the Skeena River westward, directing you to the totems at Gitanyow and Gitwangak, past historic churches and to Kitwanga Fort National Historic Site.

**Please note:** the kilometer and mile distances in the Auto Tour indicate total distance driven.

Points of interest in the itinerary in this brochure marked with a 🖱️ are the location of a "Hand of History" plaque. There are many scenic places we have not highlighted in this guide, so feel free to stop along the route for a picnic, photo or exploration. Enjoy your adventure. You will not be disappointed!



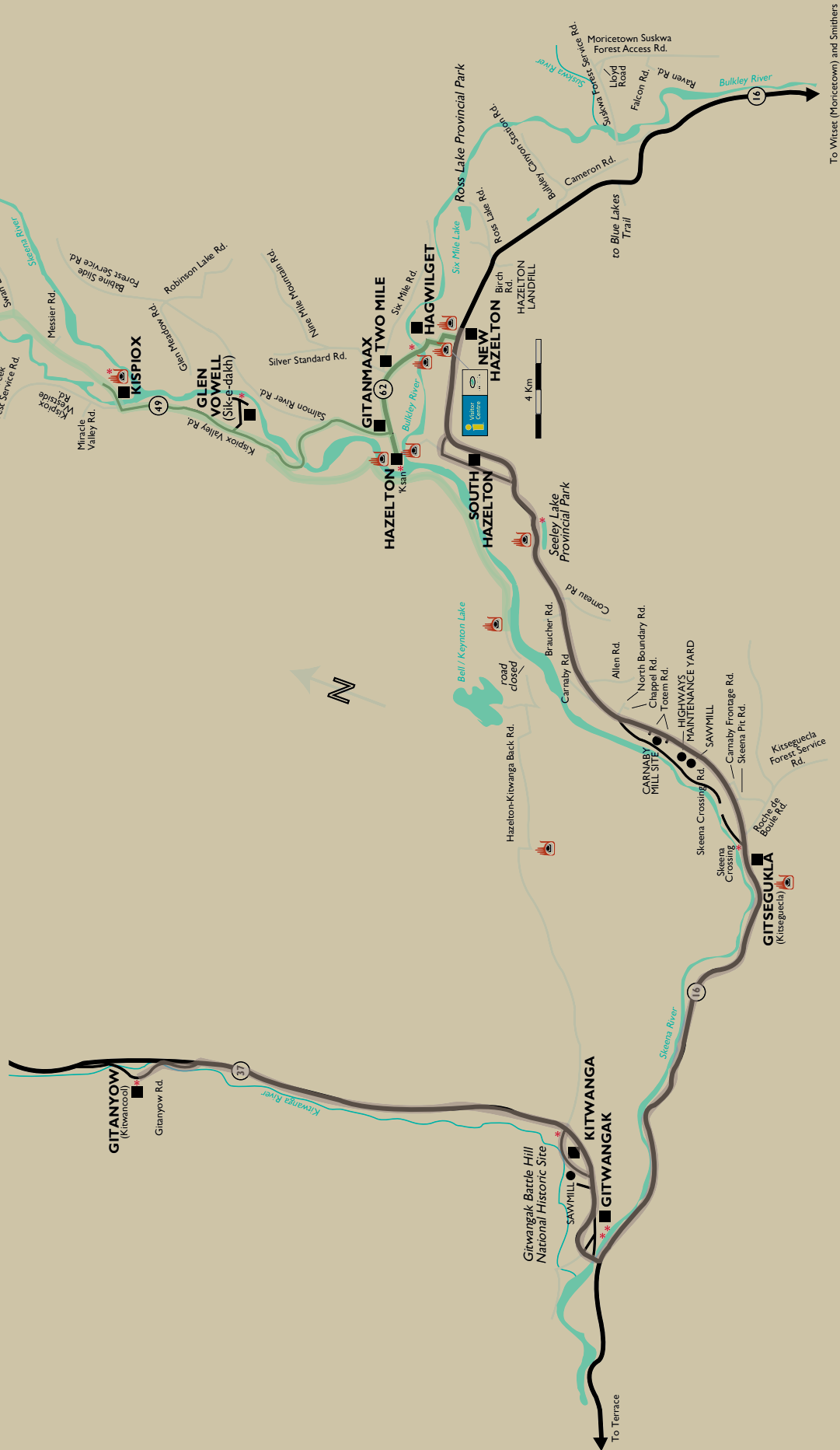


# Hand of History Sign location

Tour part 1

Tour part 2

Tourism feature



To Wiser (Moricetown) and Smithers

# HAZELTON/'KSAN/ KISPIOX VALLEY

*The contemporary Hagwilget Bridge was opened in 1932 and designed by Alexander Carruthers. At the time it was the highest suspension bridge in Canada. This bridge replaced one constructed in 1912 by Craddock & Company, also a suspension bridge, built of wrought iron and wood. Concrete footings for the Craddock Bridge are visible 30 metres north of the current bridge. The Craddock Bridge was too narrow for automobile traffic. Engineering complexity is also*

*shown in the historic aboriginal bridges at this location. Early images of the aboriginal bridges reveal a cantilever bridge with a central suspended span built with wood and rope and later with wood and telegraph wire (Cedarwood Consulting; [www.rdks.bc.ca](http://www.rdks.bc.ca)). The canyon walls of the Bulkley River are composed of layers of hard sandstone, tilted steeply by geological processes. (Geotour Guide for the Hazeltons 2010, GSC).*





**KM 0/Mile 0**

**HAZELTON AREA VISITOR CENTRE**

Start in New Hazelton at the distinctive log building that serves as our regional Travel Infocentre. Statues of a Miner, Horse Packer and Logger are marked with brass plaques which explain the importance of these figures in local history. When inside the Visitor Centre, have a look at the upstairs "mini museum" that introduces the region's history through the use of photo displays and artifacts.

From the Visitor Centre, turn left onto Highway 62.

**KM 1.5/Mile .9**

**HAGWILGET BRIDGE TURNOUT**

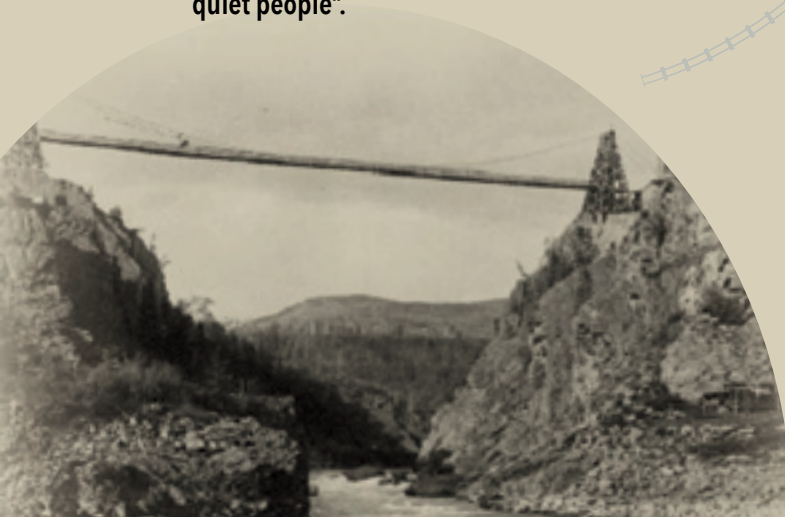
Park in the paved area before crossing the bridge. Hagwilget Canyon has been crossed since antiquity with a number of bridges. The current span was built in 1932 and soars 80 metres (260 feet) above the Bulkley River. A short distance uphill from the turnout is the beginning of a trail that will take you down to the river's edge. Hagwilget, a Wet'suwet'en community, means "gentle or quiet people".

**KM 1.8/Mile 1.1**

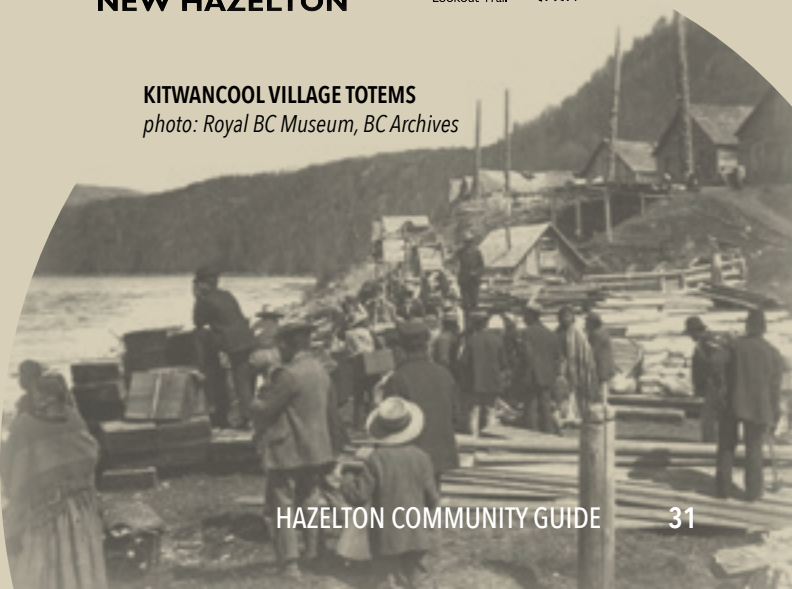
**HAGWILGET VIEWPOINT**

Turn left into the small parking area just across the bridge. Trails descend here from the parking area to the downstream side of the bridge. Across the street another trail can be taken for spectacular views of Hagwilget Peak and the bridge.

1. Hazelton Area Visitor Centre/ Public Washrooms
2. Royal Bank/Bank Machine
3. Hagwilget Church
4. Hagwilget Canyon Bridge
5. Station Creek/Hagwilget Peak Trail
6. Gas Station/Bank Machine
7. Canada Post
8. Bulkley Valley Credit Union/Bank Machine
9. Tennis Court
10. New Hazelton Elementary School
11. RCMP Detachment
12. District of New Hazelton Office
13. Hiking Trails Start
14. Allen Park
15. Via Rail



**EARLY BRIDGE, HAGWILGET CANYON**  
*photo: Royal BC Museum, BC Archives*



**KITWANCOOL VILLAGE TOTEMS**  
*photo: Royal BC Museum, BC Archives*

**KM 3.2/Mile 2.0**

**TWO MILE**

This community got its name as a place that was "two miles" from Hazelton. Two Mile was historically the home of the lawless and luckless who for many reasons were banned from Hazelton city limits. Continue down Highway 62. The road enters Gitanmaax, which means "people who harvest salmon using torches".

**KM 7.0/Mile 4.3**

**VIEW ROCHÉ DE BOULE MOUNTAIN RANGE**

Look to the left for excellent views of Roche de Boulé Mountain Range, French for "falling rocks". (Gitxsan name - Stekyoden, which means "stand alone") The road is narrow, so please choose pull-out spots carefully.

**KM 7.6/Mile 4.7**

**'KSAN TURNOFF**

Just after a sharp right hand curve, turn left off Highway 62. Keep to your left to reach the parking lot.

**KM 7.9/Mile 4.9**

**'KSAN PARKING LOT**

Internationally renowned 'Ksan Historical Village and Museum was opened in 1970 as a place where Gitxsan (meaning "People of the Skeena") and Wet'suwet'en First Nations culture could be preserved and shared. The facility includes a museum, traditional totems, longhouses, an excellent gift shop and tours. Within walking distance is 'Ksan campground and RV park 250-842-5940. For 'Ksan hours call 250-842-5544 or check at the Visitor Centre. Be sure to take a short 300 metre walk down the trail marked by the "VIEWPOINT" signpost for a spectacular view of Roché de Boule Mountains and the confluence of the Bulkley and Skeena Rivers.





### **KM 8.2/Mile 5.1**

Exit 'Ksan the way you entered and turn left.

### **KM 8.8/Mile 5.5** 🍷

Entry to "OLD TOWN HAZELTON".

At next stop sign, turn right, proceed one block, and turn left towards the river.

### **KM 9.1/Mile 5.7**

Park near the replica of a Skeena riverboat.

Welcome to one of the oldest pioneer communities in Northwest BC, established in 1866 at the confluence of the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers. The name "Hazelton" is attributed to one-time Hudson's Bay Company employee and local businessman, Thomas Hankin, after the hazel bushes found in this area. Into the 1900s Hazelton was a booming supply and administrative centre and the furthest point upstream riverboats could travel from the coast on the Skeena River (which means "river of the mists" or "cloud water").

A recommended starting point is the Hazelton Pioneer Museum, located in the library building. This interpretative centre gives you a concise picture of the events and people that shaped the region.

After you have toured the museum, enjoy more of the community's heritage by wandering past the restored buildings, structures and monuments in the downtown area. These include St. Peter's Anglican Church, dating from the 1880s, Hazelton Landing on the riverfront, machinery recovered from a sternwheeler, and a steam 'donkey engine,' used to winch large logs from the forest. Public washrooms are also located in the kiosk.

Leave Hazelton the way you came in. Proceed past the entry to 'Ksan, and up Highway 62 towards Two Mile.

### **KM 11.5/Mile 7.1**

#### **KISPIOX ROAD JUNCTION**

Turn left at the Kispiox Road junction (Gitanmaax Food & Fuel). This paved road leads to scenic views, Kispiox Village and the Kispiox Valley. Proceed up the Kispiox Valley Road.



'KSAN



'KSAN



OLD TOWN



OLD TOWN

**KM 16.2/Mile 10.1** 🗺️  
**OUTLAW TERRITORY**

Turnout on right. In 1902, Simon Gunanoot was accused, along with his brother in-law, of murdering two men after a beer hall argument. Simon evaded capture and spent the next 12 years as a fugitive, creating the longest manhunt in British Columbia history. In 1914 Simon Gunanoot surrendered and was shortly thereafter acquitted of all charges. His story has become a celebrated legend of wilderness survival and triumph. Continue up the Kispiox Valley Road.

**KM 16.6/Mile 10.3**  
**FOUR MILE BRIDGE**

(also known as Anlaw - Gitanmaax Reserve)  
 The Four Mile Bridge crosses the Skeena River. After the Fraser River, the Skeena is the second largest river entirely situated in British Columbia. During summer months native fishing nets can be seen on either side of the bridge span.

Continue on the Kispiox Valley Road. Soon after the bridge, look for the gravel road heading uphill. On your return from Kispiox Village and the Kispiox Valley, this is the Kitwanga Backroad you will be taking (closed to through traffic since 2007). Continue on the paved Kispiox Valley Road.

**KM 20.5/Mile 12.7**  
**GLEN VOWELL VILLAGE**

The community's Gitksan name is Sik-E-Dakh, which means "bright lights behind mountain." Glen Vowell is named after a land surveyor. Turn right on the paved road at the Glen Vowell Village sign, drive slowly, as there are two speed bumps. Glen Vowell is a small Gitksan community alongside the Skeena River.

**KM 21.7/Mile 13.5**

Continue past the distinctive Victorian style Band Administration building on the right.

**KM 22.0/Mile 13.7**

At the end of the road, turn left at the "T" intersection.



**GLEN VOWELL (SIK-E-DAKH)**

1. 1. Sik-E-Dakh Health Station
2. 2. Glen Vowell Band Office
3. 3. Glen Vowell Recreation Area
4. 4. Salvation Army Church



**KM 22.2/Mile 13.8**

**GLEN VOWELL SALVATION ARMY CHURCH**

Glen Vowell was founded in 1898 by Kispiox Village residents who had become members of the Salvation Army. This heritage building is a reminder of the missionary era when different religious denominations competed for converts amongst residents of the Upper Skeena region.

**KM 22.2/Mile 13.8**

Turn left immediately past the church and proceed back towards entry to the village.

**KM 22.8/Mile 14.2**

Turn right onto access road, proceed back to Kispiox Valley Road.

**KM 23.8/Mile 14.8**

**KISPIOX VALLEY ROAD**

Turn right onto Kispiox Valley Road.

**KM 25.6/Mile 15.9**

**FARLEIGH'S MARKET GARDEN**

During the summer months the Farleigh family operates the best vegetable farm in Northwestern BC. Feel free to stop and stock up on fresh produce.



GLEN VOWELL



**SS HAZELTON, KITSELAS CANYON**

*photo: Royal BC Museum, BC Archives*

**KM 28.1/Mile 17.5**

**KISPIOX RIVER BRIDGE**

Cross this wooden bridge over the famed Kispiox River. This river has a worldwide reputation for its record-breaking Steelhead Trout.

**KM 28.4/Mile 17.6**

**KISPIOX VILLAGE**

Anspayaxw which means "People of the Hiding Place". Turn right at the first road past the distinctive Kispiox Band Administration building on the right. Proceed down the gravel road.

**KM 28.9/Mile 18** 

**KISPIOX TOTEMS**

Park in the large gravel parking area in front and to the side of the old Fish Hatchery building. A Hand of History sign here relates the story of Fort Stager, part of a failed attempt in the 1860s to build a telegraph line to Europe via the Bering Strait, through Asia.

With about 600 residents, Kispiox is a large Gitxsan community located at the confluence of the Kispiox and Skeena Rivers. Kispiox is renowned for its master carvers, totems and scenic setting. Across from the hatchery parking lot is a line of 16 extraordinary totems. It is also a short walk from the hatchery to the riverside.

Return the way you came to the Kispiox Valley Road.

**KM 29.4/Mile 18.3**

**KISPIOX VALLEY ROAD**

Turn right and continue up the Kispiox Valley. The Kispiox Valley is home to 500 people who live on farms and large acreages. Constructed in the time of the Klondike Gold Rush, the Yukon Telegraph line, which stretched between Ashcroft and Atlin, extended northward through the Kispiox Valley. The line operated from 1900 to 1936, and provided employment for local ranchers and packers who supplied isolated telegraph operators. The Kispiox Valley is now known for its pleasant rural lifestyle.

*The basic unit of Gitxsan society is the House or Wilp, which corresponds with a territory and is led by a hereditary chief. The Gitxsan are organized into four clans: Lax Gibuu (Wolf), Lax Seel/Ganeda (Frog), Giskaast (Fireweed) and Lax Skiik (Eagle). It is a matrilineal society, meaning members trace lineage through their mothers. Wilp history is recorded on totem poles. ([www.gitxsan.com](http://www.gitxsan.com))*

**KISPIOX VILLAGE**

1. Kispiox Band Office
2. Kispiox Salmon Hatchery
3. Totem Poles
4. Camping Area
5. Pierce Memorial United Church
6. Kispiox Community Centre
7. Gas Bar
8. Fire Hall
9. Kispiox River Adventures & Fly Shop





### **KM 41.6/Mile 25.9** 🗺️

**KISPIOX RODEO GROUNDS/ COMMUNITY HALL**  
Perhaps take a walk on the grounds and to the river. It is here where the annual KISPIOX VALLEY RODEO is held the first weekend in June and the annual KISPIOX VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL, the last weekend in July. Return back down the Kispiox Valley Road the way you came towards Hazelton. At this point you can either return to Hazelton and/or Highway 16, or continue with the "Hands of History" adventure.

For those who wish to complete the entire tour, proceed down the Kispiox Valley Road to the intersection at the Kitwanga Backroad (Hazelton-Kitwanga Road).

### **KM 60.9/Mile 37.8** **KITWANGA BACKROAD**

Turn a sharp right and drive uphill along the scenic back road towards Kitwanga. (This turn may not be feasible for large motorhomes.) The Kitwanga Backroad is a gravel road but maintained to high standards.

### **KM 66.2-63.4/Mile 41.1-41.3** **HAZELTON OVERLOOK**

Excellent views of Hazelton, the Skeena River and Roche de Boulé Mountains (Stekyooden Peak). Please pull as far off the road as possible if you stop to take photos. Continue on the Backroad.

*A famous legend of the Tsimshian relates how the village of Temlaham in the Skeena Valley was destroyed when mountain goats caused a landslide that killed all but one man. The destruction was punishment for the maltreatment of a baby goat by the children. The lone survivor was the one person who finally rescued the baby goat from its tormentors and who is responsible for our knowledge of this story today. Geological investigations suggest a massive debris flow occurred on nearby Chicago Creek about 3500 years ago.*

### **KM 74.5/Mile 46.3** 🗺️ **TEMLAHAM**

Look for the plaque and gravel turn-off on left. Temlaham (Prairie Town) figures in legend after legend of the Tsimshian, Haida, Tlingit, and Gitksan peoples. This "paradise lost" is the legendary birthplace of all northwest coast First Nations.

This is a great place for a picnic or a stroll down to the river. Farms in this area take advantage of some of the best climate in Northwestern British Columbia – 19 inches of rain a year and a warm southern exposure.

The Kitwanga Backroad is closed a few kilometres further along. Congratulations on completing the first part of the tour. Return the way you came on the Backroad and turn right at the Kispiox Valley Road to return to Hazelton, New Hazelton or Highway 16.

### **KM 97.8/Mile 60.1** 🗺️ **HAZELTON AREA VISITOR CENTRE** End of Part 1 of the tour.

*More Adventures: More determined travellers can find two other Hands of History Signs in the area not mentioned in this itinerary. One sign about mining is accessed along the gravel Hazelton-Kitwanga Road by turning right off Highway 37, 6.7 kilometres north of the junction with Highway 16 at Kitwanga. This sign tells of the colourful mining history of the area and shows where former mines are located above Carnaby. The second sign is west along Highway 16 at Cedarvale, towards Terrace. At Cedarvale, missionary Robert Thomlinson founded a religious community called Minskinish in the late 1800s. A very pleasant 2.2 km detour off the highway is worth taking at Cedarvale. Stay on this road, Cedarvale Ferry Road, as it returns to the highway a short distance to the south.*



HAZELTONS  
VISITOR CENTRE

# SKEENA VALLEY/ KITWANGA FORT /GITANYOW

## GITANYOW (KITWANCOOL)

1. Totems
2. Gas Bar & Convenience Store
3. Gitanyow Band Office
4. Soccer Field
5. Gitanyow Health Clinic

### KM 0/Mile 0

#### HAZELTON AREA VISITOR CENTRE

Starting at the Visitor Centre in New Hazelton, this segment of the tour heads westward following the Skeena River and CN rail line and north on a 15 minute drive along the Stewart Cassiar Highway 37 to Gitanyow (Kitwancool). The Hands of History stops of interest are described from Gitanyow back towards our starting point in New Hazelton. From the Visitor Centre, exit the parking area and turn right onto Highway 16 (towards Kitwanga and Terrace).

### KM 43.1/Mile 26.8

#### STEWART-CASSIAR HIGHWAY 37 JUNCTION

At the Petro-Canada gas station, turn right on this paved highway and proceed north 21 kilometres (13 miles) to Gitanyow Village (Kitwancool). The Stewart-Cassiar Highway offers remarkable natural sights en route to Stewart and beyond to the Yukon and Alaska. Traveller information is available at the Hazelton Area Visitor Centre or visit [www.stewartcassiarhighway.com](http://www.stewartcassiarhighway.com).

### KM 64.2/Mile 39.9

#### GITANYOW TURN-OFF

(also known as "Kitwancool") Gitanyow means "place of many numbers" - Turn left past the GITANYOW ACCESS ROAD sign and proceed into the village. The totems of Gitanyow are reputed to be the most artistic and creative examples of the carvers art. There are totems in Gitanyow and Gitsegukla that were painted by Emily Carr.

### KM 65.9/Mile 41.0

Cross the small bridge over Kitwancool River, stay to the right as you enter the community. In August and September, look for spawning salmon in the river.

### KM 66.6/Mile 41.4

#### GITANYOW TOTEMS

Turn right off the road just past the fire hydrant, park in large open area to the side of the cedar carving shed. It is almost impossible to describe the magic of the Gitanyow totems. Perhaps it is the isolation of the village or the sound of the Kitwancool River in the background...or maybe it is the power of seeing more than 20 towering sculptures that display images that are truly of another world. It is worth taking time to wander amongst these timeless sentinels of Northwest Coast culture. Return to the highway the way you came.

### KM 69.0/Mile 42.9

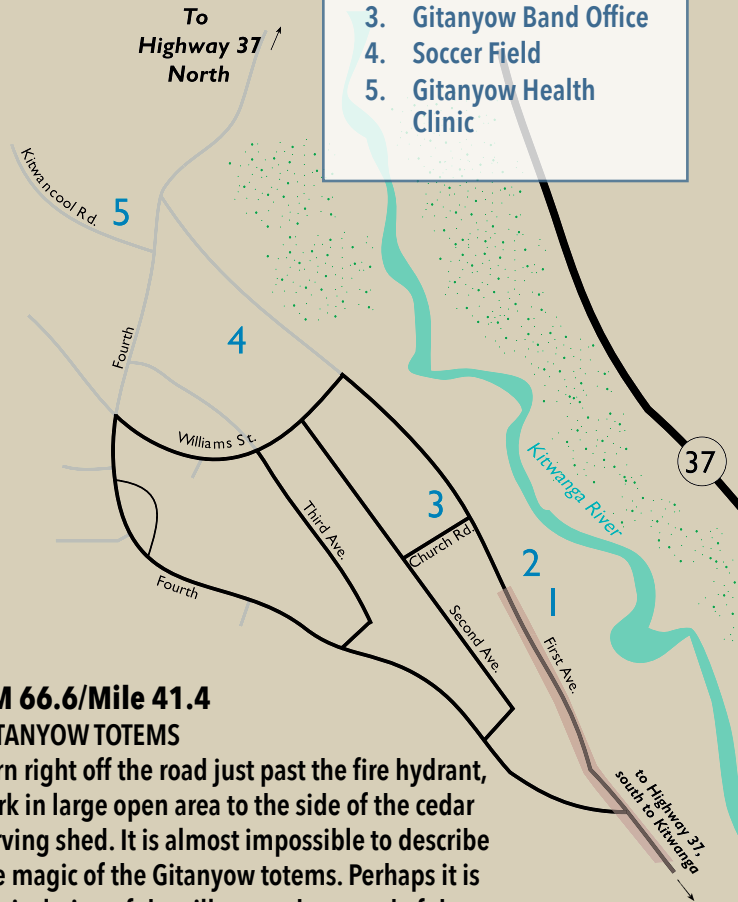
#### STEWART-CASSIAR HIGHWAY JUNCTION

Turn right and proceed back down the way you came (approx. 14.5 kilometres).

### KM 83.5/Mile 51.9

#### KITWANGA JUNCTION

Turn right at signs marking the exit to Kitwanga.





*Kitwanga Fort (Battle Hill) commemorates the history of a "Daa'ootsip," or fortified village that was occupied by the Gitwanga during the late 1700s and early 1800s. From this hilltop stronghold, the warrior Chief 'Nekt led a series of raids against neighbouring First Nations. The stronghold was attacked twice by warriors seeking revenge for 'Nekt's attacks. Both times the Gitwanga defeated the attackers by rolling spiked logs upon them. (from Parks Canada brochure)*



**KM 84.3/Mile 52.4**

**KITWANGA FORT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE (BATTLE HILL)**

On your right, this National Historical Site preserves the legendary fortress of 'NEKT. The Gitksan constructed a number of trails that connected their villages. At strategic trail or river locations, forts were built to control trade and defend territory. Excavations at this site have found evidence of intricate fortifications, log bastions and remnants of food and cooking utensils. Parks Canada information panels are placed on the short path to the hilltop fort site.

**KM 84.9/Mile 52.8**

**HISTORIC SAINT SAVIOUR'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**KM 85.4/Mile 53.1**

**KITWANGA**

A stop for food and gas.

**KM 86.0/Mile 53.4**

**STEWART-CASSIAR HIGHWAY JUNCTION**

Turn right.

**KM 89.4/Mile 55.6**

**CEDARVALE-KITWANGA ROAD**

An optional side-trip is to turn right onto the Cedarvale-Kitwanga Road. After approximately 9 kilometres spectacular vistas across the Skeena River and to the 2500 metre high Seven Sisters mountain range come into view. This is mostly a gravel road and not recommended for large motorhomes.

**KM 89.9/Mile 55.9**

**GITWANGAK TOTEMS ACCESS**

(Gitwanga, means "people of the place of rabbits") Turn left onto paved road immediately before Skeena River Bridge (Bridge Street).

**KITWANGA/GITWANGAK**

1. Kitwanga Fort (Battle Hill) National Historic Site
2. Saint Saviour's Anglican Church
3. Post Office
4. Centennial Park
5. Gas Station
6. Kitwanga Community Playground
7. Sports Fields
8. Gitwanga Community Hall
9. Gitwanga Band Office/Fire Hall
10. Saint Paul's Anglican Church
11. Totem Poles
12. Gas Station/Bank Machine

OFFICIAL TOWER OPENING - ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KITWANGA

photo: Gary White & John Veillette



**KM 90.0/Mile 55.59****ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

Turn left into parking lot. The distinctive church constructed in 1893 is yet another reminder of the missionary past. The original bell tower in front of the church was destroyed by fire and rebuilt by community members in 1979.

**KM 90.3/Mile 56.1****GITWANGAK TOTEMS**

These 8-10 excellent examples of the carver's art were placed in this location in 1926 after a restoration project assisted by Canadian National Railways. Walk a short distance behind the totems to view the Skeena River. Turn around in a turnout just past the totems and return towards the bridge and highway the way you came.

**KM 90.9/Mile 56.5**

Turn left and cross the Skeena River. This bridge was built in 1973 and replaced a car ferry further downstream at Cedarvale that was the only way to cross the Skeena River between Hazelton and Terrace.

**KM 91.3/Mile 56.7**

Turn left off the bridge into the Petro-Canada gas station. A place for gas and maybe a photo of the "NORTH TO ALASKA" signpost.

**KM 91.14/Mile 56.8**

Turn left out of gas station parking lot onto Yellowhead Highway 16.

**KM 108.1/Mile 67.1** **SKEENA CROSSING**

Large pull-out on right, just before entering the community of Kitsegukla. This Hand of History plaque commemorates construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (now the Canadian National Railway) and specifically the 1912 completion of a railway bridge crossing just upriver from this location. Ironically, sternwheelers on the Skeena River supported this construction project, but soon met their demise as rail travel became the preferred method of transportation. Continue down Highway 16.

**KM 108.4/Mile 67.3****ENTERING KITSEGUKLA**

Kitsegukla, or Gitsegukla, meaning "people of the sharp pointed mountain", is a Gitksan village located near river canyons that provide excellent opportunities to net some of the 5 million salmon that migrate up the Skeena River annually. Continue down Highway 16.

**KM 124.7/Mile 77.5** **SEELEY LAKE**

Turn right off Highway 16 at Seeley Lake Provincial Park. A "Hand of History" sign commemorates the mythic grizzly bear that inhabited the lake in centuries past. Good fishing, swimming and camping. Turn right from the parking area to return to Highway 16. Continue down Highway 16 until you see the signs for South Hazelton.

**KM 127.3/Mile 79.1****SOUTH HAZELTON ENTRANCE**

Turn left off the highway and proceed along Aldous Street into South Hazelton. At approximately 3 km the road will turn right (Omineca Avenue). South Hazelton and New Hazelton were born of the railway—both originating with the railway construction starting around 1909. Great futures were predicted and grand plans drawn; South Hazelton was promoted as "The Chicago of the North."

**KM 130.4/Mile 81.0****HAZELTON STATION ROAD**

Turning left at Hazelton Station Road takes one on a 2 kilometre descent along a gravel road to Anderson Flats, along the Bulkley River opposite 'Ksan and Gitanmaax. Due to some steepness and sharp corners, larger motorhomes are advised to use caution.

**KM 132.5/Mile 82.3** **MISSION POINT**

Anderson Flats has played an important role in the history of the region. It has been the location of native trading, explorer's camps, a Methodist mission, a Hudson's Bay outpost, a slaughter yard, and a golf course. The site is now a provincial park, favourite local picnic ground and fishing hole. Return the way to you came, to the top of the hill.



**KM 134.7/Mile 83.7**

**ALDOUS STREET**

After crossing the railway tracks again, turn left at the top of the hill.

**KM 135.4/Mile 84.1**

**HIGHWAY 16 JUNCTION**

Turn left and continue down Highway 16, past the Visitor Centre, through New Hazelton to the New Hazelton welcome sign at the paved turnout on the left.

**KM 140.3/Mile 87.2** 🚒

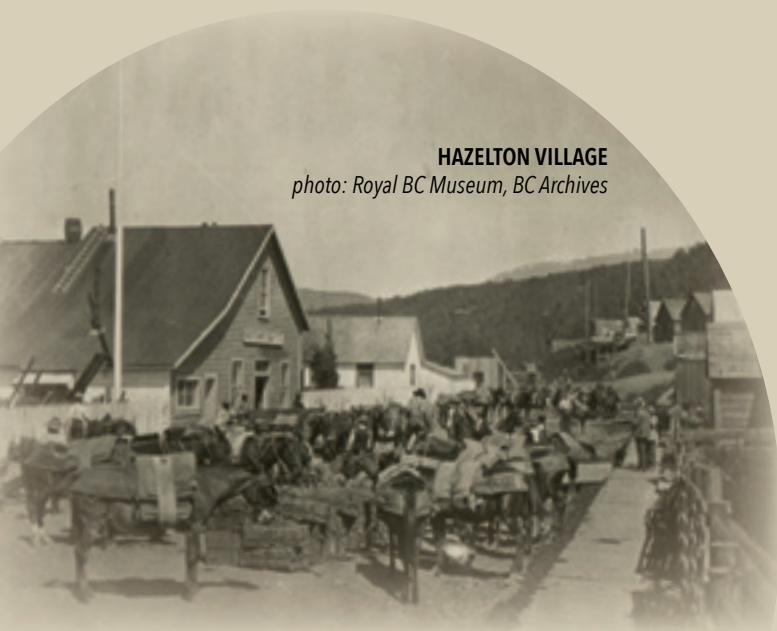
**BANK ROBBERIES**

Near this location the last “Wild West” bank robbery and shootout in Western Canada took place. Russian anarchists met a gruesome fate when they came up against the sharp-shooting townsfolk of New Hazelton.

**KM 141.82/Mile 87.7**

**HAZELTON AREA VISITOR CENTRE**

A short return through New Hazelton brings you back to the Visitor Centre and completion of the tour. We trust the experience was rewarding and thank you for visiting the Hazeltons: The Historic Heartland of Northwest British Columbia.



**HAZELTON VILLAGE**

*photo: Royal BC Museum, BC Archives*



# COMMUNITY

## CLIMATE

Hazelton has a humid continental climate. Winters are cold but are milder than what the latitude may suggest, owing to Pacific air masses. The average temperature in winter is  $-9^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $16.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) however, arctic air masses can sometimes push temperatures below  $-30.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-22.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), usually a few days per year. The average annual snowfall is 185 centimetres (72.8 in). Summers are warm with a July daytime high of  $23.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $73.9^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) although nighttime temperatures are usually cool, with a July low of  $9.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $48.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). In an average summer, there are 7 days where the temperature exceeds  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $86.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). The average annual precipitation is 614 millimetres (24 in) with March and April being the driest months and October through January being the wetter months.

## POPULATION

Population for "the Hazeltons" (Hazelton, New Hazelton, South Hazelton, Two Mile, the Kispiox Valley, Kispiox, Hagwilget, Gitanmaax and Sik-E-Dakh)

**Total:** 3369

**Male:** 1735

**Female:** 1634

## TOP EMPLOYERS

**Northern Health** (Wrinch Memorial Hospital)

**School District 82** (Hazelton Secondary School, New Hazelton Elementary, Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary)

**Coast Mountain College** (Hazelton Campus)

## POPULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Anything outdoors: hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, ATV, climbing, rafting, kayaking, skating, snowshoeing, skiing, relaxing by lakes/rivers
- Food Gathering & Preserving: berries, mushrooms, fish, moose
- Community sports: volleyball, basketball, soccer, hockey, softball
- Community groups: gardening, literacy groups, prayer groups, choirs, yoga, folk dancing

## HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

**Vancouver average:** \$1,830,000

**Northern BC Average:** \$275,000

**Hazeltons homes** (Calderwood Realty, ReMax)

Small to medium-sized: \$150,000 - \$250,000

Large home on acreage: \$250,000 - \$1,000,000

HAGWILGET CANYON BRIDGE  
& THE BULKLEY RIVER



## PROXIMITY TO REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

### Local Region

- Smithers - 68 km (E)
- Terrace - 144 km (W)
- Kitimat - 200 km (W)
- Prince Rupert - 287 km (W)
- Stewart - 260 km (NW)
- Iskut - 448 km (NW)
- Dease Lake - 531 km (NW)
- Telegraph Creek - 635 km (NW)
- Houston - 131 km (E)
- Burns Lake - 211 km (E)
- Vanderhoof - 339 km (E)
- Prince George - 445 km (E)
- Quesnel - 553 km (SE)

## EDUCATION

### Elementary

### First Nations Education

### Secondary

### Coast Mountain College (CMTN)

(formerly North West Community College/NWCC)

Hazelton Campus  
Smithers Campus  
Terrace Campus

### University of Northern British Columbia / UNBC

Terrace  
Prince George



HAGWILGET PEAK



...CONT'D

# COMMUNITY

## HEALTHCARE

Wrinch Memorial Hospital, a fully accredited acute care facility, operates under Northern Health. The hospital has 10 acute care beds and 10 residential care beds and some of the services include:

- 24/7 emergency medical care
- Lab services
- Diagnostic imaging
- Ultrasound
- Pharmacy
- Psychiatry observation unit
- Diabetic education
- Dietary services
- Long term care
- Maternity
- Pre and post-natal care
- OR/Operating Room
- Physiotherapy
- Pathology
- Dental care
- Aboriginal patient liaison services

We have visiting specialists in podiatry, geriatric assessment, cardiology, pediatric cardiology, internal medicine, urology, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, otolaryngology, pediatrics, respirology and allergy, rheumatology, and occupational therapy. The facility also contains a doctor's clinic which provides outreach services to surrounding villages. Other health and community care services include:

- Three public health services including Public Health, Gitxsan Health and Wet'suwet'en Health
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Skeena Place Assisted Living Complex
- Home and community care support services



## **OTHER LOCAL RESOURCES**

### **Hazelton Area Visitor Centre**

4070 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New Hazelton BC, V0J 2J0  
tourism@newhazelton.ca  
www.hazeltonstourism.ca

May long weekend until the end of September:  
250-842-6071 (Off-season: 250-842-6571)

### **'Ksan Historical Village**

Box 326, Hazelton, BC, V0J 1Y0  
250-842-5544 • www.ksan.org

### **District of New Hazelton**

3026 Bowser Street, New Hazelton BC, V0J 2J0  
250-842-6571 • www.newhazelton.ca

### **Village of Hazelton**

4310 Field Street, Hazelton BC, V0J 1Y0  
250-842-5991 • www.hazelton.ca

### **Northern Health**

2510 Highway 62, Hazelton BC, V0J 1Y0  
250-842-5211

### **School District 82**

3211 Kenney Street, Terrace BC, V8G 3E9  
250-635-4931

### **Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine**

300-4545 Lazelle Avenue, Terrace BC, V8G 4E1  
250-615-6100 or 1-800-663-3208

### **Religious Centres**

Kitsegukla United Church  
Gitsegukla

Salvation Army Church  
Gitsegukla

Salvation Army Church  
Glen Vowell

Hagwilget Church  
Hagwilget

Kispiox Pentecostal Church  
Kispiox

Pierce Memorial United Church  
Kispiox

Saint Peter's Anglican Church  
Village Of Hazelton

Mountainview United Church  
Village Of Hazelton

Hazelton Seventh-day Adventist Church  
Village Of Hazelton

Mt. Rocher Alliance Church  
South Hazelton

ROY HENRY VICKERS IS A WORLD-RENOWNED CANADIAN FIRST NATIONS ARTIST WHO ORIGINATES FROM THE KISPIOX VALLEY. HE IS BEST KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD FOR HIS LIMITED EDITION PRINTS AND IS ALSO AN ACCOMPLISHED CARVER, DESIGN ADVISOR OF PRESTIGIOUS PUBLIC SPACES, A SOUGHT-AFTER KEYNOTE SPEAKER, AND PUBLISHER / AUTHOR OF SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL BOOKS. IN 2018, HE WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE MUSIC BAND, THE GRATEFUL DEAD, TO DESIGN THEIR 2018 ALBUM COVER. IN ADDITION, HE IS A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN THE FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY, AND A TIRELESS SPOKESPERSON FOR RECOVERY FROM ADDICTIONS AND ABUSE.

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# COMMUNITY

# WHY DO WE LOVE

NATURAL BEAUTY,  
FAMILY, GREAT FRIENDS  
& COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SENSE OF COMMUNITY,  
BEING ABLE TO FEEL LIKE YOU ARE  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE & AN IMPORTANT  
PART OF THAT COMMUNITY,  
LANDSCAPE & LIFESTYLE

I CAME FOR THE PEOPLE  
& STAYED FOR  
THE MOUNTAINS

HOMETOWN PRIDE, FAMILY,  
BEAUTIFUL SCENERY & NATURAL  
PLAYGROUND




# LIVING HERE?

THE NATURE, THE LAID-BACK LIFESTYLE, FRIENDLY FACES ALL OVER & A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY THAT YOU DO NOT GET IN BIG CITIES

THE PEACE & QUIET, FREEDOM AND FRESH AIR. WE ARE SO LUCKY TO HAVE THIS — HARD TO COME BY ANYWHERE ELSE.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS, THE GREAT PEOPLE & THE PEACE

THE SCENIC VISTAS & SPRAWLING LANDSCAPES ARE "THE WORK OF GOD'S PAINTBRUSH"

A man in a dark jacket and brown pants is fishing on a wooden dock. The dock is made of logs and has several tires floating in the water. The background shows a calm lake reflecting the sky, a dense forest of evergreen trees, and a range of snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky.

ELIZABETH LAKE RECREATION SITE





The  
**Hazeltons**  
COMMUNITY GUIDE

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VISITOR CENTRE

250-842-6071 (off -season: 250-842-6571)  
4070 9th Avenue, New Hazelton BC, V0J 2J0  
tourism@newhazelton.ca • [www.hazeltonstourism.ca](http://www.hazeltonstourism.ca)