

Birding watching locations along the tour:

The following locations represent a diversity of habitats and species. Each location varies in regard to the facilities available; some are just trails or wilderness areas, others are large wildlife centres. Please use the accompanying map and plan ahead, especially to understand access, conditions and directions. Enjoy!

Regional travel & tourism websites to help you plan your travels:

www.twonationbirdingvacation.com

www.selkirkloop.org

www.kootenayrockies.com

www.hellobc.com

www.visitid.org

www.experiencewa.com

www.byways.org

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(BC – CAN) British Columbia, Canada
(WA – USA) Washington, United States
(ID – USA) Idaho, United States

1 - Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (BC-CAN)

This internationally renowned 7,000 hectare / 17,000 acre Ramsar site is managed for wetland conservation and biodiversity. Water levels within a series of wetland compartments maintain a rich diversity of habitat, noted for supporting more than 280 bird, 57 mammal, 17 fish, six reptile, six amphibian and thousands of invertebrate and plant species. Located on the Pacific Flyway, this endangered wetland complex provides invaluable refuge for thousands of nesting birds and is a critical staging area for countless migrants. The centre has tours, a Discovery Gallery, Nature Science Lab, a Gift Shop, 35 km of trails with two wildlife viewing towers, and more.

Located 11km / 7 miles west of Creston, BC

Ph: 250.402.6900

www.crestonwildlife.ca

Disclaimer

This information only serves as a single information source to help you explore the area. Please augment this with area travel guides, website information and road maps. This is a mountainous region with small towns and cities connected by well maintained highways. Please research and plan your travels safely and consult road and weather conditions prior to heading out. When planning to explore trails and natural areas consult local sources for current information on access and conditions. All partners involved in the creation and publication of this booklet, and its associated website take no responsibility for any mishaps you and your travel companions may experience.

2 - Pilot Bay Provincial Park (BC-CAN)

Pilot Bay Provincial Park is located off Highway 3A just south of the charming artistic community of Crawford Bay and north of Creston. Enjoy lovely vistas across the lake and an extensive network of trails through the Park and along the Pilot Peninsula to view local birds. Visit the historic Pilot Bay lighthouse! This park offers trails, picnic tables, pit toilets and basic tenting spots.

www.bcparks.ca

3 - Crawford Bay Wetlands (BC – CAN)

Crawford Bay Wetlands are located adjacent to Crawford Bay Beach, offering excellent bird habitat and viewing opportunities. Check with locals upon arrival for more details and access information.

www.kootenaylake.bc.ca

4 - Kokanee Creek Provincial Park (BC-CAN)

Kokanee Creek Provincial Park is located on Highway 3A, across Kootenay Lake via the scenic Kootenay Lake Ferry, the world's longest free ferry (30 minutes). The Park is a full service facility on 257 hectares / 635 acres along the West Arm shores of Kootenay Lake. The Kokanee Creek delta ecology includes many species of birds, mammals and plants. Facilities include a full campground/RV park, multiple trails, and interpretive centre and more.

www.bcparks.ca

5 - West Arm of Kootenay Lake & Lakeside Park (BC – CAN)

The entire West Arm of Kootenay Lake offers a wealth of birding opportunities alongside visits to quaint communities such as Balfour, Nelson, Procter and Harrop. Lakeside Park in Nelson, at the foot of the famous 'Orange Bridge,' is the pride of Nelson's waterfront, encompassing many outdoor activities, a paved walking trail and a variety of bird species. The park is a key congregation hotspot for waterfowl, including Western and Red-throated Grebe, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Barrow's Goldeneye and the Red-breasted Merganser.

<http://kootenay-lake.ca/seasons/calendar>

www.kootenaylake.bc.ca

www.discovernelson.com

6 - Whitewater Road, Nelson (BC – CAN)

Whitewater Road is located off Highway 6, 10km / 6.2 miles south of Nelson towards Salmo. This easy 10km / 6.2 mile drive up into a sub-alpine area of Whitewater Ski Resort is open all year round. In summer, four-wheel drive is not needed. From there intrepid hikers can explore the unmarked ski trails in search of mountain species such as Townsend's Warbler, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Alder Flycatcher and Varied Thrush.

www.discovernelson.com

www.skiwhitewater.com

7 - Walter Clough Wildlife Area, Slocan (BC – CAN)

The Walter Clough Wildlife Area (61 hectares / 151 acres) is located along the Slocan River between the town of Slocan and Lemon Creek, off Highway 6, north of Nelson. Only accessible by canoe, the area is a shallow reed- and rush-choked waterway home to many waterfowl and wildlife. Experienced canoeists only. For information on the river, tours or equipment contact Smiling Otter Tours.

www.smilingotter.com

www.slocanvalley.com

www.slocancity.com

www.slocanlake.com

8 - Waldie Island Trail, Castlegar (BC – CAN)

Waldie Island Trail is located in the city of Castlegar, along the banks of the historic Columbia River. This 1.5km / 1 mile self-guided interpretive trail introduces walkers to the intricacies of a complex riparian ecosystem rich in birdlife, including a Heron Reserve, a chance to see mammals, and the 'Cottonwood Jungle.' Drop by the Visitor Information Centre for more details and directions.

www.friendsoftrails.org

www.castlegar.com

9 - Mel DeAnna Nature Trail, Castlegar (BC – CAN)

Mel DeAnna Nature Trail is an easy 2.5km / 1.5 mile hike around Champion Ponds just southeast of Castlegar off Highway 3 toward Salmo. Turn off at the viewpoint that overlooks Castlegar. Walk the main trail over the lookout and toward the gate; once through the gate this wonderful hike starts. Hidden on the pond's edge are nest boxes for the Wood Duck. Further along you may see beavers and the more common deciduous and mixed woodland bird species.

www.friendsoftrails.org

www.castlegar.com

10 - Syringa Creek Provincial Park (BC – CAN)

Syringa Creek Provincial Park is located 19km northwest of Castlegar via the Robson exit off Highway 3A. The 4,417 hectare / 11,000 acre Park sits along the east side of Lower Arrow Lake, and is a beautiful mixture of rich forest and grasslands. A full service park, Syringa Creek features an archaeological site, three beaches, outdoor nature displays and the 4km / 2.5 mile Yellow Pine Nature Trail. With a variety of habitats comes a variety of birdlife.

www.bcparks.ca

www.westkootenayparks.com

11 - Beaver Creek Provincial Park (BC – CAN)

Beaver Creek Provincial Park is located southeast of Trail along the eastern bank of the Columbia River. A full service park, Beaver Creek protects the habitat of a variety of wildlife and vegetation species, some of which are rare or endangered. There is one main walking trail along the river. A popular hike for nature enthusiasts, the 1km / 0.62 mile trail goes through open grasslands, following a level terrace above the river.

www.bcparks.ca

12 - Stagleap Provincial Park (BC – CAN)

Stagleap Provincial Park is located at the summit of the highest all-weather highway pass in BC and is one of the highest paved highways in Canada (1,770 metre / 5,807ft summit). Enjoy the sub-alpine forest from your car, or go for a short walk around Bridal Lake. For those more adventurous, take the 2km / 1.2 mile trail from the lake up to a viewpoint at about 2,000 metres / 6,560ft elevation, featuring great views of boulder-strewn ridges and slopes—perfect habitat for the sought after target species of White-tail Ptarmigan and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.

www.bcparks.ca

13 - Sullivan Lake – Metaline Falls (WA, USA)

Taking Highway 6 south to the Canada-USA border, continue south on WA-31. Prior to reaching Metaline Falls turn left onto Sullivan Lake Road. This lake is a popular recreation spot nestled in the mountains. There is a 6.5km / 4 mile lakeshore National Recreation Trail on the east side of the lake. On the north end, there is a 1km / 0.6 mile interpretive nature trail. Noisy Creek Trail climbs 884 metres / 2,900ft to Hall Mountain, with spectacular views of the lake, mountains and wildlife.

www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville

Ph: 509-446-7500

14 - Salmo Mountain, Colville National Forest (WA – USA)

Access this area from Sullivan Lake Road north of Metaline Falls. Sullivan Lake Road goes past Mill Pond to an intersection on the left with FR-22 in a bit less than five miles. (Maps and other useful information may be had by continuing a half mile straight ahead to the Sullivan Lake ranger station).

Salmo Mountain, at 2,081m / 6,828 ft, is part of the Salmo-Priest Wilderness; an unspoiled wildland. Featuring a variety of important habitats for all sorts of birds and mammals, this is probably the best spot to locate the Boreal Owl and White-winged Crossbill. Be sure to research this location ahead of time to plan and understand these wilderness routes and trails.

www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville

Ph: 509-684-7000

15 - Big Meadow Lake, Lone (WA – USA)

Big Meadow Lake is located 14.4km / 9 miles west of Lone, at the head of Meadow Creek. This 29 hectare / 72 acre lake and its surrounding area boast a variety of bird life and is an important nesting area. Species include Goldeneyes, Grebes, Warblers, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and much more. Facilities on site include camping, restrooms, nature trails and a wildlife viewing platform.

www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville

Ph: 509-684-7000

16 - Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge (WA-USA)

The Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge is located 20km / 13 miles southeast of Colville, WA. 41,573 forested acres / 16,831 hectares, the Refuge provides important habitat for many mammals and more than 200 bird species. Species of special interest at the Refuge include the Golden Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Flammulated Owl, Vaux's Swift, White-headed, Pileated and Black-backed Woodpeckers. Facilities include an auto tour route, basic camping areas, pit toilets, trails and a fishing dock.

www.fws.gov/littlependoreille

Ph: 509-684-8384

17 – LeClerc Creek Wildlife Recreation Area (WA – USA)

Located on LeClerc Road, 16km / 10 miles south of Lone, this area is 249 hectares / 614 acres of mostly forested habitat providing great bird and wildlife viewing opportunities.

<http://wdfw.wa.gov>

18 - Hanna Flats Cedar Grove, Priest Lake (ID, USA)

This bird watching area is located 1.6km / 1 mile west of the Priest Lake Ranger Headquarters, off Hwy 57. Road signs near Mile Post 32 will direct you to the trailhead. Hanna Flats is 6.5 hectares / 16 acres of old-growth cedars between 200-800 years old. Walk the short interpretive trail while keeping your eyes and ears alert to a variety of forest species. Priest Lake is a full service recreation playground.

www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/priestlake

Ph: 208-443-2512

19 - Morton Slough Wildlife Area (ID, USA)

Located 21km / 13 miles southwest of Sandpoint, Morton Slough is fed by the backwaters of the Pend Oreille River and is rich in aquatic life and the wildlife and waterfowl that feed on it. Diving birds are attracted to this area, and it is an important stopping point on the migration route. Watch for Teals, Coots, Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Osprey and much more. Facilities include basic camping and restroom. Drop by the Visitor Information Centre in Sandpoint for more details.

www.sandpointchamber.com

#20 - Waterlife Discovery Center & Sandpoint Hatchery (ID, USA)

This new Center is located across the river from Sandpoint on Lakeshore Drive off Hwy 95. To get there take State Highway 95 to the south end of the Long Bridge. Turn west on Lakeshore Drive and travel 1 km / 1.5 miles to the hatchery site.

A habitat education and interpretive Centre, this self-guided area combines a fish hatchery with nature trails, overlook bridges, wildlife viewing platforms, interpretive signs and underwater viewing opportunities. Facilities include a picnic area and restrooms. Drop by the Visitor Info Center in Sandpoint for more details.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wdc>

Ph: 208-769-1414

www.sandpointchamber.com

21 - McArthur Lake Wildlife Management Area (ID – USA)

The McArthur Lake Wildlife Management Area is adjacent to Hwy 95, 29km / 18 miles north of Sandpoint and 21 km / 13 miles south of Bonners Ferry. Covering an area of 488 hectares / 1,207 acres, the lake is popular for fishing and wildlife viewing. If you love ducks, this is the place, with 13 species known to breed here and up to 6,000 migratory ducks visiting each spring and fall. Many other species are also present such as the American Coot, Ruffed Goose, Common Snipe, Wild Turkey and the Mourning Dove. Facilities include restrooms, trails and viewing areas.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wma/mac/>

Ph: 208-769-1414

www.sandpointchamber.com

22 - Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (ID – USA)

The Refuge is located just 8 km / 5 miles west of Bonners Ferry. Nestled beside the Selkirk Mountains of Northern Idaho, this 1,123 hectare/2,774 acre Refuge provides diverse habitats for a large variety of wildlife including Moose, Elk, Deer, Bear, Otter, Bald Eagles, and migratory waterfowl such as American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, and Teal. Established in 1965 as a migratory waterfowl refuge, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge provides habitat to more than 220 bird, 45 mammal, and 22 fish species. The Refuge has a 7.2 km / 4.5 mile auto tour route and five hiking trails, one which leads you to Myrtle Creek Falls. The Refuge is open year round from dawn to dusk.

www.fws.gov/kootenai

Ph: 208.267.3888

www.bonnersferrychamber.com

23 – The Nature Conservancy Ball Creek Ranch (ID - USA)

Located 19km / 12 miles northwest of Bonners Ferry, this wildlife sanctuary is called the Wetland of Dreams. Ball Creek is 931 hectares / 2,300 acres, with 6.5 km / 4 miles of Kootenai River shoreline, two tributaries (Ball & Trout Creek), over 220 bird species, and is an important migration corridor for wildlife in the Selkirk and Cabinet/Yaak ecosystems. There are no on-site facilities.

www.nature.org

Ph: 208-267-9629

www.bonnersferrychamber.com

24 - Boundary Creek Wildlife Management Area (ID – USA)

Located just southwest of Porthill, close to the border, Boundary Creek features 569 hectares / 1,405 acres of fish and wildlife habitat, and unique viewing areas and trails. There are minimal facilities at this location.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wma/boundary>

Ph: 208-769-1414

www.bonnersferrychamber.com