

Arrowstone Park

Site Identification

Nearest Community: Cache Creek, BC
 Geocache Location: N 50 49.285'
 W121 14.716'
 Altitude: 826m/2709ft
 Accuracy: 2 metres
 Overall terrain: 3 (1=easiest;5=hardest)
 Overall terrain difficulty: 2
 Date Established: 1996
 Ownership: Provincial Park
 Access and Restrictions: -4x4 trail – Need good
 clearance. Do not use
 a car.
 -Follow Back Valley
 Road for 3.7km. Turn
 right onto 4x4 trail.
 Follow until your 1st
 right. 4x4 trail is 2km
 long to site.
 -Year round access

Letterbox Clues: From faint walking trail,
 left side of 4x4 trail walk
 down 17 paces, located
 under sage. View of
 Border of Park from
 above.

Parking: Pull off trail on left side.

For more information or to report a
 problem with this site please contact:

Gold Country Communities Society
 PO. Box 933
 Cache Creek, BC.,
 VOK 1H0

Tel: 1-877-453-9467
 email: info@exploregoldcountry.com

For more site pages go to:
www.goldtrail.com

Apply Sticker Here



Photo: Kurt Evans

Arrowstone Provincial Park,
 to the northeast of Cache
 Creek, was established on
 April 30, 1996. Taking in an
 area of 6,200 hectares, it was
 formed to protect one of the
 largest undisturbed
 watersheds in the B.C.
 southern interior, taking in
 area between the Bonaparte
 and Deadman River
 drainages.

The name is derived from the
 basalt found in the area,
 which the Secwepemc
 (Shuswap) First Nations
 people traditionally used for
 their arrowheads. Legend tells
 how one of the most
 important Secwepemc demi-
 gods, Kwil-î-elt, went with
 some of his friends in search
 of the arrow-stone, which was
 owned by two old women
 who lived near what is now
 Cache Creek. Suspecting that
 they would not be given the
 arrow-stone if they asked for
 it, Kwil-î-elt and his friends
 spoke with each old woman
 separately, telling each one

that the other had been telling
 malicious stories about her.
 The women, angered, began
 fighting each other, and as
 they did so the arrow-stones
 fell from their clothing. The
 men gathered them up, and
 then told the women they had
 been deceived. On hearing
 this, the women asked why
 they had not simply told them
 what they wanted, and
 produced boxes full of
 unworked arrow-stone, as
 well as large quantities of
 finished arrowheads, which
 they presented to the men.
 These were scattered all over
 the countryside, which is why
 the arrow-stone is found in
 such abundance in the area.
 Archaeological research has
 uncovered sites in the
 southwestern corner of the
 park confirming past First
 Nations use.
 The area now encompassed
 by Arrowstone Park also has
 ties with the historic Gang
 Ranch of the Chilcotin area.
 Once the largest ranch in

North America, the Gang Ranch was owned by Thaddeus and Jerome Harper, who traveled north from California to establish herds to feed the hungry miners of the B.C. interior. Their rangeland extended well beyond the ranch itself, and included land near Cache Creek now included in the Arrowstone Park boundaries. Stands of old-growth Douglas fir in the park provide welcome winter shelter, and food, for the migratory mule deer. The protection area also provides valuable habitat for rare species of burrowing owls, falcons, and western rattlesnakes. The dryland forest wilderness contains wide variations of landscape, from semi-arid desert covered in sagebrush and prickly pear to pine forests, streams, and lakes. The park also contains examples of the hoodoos found throughout the region. Hoodoos are striking rock formations carved out over hundreds and thousands of years as soft rock erodes, leaving a hard outer shell which remains. The tall columns typically form in dry, hot, desert areas, and are especially prevalent where volcanic rock formations exist. The “hoodoo landscape” of Arrowstone Park and the surrounding area has been compared with that of Utah or Arizona, and stands in stark contrast with the coastal rain forest only 200 miles away. Arrowstone Park is rare in that it allows hiking in a relatively pristine backcountry environment that is easily accessible from major highways. It can be accessed via Back Valley Road off Highway One east of Cache Creek, Battle Creek Road near Juniper Beach on Highway One, or via Scottie Creek Road north of Cache Creek on Highway 97. Forestry roads skirt round the borders of the park, permitting access from various locations.

Detailed access information:

From Cache Creek, travel east on Highway One and turn left on Back Valley Road

From Cache Creek, travel north on Highway 97 and turn right on Arrowstone Road

From Kamloops, travel east on Highway One and turn right on Battle Creek Road, then left on Cache Creek-Deadman Road

Bibliography & Sources:

Dawson, George M. (1891). *Notes on the Shuswap People of British Columbia*. Ottawa: *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, section III, 1891.

Retrieved June 2012 from British Columbia: BC Parks (online): <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/arrowstone/>

Retrieved June 2012 from BritishColumbia.com (online): <http://www.britishcolumbia.com/ParksAndTrails/Parks/details/?ID=213>