

Geological & Views

Blue Earth Lake

Site Identification

Nearest Community:
Ashcroft, B.C.

Geocache Location:
N 50°35.740'
W 121°29.550'

Altitude:
1,412m/ 4,632ft

Ownership:
Provincial Park

Accuracy:
2 meters

Overall Difficulty: 2
Overall Terrain: 3.5

Access Information and Restrictions:

From Hwy 1 turn off to Blue Earth, it is 20 km to cache. From Cache Creek to cache it is 44.7 km. From Spences Bridge to Blue Earth Lake it is 45 km. 4x4 recommended. 4x4 trail – Need good clearance. Road has large bumps. Be prepared for back country.

Parking Advice:

Park at pull out to single campsite, do not block road.

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

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Photo: Kurt Evans

Blue Earth Lake, nestled in a valley to the west of Highway 1 between Spences Bridge and Ashcroft, offers a small oasis of wetland in the midst of the semiarid conditions of the surrounding area. It forms the centerpiece of Blue Earth Lake Provincial Park, a 705 hectare park established on April 30, 1996.

The area around Blue Earth Lake contains archaeological sites linked with the Nlaka'pamux (Thompson) First Nations people, and is part of their traditional area. An Nlaka'pamux legend tells of how there were no lakes or streams, and consequently no fish, in the area until a great flood covered the land. When the water receded, it left behind lakes in the hollows of the mountains, and fish in the lakes, which is why we have them today.

The many small lakes of the park contain several varieties of fish, including bullhead, bull trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout. In early summer spawning trout can be seen in the shallow channels which link the various lakes. Good fishing can be had by both fly-fishing and trolling, either from the shore or by boat. While the lakes are small, recreational canoeing and kayaking are popular on their crystal-clear waters. A small, somewhat rough boat launch area is available, although it is only suitable for small boats (hand launching only).

The valley, ringed by the Pavilion Mountains, is overlooked by small areas of old-growth Douglas fir and mature aspen trees. The area is of geological interest, as it is situated at the junction of the Marble Canyon limestone formations to the north, and the volcanic rock of the Spences Bridge area to the south. The lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas in the valley provide shelter and sustenance for the songbirds and waterfowl which inhabit the region.

There are no developed hiking trails through the park, but paths follow the shorelines of the lakes, and hiking and mountain biking are allowed on the logging roads which zig-zag through the area. Although there are no defined camping sites, camping is allowed (space permitting; the area can accommodate up to six camping parties at a time).

The beauty and serenity of Blue Earth Lake have attracted many visitors over the years. Perhaps the most famous was British poet laureate Ted Hughes (1930–1998), considered one of the greatest poets of his generation. An avid fisherman, Hughes visited Blue Earth with Ehor Boyanowsky, a criminologist and author who had struck up a friendship with Hughes due to a shared passion for conservation and the environment. While fishing on Blue Earth Lake, Hughes wondered aloud if “this was the place he dreamed about with his brother when they were boys: a land of cowboys and Indians and giant salmon.”

As of June 2012, the Forest Service road through the west end of Blue Earth Park was closed. Access is only from the east, via Venables Valley Road from Highway 1 north of Spences Bridge. The road has several very tight corners, and access with long vehicles—or a vehicle with a trailer—is difficult.

Detailed Access Information:

From Spences Bridge follow Hwy 1 for 25km until you come to the second turn off for Venables Valley Road. Follow road for 4.8kms. Venables will go left but you will continue on staying right. Follow this road for another 4.8kms. Do not take any left or right turns. Once you go 4.8kms you will turn right onto road. Follow this road for 9kms. Continue on narrow road past the Blue Earth Lake campsite along the lake until you reach pullout for a single campsite on the left. Park here.

BIBLIOGRAPHY & SOURCES

Boyanowsky, Ehor (2010). *Savage Gods, Silver Ghosts: In the Wild with Ted Hughes*. Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre.

Teit, James (1898). *Traditions of the Thompson River Indians of British Columbia*. Boston: For The American Folk-lore Society by Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

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

Retrieved June 2012 from Fishing Adventures (online): <http://www.backroadmapbooks.com/shop/images/samples/BackroadReferenceSample.pdf>

Retrieved June 2012 from hookandbullet.com (online): Hunting and Fishing for Outdoorsmen: <http://www.hookandbullet.com/fishing-blue-earth-lake-ashcroft-bc/>

Letterboxing Clues:

From parking spot walk towards view of lake. Under fallen log, old growth.