

Welcome to *BC Jade Country*



**Lillooet Jade Walk
Take Time Out to
Enjoy the Entire Tour**

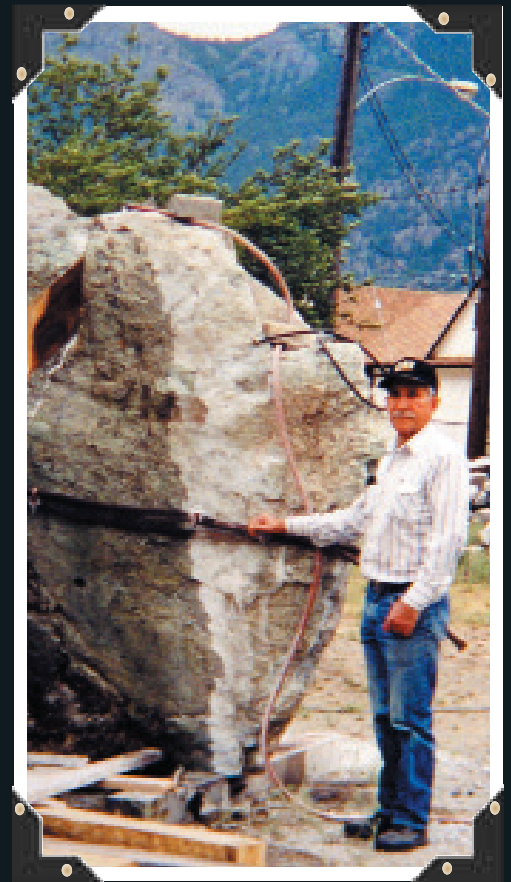
Jade Walk - Revealing a Lillooet secret

Long-time prospector/mountaineer George Vanderwolf, and a small group of local volunteers, built and put together the spectacular jade walk over six years, featuring thirty different pieces displayed throughout town and the immediate area. These art pieces have been cut, polished and mounted to reveal each individual 'face' of jade; whose colours, shapes and fractures all have different qualities.

Project developer Erdmann Tuemp and Vanderwolf came up with the idea of displaying jade around town, and the "Jade Walk" was born. In the late 50's, early 60's Lillooet shipped more nephrite jade worldwide than any other place on earth. Jade is harder than steel, and takes a special saw and up to hundreds of hours to cut.

Some of the jade boulders were donated by local rock hounds, Bill Cook, Earl Cook and Harry Street. Vanderwolf says there are still large deposits in the area, but remoteness and lack of nearby water source make them difficult to mine.

Jade was prized by local First Nations because of its strength and beauty; ideal for tool making. Funding for the Jade Walk came from the District of Lillooet and the federal Softwood Industry Community Economic Adjustment Initiative (SICEAI). ■



Rock of Ages



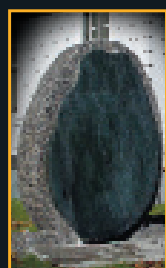
Gerald Michel of the Xwisten First Nation displays a piece of jade that was cut by hand, probably thousands of years ago. Local First Nations cut jade into tools using another softer stone and wet sand. Some believe they used buckskin and wet sand. The collection of tools above were all shaped by hand by St'át'imc people many years ago. Michel found most of these pieces in the Bridge River area north of Lillooet. These artifacts are part of Xwisten's extensive collection.



Vanderwolf's father-in-law, Ed Osterlund, at Hell Creek mine in 1965, with one of the first portable diamond saws built in Canada to cut jade in the mountains.

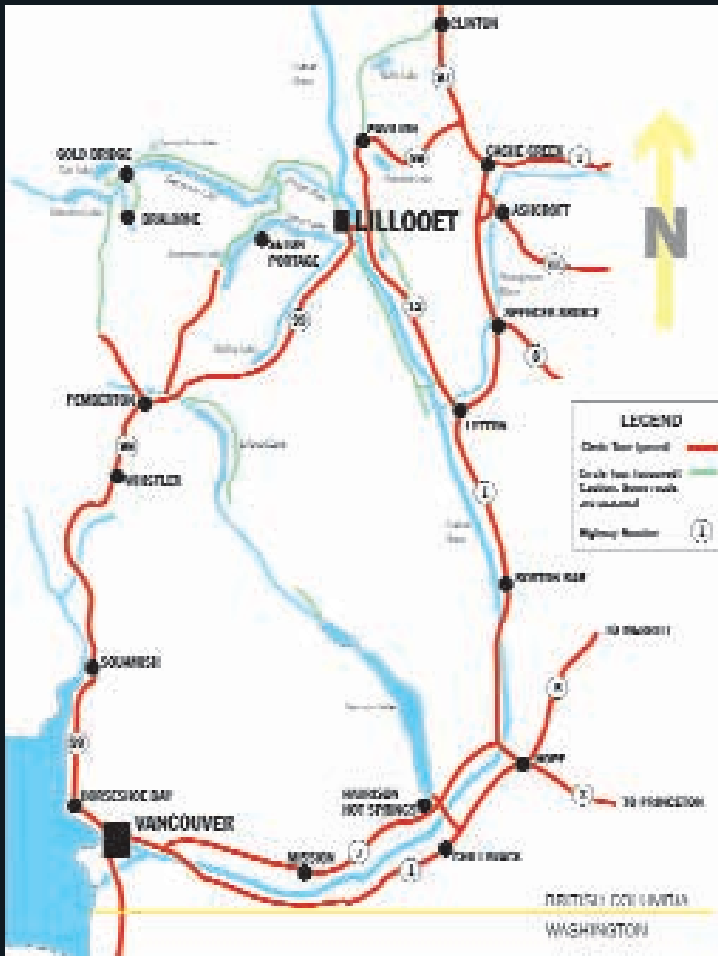
Jade Facts

- The Lillooet Area was home to the first jade mines in BC
- There are two types of stones called jade - the type found in BC is nephrite
- BC is considered to have the largest deposits of nephrite in the world
- Jade is the most important gemstone in China, sometimes called the 'Stone of Heaven.'
- Gifts for the 35th Wedding Anniversary are traditionally made of jade
- Jade is BC's Official Gemstone



Lillooet & Area Circle Tours

Lillooet Tour Map



Coast Mountain Circle Tour

The round-trip loop from Lillooet to Vancouver provides some of the most beautiful and diverse scenery in southern British Columbia. Starting in Lillooet, this route follows the spectacular Duffey Lake Road (Hwy. 99) past snow-capped mountains and glacial lakes to Pemberton. It continues through the majestic Coast Mountains and past the world-class ski resort at Whistler on to Squamish, to the Pacific Ocean and Vancouver. Vancouver and Whistler will host the 2010 Winter Olympics.

East of the city, the trip north along the Fraser River provides striking transformations in scenery. Immediately to the east of Vancouver, you enter the agricultural heartland of the province - the fertile Fraser Valley.

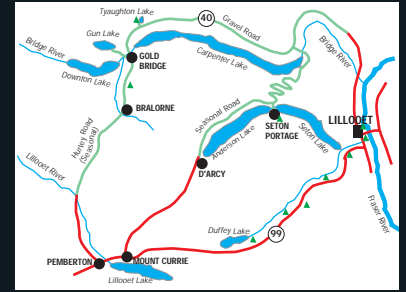
Highway 1 follows the old Cariboo Gold Rush Trail. Early pioneers endured inconceivable peril to follow dreams of gold in the Cariboo. Tunnels along the route are named for former Fraser River gold mining bars.

The region around Lytton and Lillooet offer another change of landscape. This semi-arid area receives less than 10 inches of rainfall a year. There is a rivalry between Lytton and Lillooet over which community is Canada's real hot spot.

Circle Tours courtesy of the Cariboo Tourism Association

Duffey Lake - Hurley River Road Circle Tour

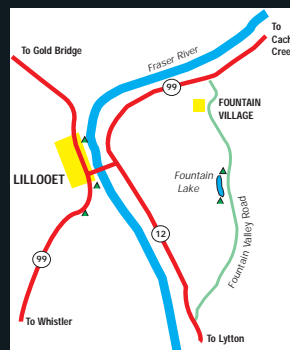
Some seasonal roads (June to October), 310 km (194 miles): 6 hours total
The trip to Gold Bridge/Bralorne from Lillooet follows a gravel road along the Bridge River and the shoreline of Carpenter Lake. This lake was formed by the construction



of a dam on the Bridge River in 1948. Gold Bridge and Bralorne were home to the richest gold mine in Canada for 40 years, until the mine closed in 1971. A new company has re-opened the mine again. The area is a hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and rockhounding's paradise. The route continues over the Hurley Pass and down into the agricultural lands of the Pemberton Valley. The final leg of the journey is over the spectacular Duffey Lake Road through the Coastal Mountains.

Fountain Valley

Year-round gravel road
69 km (43 miles): 2 1/2 hours

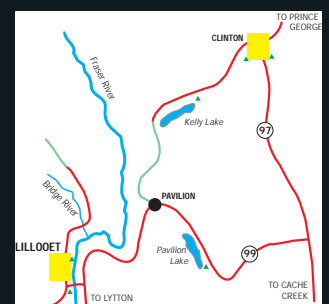


Take Highway 99 from Lillooet toward Cache Creek to start this tour. 10 minutes out of Lillooet, to the left, are the Bridge River First Nations fishing grounds. Local First Nations people fish for salmon here with dip nets, then cut the fish and hang it on racks to dry in the wind.

A right turn at Fountain Village begins the ascent into Fountain Valley and the enjoyment of the beautiful mountain meadows and deciduous forests. Camping and picnicking spots are available at Fountain Lake. Another right turn onto Highway 12 affords a panoramic view of Fountainview Farms, B.C.'s largest grower of organic carrots. Not far north of the Fountain Valley Road intersection is the "Big Slide" ... so large that the cost of widening the road through it is prohibitive. As a result, for a quarter of a mile, the road becomes one lane carved out of the cliff side. Imagine if you can traversing this by wagon or mule.

Pavilion Mountain

This Circle Tour follows part of the original Gold Rush Trail. Pavilion Mountain is 1520 metres high (4987 feet). The trip offers an exciting drive through the heart of the Diamond S Cattle Ranch, a producer of prime beef for more than a century. After descending from Pavilion Mountain, the route follows the shoreline of Kelly Lake. A picnic at inviting Downing Provincial Park allows time to contemplate the beauty of this peaceful valley. The road from Kelly Lake leads us to Clinton, with its copper-colored mountains and many historic ranches. On your return trip to Lillooet, enjoy an old-fashioned western welcome at historic Hat Creek Ranch near the junction of Highways 97 and 99. Further along Hwy 99 the unique Chimney Rock can be seen off to the right. Camping is available at Marble Canyon Provincial Park, and Pavilion and Crown Lakes are lovely places to swim or picnic.



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