

Fact Checking Checklist

Thank you for volunteering to fact-check hiking information in the West Kootenay Hiking Guidebook! Your help ensures the book is as accurate as possible before publication. The manuscript is currently being edited, but if you catch a typo, feel free to note it.

Important: there is a margin of error when it comes to measuring distance and elevation - different devices will report different measurements. The longer the trail, the greater the margin of error. Please note major differences and I'll review to see if they are within an acceptable margin of error.

Yes please, check this!	Don't worry about it!
Difficult rating makes sense. See note 1 below.	
Duration makes sense (round trip, moderate pace, including breaks)	
Distances in kilometres - please note major discrepancies.	Converting to miles.
Elevations in metres - please note major discrepancies.	Converting to feet.
Access vehicle makes sense. See note 2 below.	Double checking trailhead elevation and coordinates.
Driving directions are accurate from the given starting point (including odometer readings and forks on Forest Service Roads).	<p>Checking driving directions that put you far out of your way. Check from a starting point that makes sense from where you're coming from.</p> <p>Converting to miles or vice versa if you have a US vehicle.</p>
Trail description - major landmarks are noted, trail description is easy to follow. See note 3.	<p>Background info like BC Parks regulations or trail history</p> <p>Exploring further - don't feel you need to go beyond the trail description unless you're keen for a bigger day.</p>
Trail description - relative and cardinal directions (right, left, north, south, east, west)	

Notes:

1. Difficulty ratings:

Easy - easy hikes are generally flat and suitable for new hikers. Easy hikes can typically be completed in a few hours and stay on a well-marked trail.

Moderate - moderate hikes gain elevation and involve a little bit of a work-out. You may be out for half a day, and will need to be a little more prepared.

Difficult - difficult trails gain a lot of elevation and have many kilometres to cover. You'll be out hiking for most of the day and need to be in good shape. Difficult hikes mostly stay on trails, but the trail may be incredibly steep, rough, or have some exposure (the chance to fall from a height).

Challenging - challenging hikes involve a very long day, with lots of elevation gained. These hikes may involve some route-finding or scrambling. You need to be a very fit and experienced hiker with a high level of preparedness, an early start, and a good attitude.

2. Access vehicles: I simplify access vehicles to 2WD low clearance vs 4WD high clearance. Yes, there are other combinations of vehicles out there but then driver skill becomes more important. If a minivan can do it without special driver skill, then it's a 2WD low clearance hike.

3. Trail description: I give less details when a trail is well marked and easy to follow. Each trail will also have a topographic map to help orient hikers. If you find sections are confusing, please note this.