

Lyon's Bluff

Summary

Lyon's Bluff climbs up Nelson's north shore to get to a big view of town. It's a great alternative to the busy Pulpit Rock Trail, but offers just as much of a workout and final viewpoint!

- Difficulty: Moderate **Yep!** **It took us 2.5 hours, but that was with a toddler hiking some of it and an extra long break.**
- Duration: 1-2 hours (out and back)
- Distance: 3.4 km (2.1 mi) **I got 3.7 km**
- Elevation gain: 300m (984 ft) **335m**
- Season: April to November
- Special features: big views

Trailhead Directions

- Access vehicle: 2WD low clearance
- Trailhead coordinates: 49.52877, -117.26802
- Trailhead elevation: 570 m (1870 ft)
- Time on gravel: n/a (paved road)

Leaving Nelson on Highway 3A towards Balfour, drive 2.3 km (1.4 mi) from the far end of the Big Orange Bridge and look for a paved road signed "Lyon's Bluff Trail" ascending to a parking lot on the left. **Good!**

Trail Description

1. **Crossing the power lines** - The trail ascends over stone steps and winding switchbacks through ponderosa forest. Peek-a-boo glimpses of Kootenay Lake flash through the trees as the noise of the highway fades. Cross under the power lines after 0.7 km (0.4 mi) with the first views over Nelson below. **0.9km**
2. **Lyon's Bluff viewpoint** - The forest opens up as the trail continues to switchback up the slope. Pass a lower viewpoint at 1.2 km (0.7 mi) as you continue to ascend.

After hiking **1.9 km** (1 mi), the trail comes to the Lyon's Bluff lookout with a scenic bench to enjoy the big view over Nelson. From here you can continue on to the CBC Tower and traverse to the Flagpole and Pulpit Rock Trails for a big day, or retrace your steps to head down. **1.5km**