

Flightseeing The West Chilcotin



Chris Harris Photo

Flightseeing is a very popular activity in the West Chilcotin. Numerous lakes in the region have long made it a favorite floatplane destination and some lakes such as Nimpo Lake support floatplane bases. Because there are so few roads in the area, flying is one of the very favorite ways to see the country and there is lots to see!

Monarch Mountain

Monarch Mountain is nearly 12,000 feet above sea level and towers over a series of ice fields in the southern part of Tweedsmuir Park including the massive Monarch Icefield. Craggy peaks of the Coast Mountain Range reach for the sky as you wing your way over them. You can see glaciers inching their way down mountainsides often ending in high alpine lakes where bergs break off here and there and bob on the surface of the bright turquoise water.

Hunlen Falls

This magnificent waterfall is considered to be one of the three highest freefalling falls in Canada with a sheer drop of over 1000 feet and the sheer volume of water is incredible. The best way to take pictures of this huge waterfall is from the air. Hunlen Falls drains Turner Lake and tumbles over rock to infamous Lonesome Lake below. That lake is known for the books written about Ralph Edwards who settled on the lake in the 1930's and set out to bring the Trumpeter Swan back from near extinction.

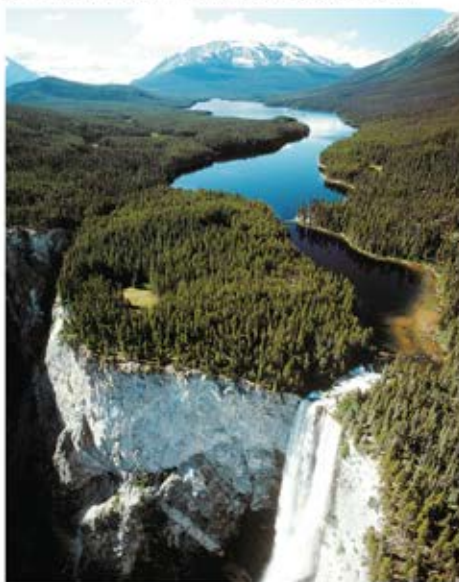


Photo courtesy Gary Fiegehen



Chris Harris Photo

Turner Lake Chain

The Turner Lake Chain consists of 7 lakes that eventually empty into Lonesome lake via Hunlen Falls. The best way to access the chain is by plane. The floatplane will either take you and your canoe in, or you can rent a canoe at Turner Lake. Alternatively, you can hike in via the Tote road, canoe the chain, and have a floatplane pick you up at the end.

Outpost Camps, Alpine Hiking

Many of the lodge operators maintain outpost camps. This gives a visitor the opportunity to fly into a cabin on a remote lake, relax, fish, hike, and enjoy the fantastic view on the way in.

Check with your hosts. They will be happy to make arrangements for you to take a flightseeing trip with a local air service.

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