

# Blue Jay/Grey Jay and M. Gurr Lakes

A popular day trip is the drive through the Clayton Valley to Blue Jay and Grey Jay Lakes, and the M. Gurr Lake Trail. Strolling along an alpine ridge, high above the confluence of Burke Channel and North and South Bentinck Arms, the cool fresh breeze makes it the ideal place to spend a hot summer day.

## Getting there:

From the Bella Coola Townsite, drive west past the government wharf for two kms and take the left fork of the "Y" onto the Clayton Forest Road. The drive takes you through the Clayton Valley, across Clayton Creek to the summit of Clayton Ridge, approximately 45 min. from the starting point. The mountain pass is not usually clear of snow until well into June, and closes by mid-September in a normal season. The road is best accessible by four wheel drive vehicles with good clearance.



Photo courtesy Stephen Waugh

## M. Gurr Hike:

At the summit you can see a wide panorama from the pull-out or take a hike on the ridge trail to the right for even better views. The meadow trailhead to M. Gurr Lake is located a few hundred meters before the summit on the right-hand side and follows the creek through beautiful alpine meadow. The lake can also be reached by taking the ridge trail and offers spectacular vistas.



Photo courtesy Stephen Waugh



Photo courtesy Stephen Waugh

The trail and boardwalk meander through alpine forest along the shores of the lake to eventually open up into the meadows and wetlands, just before the viewpoint that looks towards the North and South Bentinck Arms. Campsites are located above Blue Jay Lake and include picnic tables, rustic toilets and a boat launch for launching your canoes or kayaks.

## Blue Jay and Grey Jay Lakes:

Drive on past the summit and down the west side of the ridge to Blue Jay and Grey Jay Lakes. The campsite on Blue Jay Lake is accessible by road and the Grey Jay Lake trailhead is between the first two campsites on the right. Trout can be found in this high altitude lake for the casual fisherman.

## Be Safe

Bears and other wild animals roam freely – Be Bear Aware. Cell phones do not work beyond the government wharf. Visitors are asked to be prepared for any weather while hiking in the region and if you are packing a picnic, make sure to leave nothing behind. Be sure to tell someone responsible where you are going and when you are expecting to return.

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