

SMITHERS

british columbia, canada

Viewing from a hiking trail

McCabe Trail

Set odometer to zero at the junction of Highway 16 and the Old Babine Lake Road just south of Smithers. Drive on the old Babine Lake Road for 7.9 km and turn left on the Telkwa High Road. Turn right on the Driftwood Road at 9.4 km. You will cross a bridge at 15.7 km and to the parking lot at 20.7 km. Walk past the yellow gate and up main road 1.3 km to the McCabe Trail. Signs and information on site.

Details of the hiking trails are available at <http://www.bcnorth.ca/pages/Trails.asp>
Learn more about the mountain goat at <http://www.bcnorth.ca/mountaingoats>

Mountain Goat Facts

An average mature male mountain goat weighs 90kg (198 pounds) and stands 101 cm (40 inches) tall at the shoulder. Females are 20% smaller.

Both sexes have sharp black horns about 25 cm (10 inches) long that are used to defend against predators and to establish dominance within the herd.

Mountain goats survive winds over 100 kph and temperatures below -40 C in winter in the alpine.

Goats are sexually mature at 3 years and can live up to 14 years of age.

Mountain goats can pull themselves up onto a rock ledge using their front legs and shoulders.

Wildlife Watching Ethics

- ◆ Observe from a distance that's safe for you and for wildlife.
- ◆ Move slowly and quietly.
- ◆ Learn to recognize and respect wildlife alarm signals.
- ◆ Allow wildlife to behave naturally.
- ◆ Feeding animals can put you and the animals in danger.
- ◆ Help others to become responsible wildlife watchers



Mountain Goat Facts

Goat kids weigh 3.2 kg (7 pounds) at birth and can stand within 30 minutes, run and jump within hours.

Mountain goats climb and traverse near-vertical cliffs better than any other large ungulate. No predator can follow mountain goats in steep cliffs

Mountain Goat Watching



You are at the heart of mountain goat country

There are only about 100,000 mountain goats in the world. Smithers British Columbia Canada is at the geographic centre of the world's mountain goat population.

View this rare and beautiful mountain ungulate in a natural setting from your vehicle or from a hiking trail from June to October

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Viewing from your car

Downtown Smithers

You can see mountain goats from downtown Smithers using binoculars or a spotting scope. Look for the ski runs at the south end of Hudson Bay Mountain then slowly view across the open alpine slopes to the north (right). The colour of mountain goats is cream compared to the glaring white of snow patches.



Mountain Goat Facts

Mountain goats can be alone or in groups of two to twenty-five. If you spot a large group, it will be a nanny herd comprised of mature females, their kids and yearlings and immature two – year olds. The herd may be slowly moving from one patch of feed to the next or may be bedded down to chew their cud. Mountain goats stay close to sheer cliffs so that they can escape from predators such as bears and wolves.



Mount McKendrick

Drive south on Highway 16 from downtown Smithers for 4 km to the Babine Lake Road (Eckman Road) turnoff. Turn left (east) and proceed to the 26 km sign and look for a stretch of old roadbed on the right (east) side. Pull off the main road onto the old roadbed and use binoculars or a spotting scope to see goats in the steep cliffs to the east. This is a very good all-weather gravel road. Watch for logging trucks and avoid parking on the shoulder of the main road.



Morice Mountain

Drive northwest from Houston BC on Highway 16 for 4 km and turn left (south) on the Morice River Forest Service road. Proceed 17 km to the Aspen Forest Recreation Site. Use binoculars or a spotting scope to view goats on the cliffs of Morice Mountain to the east. This is a very good all-weather gravel logging road. Watch for logging trucks.

Viewing from a hiking trail

Webster Lake Trail

Hankin Plateau Trail

Best trails to see mountain goats but both trails are unavailable due to a road washout. Check with the Smithers Tourist Booth to learn if the road is open.

Little Joe Lakes Trail

Drive south from Smithers on Highway 16 about 4 km and turn left (east) on the Babine Lake Road (Eckman Road). Look for the Little Joe Lakes Trail sign on the left side of the road at about 28 km. Turn left on the side road for about 1 km to the parking lot. Goats can be seen on the rocky ridges in the alpine.

Blue Lakes Trail

Drive 59.6 km north on Highway 16 from Main St in Smithers or about 8 km south of New Hazelton. Turn west on the Mudflat Creek road. Ignore the two roads to the left and the gated road to the gravel pit on the right. You will see a trail sign and the Blue Lakes road straight ahead. Two-wheel drive vehicles will have to park within one km of the highway. Four-wheel drives can park about 3 km further at a small parking lot. Stay on the most travelled road. Mountain goats can be seen in the alpine to the east and west of the upper lakes.