

Dawson Falls

Location: Wells Gray Provincial Park, British Columbia

Drive Time from Spahats Creek Resort: 20 minutes (30 km / 18.6 miles)

Parking for RV's: Excellent parking for Rvs and larger vehicles.

Walking Distance from Spahats Creek Resort: Not recommended due to the distance and lack of pedestrian pathways.

Difficulty: Easy

Distance of Hike: 1.5 km (0.9 miles) round trip

Elevation Change: Approximately 20 meters (66 feet)

Estimated Hike Time: 30 to 45 minutes round trip

Overview: Dawson Falls, often referred to as "Mini Niagara," is a breathtaking cascade on the Murtle River in Wells Gray Provincial Park. The wide, curtain-like waterfall stretches over 90 meters (295 feet), offering visitors a stunning display of nature's power. The short and easy hike makes it accessible to visitors of all ages and fitness levels.

Drive Description: From Spahats Creek Resort, drive back to the main entrance and turn left (west) onto Spahats Creek Road for 500 meters (0.3 miles). Turn right (north) onto Clearwater Valley Road and continue for 29.5 km (18.3 miles). Turn Right off Clearwater Valley Road into a large parking lot clearly marked for Dawson Falls. The road is well-maintained and clearly marked with signage.

Parking: The Dawson Falls parking lot is spacious and suitable for large vehicles, including RVs. It is well-designed to accommodate multiple vehicles, making it an ideal stop for travelers with larger rigs.

Hike Description:

1. Begin at the parking lot and follow the well-maintained trail through a lush forest of cedar and fir trees.
2. The trail is relatively flat, with a slight descent as you approach the river.

3. After approximately 750 meters (0.45 miles), you will arrive at the main viewing area that offers a spectacular close-up view of Dawson Falls. Continuing along the trail, you will find a second viewing fence that provides an alternate perspective of the falls. This area also features pit toilets for visitor convenience.
4. Return via the same trail for a total distance of 1.5 km (0.9 miles).

Tips:

- **Footwear:** Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- **Facilities:** There are picnic tables and garbage bins available at the parking area.
- **Photography:** Bring a wide-angle lens to capture the full breadth of the falls.
- **Seasonal Note:** Dawson Falls is particularly impressive during spring and early summer when water levels are at their peak.

Summary: Dawson Falls is a must-see attraction in Wells Gray Provincial Park, offering a short and rewarding hike to a stunning waterfall. Its accessibility and natural beauty make it a perfect outing for families, photographers, and nature enthusiasts alike. The proximity to Spahats Creek Resort adds to its appeal as an easy-to-reach destination.