

Green Mountain Viewing Tower

Location: Wells Gray Provincial Park, British Columbia

Drive Time from Spahats Creek Resort: 30 minutes (28.8 km / 17.9 miles)

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

Difficulty: Easy

Distance of Hike: 25 meters (82 feet) to the top of the tower

Elevation Change: Approximately 15 meters (49 feet) to the top of the tower

Estimated Hike Time: 10 to 15 minutes round trip

Overview: The Green Mountain Viewing Tower offers breathtaking 360-degree panoramic views of Wells Gray Provincial Park, showcasing the valley, the Cariboo and Monashee Mountain ranges, and several lakes within the park, including Clearwater Lake and Azure Lake. The tower provides a unique vantage point to appreciate the park's vast natural beauty and geography. The viewing platform is accessible via a 25-meter (82-foot) walk and a climb up the tower stairs, making it an easy and quick outing. The tower itself was constructed as a fire lookout, and today it serves as a historical landmark and a stunning viewpoint for visitors.

Drive Description: From Spahats Creek Resort, drive back to the main entrance and turn left (west) onto Spahats Creek Road for 600 meters (0.3 miles). Turn right (north) onto Clearwater Valley Road and continue for 24.8 km (15.4 miles). Turn left (west) onto Lake Placid Road, following the signage for the viewing tower. Drive 3.4 km (2.1 miles) up the winding road to the parking area of the tower. Look for the parking area for Green Mountain Viewing Tower at the base of the tower, marked with clear signage. The site is equipped with picnic tables, garbage bins, and a pit toilet for visitor convenience. Note that the road to the parking area is quite windy, and large RVs should consider this before attempting the drive.

Hike Description:

1. Begin at the parking lot and follow the short, well-maintained trail leading to the tower.
2. The trail is easy and suitable for all ages, with a gentle incline as you approach the tower.

3. Climb the stairs to the viewing platform to enjoy stunning vistas of Wells Gray Provincial Park and its natural beauty.
4. Return via the same trail for a total distance of 200 meters.

Tips:

- **Footwear:** Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- **Weather:** Bring a light jacket, as it can be windy at the top of the tower.
- **Photography:** The tower is an excellent spot for capturing wide-angle landscape photos.
- **Timing:** Early mornings and late afternoons provide the best lighting for photography.

Summary: The Green Mountain Viewing Tower is an easy and rewarding outing, offering unparalleled views of Wells Gray Provincial Park's stunning landscapes. Its proximity to Spahats Creek Resort makes it a convenient and unforgettable stop for visitors of all ages.