

Helmcken Falls Viewing Platform and Lookout

Location: Wells Gray Provincial Park, British Columbia

Drive Time from Spahats Creek Resort: 35 minutes (35.5 km / 22 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: 500 meters (0.31 miles) round trip

Elevation Change: Minimal

Estimated Hike Time: 10 to 15 minutes round trip

Overview: Helmcken Falls is one of Wells Gray Provincial Park's most iconic landmarks, and its newly renovated viewing platform and trails (completed in summer 2024) offer an enhanced experience for visitors. The upgrades include wheelchair-friendly picnic tables, stroller-friendly paths, new pit toilets, and a stunning viewing platform that provides breathtaking views of the 141-meter (463-foot) waterfall and surrounding canyon.

Drive Description: From Spahats Creek Resort, drive back to the main entrance and turn left (west) onto Spahats Creek Road for 600 meters (0.37 miles). Turn right (north) onto Clearwater Valley Road and continue for 31 km (19.3 miles). Then turn left onto Helmcken Falls Road and continue for 3.8 km (2.4 miles) to the parking area. To the Helmcken Falls parking area, clearly marked with signage. The parking lot is large and suitable for vehicles of all sizes, including RVs.

Hike Description:

1. Begin at the parking area and follow the newly renovated, stroller-friendly path toward the viewing platform.
2. The trail is wide, flat, and accessible, making it suitable for wheelchairs and families with strollers.
3. After a short walk of 250 meters (0.16 miles), you will arrive at the viewing platform. The platform offers unobstructed views of Helmcken Falls and the dramatic Murtle River Canyon.

4. Return via the same path for a total distance of 500 meters (0.31 miles).

Tips:

- **Accessibility:** The trail and facilities are wheelchair-friendly, including the picnic tables near the parking area.
- **Photography:** Visit during the early morning or late afternoon for the best lighting conditions.
- **Facilities:** The parking area includes new pit toilets and picnic tables, providing a comfortable rest area.
- **Seasonal Note:** The falls are especially spectacular during spring when the snowmelt swells the river.

Summary: The Helmcken Falls Viewing Platform and Lookout is a must-see destination in Wells Gray Provincial Park. With its recent upgrades, the site offers unparalleled accessibility and a world-class vantage point for enjoying one of British Columbia's most iconic waterfalls. Its proximity to Spahats Creek Resort makes it a convenient and memorable outing for all visitors.