

# Panorama Ridge

British Columbia, Canada


 12 Hours / 30 KM  Out and back  Hard



The amazing view from Panorama Ridge, looking down onto Garibaldi Lake and the surrounding mountains. © Karl Woll

The peak of Panorama Ridge sits at 2133m and provides breathtaking views of Mt. Price, Mt. Garibaldi, Black Tusk, The Table and Garibaldi Lake (among a myriad of other mountains). It is easy to see where its name is derived. If you want to push yourself, you can do this in one day. Otherwise, it is possible to camp at the beautiful Garibaldi Lake or Taylor Meadows campgrounds and make it a two-day hike.

## ASCEND AND DESCEND

 1563m  1563m

## SCENERY



## Why Panorama Ridge

Garibaldi Provincial Park offers several of the most amazing hikes in southwest B.C., and within the park itself no hike is more amazing than Panorama Ridge. The trail takes you up through a forest of Western Red Cedar and Douglas Fir trees, through meadows full of blooming wildflower, and provides one of the most incredible panoramic views you could wish for at the summit.

For many who have done extensive hiking around Vancouver, the hike to Panorama Ridge remains a favorite year after year. Best of all, you have the option

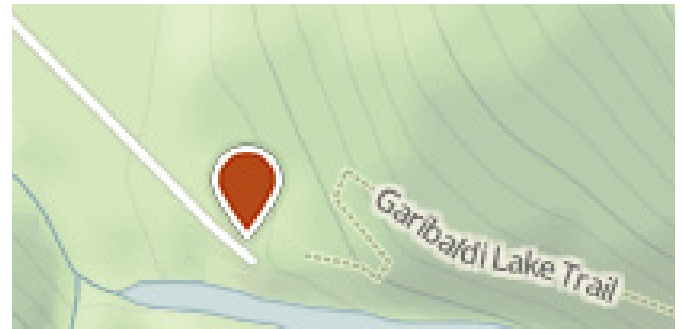
to do the trail as a day hike, or camp at the beautiful Garibaldi Lake and tack on several of the other great hikes in the area, such as Black Tusk.

## When to go

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Garibaldi Provincial Park receives a lot of snow in the winter. The snow will persist into the early summer near the lake and into the late summer up along Panorama Ridge. Late summer is the best time of year for this hike, and particularly in early August when the wildflowers are in full bloom.

## Starting point



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## STARTING POINT

Rubble Creek Road Parking Lot, Squamish

## TRANSPORT TO START



Take Highway #99 heading north past Horseshoe Bay towards Squamish. Keep driving along the Sea to Sky highway all the way to Squamish. Once you've hit downtown Squamish, watch your odometer and keep driving north for about another 37km. Keep a sharp eye out for the Garibaldi Provincial Park sign on your right. Just over the Rubble Creek Bridge you will take a right onto a small paved road that is not hard to miss.

Continue on for a few kilometers until you reach the Rubble Creek parking lot. The trailhead is well marked at the parking lot.

Don't leave valuables in your car, as this remote parking

lot has been targeted for break-ins before.

## How hard

The trail is very well-maintained and marked by BC Parks, so navigation is easy. The initial 7km of climb is steep and unrelenting, before leveling out a bit in the meadows.

The final push up Panorama Ridge is also steep, has a few difficult sections of rock scree, and quite likely some snow fields.

At 30km it is also a very long hike to fit into one day. Breaking it out into a two-day hike by camping at Garibaldi Lake or Taylor Meadow might be wise.

## Planning

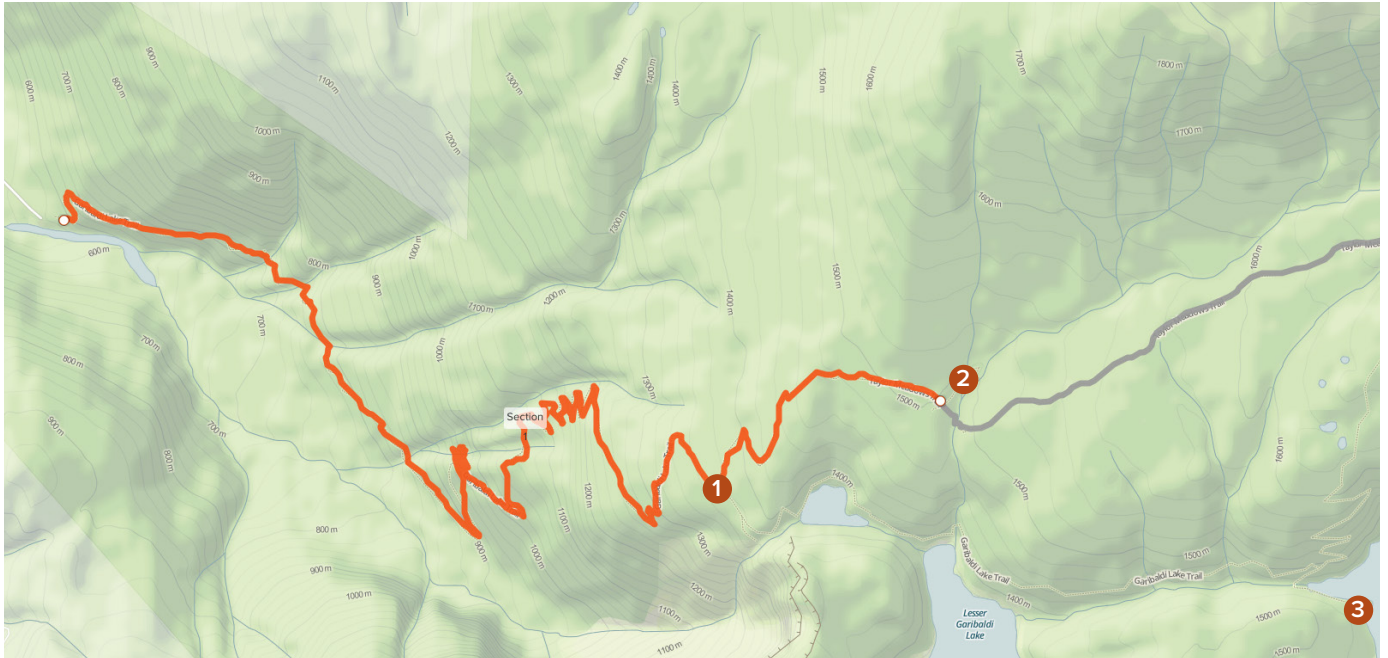
Breaking up this hike in two is probably a good idea. You can either start with a short day and hike to the campground at Garibaldi Lake or the one at Taylor Meadows, and hike up to the peak and return back to the trailhead the second day.

Or you can hike up to the campground, leave your tent and continue up to the ridge to return at your tent after a full day of hiking, leaving a short hike back to the trailhead for the next day.

If you wish to backcountry camp in Garibaldi Provincial Park, it is \$10/night for adults and \$5/night for children. Fees can be paid at the Rubble Creek parking lot in cash, or online prior to your trip through the parks website.

## Section 1 To Taylor Meadows

🕒 7 Hours / 15 km 🏔️ 930 m 🏔️ 930 m



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You will begin your hike from the trailhead at the Rubble Creek parking lot. The initial climb will take you up beside Rubble Creek itself, which you can hear rumbling nearby. The first 6km of the trail will take you up a series of switchbacks on the Garibaldi Lake trail. It is a steady, uphill climb, with no relief from flat or downhill sections. The trail however, is wide and well maintained, so there is no worry about technical climbing or getting lost. There are markers every kilometer along this initial stretch of climb through a forest filled with Western Red Cedar and Douglas Fir trees.

Once you reach the 5km marker, you will quickly after come to a nice view of 'The Barrier'. The 300m thick wall of The Barrier is a lava dam that contains the Garibaldi Lake system above. The sheer cliff you see was formed during a massive landslide in 1885, which is also how Rubble Creek received its name. Continuing on to the 6km marker there is a major junction **1**, with a fork for the Taylor Meadows campground **2** or Garibaldi Lake **3**. This is a good spot to take a break, before taking the trail towards Taylor Meadows.

Alternatively, if you have chosen to camp at Garibaldi Lake, you can head that way to set up your campsite and drop your gear, before continuing on to Panorama Ridge via the Black Tusk/ Cinder Flats connector trail. However, this guide will continue to describe the route for a direct ascent via Taylor Meadows.

From the 6km junction, go left onto the Taylor Meadows Trail, and its 1.5km to reach the Taylor Meadows campground, a great spot to camp for the night, though less scenic than the lake. If you are camping here, you can set up your site before continuing on along the Taylor Meadows trail

## Section 2

### To Panorama Ridge

🕒 5 Hours / 15 km 📍 633 m



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Immediately after leaving the campground **1**, you will cross Taylor Creek. This is a great spot to replenish your water supplies, so don't let it pass. A few minutes beyond the creek, you will come to a junction, and going right here will take you down to Garibaldi Lake. Continue straight along the Taylor Meadows trail, enjoying the beautiful open meadow and wildflowers if they are in bloom.

2km past the previous junction, you will come to another major junction, this one called Outhouse Junction **2**, with yet another trail connecting directly from Garibaldi Lake. Unsurprisingly, there is an outhouse here. As with all the major junctions, there are markers clearly stating which trail you are on, and pointing you in the right direction for your destination - whether its Black Tusk, Garibaldi Lake or Panorama Ridge.

In our case, continue along the trail and within a matter of minutes you will pass by the trail junction for Black Tusk **3** - another amazing hike for another day. You are now in Black Tusk Meadows, and as you meander along the

trail you can catch glimpses of Garibaldi Lake and Mount Price to the south, and the mountains of the Tantalus Range to the west. The trail through these meadows is much flatter than the initial 7km of the hike, making for happier legs and a quicker pace through the scenic landscape. About 2km beyond the Black Tusk junction you will get views of Mimulus Lake and Black Tusk Lake below.

As you approach Black Tusk Lake, there is a junction **4** to Cheakamus Lake (Helm Creek Trail), continuing to the north, and you can see Helm Lake in that direction. As an aside, it is also possible to drop a second car at Cheakamus Lake and exit the park that way, making this a point-to-point hike. Instead, stay on the Panorama Ridge Trail, make your way around Black Tusk Lake, and get ready to begin a steep climb up the ridge. As you start to ascend up the ridge, you'll have views of Black Tusk dominating the skyline behind you, and Black Tusk Lake and Mimulus Lake beside you. East of Black Tusk you have a great perspective on Helm Lake and Cinder Cone. This will be the most challenging part of

the trail, partly on snow, partly on loose rock scree, and continually up and up.

There isn't an obvious route in sections here, so carefully follow the cairns and whatever worn tracks you see to work your way up the ridge, until you finally crest the summit **5**. You will immediately forget about your tired legs as you soak up the view.

Then it's just a matter of getting back on the trail and retracing your steps to the Rubble Creek Parking lot. If you wish, you can also detour down to Garibaldi Lake at the Outhouse Junction, adding a little distance, but variety to your return route.

## About the author

### Karl Woll

Born and raised in Vancouver, has been passionately exploring the area's local mountains over the last decade. Beyond hiking, Karl fulfills his desire to be in the outdoors by kayaking, cycling, scuba diving, snowboarding, and most frequently, trail running.

## Colofon

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