

Pemberton: Upper Lillooet Road

TENQUILLE LAKE

Round trip 18 km (11 mi)

Elevation gain 1435 m (4710 ft)

Average grade 15.9%

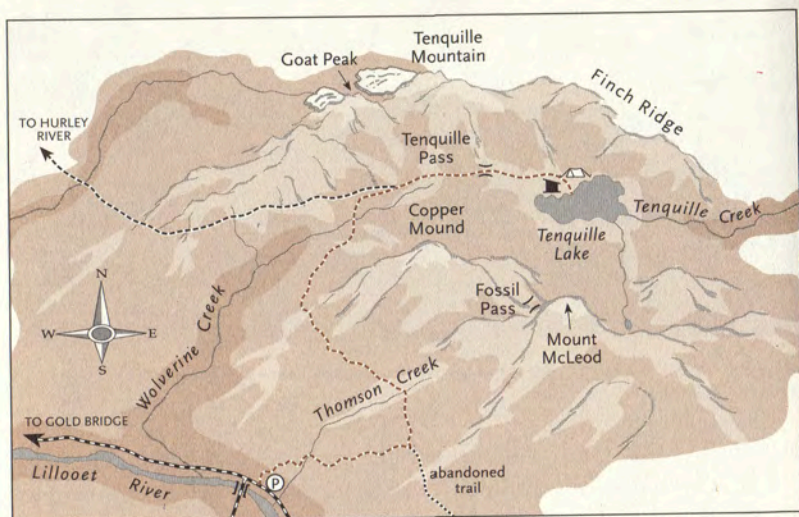
Driving distance from Vancouver:
185 km (115 mi)

Allow 10 hours

High point 1710 m (5600 ft)

Trailhead grid reference O23 945

Map O92J10 Birkenhead Lake



THREE TRAILS LEAD to Tenquille Lake: from Hurley River Forest Service Road, from Owl Lakes on the D'Arcy road and this one straight from the Pemberton Valley. The route described here was built as a mining access trail more than eighty years ago. It is a scenic trip that culminates in splendid alpine meadows around the lake. The waters are crystal clear and there is a log cabin, albeit old and decrepit. There are many pleasant summits to hike above the lake, although they would probably require an overnight trip.

Zero your odometer at the Pemberton PetroCanada junction, 90 km (60 mi) north of Squamish. Turn left into Pemberton. At 1 km (0.6 mi) go right at the T-junction. At 3 km (1.9 mi) turn left for Pemberton Meadows. At 25 km (15 mi) turn right onto Lillooet River Forest Service



Sun God Mountain and its reflection in the western end of the lake.

Road (Upper Lillooet Road). Cross the river on two bridges. Park just off the road to the right of the second bridge, beside BCFS trail sign.

As you start up this trail on foot, be aware that it is a descent route for mountain bikers who have pedalled, pushed and carried their machines in from the Hurley River Forest Service Road. However, it is a gnarly descent that is not seeing major use. At first the marked route zigzags uphill to the east, merges with an earlier trail coming up from the right, then turns back north. Your way lies through open forest, giving you tantalizing glimpses of the rich Pemberton Valley below and Mount Ipsoot opposite. En route you cross several small streams (possibly dry in late summer), then work into the valley of the Wolverine, finally crossing the creek at about 1500 m (5000 ft), at which height the trees are sparser and you have already traversed some small meadows. Shortly thereafter, the alternative trail from Hurley River Forest Service Road joins from the left. Beyond this point you pass through lush flower meadows, which give way to smaller, more modest plants and heather as you approach the high point in Tenquille Pass. The trail drops down 60 m (200 ft) to the lake, where the cabin and many tent sites testify to its popularity. There is alleged to be good fishing or you may inspect old mining claims. Various hikes are possible: Copper Mound and Mount McLeod to the south, Goat Peak and Tenquille Mountain to the north, and a crossover for fit and experienced backpackers southeast via Ogre Lake and the Mount Ronayne Trail to the Owl Lake trailhead and thence to the D'Arcy road.