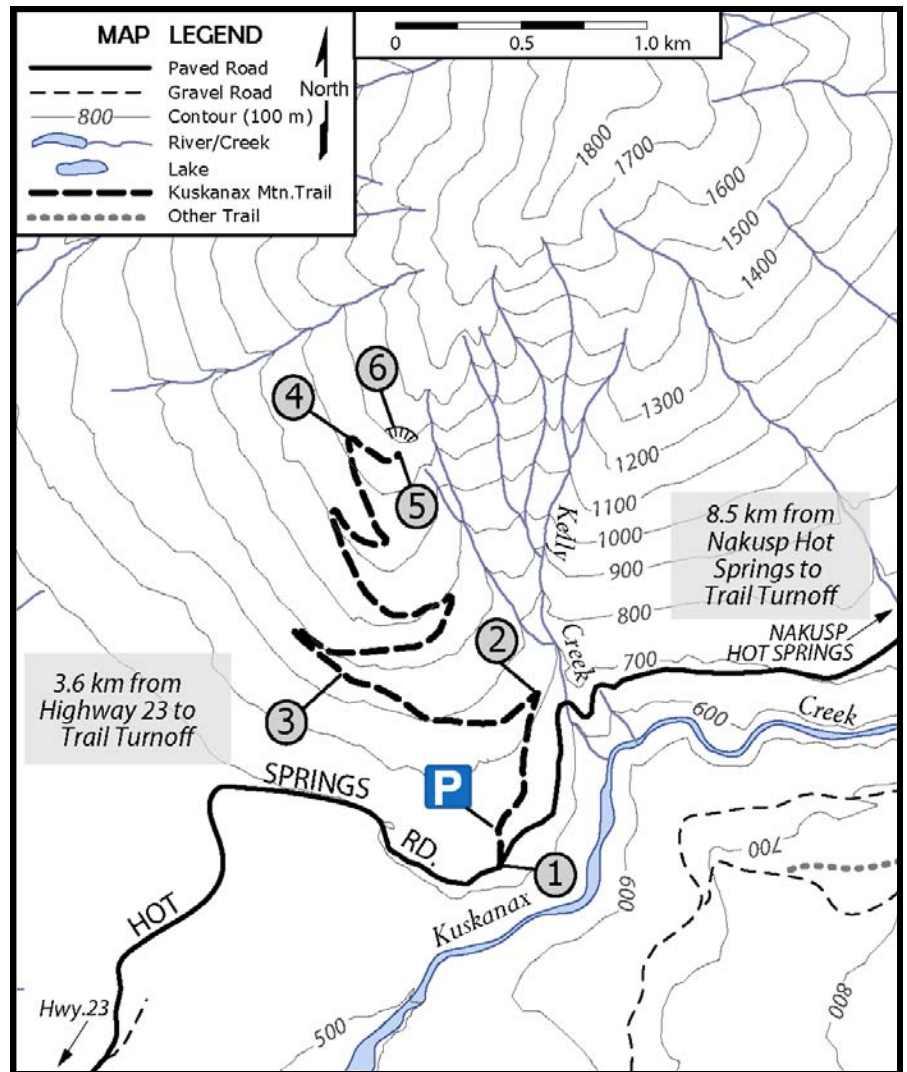


Kuskanax Mtn Trail

Rating: easy
Distance: 4.2 km, one way
Time: 2.5 hrs return
Surface: rough, rutted 4x4 road
Modes: hike, bike, dirtbike, 4 wheeler, snowshoes

Point	GPS	Description
①	50° 16' 17" N 117° 47' 3" W	Turn off Hot Springs Rd.
P	50° 16' 12" N 117° 47' 4" W	Clearing for parking
②	50° 16' 30" N 117° 46' 56" W	1st Switchback
③	50° 16' 32" N 117° 47' 36" W	1st Viewpoint
④	50° 17' 3" N 117° 47' 36" W	2nd Viewpoint
⑤	50° 17' 00" N 117° 47' 31" W	Road ends/deer path begins
⑥	50° 17' 3" N 117° 47' 26" W	Bluffs above road



Trail Description

Kuskanax Mountain looms to the northeast of Nakusp, a sentinel over the town. The trail up the mountainside is really an old fire road that is now used to access two spectacular viewpoints. The 4 kilometre road, with its narrow, rutted, gravel surface, is passable by dirt bike, 4-wheeler or a high-clearance 4x4. Those who prefer walking can ascend the mountain in the quiet solitude afforded by the mainly second growth trees lining the roadway.

After parking, walk along the road, which turns sharply to wind up the mountain after about 600 metres. (GPS Point 2 on the map). Roughly .8 kms from the first switchback, there is a small white sign on the left-hand side of the road noting the 1st viewpoint (GPS Point 3). Scramble through the trees to take in the impressive vista of Nakusp and Upper Arrow Lake, with the Monashee Mountains extending along the west side of the lake. The trek to the 1st viewpoint makes a nice half-day jaunt; culminate here with a picnic and it's time well spent.

The road continues to climb, switching back and forth through the fire's corridor, until reaching the 2nd viewpoint (GPS Point 4). The viewpoint used to be a launch pad for local hang gliders, but it is now no more than a clearing beside the road. The pine trees flourished after the fire and now frame the view of town, a testament to the regenerative power of wildfires.

The road extends another 500 metres past the 2nd viewpoint but is quite overgrown with alder saplings. Persisting along the last bit will lead hikers to the start of a rough trail heading almost straight up the mountainside. Scrambling up the trail, not much more than a deer path really, leads to the bottom of some craggy bluffs. From here, looking back through the tall trees toward town affords a stunning view.

Access

To access Kuskanax Mountain Trail, drive north from Nakusp on Highway 23, toward Revelstoke. About 2 km from town, turn right onto Hot Springs Road, and follow the road for 3.6 kilometres. On your left is a rough road, marked by a small sign noting "Kusk. Mtn. Trail". Turn left here (GPS Point 1); drive for a hundred metres and park in the widened clearing (GPS P).

Modes of Use

As the trail is an old, unmaintained road, it is suitable for dirt bike, 4-wheeler or high-clearance 4x4 truck. Hikers, mountain bikers and snowshoers should expect a steady climb on a switch-backing road.

Past and Future

In 1973, an intense blaze raced up Kuskanax Mountain, threatening timber and wildlife, and scattering fiery embers on the town and valley below. To battle the raging fire, a rough road was pushed up the flank of the mountain, enabling crews and equipment to gain access to the fire. "Huffy Fire" was named after a contractor working the fire, and locals now often use the name Huffy Mountain synonymously with Kuskanax Mountain. In the 1980's, hang gliders built a launch pad near the top to catch the breeze and sail over town.

If You Liked This Trail

If you like a summer ascent with a great view, try Saddle Mtn. Lookout Trail or Silver Cup Ridge. If you are looking for other moderate hikes close to town, try Kimbol Lake, Rosebery Railbed or the Nakusp Hot Springs Trail.



Rizzo at the 1st Viewpoint



- Trails in Series:**
- ★ Kuskanax Mtn.
 - ② Hotsprings Trail
 - ③ Kimbol Lake
 - ④ Cedar Grove
 - ⑤ Box Lake Loop
 - ⑥ Saddle Lookout
 - ⑦ Wensley Creek
 - ⑧ Nakusp Loop
 - ⑨ Rosebery Railway
 - ⑩ Silver Cup Ridge

Panorama of the valley below



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This brochure is informational only. Trail users assume all responsibility for personal injury or damage to equipment.

~Detailed information on the inside ~

- keep to the designated trails
- take only pictures; leave only footprints
- foot traffic yields to horses, bikes and motorized traffic (only use on trails allowing motors)
- travel in pairs or groups, and keep kids in sight at all times
- keep pets under control; be aware they may pose a hazard with backcountry wildlife

Trails are shared by many and maintained by few, so follow trail etiquette:

- keep to the designated trails
- take only pictures; leave only footprints
- bring emergency supplies eg. warm clothes, extra food & water, matches, knife, compass, map
- make noise to alert wildlife to your presence eg. sing, whistle, clap

In the backcountry, prepare for the unexpected:

- tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return
- bring emergency supplies eg. warm clothes, extra food & water, matches, knife, compass, map
- make noise to alert wildlife to your presence eg. sing, whistle, clap

Be prepared for hiking. Even if your journey is a short one, you should have:

- solid walking shoes or boots
- water and nutritious food
- first aid supplies
- comfortable clothing – loose layers with rain gear



Old fire road leads to great views

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* All brochures in the Trails of Nakusp series are available online at : www.nakusparowlakes.com

For more information:
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Trails of Nakusp
Easy Hike
 All Season
Kuskanax Mountain Trail



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Spring foliage frames the view of Nakusp and Arrow Lake