

GROUSE CREEK TRAIL (Barkerville to Racetrack Flats)

Rating: Moderate to Difficult due to the distance of travel.

Distance: 15km one way, times 2 if returning same way

Add 2.5km if 4X4 transportation is at Rhubarb Cabin,

Add 12km and 5-6 hrs if returning via Gold Rush Pack Trail.

Transportation driven to Shy Robin on Grouse Cr. will reduce distance by +/-7km

Maximum elevation gain: 930ft, 283m

Maps needed from our website are: 1, 2, 5, & 6

If returning via Bald Mtn. add 4

In the Gold Rush days there were several towns located along Grouse Creek, there was Grouse Creek City, Grouse Creek Town and Boone Sawmill, along with a scattering of single cabins. Much of the trail along the creek is the original trail the miners used to access the claims.

Without entering the Barkerville gate (A) head Left (East) and cross the bridge over Williams Creek, follow this road and keep Left for approximately 5.5km. There should be signs indicating to turn Right to Grouse Creek at the junction.

Follow this road to the Creek which crosses the stream twice, and past an active mining area. The road starts to become a trail and soon the road ends. Along this section you can see area of the creek bank held up by walls of large rocks put in place by manpower, to enable the miners to access the stream gravel for their gold. The trail now follows up the creek fairly steep and levels off in a large meadow, the trail crosses the creek and stays on the East side to the top end of the meadow. The trail is hard to find in the grass so stay along the meadow to the far end and the trail will be picked up. This is the height of land and the end of Grouse Creek. White Grouse Creek was redirected as water was needed; currently the water is now the headwaters of Antler Creek. The trail now follows Antler Creek down its way to Racetrack Flats (L) where Racetrack Creek joins Antler. Here on the dry flats just above the creek was the straight racetrack, one can see where rocks were removed from the racing surface and piled along the sides. Also a road house was located here, Maloney's was also called the Casino and possibly several

times a summer, races were held with miners from Barkerville, Richfield, Grouse Cr. City and Antler City attending to bet their gold on the winners. Just behind Maloney's two graves are located on the upper level.

Hikers can retrace their route or if they have plans to meet some transportation, continue along the Gold Rush Pack Trail to Rhubarb Cabin (2km) and Sawmill Flats (5km), cross the creek and follow the ditch line. The other return route is to follow the trail up onto Bald Mtn. and into Richfield via 10km on the Gold Rush Pack Trail. (+-6hrs) There are two campsites located in the Racetrack Flats area if camping is planned. Check your map for locations.