



Directions to the Wilderness Centre

Updated December 2007

General Location and Information

CrossRiver Wilderness Centre is located on the southern edge of Kootenay National Park, in British Columbia, and is 14.5 km off the main Highway 93, on Settlers Road. The Settlers Road turn-off is well-marked and is located on Highway 93 approximately 19 km (20 minutes), north of Radium Hot Springs; and 85 km (1 hour), south of the Trans-Canada Highway 1 in between Banff and Lake Louise. The following directions are assuming that you are driving yourself. Other arrangements can be made with advance notice, although driving yourself is generally the easiest and offers you the greatest opportunity to enjoy the amazing scenery along the way at your own pace. The closest big city with an international airport, and regular buses and services to nearby Banff and Radium Hot Springs, is Calgary, Alberta; about a 3-hour drive from CrossRiver.

Driving Westward and Southward

From Calgary, Banff, Edmonton, Jasper

We are approximately 3 hours west of Calgary, Alberta, the closest International Airport. Most people arriving by air will be renting a car from here. First, you will need to head west on the Trans-Canada highway 1 (16 Ave. N., in Calgary), towards Banff. About 30 km past Banff, you then take the Highway 93 turn-off south towards Radium Hot Springs. Drive about 85 km south to the Settlers Road turn-off, which is well-marked and just past the Macleod Meadows campground. The Highway 93 turn-off to Radium Hot Springs is also accessible from further north (Jasper and Edmonton). From Jasper, head south on Highway 93 (the Icefields Parkway) towards Lake Louise. Once at the major junction with Highway 1, exit left (east) towards Banff, instead of right (west) towards Lake Louise. Approximately 20 minutes away, take Highway 93 south again towards Radium Hot Springs as described above. **Then follow the "While on Settlers Road" directions below.**

CrossRiver Wilderness Centre

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Driving Northward

From USA, Fernie, Cranbrook, Nelson

Head north on Highway 93/95 through the Columbia River valley. You will pass by or through towns such as Cranbrook, Kimberley, Fairmont Hot Springs, and Invermere until you arrive in Radium Hot Springs. At the only major junction in Radium Hot Springs (at the Esso gas station), turn right onto Highway 93 heading north into Kootenay National Park. Pass by the hot springs pools on your right and over Sinclair Pass. The Settlers Road turn-off is 19 km past Radium Hot Springs, at the bottom of the hill on the north side of Sinclair Pass, and is well-marked. **Then follow the “While on Settlers Road” directions below.**

Driving Eastward

From Vancouver, Revelstoke, Golden

Coming from the west coast on the Trans-Canada Highway 1, you would pass through towns such as Kamloops, Salmon Arm, and Revelstoke to finally arrive in Golden. Turn right off highway 1 into the city of Golden, and pass through the city heading south on Highway 95 towards Radium Hot Springs. Once in Radium Hot Springs, turn left at the Esso gas station (the only major junction in the town), onto Highway 93 heading north into Kootenay National Park. Pass by the hot springs pools on your right and over Sinclair Pass. The Settlers Road turn-off is 19 km past Radium Hot Springs, at the bottom of the hill on the north side of Sinclair Pass, and is well-marked. **Then follow the “While on Settlers Road” directions below.**

While on Settlers Road

Note: Settlers Road is travelled by large trucks. Please, drive slowly and cautiously at any time of day or night; the road does have some sharp corners and the trucks come up to them quickly. Furthermore, we are located in the remote backcountry, with *no* nearby street lights; gas stations; shops; restaurants; buildings; etc. at all, and *very few* people ever. This makes stopping to ask for directions near impossible. There are also kilometers of old deactivated gravel roads all around us that can sometimes get confusing. Therefore, a word of caution is to arrive before dark; we can sometimes be *very difficult* to find after dark.

Settlers Road is a gravel road, but it is wide in most places and well maintained. As you start down Settlers Road, you will note that your progress can be monitored by the yellow kilometer signs at each kilometer on the side of the road. Proceed within Kootenay National Park for 11.5 km. When you pass the Park boundary, you will come to a fork in the road, at the 12 km sign—*turn left here*. After another kilometer and around a sharp corner to the right, you will come to a large bridge over the Kootenay River. Continue up the hill on the other side of the bridge until you reach another fork in the road at the 14 km sign (the Nipika Ski Center will be on your left here). Go past the ski center by taking *the left fork again*. You are now on Cross River Road and the CrossRiver Wilderness Centre is located up the first driveway on the **right**, which is approximately another ½ km past the 14 km sign you just passed. There is no typical sign with text to mark the driveway, only a traditional Inuit *Inuksuk* (a stone person). After turning right at the *Inuksuk* (into our driveway), you will immediately come up on a chain gate with a property sign beside it that says, “9272 Cross River Road”. To head up the driveway, sometimes our chain gate may be closed. This is just clipped on the right hand side and is not locked. Unclip the chain, proceed up the driveway, and please re-clip the chain if it was closed when you arrived. Once on the driveway, pass by the heritage cabins and main lodge on your right, and continue up the driveway for about ½ km to the main log house on your left for check-in and orientation.