

# Flightseeing The West Chilcotin



Photo courtesy Sid Blackwell

Floatplanes are used extensively in this region to move people, equipment and supplies into remote outpost camps and resorts.

## Wildlife

The alpine in this region is noted for its abundant and in some cases, rare wild flowers. Besides the colorful show you'll often see the wildlife we are noted for as you cross the massive Tweedsmuir Park area and the Rainbow Mountains. Caribou, black and grizzly bears, moose mountain goat, and wolves range freely here. Often a floatplane is the very best way to see the varied wildlife in the Itcha Ilgatchuz Ranges. Herds of caribou can be seen in the high alpine as well as wolves. Often you will see a lone bull moose or cow and calf standing in the meadows, or grizzly feeding on a hillside in the high alpine. Both parks offer LEH permits and low hunter numbers mean lots of game.

## Rainbow Mountains

This mountain range with one foot in Tweedsmuir Park was so named for its myriad of wonderful colors. The remarkable colors of the Rainbow Range are caused by specific minerals involved in the volcanic formation of the mountains and range from bright reds to oranges and yellows that streak the flanks of the mountains.

This wild, rolling alpine is a favorite of hikers but the striking colors are better appreciated from the air.



Photo courtesy Sid Blackwell

## Waddington Range

Majestic mountains are just a short trip by floatplane from Nimpo Lake. Mount Waddington is a spectacular sight at 13,186 feet in the heart of the Coast Mountains. The highest peak in the Coast Range Mt. Waddington is known as "Mystery Mountain". The flight takes

you down the KlinaKlini River to the head of Knight Inlet. Look out over the Pacific Ocean, Bute Inlet and the Homathko River. Soar over ice fields and valleys 10,000 feet deep on a flightseeing trip of a lifetime.

## Itcha Ilgatchuz Provincial Park

This 280,000 acre roadless area was designated a park in 1995 to protect a large area of alpine grasslands, wetlands, and the largest caribou herd in southern BC. The two mountainous ranges are comprised of barren shield volcanoes which makes it easy to see herds of caribou from the air. Old horse and wagon trails wind through the two ranges where adventurous ranchers carved a new life for themselves way back when. A floatplane can land and drop you off for a day of hiking at Itcha Lake. There's also a public cabin there.



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Flightseeing in the West Chilcotin is sponsored by:



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