

Petroglyphs Bella Coola

Thorsen Creek, Bella Coola

Hundreds of petroglyphs have fallen from a cliff-face and lie scattered among tree roots deep in the forest west of Bella Coola. Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl saw a connection between the people who created the Thorsen Creek petroglyphs and Easter Islanders because the incised rock symbols on the canyon face so greatly resemble the Polynesian stone carvings on Easter Island.



For many years knowledgeable Nuxalk guides have taken visitors from all over the globe to experience the rock carvings and to learn about Nuxalk culture. The guides are there to teach as well as to protect the site. It is recommended that visitors wishing to view the site go with a Nuxalk guide. Tours of the rock carvings with Nuxalk guides can be arranged.



The rock carvings created by Nuxalk Ancestors are an expression of a great culture that was highly developed at the same time as many other great cultures around the world, perhaps having been made around the same time as the great pyramids in Egypt or Stonehenge in England. Professor Phil Hobler was an archeologist who conducted many archeological excavations of ancient Nuxalk village sites in the Bella Coola Valley.

He estimated the age of the Thorsen Creek site at 3500 years. Some Nuxalk guides think they may be much older.



The rock carvings were created by Nuxalk ancestors thousands of years ago. We cannot ask them today why they created these amazing expressions of beauty and cultural meaning. They left this world long ago. But they still have a voice and it lives on in their creative expressions.

Thorsen Creek Petroglyphs are sponsored by:



**Petroglyph
Gallery**

Petroglyph Gallery is the home of authentic Nuxalk Art. Located on the road to the Rock Carvings in Bella Coola, one KM south of Tallio's Gas Bar.

Masks, Jewelry, Carvings, Prints, Clothing
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