

At the 55 mile point the Kootenay River is again crossed and Canal Flats is reached. This is the Southern end of the Lake District. The road crosses to the West side and ascends to the park-like benches skirting the Western edge of Columbia Lake. This is one of the most beautiful lakes in the mountains and is the veritable headquarters of the Columbia River, which formerly was connected by canals with the Kootenay River, hence the name of Canal Flats.

The road winds for mile after mile along the shores of this lake and the views to be seen from the higher points in either direction are magnificent in the extreme. At the Northern end of the lake, the road branches, the one to the left follows the shores of Lake Windermere and leads directly to the town of Invermere, this branch of the road is not gravelled all the way, but is good. The main trunk road crosses to the East side of the Columbia River and passes through Fairmont at which place are the wonderful Radium Hot Springs whose waters have remarkable medicinal values and tourists availing themselves of the opportunity of having a dip in them, will resume their journey feeling greatly refreshed. The peaks of the Fairmont Range towering directly above here reach a height of 9000 feet. There is a stopping place with comfortable accommodations and a store at which supplies can be had.

For the next 14 miles the road is along the base of high snow-clad mountains which are on the right and on your left is the valley with a background of more snow-clad peaks. The prettily situated little town of Windermere is then reached, here is a glorious view of Lake Windermere on the gently sloping banks of which the town nestles. Ideal bathing is to be had here, the lake is fed by many hot springs and from June to the end of September its waters are quite warm. Those desiring to stop over here will find excellent accommodations at the Windermere Hotel, and a store at which supplies may be had.

Four miles North from here is reached the junction of the Athalmer, Invermere and Wilmer roads, of which we will first give a brief description: Athalmer is reached first and is situated at the foot of Lake Windermere at the crossing of the Columbia River. There are a number of general stores and a hotel here. About a half mile to the South-west Invermere is then reached. It is located on a point jutting into the lake with high peaks for a background. It has a very picturesque and sporty golf

course, tennis courts, and a well appointed tourist hotel. Golf and tennis are open to visitors at a nominal fee. It is expected that during the summer of 1920 there will be a tent city erected similar to the one at Coronado beach. It will be situated on the point overlooking the lake, and facilities will be provided for bathing and boating. Free camping sites will also be provided for those bringing their own camping equipment.

A beautiful drive from here is along the wonderful Toby Creek Canyon crossing the bridge eight miles up and returning via Wilmer, which is about two and a half miles from Athalmer. It is the starting point for a trip up Horse Thief Creek with its mysterious Lake of the Hanging Glacier and Ice Tunnel. This is 30 miles West of Wilmer, twenty of which can be driven and the rest by ponies. It is one of the most glorious trips in the Rockies.

From Wilmer back to Athalmer there is an excellent road skirting the Columbia River.

Going back now to the junction of roads 4 miles from Windermere, the trunk road continues North towards Golden, passing the Western end of the Banff-Windermere Road at Sinclair Creek. (A full description of this road follows later). It crosses Sinclair Creek past the Elk Park Ranch and the Big and Little Vermilion Creeks, then Spillimachine is reached, this is the Northern Boundary of the Windermere District, all along here magnificent views are had of the snow-capped peaks of the Rockies to the right and the Selkirks to the left, and the Columbia River winding Northwards through the valley. From Spillimachine all the way to Golden the tourist will obtain a good idea of the fertility of the Columbia Valley from the prosperous looking farms through which the road passes and the many beautiful residences of the owners.

The road parallels the river for about 80 miles of which striking views are had from the high points, especially if the lights happen to be right, then the reflection effects, in its waters, of the surrounding mountains, are superb. The most gorgeous sunsets are seen along here and alone are worth driving many miles to see.

Just before reaching Spillimachine where the road reaches a slight elevation, it is possible, when the air is clear to the West, to enjoy a fine and interesting view of Mount Sir Donald which stands up like a huge sugar loaf between the V of the adjoining mountains at the end of the valley, and is 50 miles as the crow flies from this point.