

71 PANORAMA RIDGE



A hike up Panorama Ridge is a rite of passage for any visitor to Garibaldi Lake, the majestic alpine basin at the heart of Garibaldi Provincial Park. Winding trails lead up from either campground and pass through lush alpine meadows full of wildflowers on route to the steep, barren ascent of the prominent ridgeline. Once on top, the views of Garibaldi Lake are sweeping, and the water takes on a rich turquoise hue in the brilliant summer sun. This hike is highly recommended but is a long slog from the parking lot. Spend the night if you can.

Rating:	◆	Elevation Gain:	1,540 m	Season:	June to October
Round Trip:	28.4 km	High Point:	2,133 m	TH:	N49.95742° W123.11984°
Allow:	9–12 hrs	Driving Distance:	35.5 km	Map 36:	Page 258

Driving

Same as Garibaldi Lake.

Hiking

Follow the Garibaldi Lake directions to reach the junction with *Taylor Meadows Trail* at 6.2 km. If you've not been to Barrier Lookout before, stay right and hike a few minutes up the trail to check out this crazy geological feature before doubling back. From the map board, head toward Taylor Meadows Campground and Black Tusk Junction on a trail that cuts northward before climbing uphill through thick forest. As the trees thin, you'll pass a right-hand trail to tent sites before arriving at a boardwalk and a major intersection in the middle of the campground. The ambiance here is very pleasant. Subalpine meadows streaked with wildflowers are interspersed with forested campsites scattered along the bubbling waters of Taylor Creek. If you need a break, the cook shelter is a perfect spot for a picnic.



● GARIBALDI LAKE FROM PANORAMA RIDGE



● MT GARIBALDI

About 150 m beyond the campground is an old cabin with a trail that leads down to Garibaldi Lake. Keep left at this junction and follow a well-travelled trail eastward for 2 km across open meadows and narrow boardwalks. If you're here in late July or early August, this stretch will be awash with wildflowers and the predominant species are pink and white mountain-heather, lupine, Indian paintbrush, Sitka valerian and fanleaf cinquefoil. The diversity of flowers in these meadows is amazing, and you'll be mesmerized on your way to the next major intersection, now a full 9.5 km from the parking lot. Continue 500 m to a second junction and keep right on the trail to Helm Creek and Panorama Ridge.

Cross numerous creeks and alpine meadows before contouring along the slope above Mimus Lake. At a signed junction, turn right and follow a path around the north end of Black Tusk Lake before entering the forest and climbing onto a ridge with fantastic views of Black Tusk. Beyond, the trail becomes very rocky – great habitat for hoary marmots – and posts mark the way up the right-hand side of the ridge. Eventually, a very steep trail works through rock to arrive at a grassy plateau and an outstanding panoramic view of Garibaldi Lake. This makes a great turnaround point, but the ridge's true summit is about 10 minutes distant. It's worth the short walk if you've got the energy.

Although the peaks seen from the ridge are too numerous to list, the predominant features are Mount Garibaldi (2,675 m) to the south and the unmistakable, flat-topped Table, which sits in the foreground. If you're here in summer, check out the abundance of pretty wildflowers paying particular attention to the purple-flowered sky-pilot, a personal favourite that only grows at high elevations. Relax and revel in your hard-earned location, but leave plenty of time for the descent. You'll lose a whopping 1,500 vertical metres on route back to the car!