

# LAKE OF THE HANGING GLACIER

8 km (to lake) • moderate • 2½-3 hours • elevation gain 720 m

## Getting to the trailhead

The Horsethief Forest Service Road is a well-graded dirt road that presents little difficulty to low clearance, 2WD vehicles. However, early season, when creek crossings will be more difficult, and after poor weather, 4WD is advantageous. From Panorama, drive 18 km towards Invermere on Toby Creek Road. Just before crossing the Toby Bridge, turn left for Wilmer. Stay on the pavement through Wilmer to Westside Road. Pass over Horsethief and Forster creeks. After 10 km of driving on the dirt you will arrive at a 4-way intersection; turn left onto Horsethief FSR. At the 13 km marker, stay left, continuing to follow the main road. The trailhead parking is just after the 49 km mark, approximately 1¼ hours from Panorama.



## Trail description

The trail is both obvious and well-used and begins on the right, following Horsethief Creek before heading up into a lush forest through an old cut block. A bushy ravine flanks either side of Hellowroaring Creek which is traversed by a steel deck before you re-enter the forest. At 3 km, a short descent leads to a horse trail junction. Take the footway to the left to a substantial metal bridge traversing Horsethief Creek. The trail runs in the forest before switchbacking up by the creek that flows from the Lake of the Hanging Glacier next to a set of cascading falls. At 6.4 km, a two-log bridge crosses a small creek into an area devastated by a slide. Pick your way across the debris; the trail continues on the right side of the creek. Climb gently through a lush meadow and pass a campsite and outhouse before a wide plain of rocks marks the north end of the lake. The Lieutenants form the wall at the far end, accompanied by The Commander Mountain to the left and Glacier Dome to the right. Hiking to the Jumbo Glacier itself is not an insignificant extension and requires an hour of boulder hopping along the lake's east bank. Once past the boulders, a faint path runs close to the water's edge leading to the glacier's 25 m headwall.

Photo: Kyle Strachan

