

# Nakusp to Rosebery Railway

<b>Rating:</b>	easy
<b>Distance:</b>	46 km one way
<b>Time:</b>	mode-dependant
<b>Surface:</b>	gravel railbed
<b>Modes:</b>	hike, bike, dirtbike, horseback, X-C ski

## Trail Description

Formerly the railway for the Nakusp Line, the Rosebery Railway climbs gently from Nakusp to Summit Lake and then descends to Rosebery, where it connects with the Galena Trail. The railway trail is ideal for cycling, cross-country skiing, jogging, or simply walking in surroundings both stunning and soothing.

As with many railways, the Rosebery Railway was built along the valley bottom corridor and travels through extensive natural habitat for birds, fish, deer, rodents and larger mammals, including bears and moose.

From Nakusp, the railway climbs at a 2% grade up to Summit Lake, with the first six kilometres situated along the edges of the town of Nakusp, rural acreages and the Nakusp Centennial Golf Course. The cover photo is taken from a viewpoint at GPS Point 3 on the map. As the valley narrows, the trail climbs above Box Lake, affording the traveler a superb view of the Box Lake marsh. The trail passes through recent logging blocks that demonstrate current forest practices of smaller clearcuts to reduce the impact on the ecosystem. Much of what was logged is second growth timber following logging in the valley bottoms early in the 1900s.

On approaching the shores of Summit Lake, at 765 metres elevation, the surroundings change. The ancient mountains around the Lake are home to Mountain goats, bears, deer and elk herds. Summit Lake is stocked with Rainbow trout and provides great fun for sport fishers from May through September. The view across Summit Lake to the range known as Three Sisters is spectacular.

From marshy headwaters at Summit Lake, Bonanza Creek flows down through a narrow corridor of cedar, hemlock and fir habitat, full of birds and other animals. The trail follows the creek and is a bit rougher and more overgrown. There is much beaver activity in this area, and grizzly and black bears are frequent visitors during fish runs and berry season. Many people enjoy cross country skiing from Summit Lake to Hills.

After Hills, the trail passes Bonanza marsh, with its excellent bird watching opportunities, then hugs the shores of Slocan Lake all the way to Rosebery. The views of the Valhalla Mountains across the lake inspire reflection on the beauty of some of the oldest mountains in North America. Many small beaches provide opportunities for swimming and sunbathing.

From Rosebery, it is possible to continue on the Galena Trail to Sandon, and further railway may be explored between Sandon and Kaslo.

## Access:

The railway may be accessed from many points where it crosses local roads or Highway 6. The trail begins at the junction of Highway 6 and Highway 23 (GPS Point 1 on the map), follows Highway 6 to Government Road (GPS Point 2), then switches to climb the grade out of town. GPS Point 4 shows access at the Nakusp Centennial Golf Course, while GPS Point 5 indicates where the railway crosses Highway 6, just south of Brouse Loop Rd. The railway is also accessible from Wilson Lake Rd. (GPS Point 6), Highway 6 (GPS Point 7 and 9) and from Bonanza Creek Road (GPS Point 11). The Galena Trail begins in Rosebery; upgraded and mapped in the 1990s, it extends to Sandon.

## Modes of Use

Railways are ideal for biking, jogging, cross-country skiing and walking. The section of trail from Nakusp to Summit Lake sees some motorized use, but this usage is discouraged from Summit Lake to Slocan Lake, as the trail passes through habitat with a delicate equilibrium of diverse species and locals are interested in minimizing disturbance along the corridor. Classic cross country ski tracks are often set behind Summit Lake (GPS Points 7-9) and from Summit Lake to Hills (GPS Points 9-11).

## Past and Future

Many hundreds of years ago, the railway corridor was a traditional trade and hunting route of First Nations people traveling between the Arrow and Slocan Lakes.

In 1893, the Nakusp and Slocan Railway Company Act was given royal assent by the BC Southern Railway Act, and about one thousand CPR workers began construction of the track from Nakusp to Three Forks (above New Denver). It was completed in 1894 and shortly thereafter extended to the mining mecca, Sandon. Upon completion in December of 1895, rival Great Northern Railway crews racing to build the railway in from Kaslo to Sandon promptly attacked the CPR personnel and property, sending bunkhouse cars rolling down the winding mountain tracks to Kaslo in the middle of the night, cutting telegraph lines, and demolishing the Sandon stationhouse by wrapping a cable around it and attaching it to a moving train. The race to reach Sandon, the lucrative endpoint of the two lines, turned out to be unnecessary, as in those boom days, both lines operated at full capacity. As a remnant of bygone days, a small station house still stands at Hunter Siding (GPS Point 10). For further information, visit the Nakusp Museum, the Silvery Slocan Museum in New Denver, the Sandon Museum or <http://www.sandonbc.com/railwaytourism.html>.

In the 1960's and 70's, the train still ran a few times a week, transporting poles and cedar shakes from Nakusp mills south to the main rail line. About 20 years ago, the tracks were dismantled and recreational use began. In 2004, the Hills Recreation Society contact was Richard Allin (358-2355).

Protection of the fragile riparian area of Bonanza Creek and marsh and trail upgrades, including repairing minor washouts and flooded areas, are ongoing projects of local volunteers.

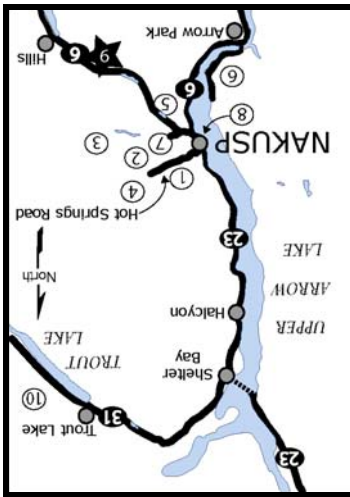
## If You Liked This Trail

If the Railway appealed to you, try the Hotsprings Trail, Kimbol Lake or Wensley Creek for other shoulder season day hikes or winter skis.



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Panorama from the shore of Slocan Lake



- Trails in Series:**
- ① Kuskanax Mtn.
  - ② Hot Springs Trail
  - ③ Kimbol Lake
  - ④ Cedar Grove
  - ⑤ Box Lake Loop
  - ⑥ Saddle Lookout
  - ⑦ Wensley Creek
  - ⑧ Nakusp Loop
  - ★ Rosebery Railway
  - ⑩ Silver Cup Ridge
- Bonanza Creek in winter*



*This brochure is informational only. Trail users assume all responsibility for personal injury or damage to equipment.*

**~Detailed information on the inside ~**

**Trails are shared by many and maintained by few, so follow trail etiquette:**

- keep to the designated trails
- take only pictures; leave only footprints
- foot traffic yields to horses, bikes and motorized traffic (only use on trails allowing motors)
- travel in pairs or groups, and keep kids in sight at all times
- keep pets under control; be aware they may pose a hazard with backcountry wildlife

**Be prepared for hiking. Even if your journey is a short one, you should have:**

- solid walking shoes or boots
- water and nutritious food
- first aid supplies
- comfortable clothing – loose layers with rain gear

**In the backcountry, prepare for the unexpected:**

- tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return
- bring emergency supplies eg. warm clothes, extra food & water, matches, knife, compass, map
- make noise to alert wildlife to your presence eg. sing, whistle, clap

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Riding behind Summit Lake

\* All brochures in the Trails of Nakusp series are available online at : [www.nakusparowlakes.com](http://www.nakusparowlakes.com)

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**Trails of Nakusp**  
**Easy or Day**  
**Ski/Hike/Ride**  
 All Season

**Nakusp to Rosebery**  
**Railway**

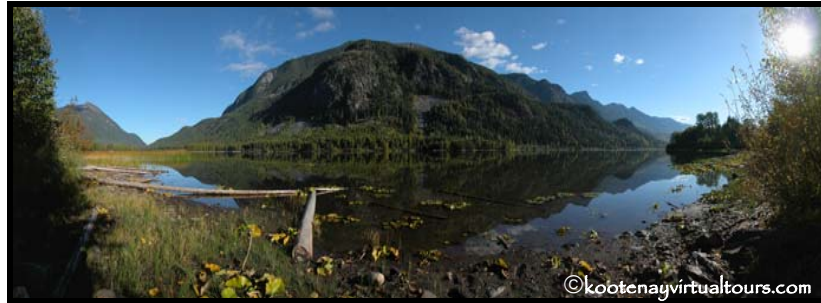
©D. Booth

Looking back at Nakusp from the trail along the Railway

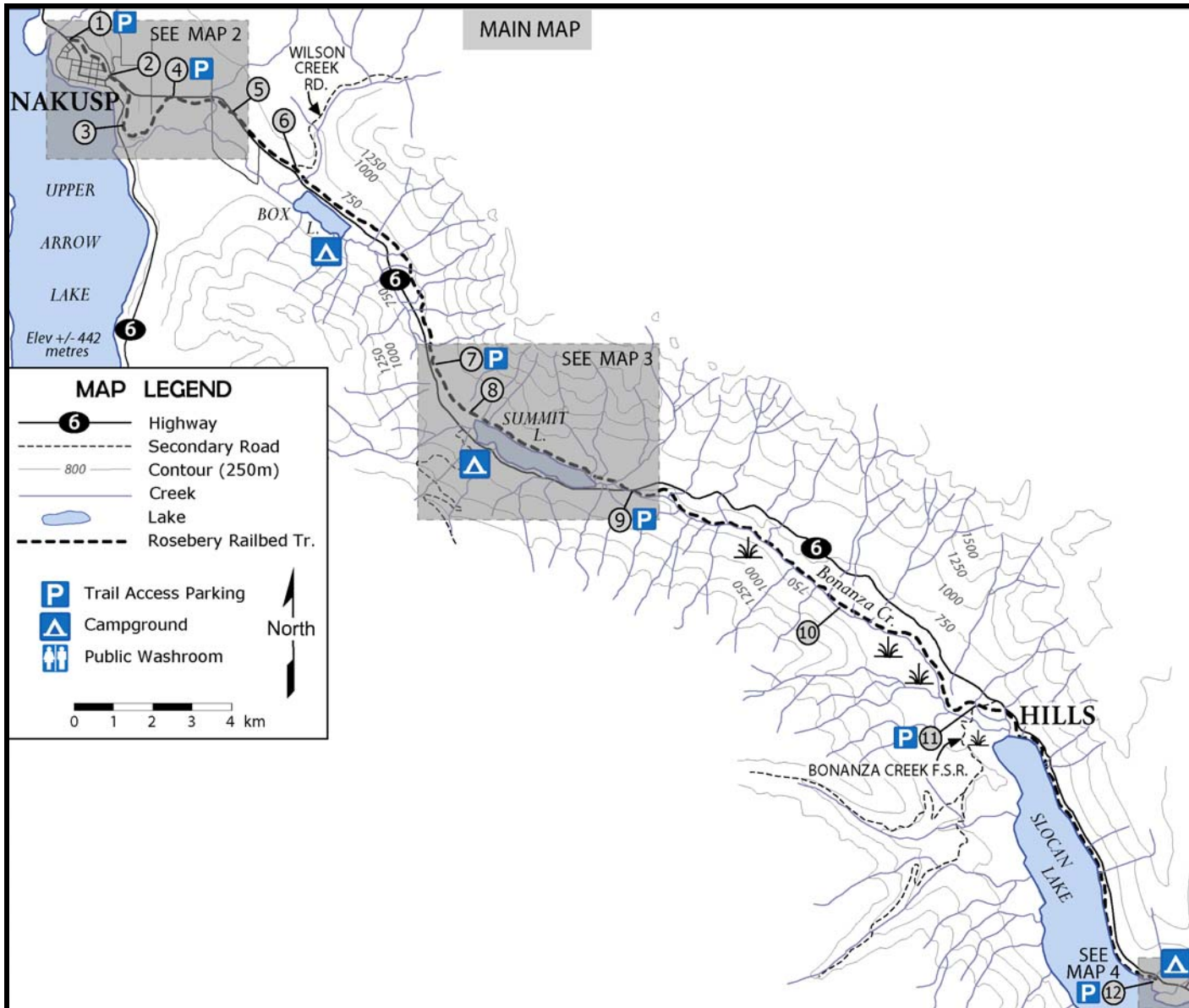


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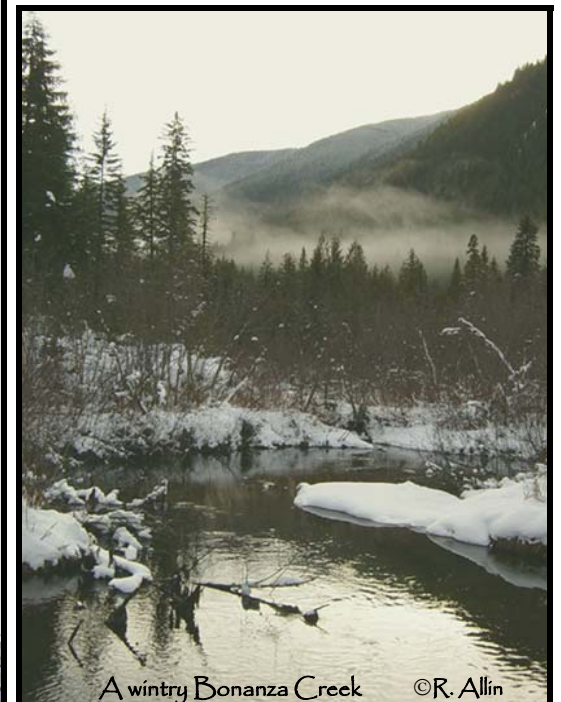
A 180° view of Summit Lake



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Point	GPS	Description
①	50° 14' 58" N 117° 48' 36" W	Railway at Highway 6
②	50° 14' 27" N 117° 47' 41" W	Railway at Government Rd.
③	50° 13' 46" N 117° 47' 18" W	View of Nakusp and Lake
④	50° 14' 9" N 117° 46' 13" W	Nakusp Golf Course
⑤	50° 13' 57" N 117° 44' 59" W	Trail & Brouse Loop Rd.
⑥	50° 13' 11" N 117° 43' 36" W	Railway & Wilson Lk. Rd.
⑦	50° 10' 28" N 117° 40' 36" W	Railway & Highway 6
⑧	50° 9' 50" N 117° 39' 51" W	Railway & 3 Islands Resort
⑨	50° 8' 46" N 117° 36' 22" W	Railway & Highway 6
⑩	50° 7' 11" N 117° 31' 42" W	Hunter Siding Stationhouse
⑪	50° 5' 47" N 117° 28' 41" W	Railway & Bonanza Ck. Rd.
⑫	50° 1' 56" N 117° 24' 49" W	Galena Trail begins



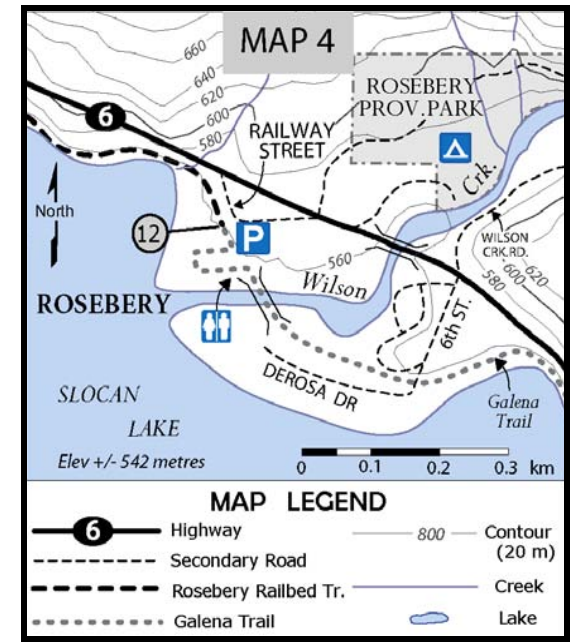
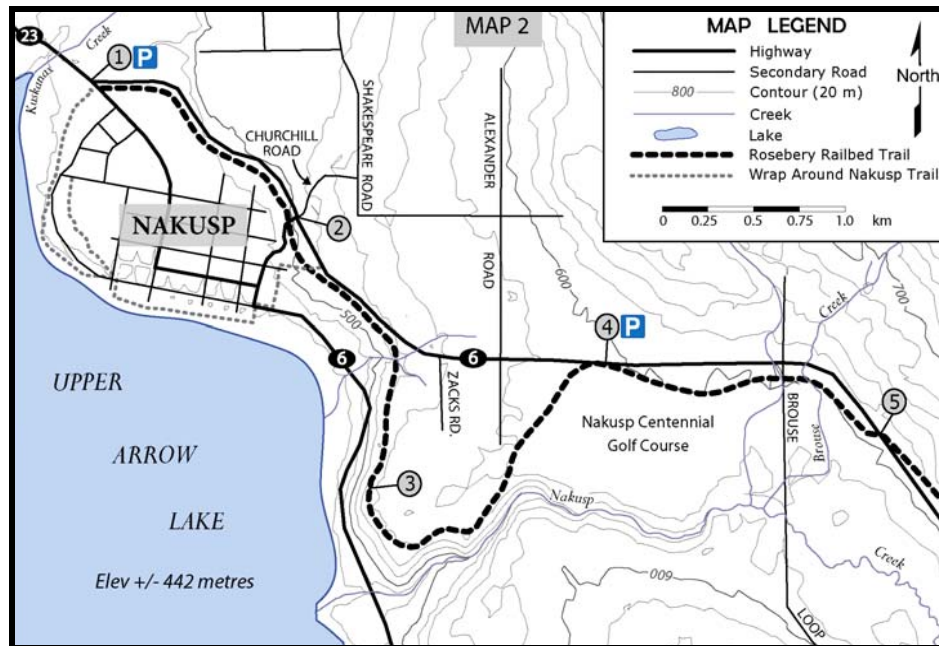
A wintry Bonanza Creek ©R. Allin



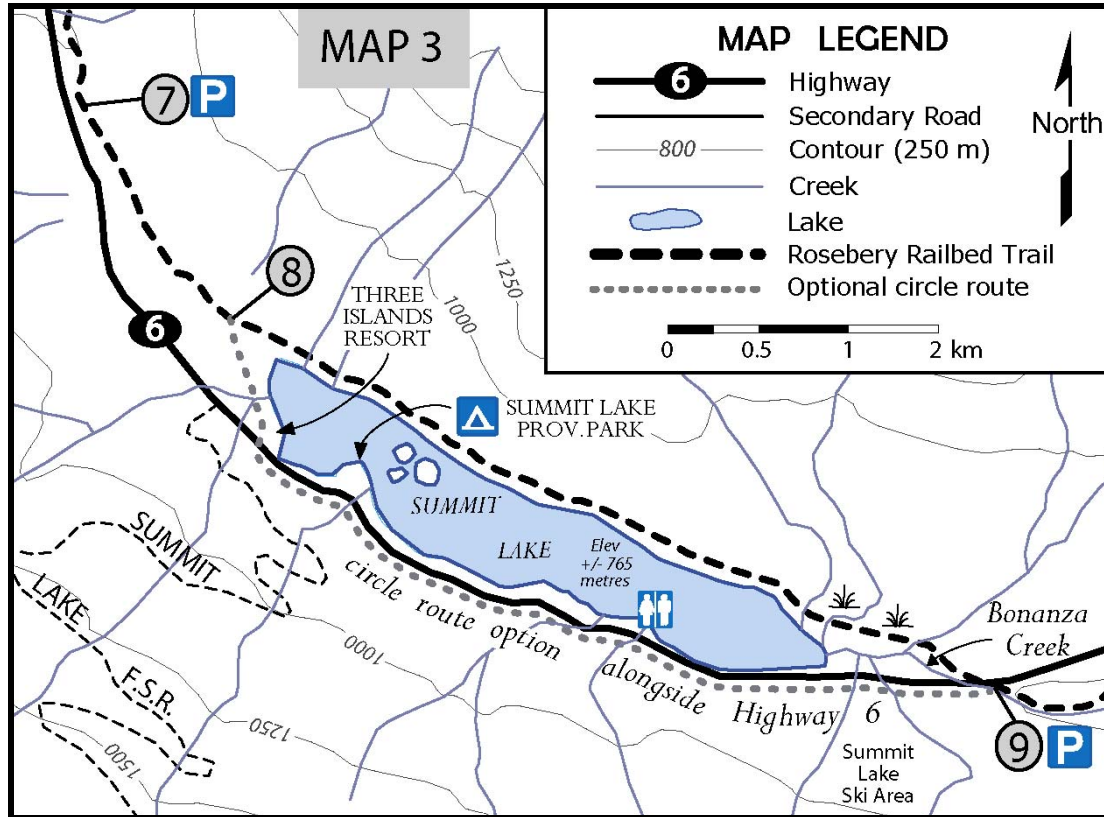
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Friendly lizard ©kootenayvirtualtours.com



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