

# Pinnacles Provincial Park

PINNACLES PROVINCIAL PARK is the home of the Hoodoos in the Cariboo region. These geological structures are surrounded by a vast and thriving forest of pine trees and northern vegetation. Visitors are given the opportunity to see the stunning views offered by the high cliffs that surround the Hoodoos. From various viewpoints, one can look across the forest and see a picturesque view of the buzzing town of Quesnel as well as watch the trembling, flowing waters of Baker Creek below. The wondrous park is almost sort of magical and mysterious as the rock formations are so out of the ordinary.

The Hoodoos began to develop around 12 million years ago. It was in the first year that molten lava flowing over the earth's surface

years modified the landscape and chiseled the Hoodoo formations now present in the Pinnacles Park.

The forest surrounding the park covers around 128 hectares and is filled with different varieties of northern trees such as pine, spruce, birch, and fir. The luxurious forest contrasts well with the dry, crumbling structures of the Hoodoos that stand out so strongly against their background.

Baker Creek winds its way through the Pinnacles Park and accentuates its rich surroundings. Baker Creek's originates 70 kilometers southwest of Quesnel and winds through Quesnel to be engulfed by the Fraser River near the Moffat Bridge. The creek is

“Their fragile existence and intriguing appearance are kept as pieces of our earth to be enjoyed by our eyes and our imagination.”

cooled in flat basalt layers. These igneous rock layers hardened on top of older layers of ash and rock. In the succeeding years, the Ice Age took its toll on the terrain. The thick slabs of ice and snow as well as the harsh and bitter cold frosted over the cooled rock. As the Ice Age neared its end, the ice masses began to recede. The melting caused streams to form and as they slowly trickled their way through the valley, the water eventually began to erode the rock bottom below. As the atmosphere and chemical composition of the planet changed, so did the valley. As the rock layers were exposed, vivid bands of color were revealed as the basalt dissolved and the more resistant ash layer was uncovered. The changing climate patterns and the effects of natural erosion over millions of

most commonly appreciated in West Quesnel and the Uplands sector, though it does join many lakes in the outskirts of this area.

THE HOODOOS HAVE BEEN PRESERVED BY OUR PROVINCE AND REMAIN IN THE NATURAL PROCESS OF EROSION AND WEATHERING. THEIR FRAGILE EXISTENCE AND INTRIGUING APPEARANCE ARE KEPT AS PIECES OF OUR EARTH TO BE ENJOYED BY OUR EYES AND OUR IMAGINATION. THEY ARE DEFINITELY AN IMPRESSIVE MASTERPIECE OF NATURE AND CAN BE SEEN AS A WORK OF ART DESIGNED BY THE MICHELANGELO OF THE NORTHERN WILDERNESS ITSELF. ■