

Charlotte Alplands and Charlotte Lake

Charlotte Alplands

The Charlotte Alplands is not a park but an area without roads set aside for back country recreation. The area lays claim to having the largest concentration of alpine lakes in British Columbia, many loaded with wild rainbow trout and kokanee, and many rarely, if ever, fished. Here you will find alpine wildflowers seen swathing hillsides, many of them rare, and many not found to this extent anywhere else in the world.



Photo courtesy Mary Kirner

Initially, local resource users felt it necessary to protect this area rich in wildlife, including caribou, from encroaching logging. Many resort and lodge owners, outfitters and naturalists operate out of this area and felt it so unique that they fought hard to preserve it.



Photo courtesy Heidi Lenz

Charlotte Lake

Charlotte Lake is about 8 miles long and 5 miles wide and has terrific fishing with Rainbow Trout to nine pounds using either flies or trolling equipment. If one follows Charlotte Lake to its end at the west, fly fishermen will love trying their luck in the rapids between Charlotte and Little Charlotte Lake. Just one word of caution: As with all large Chilcotin lakes located near high mountains, wind can come up quite suddenly and be very unforgiving. It's recommended that you remain close to shore if a wind starts to rise.

Hiking

There are numerous trails for hiking or mountain biking and if you like, you can go on a one day or multi-day trail ride up into the Charlotte Alplands where you will see rare wild flowers amid alpine lakes. Take a camera because the area is rich in wildlife varying from moose, caribou, mountain goat, deer, wolverine, lynx, wolf, coyote and fox, to black bear and grizzly bears. Trumpeter Swans, bald eagles, loons and osprey are commonly seen on the lake.

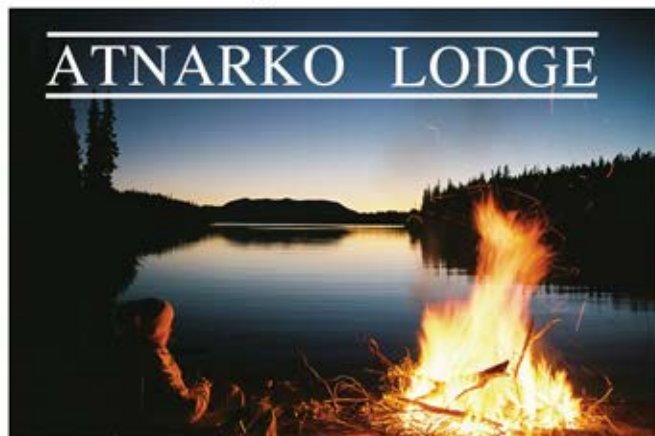


Photo courtesy Heidi Lenz

Canoeing and Kayaking

Studies of the Atnarko River which empties Charlotte Lake, have shown it to be one of the purest river systems in British Columbia if not in all of Canada. Charlotte Lake itself is fascinating for how crystal clear the water is. This makes it a truly wonderful lake for canoeing or kayaking along its shores, for fishing, or for swimming and playing on the beaches at the southeastern end.

The Charlotte Alplands in the West Chilcotin is sponsored by:



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