

TRAIL GUIDE

HIKING IN KITIMAT

Kitimat
Bound

BOUNDLESS BEGINS HERE 📍 KITIMAT, BC

Ya'uc' & Welcome to Kitimat's Trails

From coastal coves to cedar-scented lakes, Kitimat offers something for every pace and season. Our 53 km of walkable paths and wilderness trails flow through forest, along riverbanks, and into mountain air.

Whether you're seeking a quiet loop or a climb that crests into cloudline, current conditions and detailed reviews can be found at AllTrails.com or download the free app on iOS / Android.



Scan the QR code for **trailhead maps**, **safety tips**, and access boundless hiking inspiration at KitimatBound.com

HAISLA NAMES

The Haisla names found in this guide are traditional place names for **trail areas**, *not word-by-word translations.*

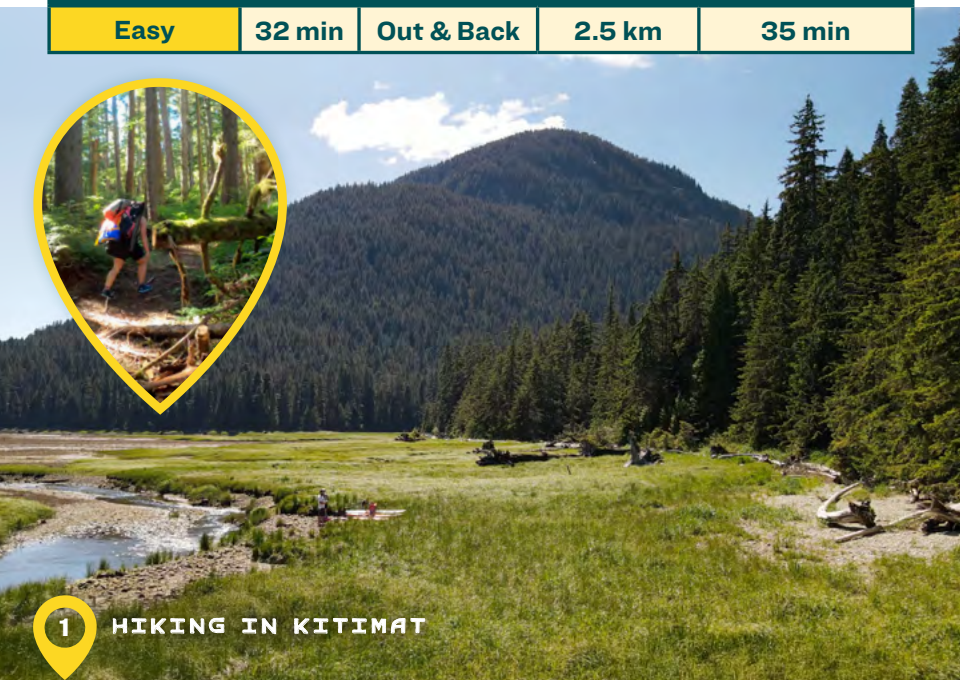
DIFFICULTY		TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Easy	Simple, well-marked, relaxing	Driving time to the trailhead from the Kitimat Visitor Centre 		Total distance covered.	Estimated completion time.
Moderate	Trail variety, some effort, inclines			Out & back trails reflect round-trip distance; Loop trails show total distance	Loosely factors in natural stops at points of interest and terminus. Will vary by hiker.
Challenging	Steep, rough terrain, demanding				
Advanced	Remote, strenuous, technical				

Emsley Cove

WĀĠIS, KETĀSA

Set out under the canopy of towering evergreens and follow the winding path through coastal forest scented with moss and cedar. The sharp calls of **eagles** carry through the trees as you head toward the **Douglas Channel**. The trail ends at an **estuary** where seabirds soar over the driftwood of long-fallen giants **bleached silver by the salt of the Pacific**.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Easy	32 min	Out & Back	2.5 km	35 min



1 HIKING IN KITIMAT

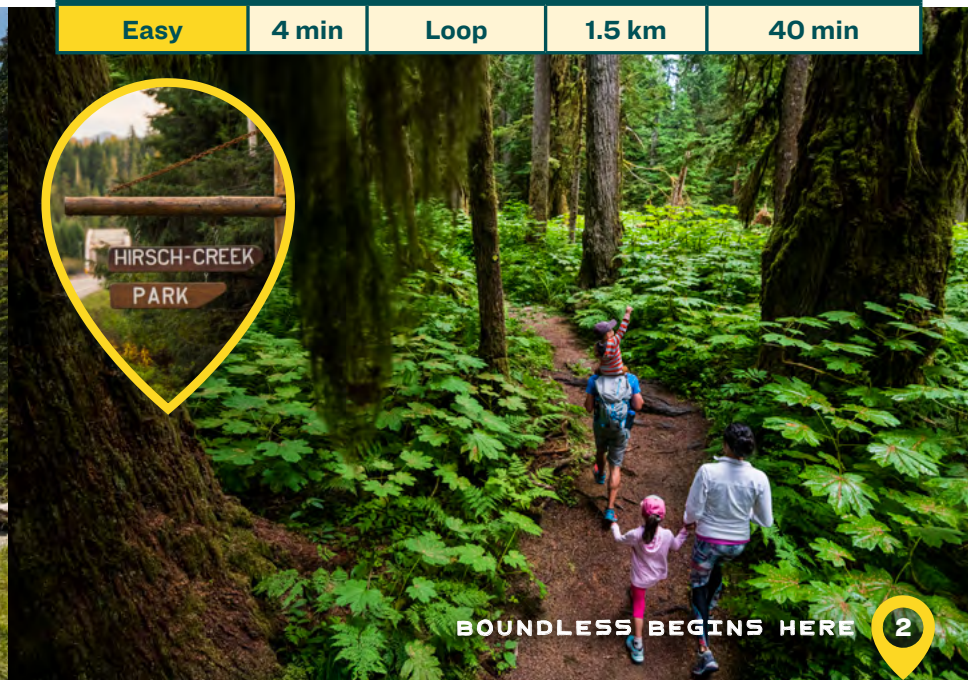
Hirsch Creek Park

Kitimat
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LĀXAKAS

Leisurely trails drift through **iconic old-growth** where families picnic beneath **cedar giants**. But look closely—the forest speaks. **Dén̓yas** (culturally modified trees) echo where **Haisla ancestors** peeled bark or carved testing holes with ancient **adze tools**, assessing the health and strength of the inner heartwood. These marks hint at **canoes** never carved and ceremonial **dancing masks** never made.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Easy	4 min	Loop	1.5 km	40 min



BOUNDLESS BEGINS HERE

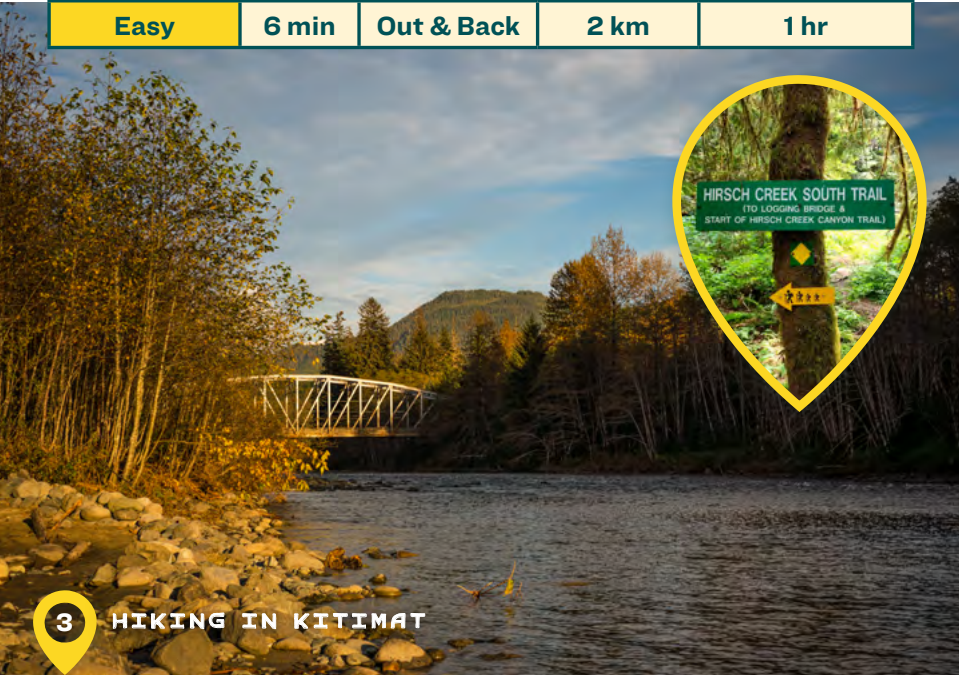
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Hirsch Creek South

ZEĠ^wÍS

A gentle trail follows the **south banks of Hirsch Creek**, ideal for peaceful walks. Once a **vital artery of the grease trails**, this area teemed with fish, supporting trade and winter stores. Haisla families preserved their catch by drying, smoking, and digging deep into the permafrost, storing it in **bentwood boxes** to keep it chilled through the warm months.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Easy	6 min	Out & Back	2 km	1 hr

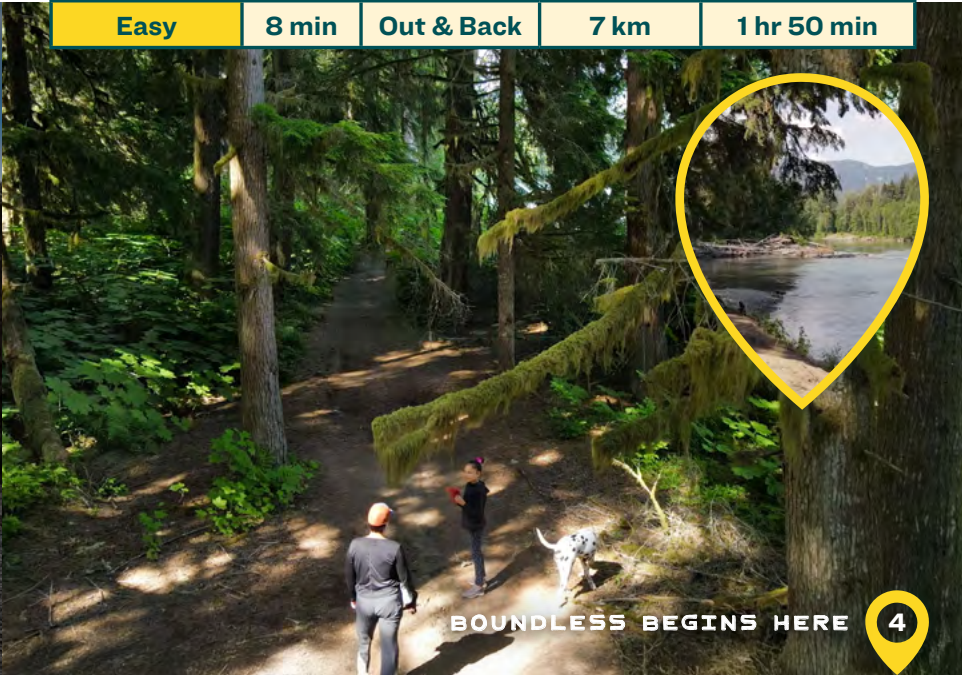


Joe's Trail

SEMGÁS

Follow this **riverside path** through **semgás (old town)**, where the Haisla once fished, processed and smoked **eulachon** for winter. Today, the trail traces the east bank of the **Kitimat River**, winding past blooms of **chocolate lily/wild rice (xúk^wem)**, **buttercup (dleksáam)**, and **fireweed (čaxém)** while opening to river views. Observe **rich birdlife**, and watch for signs of **grizzly (saax)** and **black bear (tíx^wa)**.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Easy	8 min	Out & Back	7 km	1 hr 50 min



Maggie's Point Trail

SEMGĀS, ZEĠWĪS

Known locally as **Gazebo Trail**, boardwalks along **coastal timber** lead you to the eponymous lookout perched above the **Douglas Channel**. At the shoreline, tangles of **hulking driftwood** mark the meeting of forest and shifting tides. Here, take in the rhythm of the coast, where **seals** and **cormorants** animate the wide views of the **Kitimat Range** hunkering into the **Pacific saltwater**.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Easy	11 min	Out & Back	1 km	20 min



North Hirsh

LĀXAKAS

Follow an **accessible trail** along the **north banks of Hirsch Creek**. These lands of ceremony, grease trails, and a **Haisla village lost to time** are known as **lāxakas**, the place of crystal-clear water. **Dényas** (*culturally modified cedar*) rise as gravel underfoot becomes a final stretch of **forest path**. End with a moment of reflection on a **logging bridge** above the waters for which this place is named.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Easy	1 min	Out & Back	3 km	40 min



Pine Creek

ZEĠ^WÍS

Two trails (upper and lower) loop through enchanting surroundings, where cool, earthy air carries the steady sound of water. **Bridges span calm streams** like the moss-draped boughs overhead, guiding you into lands where **Haisla families once prepared eulachon grease** (*łáti*). Nutrient-rich remains were carried downstream by the creek, where **fern** (*łibám*) and **devils club** (*uíquas*) now crowd the banks.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Easy	4 min	Loop	3.5 km	30 min – 1 hr



Cedar Loop

SEMGÁS, ZEĠ^WÍS

A trail that wraps through forest and time. **Halls of alder** channel you down a forestry road that nature is slowly reclaiming. Glimpses of ridgeline peek through the trees as the loop arcs toward **Cedar Lake**—a quiet jewel tucked into the hills. At its cedar-scented shore, a worn **dock rests in glassy shallows**. Some come to swim, others simply to **witness the shifting seasons**.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Moderate	4 min	Loop	7 km	1 hr 45 min



Clearwater Trail

LOCATED BEYOND HAISLA TERRITORY

Step into old-growth forest at **Onion Lake** and follow the trail past **Big Clearwater** and **Little Clearwater Lakes**. Boardwalks span damp areas, and sturdy bridges cross small streams, making for a steady pace, with stretches of roots and rocks adding variety underfoot. Along the way, open clearings to the **crystal-clear shorelines** invite you to pause and take in the reflection of peaks in still water.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Moderate	19 min	Loop	6 km	1 hr 40 min



Coho Flats

ZEᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ

Wander through a **lush trail** on the banks of the **Kitimat River** once used by the Haisla for gathering goose eggs and goslings. The path winds beneath mossy trees and over **cobblestone segments** that channel spring snowmelt. You'll find **blueberries** (*p̓ip̓eᑦsém*) and **huckleberries** (*ᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ*) when in season, and may spot a shy **fox** (*neᑭeᑭᑦᑭᑦ*) slipping through the understory.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Moderate	6 min	Out & Back	4 km	1 hr



Fire Mountain

LĀĪAKAS

Brace yourself for a **steep** ascent through dense forest up the rugged shoulder of **Fire Mountain**. The climb takes effort, but rewards—like elevation—are gained with every step. At the summit, **sweeping views of Kitimat**, the **Douglas Channel**, and the **mist-laced coastal mountains** stretch boundlessly across the horizon. For those up to the challenge, the view is unforgettable.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Moderate	4 min	Out & Back	6 km	1 hr—2 hrs 30 min



Fishermen's Trail

ZEĠWĪS

This ancient corridor along the **Kitimat River** once connected upper and lower Haisla clans. Today, outdoor enthusiasts **follow rugged rock shelves** and **forest terrain** along adventurous shifting **riverside edges**. A **former site of Haisla ceremony** now hosts the sporting rituals of the **Rod & Gun Club**. Where there are fish, bears are never far—**grizzlies** (saax) and **black bears** (tix^wa) have long known the river's rhythm.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Moderate	6 min	Out & Back	8 km	2 hrs

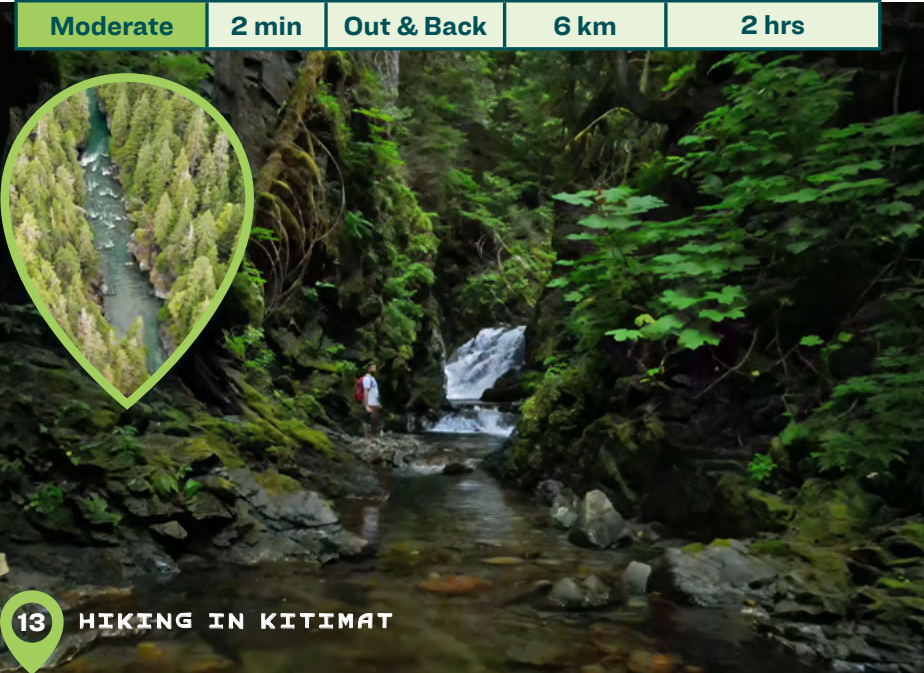


Hirsch Creek Canyon

LĀXĀKAS

Choose between a visual payoff or a deeper journey on lands linked to **ancestral Haisla grease trails**. A **short path** (400m) from Forest Ave leads to a **dramatic canyon overlook**, where **Hirsch Creek** cuts and cascades through sheer rock walls. Or follow the **longer forest route** (6 km), where **mossy stump stepping stones** lift you from the underbrush of ferns and **salmonberries** (*ḡuláli*), as the creek burbles steadily alongside.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Moderate	2 min	Out & Back	6 km	2 hrs

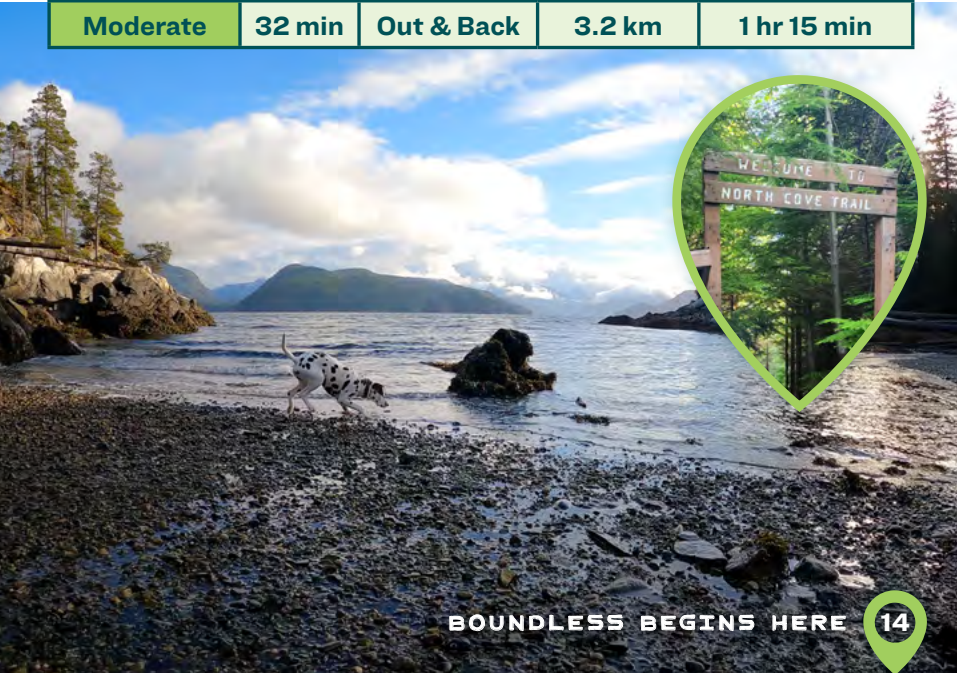


North Cove

WĀU'EXDU, BĪSAMUTIS

North Cove is a descending trail of shifting soundscapes and scenic reward. In spring, snowmelt carves **lively waterfalls** into the hillside. Follow their song to a **peaceful cove** where the trail opens onto the **Douglas Channel** where gentle waves lap a rocky beach, year-round. Watch for **harbour seals**, **orcas**, and **humpback whales**, and breathe in the refreshing ocean air before your return ascent.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Moderate	32 min	Out & Back	3.2 km	1 hr 15 min



Robinson Lake

ĆIMĀUĆA

Trek through **coastal old-growth forest** and stretches of **mountain wetland**, where **boardwalks** carry you over boggy ground that **Northwestern Salamanders** call home. A series of the **small lakes and ponds** reflect the surrounding woodland along the way. It all culminates at a **rustic picnic area** on the shore of **Robinson Lake** — the perfect rest stop for reflection of another sort before your return journey.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Moderate	4 min	Out & Back	6 km	4 hrs — 6 hrs



Smith Street Trail

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ZEĠŦÍS

Step down timbers anchored into the earth and find your footing among the **rooted incline** of this trail to a **forested floodplain of Hirsch Creek**. This brief descent into nature is not just **steep**, but steeped in tradition. **Haisla trappers** have long followed the seasonal rhythms of this creek and its thriving wildlife. **Mink** (*kʷeṇaq*), **fox** (*neḡećái*), **deer** (*qáḡila*), and **marten** (*kenkem*) slink through the mossy underbrush.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Moderate	4 min	Out & Back	0.4 km	45 min

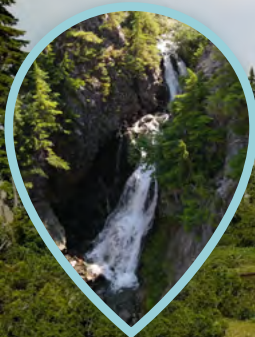


Clague Mountain

GÍYUYUA

An old mining road eases into **dense forest**. As wilderness takes hold, your path leads to **alpine ridges** that form the western horizon of the **Kitimat Valley** and onward to a **subalpine cabin** managed by the Kitimat Snowmobile Club. This is the snowmelt-sculpted domain of **grizzlies** (saax), **black bear** (tíx^wa), and **wolves** (tíásiag^wemik). 1/2 km from the trailhead, gates restrict motorized access in the snowless seasons.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Challenging	11 min	Out & Back	6 km	7 hrs



Wathl Lake Hike

SEMGĀS, ZEĠ^wÍS

There's a place of **evergreen beauty** found in the coastal forest above **Kitamaat Village**. The Haisla know it as **waut**. To reach it by foot or snowshoe, trace along old logging grades and natural drainage lines, rising toward alpine air. In the final stretch, you'll crest into a **hidden basin** where **Wathl Lake** reflects sky and summit alike. An intimate **peninsula stretches to its heart**, providing a peaceful spot to rest or swim.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Challenging	9 min	Out & Back	6 km	3 hrs



Mount Elizabeth Trail

LĀXĀKAS

Journey through dense forest and **steep alpine terrain** to infinite views. The first viewpoint (2 hrs) offers sweeping sights of **Kitimat** and the **Douglas Channel** from a rocky outcrop above the tree line. If conditions allow, push on to the **Little Elizabeth ridgeline** (4 hrs)—where exposure and **sharp drop-offs** demand clear skies and sure-footing. The boundless summit (5-6 hrs) defines **Kitimat’s highest hike**.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Advanced	23 min	Out & Back	8 km	9 hrs

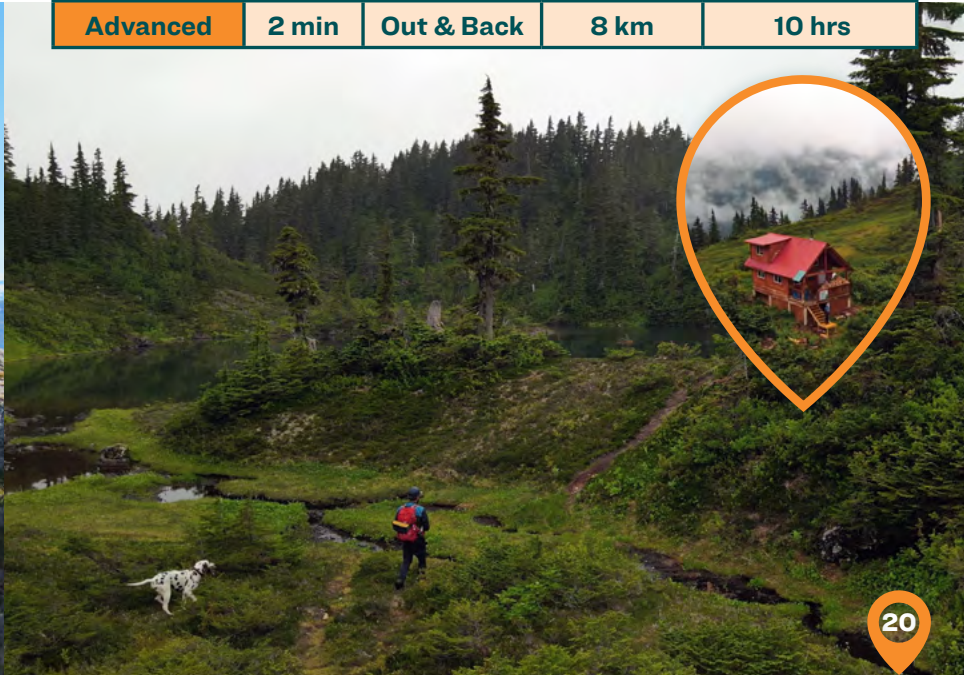


Robinson Ridge

SEMGĀS, ZEĠMĪS

Ascend resolutely into **subalpine terrain**, where the trail crosses **wind-scoured slopes** and **mountain meadows** beneath wide-open skies. Primarily a snowmobile route, expect wet footing and steep inclines. At the summit, a **rustic cabin** offers **panoramic views** and a guestbook; Please sign it to thank the Kitimat Snowmobile Club, whose care keeps this refuge open to all, and as a testament to your journey.

DIFFICULTY	TRAVEL	TYPE	DISTANCE	EST. TIME
Advanced	2 min	Out & Back	8 km	10 hrs



CURRENT AS OF
May 27, 2026

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Stay Safe On The Trails

Scan the QR code above for ***essential hiking safety tips***, including what to pack, how to prepare, and what to do in case of emergency. Whether you're out for a quick walk or a full-day hike, it's always best to be prepared.

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