

ROCK GARDEN AND HEMLOCK GROVE TRAILS, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK (ROGERS PASS), BRITISH COLUMBIA
AND
GIANT CEDARS AND SKUNK CABBAGE TRAILS, AND SNOWFOREST AND INTERNMENT CAMP VIEWPOINTS,
MOUNT REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARK, BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Rock Garden Trail is a 0.5 kilometer loop trail located below Cougar Mountain, on the west side of Canada's Glacier National Park. It is a nice nature trail which has good views of the surrounding mountains on clear days (although unfortunately on this trip it was quite cloudy).

The Hemlock Grove Trail is a 0.5 kilometer loop boardwalk through old-growth cedar and hemlock forest, on the west side of Glacier National Park. It is generally less crowded than the two boardwalks in Mount Revelstoke National Park.

The Giant Cedars Trail is (another) 0.5 kilometer loop boardwalk through old-growth cedar and hemlock forest, on the eastern side of Mount Revelstoke National Park. It is generally more crowded than the Hemlock Grove Trail, perhaps because the trees along this boardwalk appear to be more magnificent.

The Skunk Cabbage Trail is a 1.2 kilometer "lollipop loop" boardwalk near the river. When we were there, a bear warning had been posted, and traces of the bear's presence were very clear along the loop (two instances of bear scat on the boardwalk, as well as multiple large, crushed, bear-size pathways through the skunk cabbage). There were lots of visitors to this boardwalk at the time we were there; nonetheless, we brought bear spray on the walk, as was advised by the posted signs, and we stayed very aware of our surroundings, just in case.

The informative sign at the start of the Rockgarden Trail gives a map of the route which the trail takes. There no longer appear to be brochures at the trailhead which correspond to markers along the trail:



There is a small gate and fence at the beginning of the trail:



The boardwalk at the start of the trail passes by some nice ferns:



There were numerous small, white mushrooms covering the ground through here:



Looking up at where we should be able to see some mountains, except that there is too much fog:



The trail soon forks and visitors are instructed to go to the right:



The mushrooms in British Columbia's Glacier National Park are some of the most interestingly shaped mushrooms I have ever seen:



The trail passes through a small rockpile before entering the forest:



This is one of the trail markers which corresponds to the trail guide:



The trail zig-zags up a small, forested knoll:



This is very pleasant and scenic walking through here:



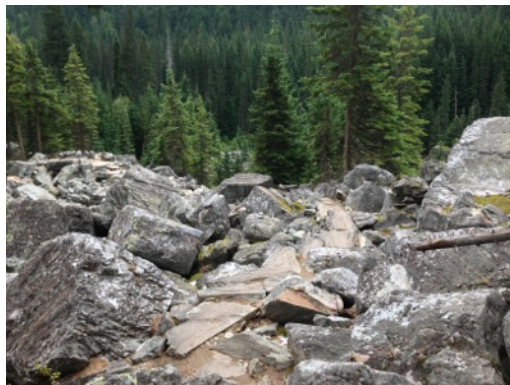
The lighting was perfect for HDR photography of the trees:



Looking at the ridge across the road from the Rockgarden Trail (which would be a better view on a not-so-cloudy day):



Looking along the trail towards the main road:



The trail has been very skillfully constructed among these rocks:



Looking up at some peaks just starting to appear in the clouds:



This trail has some steep stretches which could become slippery in the rain:



Hand-rails have been installed to aid in some of the steeper descents:



Our next stop after checking out the Rockgarden Trail was the Hemlock Grove boardwalk. According to the sign at the beginning of the trail, this is the only inland hemlock/cedar rainforest in the world:



Fallen trees in this forest have become nurse logs:



Panorama of the ferns and trees in this very scenic spot:



This plant, which appears to be quite common in these parks, is called Devil's Club:



Here is a Western Hemlock:



Here is a Western Red Cedar (the hemlock in the above photo is actually right behind this cedar, which is blocking it from view in the photo):



There were many interesting mushrooms growing on the trees through here:



This mushroom appeared to have a sort of sap dripping off it:



The Giant Cedars Trail appears to be a little bit longer than the Hemlock Grove Trail, and it travels through a very similar forest:



The trees along the Giant Cedars Trail certainly are bigger than the ones along the Hemlock Grove Trail:



Panorama of some of these big trees; notice all the Devils Club growing around the bases of these trees, as compared to all the ferns growing along the Hemlock Grove Trail:



The lighting was perfect for HDR photography because of the cloudy sky:



This informative sign points out the spines on the stem of the Devil's Club plant:



The red berries, along with the spiny stem, probably contributed to this plant's name:



This boardwalk has some very picturesque scenes with the trees and the path:



Our fourth stop was the Skunk Cabbage boardwalk. Here are some of the skunk cabbages:



In some years there have been more skunk cabbages than others; this is one year where there were numerous large plants visible from the boardwalk:



Much of the boardwalk crosses relatively deep pools of water, so be very careful not to slip off the boardwalk:



This was one particularly large skunk cabbage:



The clouds are starting to lift, so we are getting more of a view of the surrounding hillsides:



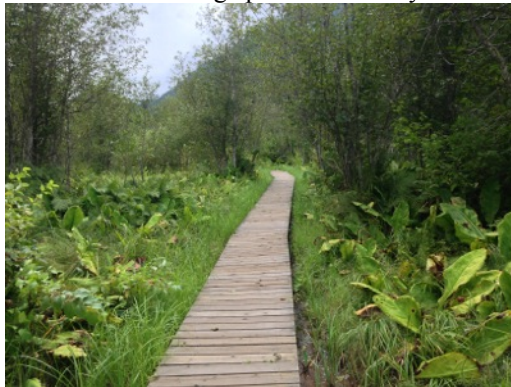
Cattails were prevalent along some portions of the trail:



The bear which had been spotted in this area has made clear trails through the skunk cabbages in some places:



There were some stretches of the boardwalk where the skunk cabbage plants were very thick along the sides of the path:



Looking at a stream which joins the main river near the start of the boardwalk:



From there, we headed towards the Meadows in the Sky Parkway. This is the view from the Internment Camp viewpoint:



This panorama was taken looking towards the town of Revelstoke:



This is the view from the Snowforest viewpoint; Mt. Begbie is visible in the center of the photo (it's the peak which has a smaller peak just off to each side). We had attempted the hike up Mt. Begbie in 2011 or thereabouts, but had turned around about 1 km from the lower campsite (near the end of the steepest parts of the trail) due to incredibly thick clouds of mosquitoes (!):

