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100 Mile House



**South Cariboo
Visitor Centre**



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SOUTH CARIBOO
100 MILE HOUSE



**100 Miles
From Where?**

100 Miles From Where?

Originally known as the Bridge Creek House, the town took its name in the 1860s. The roadhouse was strategically located 100 miles from Lillooet, the starting point of the historic Cariboo Wagon Road.



Start of the Gold Rush

Peter Dunlevy and his companions, guided by two Tk'emlúps men, Tomaah and Long Baptiste, discovered gold in the Horsefly River in 1859. This pivotal find ignited the Cariboo Gold Rush, drawing waves of miners northward in pursuit of fortune. Then when Billy Barker and his party struck gold in Williams Creek, it led to the rapid rise of the legendary boomtown, Barkerville.



The Travelers

Many travelers paused here on their journey to the goldfields of Barkerville. While countless miners and prospectors were driven by the lure of gold, others along the trail had different ambitions. Ranchers, blacksmiths, accountants, and a variety of enterprising people followed the road north to seize the opportunities that came with a booming economy.



Bridge Creek House

Built in 1861 as the Bridge Creek House and later known as the 100 Mile House, this iconic roadhouse served travelers journeying north to Barkerville. The property spanned approximately 3,000 acres, primarily used for ranching cattle. In 1912, the ranch was sold to William Cecil, the Marquess of Exeter, who acquired it along with around 12,000 acres of surrounding land. The Cecil family continued to operate the ranch for over a century, until 2022, when it was sold to the Canim Lake Band, who now manage the land. Today, only the original barn on the property remains standing as a devastating fire in 1937 destroyed most of the buildings. The barn can be seen traveling north out of town.

Roadhouses and Stagecoaches

The Cariboo Wagon Road was dotted with roadhouses spaced on average every 10-15 miles, typically situated in areas rich with water and grazing lands. A few roadhouses were only 3-4 miles apart. These roadhouses served as vital rest stops for travelers, offering hot meals, a place to sleep, and provisions for their horses. As the search for gold continued, Sir James Douglas recognized the need for better infrastructure and established the Cariboo Wagon Road, stretching from Yale to Soda Creek and Alexandria. This crucial route was traversed by mule trains, stagecoaches, and freight wagons, all delivering passengers and supplies to the goldfields. Among the many companies operating along the road, the Barnard Express Stage Line known as BX, was one of the prominent stagecoach services connecting travelers with the gold fields. One of the few remaining BX stagecoaches is located at the South Cariboo Visitor Centre in 100 Mile House.

