

Red Cariboo Resort FAQ

Thanks for your interest in a job at the Red Cariboo Resort!

On the following pages you will find answers to frequently asked questions and a few tips to make it easier for you to decide for or against a job here.

➤ **Where is the resort located?**

- The resort is located in the heart of British Columbia, in the Chilcotin region. The region has been becoming increasingly popular with tourists for several years due to its rough, pristine landscape, loneliness and the high number of wild animals.
- From Williams Lake it is about a 4-hour drive along Highway 20 towards Bella Coola to the Red Cariboo Resort. The resort has two pieces of land that are about 10 minutes' drive from each other. The guest cabins, the community kitchen, the restaurant, the horse stable and the staff accommodation are located on the approximately 60 hectare main property. Our guest apartments and our canoes / kayaks are located on Elsey Road directly on Anahim Lake.

➤ **What is the best way to get to the Red Cariboo Resort?**

- You can only get to the resort by car. Anahim Lake has a small airport, from where there are regular flights to Vancouver, but from here it is about 15 km to the resort. If you don't want to buy a car right away, we will be happy to pick you up from Anahim Lake Airport or, if necessary, by arrangement in Williams Lake. Please be aware that there is no public transport here and that you may be dependent on work colleagues and friends to get to the village, the city or to excursion destinations. We therefore strongly recommend purchasing a car, preferably with AWD (all-wheel drive) or 4WD (four-wheel drive). Since the weather conditions in winter are very extreme and snowy and the road conditions are not particularly good, we advise against buying a small car or minivan with front-wheel or rear-wheel drive. Over the years, the Mercedes ML has repeatedly shown itself to be particularly robust, durable and relatively cheap to buy.

➤ **Which staff accommodation is available there and what does it cost?**

We have different rooms and apartments available.

- **Woofers Cabins:** The cheapest option for living are the small cabins, of which we have three. These are usually planned for our horse trainers, but other employees can also rent the woofers cabins for \$ 150 a month. The cabins are located opposite the Big Shop and consist of a small room with a bed, chest of drawers, table and chair. There is a bathroom in the Big Shop, which is shared by the residents of the cabins. The kitchen in the White House can be used for cooking, later also the community kitchen (expected completion summer 2021). There is no WiFi in the cabins, everyone uses the network in the White House.
- **White House:** The White House is located a little away from the guest area and is right below by the river. It is equipped with two bedrooms, each inhabited by one person or a couple. The kitchen and living room are occasionally used by other employees. The rent is \$ 350 a month and includes all utilities and WiFi. Since the data volume is limited (75GB / month), it is not possible to download larger amounts of data (cloud updates, Netflix, Youtube, etc.). Because the White House is heated with a stove in winter, the residents are responsible for chopping firewood / have to take care of firewood (cut trees that have already fallen and / or cut down dead trees, transport, etc.). The necessary tools can be borrowed from the resort after a brief consultation. A washing machine is available to all employees in the house.
- **Airport:** There is a large apartment in the Anahim Lake Airport building, which the resort has available for employees all year round. There is a large kitchen, as well as a washing machine and dryer. The rent is \$ 850 a month and includes all utilities. The apartment is particularly suitable for couples.
- **Escott Bay:** On the other side of Anahim Lake is Escott Bay, where we rent cabins mainly in the summer season. There is a large four-bedroom house there that costs a total of \$ 1500 (\$ 375 per room) a month. If required, individual cabins can also be rented.

➤ **What is the cost of living?**

- The cost of living is very low compared to the major cities of Canada. For rent you have to budget between \$ 150 to \$ 800 with us, if you rent something outside, calculate with \$ 500 to \$ 1000 for a mobile home or a house. For groceries, around \$ 300- \$ 400 per month should be allowed for, possibly more, depending on whether you are looking for discounts or if you like to buy organic quality. In addition, there is your car insurance and gasoline consumption.

➤ **Where do I buy my groceries?**

- Resort staff typically head into town to Williams Lake every 3 to 4 weeks to do some grocery shopping. There you get the best quality at good prices and you also have the largest selection. For individual groceries that you may have forgotten, there are two general stores in Anahim Lake. However, the goods there are very expensive and fruit and vegetables, for example, are no longer fresh. Another option is the small supermarket in the valley of Bella Coola, which is 120km away. Because of the great distance to shopping, it is important to plan well in advance and, if possible, team up with work colleagues.

➤ **What is my day-to-day work like?**

- Your working day usually starts on weekdays at 8 a.m. and ends at 4.30 p.m. For the morning meeting, we ask all employees to meet shortly before 8 in front of the Big Shop. Axel then distributes the daily tasks and is available for any queries. There is a lunch break (30 minutes) between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m., which everyone can organize for themselves. Work ends at 4.30 p.m. and the workplace should be left tidy and clean. Overtime is the exception, not the rule.
- If guests arrive or book rides on the weekend, it can also happen that the employees affected have to work on the weekend - these hours can of course be balanced with free time during the week.

➤ **What can I do after work?**

- The wilderness offers a wide range of leisure activities for outdoor fans. You can go canoeing, fishing, hiking, cycling and, after consultation with the horse trainers, you can also go horse riding. In winter there is the possibility of cross-country skiing, ice fishing, snowshoeing or you can team up with others to go skidooring. For all these activities you should bring your own equipment or buy it - the equipment in the resort is primarily for the guests, if it is not used by them, it can be rented for a fee (employee discount 50%). Rides are free as long as the horse trainers agree to do so in their free time.
- Since the people in the community are very warm and helpful, you will soon be invited to campfire evenings and parties in the Community Hall. There you can socialize and make friends. The employees often sit together after work to end the day together.
- There is also the possibility of volunteering. The Wild West Animal League takes care of the stray animals in and around Anahim Lake and welcomes any kind of help. There is also plenty to do in the communal hall before each celebration and volunteers are welcome.

➤ **How many other employees are there?**

- Depending on the season, 2-15 people usually work full-time at the resort. Some locals from Anahim Lake, and also other work and travelers (mostly Germans). There is often more going on in summer, but you shouldn't have any problem with working alone and independently. As a rule, friendships develop quickly, and work colleagues sometimes become lifelong friends.

➤ **What shops can I find in Anahim Lake?**

- There are two general stores in Anahim Lake; one is in the gas station, where you will also find the post office. The post office is always open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and letters and parcels usually arrive from the city in the afternoon. The larger general store is a little further down the street. Opposite is Donnas, a small restaurant that mainly serves burgers. If you continue down the street, you will pass the police station and then you will come to the Stampede Grounds, which is also where the Community Hall is located. All major community celebrations take place here and the annual rodeo is also held here.

➤ **What weather do I have to expect?**

- The weather conditions in Anahim Lake take some getting used to for Europeans, because the temperatures fluctuate from -30 degrees in winter to +30 degrees in summer. Usually November and December are relatively mild with around -20 degrees, but very snowy. The months of January and February are much colder, for example in January 2020 it was -50 degrees for almost a week. In these extreme temperatures, people no longer work outside, but the cold should still be taken into account when choosing clothing. Muck boots and mittens have proven themselves over the years. You should also think about buying snow pants - many layers of clothing also help to get through the working day. In spring it is very muddy due to the great thaw and the ground in the resort, in the forests and mountains, is not really dry until July. There are a lot of mosquitoes between June and August.
- Good clothes can often be bought relatively cheap used, either in second-hand shops (Value Village is a large chain, but also smaller so-called "thrift stores" often have real bargains) or online e.g. via Facebook Marketplace or craigslist. The choice is much larger in the larger cities (Kamloops, Kelwona, Greater Vanouever, etc.). New clothing is available in spring when it is sold out in the ski areas, sometimes greatly reduced.

➤ **Which wild animals will I encounter?**

- In the Chilcotin region, you will encounter elk, deer, bald eagles, coyotes, foxes, wolves, black bears and grizzlies. You can also watch pelicans on the Dean River from our resort. Since the region is Open Range Country, you have to expect cattle on the road at all times and wild horses will also cross your path. When feeding our horses, squirrels, chipmunks and various bird species like to join us. Bears and moose also roam around the resort and you always have to expect an encounter while hiking or horse riding. During the winter months, a cow elk regularly comes to the resort with her calves to eat their fill of our hay. You are welcome with us and should not be disturbed.

➤ **What else is there to consider when living in the resort?**

- The resort is not connected to the public electricity network. Instead, solar panels produce electricity that is stored in several large batteries. There is a generator as a "back-up" in case it is very cloudy over a longer period of time, but basically it is the task of all residents of the resort to be aware and economical with the resource electricity.
- Life in the wilderness is an unforgettable experience if you get involved. The first few days can be a bit of a culture shock - but it is worth sticking through these first days and will be rewarded with incredibly beautiful moments.
- If you want to have a great time here, you should be independent, understand fun, but also not take everything personally and really love and experience the wilderness and life in nature. This is a great place for avid hikers to go camping on a secluded lake on the weekend, go canoeing after work, and more. Nevertheless, you should be aware that life and work can be hard - some perseverance and willingness to learn is essential in order to be able to experience and enjoy the beautiful moments with campfire romance.