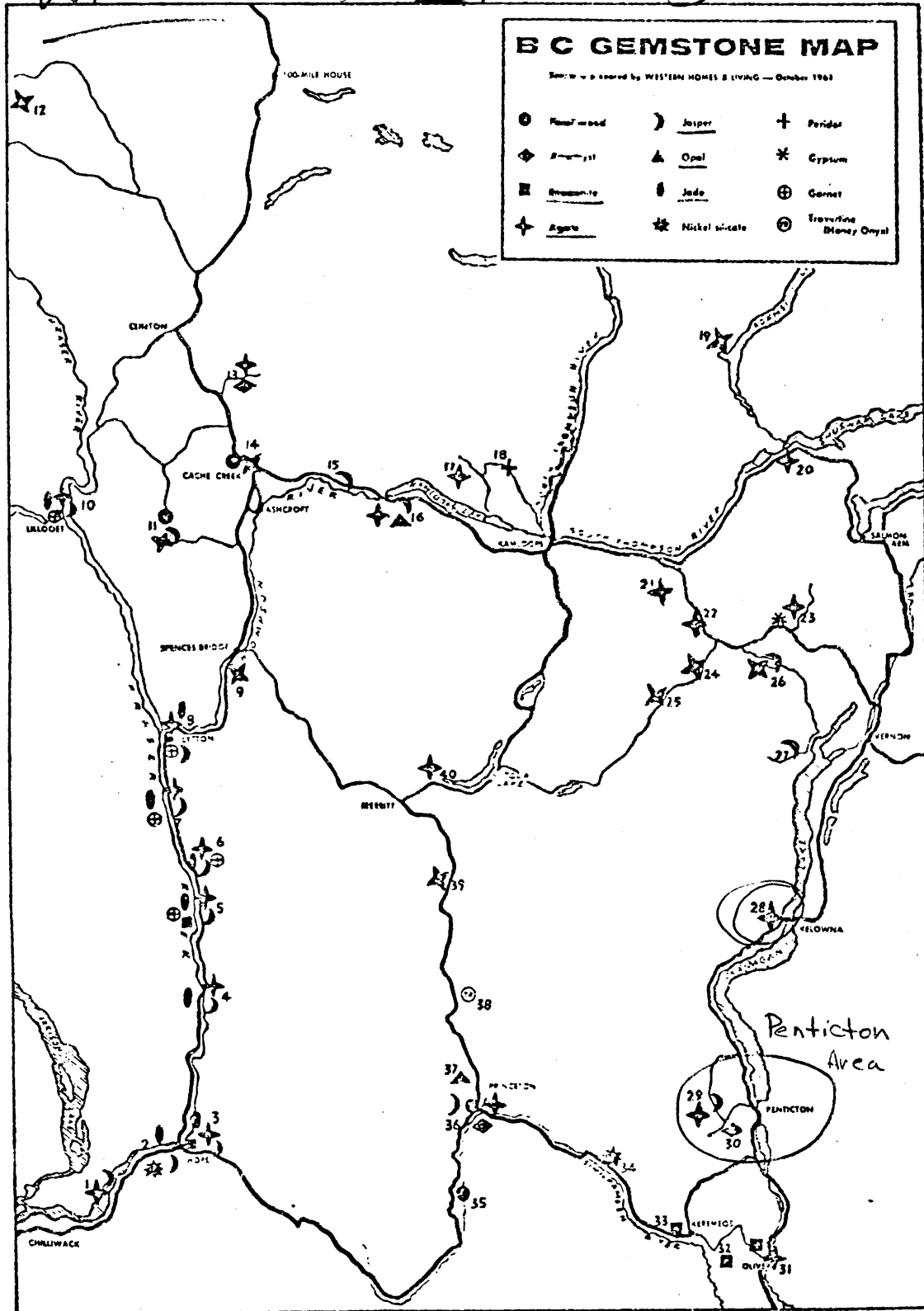


WHERE YOU CAN FIND BC ROCKS AND GEMSTONES

The accompanying map shows 40 of the better known rock-hunting locations in the main gemstone area of BC which runs from the lower Fraser Valley to the Okanagan. There are many other gemstone locations in the province — Prince George and Francois Lake in the northern section, and the Gulf Islands in the west being notable cases—and new discoveries are being made all the time.

The Fraser River is a rich source of gemstone material which may be found on any of hundreds of river bars from Agassiz to the Chilcotin, although they can only be hunted when the water is low. That is from October to April. The principal materials are agate, jasper, jade, nickel-chrome silicate, grossularite, rhodonite, garnet, serpentine, and porphyry. A few of the better known and more easily accessible Fraser River gemstone locations are shown here.

- 1) WALEACH/SEABIRD ISLAND — Agate, jasper.
- 2) FLOOD — Agate, jasper, nickel silicate, muttonfat jade.
- 3) HOPE/GREENWOOD — Rhodonite, jade, agate, jasper.
- 4) SPUZZUM — Jade, agate, jasper.
- 5) BOSTON BAR/NORTH BEND — Rhodonite, jade, agate, jasper, garnet.
- 6) ANDERSON CREEK — Jade, agate, jasper, garnet.
- 7) GOLD NUGGET BAR—Jade, agate, jasper, garnet.
- 8) LYTTON — Jade, agate, jasper, garnet.
- 9) SHAW SPRINGS—Banded agate, nodules, many with plume. Located 9 miles south of Spences Bridge on the Trans-Canada Highway. These occur in Drynack slide just north of Shaw Springs resort. First make enquiries at the cafe. Other locations not too far from here include Soap Lake and the Nicoamen Plateau.
- 10) LILLOOET—Jade, agate and jasper. The placer tailings on each side of the Lillooet bridge and the bar downstream are good hunting. This bar extends south to the Seton River.
- 11) UPPER HAT CREEK—Jasp-agate, Petrified Wood. Approximately 7 miles north of Cache Creek turn left on Pavilion Lake Road, drive 6 miles and turn left on Upper Hat Creek Road to the Lehman Ranch about 2 miles south. Get permission from Mr. Lehman before hunting. The material occurs on the ridge about a half mile east of the ranch buildings.
- 12) EMPIRE VALLEY—Agate and thundereggs. Twelve miles north of Clinton turn west onto the Meadow



Lake Road and cross the Fraser River at Dog Creek about 90 miles away. Turn left after crossing Dog Creek bridge and go to the Empire Valley Ranch where enquiries should be made. These are dry weather roads only and it is imperative that enough gas be taken for the return trip.

13) SCOTTY CREEK—Agate and amethyst. Exactly 19.2 miles north of Cache Creek turn right off the highway by a farmhouse and drive

for about 4 miles. A mine dump is clearly visible from the road to your left. A short distance past here on a turn to the right, just as you cross the creek, you will see where the amethyst occurs in the cliff on your right. Heavy equipment is required to get this material.

14) CACHE CREEK—Agate, quartz crystals, and petrified wood. Six miles south of Cache Creek you will see a white seam of quartz crystals in the rock on the left hand side. Just

over the hill on your left petrified wood can be found. Take drinking water and wear boots as the cactus is big and the rattlesnakes are plentiful in this area.

15) WALACHIN—Green jasper. About 15 miles east of Cache Creek turn south towards the Thompson River and stop at McAbee Station on the CNR. Green jasper occurs in the cliff facing the river behind the station. Indian artifacts are also found in this area.

- 16) SAVONA — Green opal, moss agate. Savona Mountain south of Savona has yielded some very fine green opal and moss agate. Take the road through the Indian Gardens Ranch to where it crosses the pipeline. Agate nodules are found about a mile east of this point. Enquire at Savona Lodge for more explicit directions.
- 17) TRANQUILLE RIVER — Agates. About one mile east of the Tranquille Sanatorium turn north across the railroad tracks, through a garbage dump and proceed to bridge over the creek. Agate occurs upstream in the banks and stream bed.
- 18) TRANQUILLE RIVER — Peridot. At the junction of the Tranquille and North Thompson roads in North Kamloops, take the turn-off to Lac du Bois which is about 5 miles to the northwest. North of Lac du Bois in the region of Opax Hill, peridot crystals have been found.
- 19) ADAMS LAKE—Agate occurs on the west shore of Adams Lake between Agate Bay and Squam Bay.
- 20) SQUILAX—Blue agate. This is a whistle stop five miles east of the town of Chase on the CPR. A fine quality of blue agate. The slide in which it is found meets the highway at the Little River fishing camp, beside Little Shuswap Lake. The Little River itself contains some carnelian agate of good quality. Also the road from Squilax station through Turtle Valley leads to several locations on the south slope of Squilax mountain.
- 21) ROBBINS CREEK—Massive agate nodules. Five miles north of Monte Lake on Highway 97 turn left on Bamhardtvale Road then right on Robbins Creek Road for one mile. A basalt cliff on your right contains agate as does the surrounding area. Enquire at Monte Lake Shop for more explicit directions.
- 22) MONTE LAKE—Mass agate. Situated 30 miles from Kamloops on Highway 97 between Kamloops and Vernon, the diggings are located directly on the east side of highway at the south end of the lake. As this location is right on the road it is absolutely necessary to keep the road clear of debris.
- 23) FALKLAND — Gypsum. 25 miles west of Vernon on Highway 97. The gypsum mine is located on the outskirts of the town of Falkland on the north-east side and is readily accessible by road, as the mine is not operating, gypsum specimens are available for the taking.
- 24) DOUGLAS LAKE ROAD — Agate nodules. Turn south on Douglas Lake Road one mile west of Westfold and drive 6.9 miles. Agate nodules are found in the rocky bluffs on the right side of the road.
- 26) PINAUS LAKE — Jasper, agate. Six miles west of Falkland on Highway 97 turn south. The road is steep and should be used only in dry weather. Pinaus Lake Lodge is six miles from the highway and enquiries should be made here. Material is located in the bluffs south of the lodge.
- 27) WHITEMAN CREEK — Red jasper. About 5 miles north of Vernon turn left on the road which goes along the west bank of Okanagan Lake. The second creek you cross is Whiteman, about 7 miles in. Fine red jasper is found in the banks upstream from the road.
- 28) WESTBANK — Agate nodules. Westbank is across Okanagan Lake from Kelowna. Just north of the old ferry landing there is a bluff facing the lake which contains fine agate nodules.
- 29) ALLEN GROVE — Jasper, agate. Take the Green Mountain Road out of Penticton, 14 miles to Allen's Ranch; one mile past here turn right onto logging road approximately 6 miles and park car. This area has produced some very fine red jasper and geodes.
- 30) GREEN MOUNTAIN ROAD—Potash crystals. The potash dykes occur about 4 miles from the Penticton turn off.
- 31) OLIVER—Agate. Very fine agates have been found in the gravel pit behind the high school in Oliver.
- 32) CAWSTON — Rhodonite. Good quality rhodonite is reputed to have been found in the Cawston area.
- 33) KEREMEOS — Rhodonite. On the western outskirts of KeremEOS you will see a very steep slide on the north side of the highway. This is rattlesnake area so wear boots.
- 34) HEDLEY—Nickel silicate. Make enquiries in Hedley for directions to the mine site which is clearly visible from the highway.
- 35) SUNDAY SUMMIT — Agatized wood. 300 yards west of Sunday Summit on the Hope-Princeton Highway. Starting at two culverts that run under the road, there is a path that leads up a bluff to the south. At the top you will see the petrified wood diggings.
- 36-37) PRINCETON — Petrified wood, amethyst, massive agate, opal, jasper. The Princeton area has several locations, Agate Bluffs, McCormack Flats, Vermillion Bluffs. Enquire at the Pines Motel for directions.
- 38) SKY BLUE LAKE—Travertine "Honey Onyx". About one mile north of Sky Blue Lodge there can be found a deposit of Travertine one mile east of the highway.
- 39) ASPEN GROVE — Agate. Between Merritt and Princeton is the lower Nicola volcanic belt which has produced some fine banded and colored agates. Two miles from Aspen Grove, towards Merritt, turn up a logging road for about one and a half miles where a massive agate deposit is located.
- 40) NICOLA — Shadow agate. Numerous occurrences of agate have been found on the Nicola Plateau between Spences Bridge and Merritt.