

Stein Valley Asking Rock

SITE #060401

GC1VCKG

Written & Researched by Christine Whitehead

SITE IDENTIFICATION

Nearest Community: Lytton, V0K 1Z0

Location: N 50°16.285'

W 121°38.394'

Parking: N 50°16.342'

W 121°38.129'

Geocache Location: N 50°16.292'

W 121°38.445'

Accuracy: 6 meters

Letterboxing Clues: Refer to letterboxing clues page

UTM: East 0596862;

North 5569705 10U

Geocache altitude: 210 m./690 ft.

Overall difficulty: 1.5

Terrain difficulty: 2

(1=easiest; 5=hardest)

Date Established: 1995

Ownership: BC Provincial Park & First Nations Land

- Access:
- Ferry & gravel road
 - Seasonal (Ferry does not run during high water).
 - Vehicle accessible
 - *Detailed access information on next page.*

For more information or to report a problem with this site please contact:

Gold Country Communities Society
P.O. Box 933 Cache Creek, B.C. V0K 1H0
Tel: 1-877-453-9467

email: info@exploregoldcountry.com

For more site pages go to:

www.goldtrail.com or
www.GeoTourismCanada.com

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Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Provincial Park was officially protected in 1995 and is jointly managed by the Lytton First Nation and B.C. Parks. The name "Stein" comes from the Nlaka'pamux word "Stagyn", which means "hidden place".

The lower Stein Valley is the home of physical and cultural remains of the heritage of the Nlaka'pamux, (commonly called "The Thompson") First Nation people of Interior Salish ethnicity

in southern British Columbia. The Birthing Rock at the entrance to the Stein Valley belongs to these people. It has long been a source of intrigue and has elicited feelings of emotion and empathy for lives lived for hundreds of years in this beautiful valley.

You will find the birthing rock by starting at the trailhead by the park sign. Hike along the hillside trail and across a rustic bridge over Stryen Creek. Continue along the trail until you reach a





The rock has been decorated with Pictographs. Some of these pictographs have existed for several thousand years. Please refrain from touching them, as the oils and acids from your skin are damaging.

large rock with two cradle-like hollows, large enough for a person to lie. Native women would line the stone ledges with soft fir boughs and give birth to their children in this sacred place. The babies would be baptized in the frigid waters of Stryen Creek.

The birthing rock is often referred to as the “Asking Rock.” First Nations people would stop and ask the spirits for permission to enter the Stein Valley. They would also ask for safe travels and for good weather. If you look closely, you will observe faded rock paintings made by the Nlaka’pamux at special locations. These paintings are said to possess spiritual powers. Most of these are found on cliffs or boulders at the base of the broken-rock covered slopes beside the aboriginal trail that follows the river through the mountains.

The paint used to create these images was made from red ochre, mixed with burned tamarack pitch and saliva. Red ochre is a dye made from the naturally tinted clay found in this area. The red color symbolized life, luck and goodness. Do not touch the pictographs or petroglyphs, as they are extremely fragile.

Remember not to disturb the offerings to the spirits that you will find throughout this area. Traditional offerings were burnt sage and tobacco; however, today the offerings range greatly.

Detailed access information:

- From Lytton take the Ferry across the Fraser River.
- Approximately 5 km up the road take a left on Stein Trail Road (marked).
- This will lead you to the parking coordinates and trail head.
- Remember you are in a wilderness setting, respect all wildlife.
- Abide by all B.C. Park notice to users signage, and remain in designated parking areas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY & SOURCES

Scheer, R. (Undated). *Vision Quest Rock Art in B.C.’s Stein Valley*.