

Tomyhoi Peak

Summit 2266 m (7435 ft) **Quality** ***

Difficulty Difficult, exposure

Ascent Time 5-7 hours

Elevation Gain 1169 m (3835 ft)

Map USGS Mount Larrabee 27 CONUS
Green Trails No. 14 (Mount Shuksan)

The north face of Tomyhoi Peak appears as an impressive glaciated massif from the Trans-Canada (Highway 1) west of Chilliwack. An enjoyable route exists along the more gradual southeast ridge accessed from Washington. This route passes several

picturesque alpine tarns and involves long sections of easy ridge walking with spectacular views of Mount Shuksan. One section traverses snow slopes and the upper section of a glacier. The final 50 m of scrambling is tricky and exposed, yet very satisfying. Tomyhoi is possible as an excellent day trip from Vancouver, but for those wanting an overnight trip, the alpine tarns make a great campsite. Please minimize impact on this fragile and popular area. A Northwest Forest Pass, for sale in Glacier, is required to park at the trailhead.

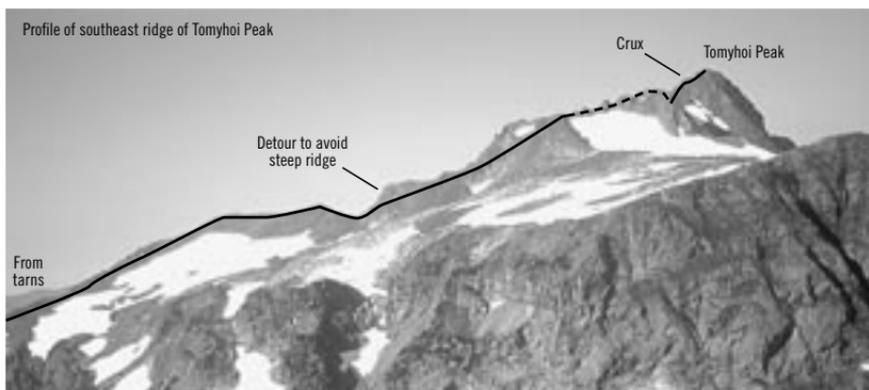
Vehicle Required 2WD

Driving From Vancouver 2 hours

From Vancouver drive east on Highway 1 to Abbotsford, then take Exit 92 for Sumas and head south to the border. After crossing into the U.S., drive 1 km south through Sumas and turn left (east) onto Highway 547 heading for the Baker Ski Area. Follow the 547 and signs for Mount Baker through farms and forest for roughly 17 km to a junction with Highway 542 (631183). Turn left onto 542 East and drive about 18 km to the town

of Glacier. The Glacier Public Service Center, located on the right side of the road, can provide information and a permit. **Reset your odometer** and drive east about 21 km from Glacier to "Twin Lakes Road" on the left (956179). (This gravel road is located just past the "46 mile" sign and a set of snowplow sheds on the left.) Follow this excellent 2WD road for about 7 km to the "Tomyhoi Lake Yellow Aster Butte Trailhead" located on the left side of the road at a sharp switchback (980218: 1097 m/3600 ft), about 2 hours from Vancouver.





Route

Hike up a good trail through the forest towards Gold Run Pass. Hike for 2.3 km until the trail enters meadows just below the final climb to the pass (1585 m/5200 ft). At this point, look for a trail that forks off to the left. This trail heads up to a bench and traverses southwest below the cliffs of Yellow Aster Butte. The trail then climbs west up over a rib to a shoulder (962223: 1731 m/5680 ft) overlooking a basin of several tarns and Tomyhoi Peak. From the shoulder, descend a steep switchbacking trail to the tarns, about 2 hours from the trailhead.

From the tarns, head north over heather/snow slopes to a minor summit at 1981 m (6500 ft). Drop 60 m (200 ft) to the northwest and hike up the opposite side, encountering a few steps of moderate scrambling without exposure. Continue up the ridge to a point (2133 m/7000 ft) where a short descent is followed by an increasingly rocky and loose section of ridge.

When the ridge becomes steep and unpleasant to scramble, detour right and make an ascending traverse across scree/snow slopes. The objective is to bypass the steep sections and regain





the ridge crest at a notch marked by a cairn (2225 m/7300 ft). The top of a glaciated slope may need to be crossed before reaching the ridge; however, much of this slope can be avoided by regaining the ridge as quickly as possible prior to reaching the notch. For glacier travel a rope is always recommended; however, many parties ascend this route without one. You must have the proper training and experience to evaluate the conditions and the gear required. In truth, I could not identify this as a glacier, but other guidebooks suggest it is.

From the notch at 2225 m (7300 ft), switch over to the opposite (west) side of the ridge and traverse scree-covered ledges (some exposure) before easily scrambling up to the sub-summit (2246 m/7370 ft).

The true summit is 50 m above a col to the northwest of the sub-summit. The

final summit block is not as imposing as it appears. Scramble down scree-covered ledges into the col and climb up into a groove just to the right of a small pinnacle on the opposite side. Once at the top of the pinnacle, follow a second shallow groove up to the right to the ridge crest. This crux section is exposed and difficult scrambling. Follow the ridge crest (now low-angle) staying on the left (south) side to the summit, 3½-4 hours from the tarns.

Yellow Aster Butte

From the tarns you can easily ascend this prominent horn (970231: 1870 m/6134 ft) to the east. Hike east up slopes to the ridge crest and follow a faint trail along or near the ridge to the summit block. Swing around left (west) to the opposite side, then up to the top. The summit is about an hour from the tarns.

Ascending the final crux on Tomyhoi Peak

