

Ptarmigan Ridge hike, Mount Baker  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Gerard Laman

On Saturday morning we left Burnaby with 11 members in 3 cars for the ride to Mt Baker. Unfortunately, the border crossing at Sumas took about 60 minutes and one of our cars had all the bag packs and their contents inspected. After they were declared clean, they could continue. In Glacier we got our car park permit and we continued to the Artist Point parking lot, at the end of the Mt Baker Hwy. Several hundred meters before the parking lot we saw lots of cars parked along the side of the road and discovered that the parking lot was totally full. We had to drive back to find a spot along the road to park our cars.

At about 11:45am we finally started our hike on the Ptarmigan Ridge trail. The weather was great and the views were fantastic. We left Mt Shuksan behind us and saw Mt Baker in front of us in the distance. The trail is mainly rocky and exposed. Most is in the open and provide great views. After about 3km we reached a vast, boulder topped viewpoint at an elevation of 1645m and this is just the beginning of the ridge and provided us with views of Mt Shuksan and Table Mountain. We stopped here for a snack and a water break. The Fall colours at the meadows were spectacular.

At about 2pm we stopped for lunch and enjoyed more of the view of the Mt Baker landscape. After lunch we returned on the trail to the parking lot where we arrived at about 5pm. The parking lot surprisingly was still full.

We all had a great hike on this beautiful day.

Thanking the drivers Sandy, Su-Jane and Gerard  
Photos by Rebecca and Gerard

