Garibaldi Provincial Park Trail Conditions

November 17, 2020

Garibaldi Park is located in the coast mountain wilderness and the weather can be severe and unforgiving. Be well prepared, properly equipped and informed before entering the backcountry. Day visitors should be capable of camping overnight in case of injury, accident or extreme weather. Avalanche and glacier hazards exist in Garibaldi Park. Traveling beyond the maintained trail requires special equipment, skills, ability, and knowledge.

Garibaldi Park is a user-maintained park. Garbage removal service is not available. Please help by packing out all your garbage and any garbage left by others. If you use the shelters, clean the facilities prior to your departure. Please use the outhouses provided. Toilet paper is not always supplied.

**All camping in Garibaldi Park requires purchase of a camping permit.**

**All day users at the following trailheads require a day use permit:**
- Elfin Lakes (Diamondhead), Garibaldi Lake (Rubble Creek), Cheakamus Lake

Pay camping fees and acquire day use permits at:
https://discovercamping.ca/bccweb/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Difficulty Rating</th>
<th>Trail Type Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E Easy</td>
<td>Type I</td>
<td>1.5 to 2.5 m wide, paved, gravel or board walk, less than 10% grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Moderate</td>
<td>Type II</td>
<td>1.5 m wide, gravel surfacing in wet areas, up to 15% grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Strenuous</td>
<td>Type III</td>
<td>0.5 m wide, grade greater than 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Difficult</td>
<td>Type IV</td>
<td>0.3 m wide, lightly used wilderness trail, infrequent maintenance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Ratings are determined based on the length of the trail section, change in elevation and trail type for the average park visitor.
- Elevations shown are estimated for the trail section and reflect the maximum gain or loss.
Dogs and Fires are **Prohibited** in Garibaldi Park

Sunrise: 6:51AM  
Sunset: 7:24PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Estimated Distance (km)</th>
<th>Estimated Elevation Gain (m)</th>
<th>Trail Difficulty</th>
<th>Trail Safety Information</th>
<th>Trail Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mamquam Road to Garibaldi Park Road            | 5 km                     | 450 m                        | Gravel road with potholes  | Clear  
Vehicles with 4X4 are recommended!  
Chains Mandatory above Chain up Area  
Reservations are required for Elfin Lakes Campground Year Round  
**Elfin Shelter is CLOSED for the season** | Open                       |
| Parking Lot to Red Heather Meadows             | 5 km                     | 450 m                        | S – Type II Well Defined   | Wet snow                                                                                 | Open            |
| Red Heather Meadows to Elfin Lakes             | 6 km                     | 250 m                        | M – Type II Well Defined   | Snow – Expect Winter Conditions                                                            | Open            |
| Elfin Lakes to Opal Cone                       | 6.5 km                   | 460 m                        | S – Type IV Defined        | Snow – Expect Winter Conditions                                                            | Open            |
| Elfin Lakes to Saddle/Gargoyles                | 7 km                     | 400 m                        | D – Type IV Defined        | Snow – Expect Winter Conditions                                                            | Open            |
| Elfin Lakes to Rampart Ponds                   | 11 km                    | 570 m                        | D – Type IV Defined        | Snow – Expect Winter Conditions                                                            | Open            |

Garibaldi Lake and Taylor Meadows
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Estimated Distance (km)</th>
<th>Estimated Elevation Gain (m)</th>
<th>Trail Difficulty</th>
<th>Trail Safety Information</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hwy 99 to the Parking Lot</td>
<td>2 km</td>
<td>75 m</td>
<td>Paved Road</td>
<td>Reservations are required for Garibaldi Park, including Garibaldi Lake, Taylor Meadows, and Helm Campground year round.</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubble Creek Parking Lot to Garibaldi Lake and Taylor Meadows Junction @ 6.5 Km</td>
<td>6 km</td>
<td>770 m</td>
<td>S – Type II Well Defined Steep</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5 km Junction to Garibaldi Lake Campground</td>
<td>3 km</td>
<td>130 m</td>
<td>M – Type II Well Defined</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5 km Junction to Taylor Meadows Campground</td>
<td>1.5 km</td>
<td>180 m</td>
<td>M – Type II Well Defined</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Meadows Campground to Garibaldi Lake Campground</td>
<td>2.3 km</td>
<td>50 m</td>
<td>E – Type II Well Defined</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garibaldi Lake Campground to Black Tusk Junction</td>
<td>2.5 km</td>
<td>230 m</td>
<td>S – Type II Well Defined Steep</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Meadows Campground to Black Tusk Junction</td>
<td>2 km</td>
<td>180 m</td>
<td>M – Type II Well Defined</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Tusk Junction to Black Tusk View Point</td>
<td>4.4 km</td>
<td>300 m</td>
<td>D – Type III Defined Very Steep</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Tusk Junction to Helm Pass</td>
<td>2 km</td>
<td>100 m</td>
<td>M – Type II Well Defined</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helm Pass to Panorama Ridge</td>
<td>3.2 km</td>
<td>330 m</td>
<td>S – Type IV Undefined Steep</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>Estimated Distance (km)</td>
<td>Estimated Elevation Gain (m)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hwy 99 to the parking lot</td>
<td>7 km</td>
<td>Rough gravel road with potholes</td>
<td>M – Type II Well Defined</td>
<td>Reservations are required for Cheakamus Lake Campground and Singing Creek Campground year round</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Parking Lot to Cheakamus Lake Campground | 3.5 km                 | 90 m                        | E – Type II Well Defined | Snow possible  
Vehicle with clearance is recommended  
Attention: Please be cautious of large trucks on the access road due to a Fuel Reduction Program along Cheakamus Lake Road Please see information notice for further details: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/garibaldi/  
Please respect hazard tree closures | Open            |
| Cheakamus Lake Campground to Singing Creek | 4 km                   | 50 m                        | M – Type II Well Defined | Snow possible  
Please respect hazard tree closures | Open            |
| Cheakamus Lake Trail to Helm Pass | 7 km                   | 600 m                       | D - Type IV Defined | Expect Winter Conditions as you gain elevation  
Bicycles are prohibited in this portion of the park. | Open            |
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</thead>
</table>
| Helm Creek Campground to Helm Pass | 5 km | 240 m | M–Type II | Snow – Expect Winter Conditions  
Toute not marked | Open |
| **Singing Pass** | | | | | |
| Parking Lot 5 to Singing Pass | 11.5 km | 1200 m | S–Type II  
Well Defined | No bridge crossing at Harmony Creek, this section is hazardous during bad weather.  
Bicycles are prohibited in this portion of the park.  
Expect snow at higher elevations  
Pay camping fees at:  
https://discovercamping.ca/bccweb/  
Select “Russet Lake Campground” when camping on the Spearhead Traverse. | Open |
| Singing Pass to Russet Lake | 3 km | 200 m | M–Type IV | Snow – Expect Winter Conditions  
Reservations are required for Russet Lake Campground year round | Open |
| Whistler Mountain Gondola to Whistler Village via Musical Bumps and Singing Pass | 21 km | 1300 m | D–Type IV  
Steep | Snow – Expect Winter Conditions  
Check with Whistler Blackcomb ski resort for lift openings. | Open |
| **Wedgemount Lake** | | | | | |
| Hwy 99 to the Parking Lot | 2 km | | Improved Gravel Road | Clear  
Bicycles are prohibited in this portion of the park.  
Reservations are required for Wedge Campground year round | Open |
### Parking Lot to Wedgemount Lake

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 km</td>
<td>1200 m</td>
<td>D – Type IV Very Steep</td>
<td>Snow – Expect Winter Conditions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Motorized vehicles, dogs and fires are prohibited within the park, year-round.
- Camping is permitted only in designated campsites.
- Biking opportunities are limited to the Cheakamus Lake trail as far as Singing Creek and the Diamond Head Trail as far as the Elfin Lakes campground.
- Please use the permanent toilet facilities provided; this may require you to remove snow to access in the winter.
- Please stay on the trails; this will protect the fragile alpine vegetation from damage.
- Backcountry facilities and campsite areas within Garibaldi Park are maintained by you. Please help by packing out what you pack in and by keeping the park and the facilities clean for others. Leave knowing that you did your part!

### Also Need to Update the Following:

**Garibaldi Provincial Park: Cheakamus Lake Area**

Topographical map 92-J-2 1:50,000

Glacier fed Cheakamus Lake lies at elevation 915 metres surrounded by mountains that tower to 1,600 metres above its thickly forested shoreline.

- [Trail Report](#) (September 16, 2020)
Book a ride to Garibaldi Provincial Park with Parkbus.

Access

Turn right off Hwy 99, 48 km north of Squamish or 2.5 km south of Whistler at Function Junction. The logging road to the trailhead is on the left-hand side after 500 metres. It is 7.5 km from the highway to the parking lot.

Camping/Overnight Stay

All campers must make a reservation through the Discover Camping Reservation Service year-round and must produce proof of reservation; failure to do so can result in an eviction and fines.

Please pay your camping fees here:

MAKE A RESERVATION NOW

Reservations are required for Cheakamus Lake and Helm Creek year-round.

There are no garbage facilities, so always pack out what you pack in!

Cheakamus Lake Campground

Located 3 km from the parking lot, the Cheakamus Lake campground offers 8 cleared shoreline tent sites, pit toilet facilities and food hang facilities. Located 7 km from the parking lot, the Singing Creek campground offers 6 cleared tent sites, pit toilet facilities and food hang facilities. Be aware food hang facilities exist but be prepared to hang your food as the facilities do fill up.

Helm Creek Campground

Located 8.5 km from the Cheakamus Lake parking lot, and 18 km from the Garibaldi Lake parking lot. The Helm Creek campground offers 30 tent platforms, pit toilet facilities and food hang facilities. Be aware food hang facilities exist but be prepared to hang your food as the facilities do fill up.

Trail Information

Parking lot to Cheakamus Lake

Length, 3 km; suggested time, 45 minutes to 1 hour, one way; elevation change, minimal. An easy, pleasant trail that winds through old growth forest. It is possible to portage a kayak or canoe on this trail.

Cheakamus Lake to Singing Creek

Length, 4 km; suggested time, one hour one way; elevation change, minimal.

Cheakamus Lake to Black Tusk Meadows via Helm Creek
Length, 14.5 km; suggested time, 6 to 7 hours one way; elevation change, 600 metres. Located 1.5 km along the Cheakamus Lake trail, the trail drops down to a bridge across the Cheakamus River. On the other side of the river the trail switchbacks upward, following Helm Creek past the Helm Creek campground, through the Cinder Flats, to the Upper Lakes and the meadows.

**Cheakamus Lake parking lot to Garibaldi Lake parking lot via Helm Creek**

Length, 25 km; recommended as a two day trip; elevation change, 1,000 metres. Located 1.5 km along the Cheakamus Lake trail, the trail drops down to a bridge across the Cheakamus River. On the other side of the river, the trail switchbacks upward, following Helm Creek to the Helm Creek camping area at 8.5 km. Continue through the Cinder Flats and Black Tusk meadows to Taylor Meadows and onto the Garibaldi Lake parking lot. Side trips can be made to the Black Tusk, Panorama Ridge or Garibaldi Lake.

**Items of Importance**

Mountain biking is permitted on the trail as far as the Cheakamus Lake campsites but may not be taken across the Cheakamus River Bridge on the Helm Creek trail.

The Cheakamus Lake area experiences increased black bear activity in the spring season. Please use caution while travelling through the area and respect their environment. Stay on the trail and never approach or feed the wildlife. Remember, “A fed bear is a dead bear.”