

## Natural History

Garibaldi Provincial Park has a rich geological history, creating many interesting features, such as the Black Tusk. The Black Tusk was formed tens of thousands of years ago when a volcano erupted onto an ice sheet. When the glacier melted, much of the Tusk collapsed, leaving the side vent of the volcano and its distinctive shape.

The park's diverse vegetation can be appreciated while hiking from low elevation to the high alpine regions. A dense forest of Douglas-fir, western red cedar and western hemlock covers the lower slopes, giving way to mountain hemlock, yellow cedar, alpine fir and white bark pine. Heather and many varieties of wild flowers carpet the alpine meadows, including western anemone, lupine, arnica, Indian paint brush and avalanche lily. August is usually the best time for viewing wild flowers.

## Wildlife Caution

Large mammals, such as black bear, mountain goat and deer, are present in the park but seldom seen. Marmots and pikas may be seen, and occasionally bald eagles, golden eagles and ptarmigan.

Wild animals are potentially dangerous and may be encountered at any time. Animals that lose their fear of people and become used to eating human food and garbage are especially dangerous. Bears are unpredictable, especially females with cubs. They are extremely powerful animals that can cause serious injury or death. While the risk of attack is low, you can heighten your safety by following some simple advice:

Never approach or feed bears or other animals. Store food by hanging it from a tree at least 4 metres above the ground and 2 metres from the trunk. Always use storage facilities where provided.

Cook and store food in the day shelters where provided or 100 metres away from your tent. Keep your campsite clean.

Do not burn or bury garbage. Pack out what you pack in.

Be alert for bear scats, tracks or trails and do not hike or camp where these are common. Make lots of noise when hiking where bear signs are found.

Stay calm if approached by a bear and do not provoke an attack by making loud noises, throwing things or running. Move slowly away if possible.

More information about bears and other wild animals is available on our website.

## Park Fees

A per person/per night fee is charged for camping and for use of overnight shelters in most areas of Garibaldi Provincial Park. Correct change is required. Please call BC Parks for current fee information.

## Safety

Garibaldi Provincial Park provides the rewards and challenges of backcountry travel in a rugged mountain environment. Be prepared for all kinds of weather and carry the essentials for survival in the backcountry. Complete a trip plan including route to be taken, destination and expected time of return, and leave it with a reliable contact. Winters come early, and snow may linger on the ground in the alpine areas until well into July, with the higher peaks remaining mantled with snow year-round. Avalanche hazards may exist.

## For More Information

BC Parks

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>

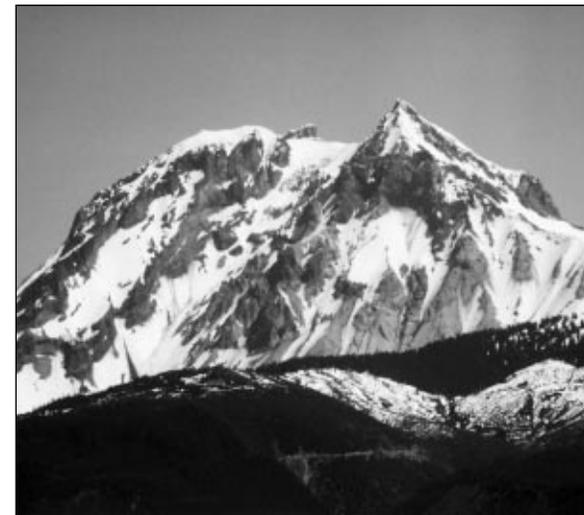


Ministry of Water, Land  
and Air Protection



# Garibaldi

PROVINCIAL PARK



BURNING IMAGES PHOTO

Welcome to Garibaldi Provincial Park. Dominating the view from downtown Squamish is Mount Garibaldi, a 2,678-metre mountain that the Squamish First Nations people called Cheekye, meaning dirty snow. The captain of a Royal Navy ship surveying Howe Sound in 1860 named it after the 19th century Italian patriot and soldier, Giuseppe Garibaldi.

In 1907, a party of six Vancouver climbers reached the summit of Mount Garibaldi. The views from the peak inspired the establishment of summer climbing camps at Garibaldi Lake. This led to the creation in 1920 of Garibaldi Park Reserve, which was designated as a 195,000-hectare provincial park in 1927. Today many areas along the west side of the park continue to be enjoyed by the public, while vast areas of the central and eastern portions of the park retain the ecological integrity of true wilderness.

Lower Mainland Region

Garibaldi Provincial Park is accessible along its western boundary by a series of well-developed trail systems into five areas of the park. Signs along Hwy 99 mark the access points to **Diamond Head, Garibaldi Lake, Cheakamus Lake, Singing Pass** and **Wedgemount Lake**. Other regions of the park preserve natural wilderness ecosystems important for wildlife habitat.

## Diamond Head

Turn east off Hwy 99 onto Mamquam Road, four kilometres north of Squamish. It is 16 kilometres, most of which is rough gravel, from the highway to a parking lot located at the 914-metre elevation. (NTS map sheets 92 G 14 and 15)

**Parking Lot to Red Heather Meadows** – Length: 5 kilometres; suggested time: 1.5 to 3 hours, one way; elevation change: 450 metres. A day-use shelter and campground are available.

**Red Heather Meadows to Elfin Lakes** – Length: 6 kilometres; suggested time: 2 to 3 hours, one way; elevation change: 500 metres. The trail follows Paul Ridge to Elfin Lakes. A campground, an overnight shelter with 34 bunks, propane heating and cooking stoves are located here. Mountain bikes are permitted on the trail from the parking lot to Elfin Lakes.

**Elfin Lakes to The Saddle** – Length: 2 kilometres; suggested time: one hour, one way; elevation change: 300 metres. From The Saddle, mountain routes lead to Columnar Peak, the Gargoyles, and Little Diamond Head.

**Elfin Lakes to the Opal Cone** – Length: 6.5 kilometres; suggested time: 2 to 3 hours, one way; elevation change: 250 metres. Trail leads down to Ring Creek then climbs the Opal Cone, a loose mound of volcanic rock.

**Elfin Lakes to Mamquam Lake** – Length: 11 kilometres; suggested time: 5 to 6 hours, one way; elevation change: 570 metres. This strenuous hike follows the route to Opal Cone, then continues eastward to the Rampart Ponds, before descending to the lake. A camping area is located here.

## Garibaldi Lake

Turn east off Hwy 99, 37 kilometres north of Squamish or 19 kilometres south of Whistler onto a paved road that leads 2.5 kilometres to the parking lot. (NTS map sheets 92 G 14, 15, and 92 J 2)

**Parking Lot to Garibaldi Lake** – Length: 9.5 kilometres; suggested time: 3 to 5 hours, one way; elevation change: 810 metres. This well-graded trail climbs through the forest, past the Barrier and Lesser Garibaldi Lake to Garibaldi Lake. A campground is located at Garibaldi Lake. Day shelters are available for cooking.

**Parking Lot to Taylor Meadows** – Length: 7.5 kilometres; suggested time: 3 to 5 hours, one way; elevation change: 915 metres. Follow the Garibaldi Lake trail for 6 kilometres, then take the turn off to Taylor Meadows. A campground and day shelter is available. It is possible, with an early start, to hike from the parking lot to the meadows, down to Garibaldi Lake and back out the same day. Length: 19.5 kilometres, round trip.

**Garibaldi Lake to Panorama Ridge** – Length: 6 kilometres; suggested time: 2 to 3 hours, one way; elevation change: 630 metres. This moderately strenuous hike provides views of Garibaldi Lake, Sphinx and Sentinel Glaciers and Table Mountain. Panorama Ridge can also be reached from Taylor Meadows and Black Tusk Meadows.

**Taylor Meadows or Garibaldi Lake to the Black Tusk** – Length: 6 kilometres; suggested time: 2 to 3 hours, one way; elevation change: approximately 850 metres. The trail ends on the shoulder below the Black Tusk. Travel beyond this point is not recommended due to hazardous conditions of falling rocks.

**Taylor Meadows to Helm Lake** – Length: 4.5 kilometres; suggested time: 2 hours, one way; elevation change: 200 metres. A pleasant hike through alpine meadows past Mimulus Lake and the Black Tusk to Helm Lake. The trail continues through Cinder Flats to Helm campground and down to Cheakamus Lake.

There is no trail access to huts at Sentinel and Sphinx Bays. Mountain travel and route-finding skills are required to reach these rustic shelters.

## Cheakamus Lake

Turn east off Hwy 99, 48 kilometres north of Squamish or 2.5 kilometres south of Whistler. Follow the signs and the gravel road for 8.5 kilometres to the parking lot. (NTS map sheets 92 J 2)

**Parking Lot to Cheakamus Lake** – Length: 3 kilometres; suggested time: one hour, one way; elevation change: minimal. An easy, pleasant trail winds through old-growth forest to the campground at the west end of the lake. Mountain bikes are permitted to this point.

**Cheakamus Lake to Singing Creek** – Length: 4 kilometres; suggested time: one hour, one way; elevation change: minimal. There is a camping area and a beach.

**Cheakamus Lake Parking Lot to Garibaldi Lake Parking Lot** – Length: 25 kilometres; recommended as a 2-day trip; elevation change: 1,000 metres. Midway along the Cheakamus Lake trail, an intersecting trail leads to a bridge across Cheakamus River, switchbacks upward, and follows Helm Creek to a camping area at 9 kilometres. Continue through Cinder Flats and Black Tusk Meadows to Taylor Meadows and on to the Garibaldi Lake parking lot. Side trips can be made to the Black Tusk, Panorama Ridge or Garibaldi Lake.

## Singing Pass

At the resort community of Whistler, follow the signs to public parking at the base of Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains. Park in the day lots, or in the area authorised for overnight parking in lot 4 if staying overnight in Singing Pass. The old road to the Singing Pass trailhead has been deactivated due to slope instability and is not suitable for vehicular traffic. (NTS map sheets 92 J 2)

**Whistler Village to Singing Pass** – Length: 11.5 kilometres; suggested time: 3 to 4 hours, one way; elevation change: 1,000 metres. From the bus loop, follow the Whistler Mountain access road for approximately 500 metres. Turn left on the old Singing Pass road along Fitzsimmons Creek to the park boundary 6 kilometres from the village. The trail leads to Singing Pass with views of the Fitzsimmons and Spearhead Ranges.

**Singing Pass to Russet Lake** – Length: 3 kilometres; suggested time: one hour, one way; elevation change: 240 metres. Ascending the ridge to Russet Lake provides views of Fissile Mountain and Overlord Glacier. Camping is permitted at the northwest end of Russet Lake. There is also a hut and a pit toilet.

**Whistler Mountain Gondola to Whistler Village via Musical Bumps** – Length: 21 kilometres; suggested time 6 to 8 hours; elevation change: 1,300 metres. From the top of the gondola, Singing Pass is accessible by an alpine route traversing Piccolo, Flute and Oboe peaks. From the pass, return to the village via the Singing Pass trail. Be sure to check that Whistler Mountain lifts are operating.

## Wedgemount Lake

Turn east off Hwy 99, 13 kilometres north of Whistler onto a gravel road. Follow signs 4 kilometres to the parking lot. (NTS map sheets 92 J 2)

**Parking Lot to Wedgemount Lake** – Length: 7 kilometres; suggested time: 4 to 6 hours, one way; elevation change: 1,200 metres. This steep, strenuous trail leads to a glacial lake, circled by Wedgemount and Armchair Glaciers, and the highest peak in the park at 2,891 metres, Wedge Mountain. Camping is permitted at the northwest end of the lake. There is also a hut and a pit toilet.

## What You Should Know



Domestic animals are prohibited in the park. They can spread giardiasis, or harass and disturb wildlife and other visitors.



Open fires are prohibited within the park. Camp stoves should be utilized for all cooking.



All motorized vehicles are prohibited in the park, including motorcycles, ATVs, trail bikes, snowmobiles and other over-the-snow vehicles.



Mountain bikes are permitted on designated trails only.



Stay on designated trails. Alpine vegetation is especially fragile; shortcutting destroys plant life and soil structure and causes erosion. Damaged areas are being repaired, and your cooperation is needed.



Camping is permitted in designated areas only.



Flowers, shrubs, trees, mushrooms and rocks are part of the park's natural heritage. Please do not damage or remove them.



The park's lakes and streams are the source of drinking water. Help protect the water system by washing yourself and your dishes at least 30 metres from lakes or streams. Even biodegradable soaps will pollute water, as will food scraps and dirty dishes. Treat water or boil for at least two minutes.



Please do not litter. Pack out what you pack in.



If you plan to fish you must be in possession of a BC angling license.



For your safety, firearms are prohibited at all times within the park.



A park use permit is required to conduct commercial activities in a provincial park.