HARD RUBBLE CREEK DAY PASS CAMPING BY RESERVATION

Garibaldi Lake

The turquoise lake the park is named for: 9 km and about 900 m of climbing from Rubble Creek, with the official trail numbers laid out.

DIFFICULTY	ONE WAY	ELEVATION GAIN
Hard	**≈ 9 km**	**≈ 900 m**
BC Parks: strenuous	To Garibaldi Lake campground	770 m + 130 m (BC Parks)

RETURN	DAY PASS	DOGS
≈ 18 km	**Summer**	**Prohibited**
Out & back	Free, book online	Park-wide

Park	Garibaldi Provincial Park
Trailhead	Rubble Creek (2 km off Hwy 99)
One way	≈ 9 km
Gain	≈ 900 m
Day pass	Required in summer
Camping	Permit + reservation
Dogs & drones	Prohibited

Overview

Garibaldi Lake is the big turquoise lake behind Rubble Creek that gives Garibaldi Provincial Park its name. By BC Parks' figures the trail to Garibaldi Lake Campground is about 9 km one way with about 900 m of climbing, most of it in the first 6 km.

The same trail system leads on to Black Tusk and Panorama Ridge, so many people treat the lake as the first stop of a bigger day or a night in the campground.

≈ 900 m gain · ≈ 9 km one way · Day pass in summer · No dogs

Getting there

Daisy Lake Road From Highway 99 a 2 km paved road leads to the Rubble Creek lot. In winter BC Parks recommends a 4x4 with high clearance, winter tires and chains, and says the road is plowed but a lower priority than highways.

Day-use pass Free vehicle day-use passes are required in summer at Rubble Creek. Book at reserve.bcparks.ca/dayuse. You don't need one with a valid overnight camping reservation.

Parking Parking is not permitted near the Daisy Lake hydro dam access or anywhere blocking snow-plow access.

The route, segment by segment

1. Rubble Creek to the Taylor Meadows junction *6 km · 770 m gain · Steep*

- Please follow the main trail and don't shortcut: it damages the environment and can kick debris onto hikers below.
- A pit toilet is near the junction.

2. Junction to Garibaldi Lake campground *3 km · 130 m gain*

- Moderate, well-defined trail to the lake and campground.

3. Optional: loop via Taylor Meadows *1.5 km up · 2.3 km across · 50 m gain*

- BC Parks lists 1.5 km (180 m) from the junction to Taylor Meadows campground and 2.3 km (50 m) from there to Garibaldi Lake campground, so you can go up one way and return the other.

Rules & safety

Prohibited BC Parks prohibits motorized vehicles, domestic animals, fires and drones year-round.

Camping All camping requires a permit and a reservation, year-round, in designated sites only.

Weather BC Parks warns the weather can be severe and unforgiving, and day visitors should be capable of camping overnight in an emergency.

Below the Barrier BC Parks says the area below the Barrier is a civil defence zone: do not stop or linger there.

Pack it out No garbage service. Use the outhouses provided, and bring your own toilet paper beyond the trailheads.

Stay on trail Staying on trail protects fragile alpine vegetation.

When to go

BC Parks says passes are required during summer months, and in 2025 the window ran from June 13 to October 13 on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and holidays. Check the current season's dates and the snow on the upper trail.



July to September The usual window for snow-free trail. This is an estimate, and varies by year.

June and October Possible snow and short days. Check conditions before you go.

Questions

How far is Garibaldi Lake?

By BC Parks' figures it's about 9 km one way from the Rubble Creek lot to Garibaldi Lake Campground (6 km to the Taylor Meadows junction, then 3 km), with about 900 m of elevation gain.

Do I need a pass?

BC Parks requires a free vehicle day-use pass at Rubble Creek during summer. A valid overnight camping reservation also works. Check current dates and book at reserve.bcparks.ca/dayuse.

Can I bring my dog?

No. Domestic animals are prohibited in Garibaldi Provincial Park, except accredited assistance dogs.

Can I camp at the lake?

Yes, in the designated campground, with a camping permit and a reservation. Camping or staying overnight at or near the Garibaldi Lake parking lot is prohibited.

Safety checklist

Tell someone your plan Leave your route, group size and expected return time with someone you trust, and check in when you are back. BC AdventureSmart (adventuresmart.ca) has a free trip-plan form.

Check conditions the same day Look at the weather, road and trail conditions, closures and (in snow season) the avalanche forecast on the day you go, not last week. Use the land manager's page for this guide.

Set a turnaround time Pick a time to turn back whatever happens, start early, and carry a headlamp. Most trips go wrong in the last hours of the day.

Carry the essentials Water, food, navigation (map and offline GPS), light, first aid, extra layers, sun protection, a whistle and fire or shelter. A phone alone is not a plan.

Emergencies Call 911. Cell coverage is unreliable or absent in much of the Sea to Sky backcountry, so consider a satellite messenger and know your location.

Water and wildlife Wear a life jacket on the water: cold water can disable you in minutes. Carry bear spray where bears are present, keep food secured and give wildlife space.

Sources & disclaimer

This guide draws on BC Parks: Garibaldi Provincial Park Trail Information (updated May 19, 2026); BC Parks: Garibaldi Park.

Last checked November 18, 2026. Figures marked ≈ are approximate, and sources sometimes disagree. Always confirm with the land manager before you go.

Outdoor recreation involves risk, including serious injury and death. This guide is general information compiled from the public sources listed above and was last checked on November 18, 2026. Conditions, access, closures, fees and rules change, and some figures differ between sources. It is not a substitute for current information from the land manager, for proper skills, equipment and preparation, or for your own judgment. You are responsible for your own safety and decisions. To the extent permitted by law, Sea to Sky Trails and its authors accept no liability for loss, injury or damage arising from use of this guide.

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