SERIOUS BOAT ACCESS ONLY FULL-DAY HIKE PRIVATE LAND ACCESS

Anvil Island & Leading Peak

An island summit in the middle of Howe Sound, reachable only by boat: about 9.4 km and 680–780 m of climbing to Leading Peak.

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH FIRST. This is not a navigation tool and must not be your only source. Confirm everything with the land manager.

DIFFICULTY
Serious
Full-day, boat access

LEADING PEAK TRAIL
≈ 9.4 km
Return (one listing)

ELEVATION GAIN
≈ 680–780 m
Sources differ

BOAT FROM PORTEAU COVE
≈ 5 km
One guide, paddling

TRAILHEAD
Private property
Daybreak Point camp

TIME
Full day
≈ 4.5 h hiking (one listing)



Approximate area only, not a trailhead or route. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Island	Anvil Island, Howe Sound
Access	Boat only; no ferry
Paddle	≈ 5 km from Porteau Cove (one guide)
Trail	≈ 9.4 km return
Gain	≈ 680–780 m

Landing	Confirm permission with Daybreak Point

Overview

Anvil Island has no ferry service and is accessible only by boat: a private water taxi from Horseshoe Bay, or paddling from Porteau Cove. One guide says the beach and trailhead for the Leading Peak hike are about 5 km from Porteau Cove by paddle.

Listings describe the Leading Peak trail as about 9.4 km return with 680 to 780 m of gain, a full-day adventure. The trailhead is reported to be on the private property of Daybreak Point Bible Camp, and one club trip report says the camp must grant permission to land. Confirm directly before you plan.

Boat only · Private land · ≈ 700 m gain · Full day

Getting there

By water No ferry. Options are a private water taxi from Horseshoe Bay or paddling across from Porteau Cove.

Landing permission The main trailhead is reported to be on Daybreak Point Bible Camp's private property. A club trip report says the camp must grant permission to land on the date of your trip.

Not Squamish Nation reserve The Defence Islands northeast of Anvil Island are Squamish Nation Indian reserves. That is a separate matter from Anvil Island itself.

Know before you go

Crossing Howe Sound The Sound can produce strong wind and cold water. Check marine weather, wear a PFD and plan your return crossing.

Steep trail The trail climbs steeply to the summit. Carry water, layers and a headlamp.

Full-day commitment Plan the day around the last safe boat back, not the summit.

Questions

How do I get to Anvil Island?
Only by boat: a private water taxi from Horseshoe Bay, or paddling from Porteau Cove (about 5 km to the beach and trailhead, per one guide).

How long is the Leading Peak hike?
Listings give about 9.4 km return with 680 to 780 m of elevation gain, and call it a full-day adventure.

Do I need permission to land?
The trailhead is reported to be on private property belonging to Daybreak Point Bible Camp, and a club trip report says permission is required. Confirm with the camp.

Is it a Squamish Nation reserve?
No. The Defence Islands nearby are Squamish Nation reserves, not Anvil Island itself.

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 Wikipedia: Anvil Island; BCMC: Leading Peak (Anvil Island); Komoot: Leading Peak; Inside Vancouver: Porteau Cove to Anvil Island.

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.

> Do your own research first. This guide is not a navigation tool and must not be your only source: it is general information, last checked November 18, 2026, and conditions, access and rules change. Outdoor recreation is risky. Confirm everything with the land manager before you go, and read the terms of use & disclaimer. (seatoskytrails.com/disclaimer)