EASY PROVINCIAL PARK GRAVEL ROAD CANOE RENTALS ON SITE

Birkenhead Lake

An end-of-the-road provincial park lake: clear water, a sandy beach, a campground and an 8 km lakeshore trail.

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
Easy
Trails of 1–8 km

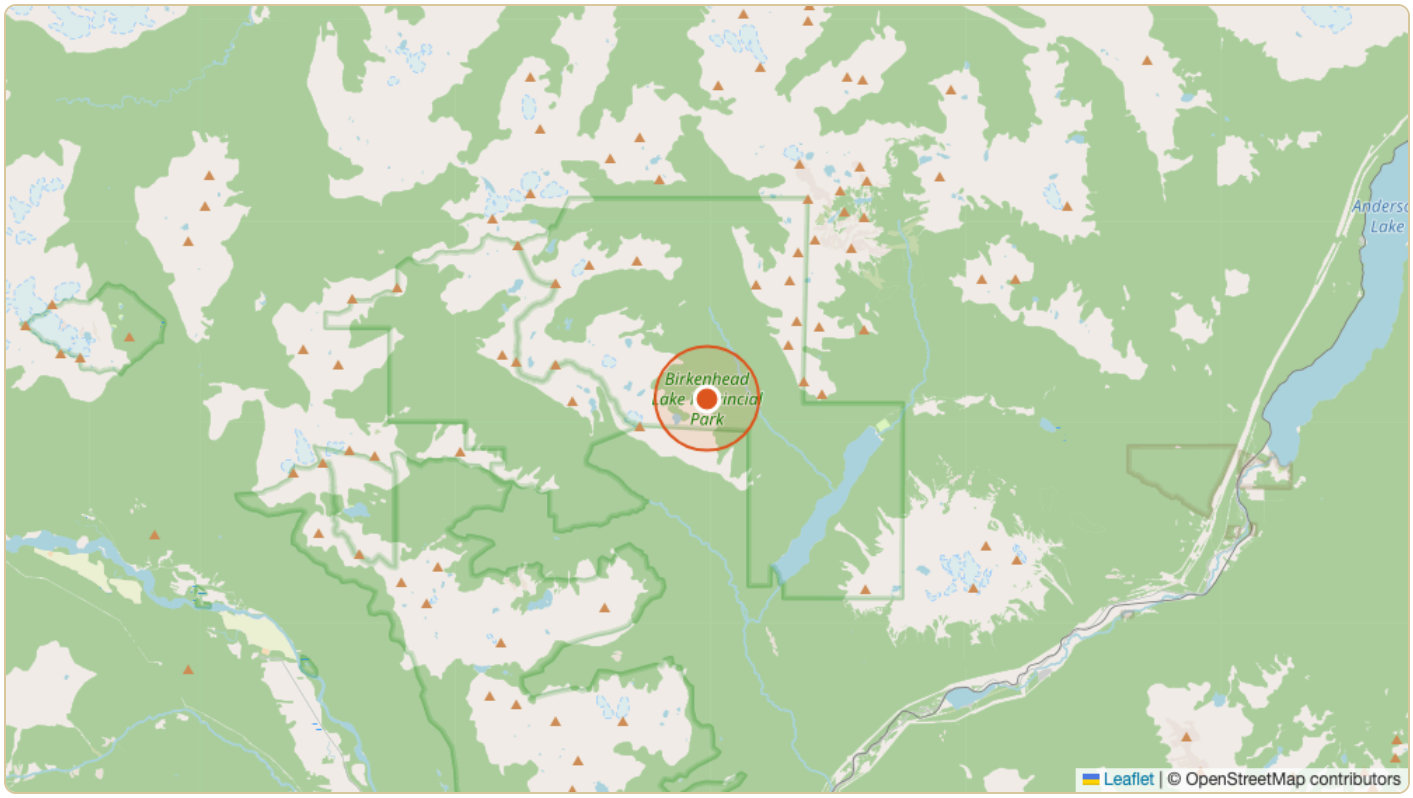
LAST STRETCH
17 km gravel
After ≈ 50 km from Mt. Currie

LOCATION
90 km N
Of Whistler (BC Parks)

LAKE TRAIL
8 km
Gravel, hikers & cyclists

PADDLING
Yes
Winds can rise suddenly

DOGS
Leashed
Off-leash area at day-use end



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

Park	Birkenhead Lake Provincial Park
Access	22 km west of D'Arcy; gravel final 17 km
Birkenhead Lake trail	8 km one way
Wilderness trail	2 km
Goat Lookout	1 km

Rentals	Canoes via park operator
Rockfall crossing	50 m, about 1 km in

Overview

Birkenhead Lake Provincial Park is 22 km west of D'Arcy, about 90 km north of Whistler and 145 km north of Squamish. From Pemberton you go to Mt. Currie and on toward D'Arcy, then turn onto a gravel road about 50 km from Mt. Currie and drive 17 km to the lake.

The park has a sandy beach, a campground, canoe rentals through the park operator and three trails: a 2 km wilderness trail, an 8 km lake trail and a 1 km Goat Lookout trail.

Gravel road · Canoe rentals · Leashed dogs · Cell service: minimal

Getting there

The drive From Highway 99 at Pemberton go northeast to Mt. Currie, then toward D'Arcy. About 50 km from Mt. Currie, turn onto a gravel road and drive 17 km to the lake.

Reservations BC Parks lists a $5 fee for phone reservations, changes or cancellations. Check camping.bcparks.ca for sites and fees.

Operator The park is operated by Sea to Sky Park Services Ltd.: 1-604-986-9371.

Rules & safety

Wind Canoeists and kayakers are welcome, but strong winds can rise suddenly.

Rock debris About 1 km from the parking lot, a 50 m rock debris avalanche section must be crossed on the Wilderness and Birkenhead Lake trails.

Swimming Swim only within the area marked by buoys. No swimming floats and no lifeguards.

Dogs Leashed at all times, not on beaches or in park buildings. One designated off-leash area is at the far end of the day-use area.

Questions

How far is Birkenhead Lake from Whistler?
BC Parks says 90 km north of Whistler and 145 km north of Squamish, with the final 17 km on a gravel road.

Can I rent a canoe there?
BC Parks says daily and hourly canoe rentals are available on site through the park operator.

How long are the trails?
The wilderness trail is 2 km, the Birkenhead Lake trail is 8 km to the south end of the lake and the Goat Lookout trail is 1 km.

Can I bring my dog?
Yes, on a leash. There is a designated off-leash area at the far end of the day-use area.

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: Birkenhead Lake 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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