EASY PROVINCIAL PARK GRAVEL ROAD PADDLING

Callaghan Lake

A high alpine lake in the Callaghan Valley, 16 km of road off Highway 99: a campground, a paddle, and the access point for Cirque Lake.

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
Paddling and short walks

ROAD IN
16 km
8 km paved + 8 km gravel

VEHICLE
High clearance
BC Parks

CAMPING
Campground only
No lakeshore camping

BOATS
Paddle + small motors
Under 10 hp allowed

BEARS
Grizzly + black
In the park



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

Park	Callaghan Lake Provincial Park
Access	Callaghan Valley Rd, then FSR 01
Road	High-clearance vehicles only
Toilet	Pit toilet at campground
Road closed	Snow: ≈ Nov to early June

Dogs	Leashed; campground, day-use, boats
Cell service	Minimal

Overview

Callaghan Lake Provincial Park is reached by turning north off Highway 99 (70 km north of Vancouver, 20 km south of Whistler) onto the paved Callaghan Valley Road for 8 km, then left onto Callaghan Forest Service Road 01 for 8 km of gravel.

BC Parks says the gravel road is only suitable for high-clearance vehicles because of deep water-bars and cross-ditches, and that the park has no formally developed or maintained hiking trails. Canoeing and kayaking are allowed. The lake is also the access point for Cirque Lake.

High clearance · Grizzly country · Canoes & kayaks · No cell service

Getting there & camping

The drive Callaghan Valley Road (paved, 8 km) then Callaghan Forest Service Road 01 (gravel, 8 km). Watch for forestry vehicles, wildlife and winter erosion.

Winter closure The access road is closed when snow covers it, usually from November to early June. It is groomed for cross-country skiing to the lake. Snowmobiles and off-road vehicles are not allowed.

Camping Camping is allowed only in the designated campground. Lakeshore and backcountry camping is not allowed. Campfires only in fire rings, kept small. Cutting or gathering wood is not allowed: bring a gas stove.

Rules & safety

Bears Grizzly bears live in the park and black bears are present. Make noise on trails and keep food and scented items secured.

Dogs Pets must be leashed and are allowed only at the campground, the adjacent day-use area or in a boat. They are not allowed in the Cirque Lake Basin, which is grizzly habitat.

Boating Canoes and kayaks are allowed. Powerboats, including electric ones, are allowed if under 10 horsepower.

Garbage and toilets No garbage or recycling facilities: pack out everything. There is a pit toilet at the campground, not maintained in winter.

Remote BC Parks says cell coverage is minimal and suggests a satellite phone for emergencies.

Trails There are no formally developed or maintained trails. A rough marked trail leads to Conflict Lake and Ring Lake.

Questions

How do I get to Callaghan Lake?
From Highway 99 take the paved Callaghan Valley Road for 8 km, then Callaghan Forest Service Road 01 for 8 km of gravel. BC Parks says the gravel road is only suitable for high-clearance vehicles.

Can I camp?
Only in the designated campground. Lakeshore and other backcountry camping is not allowed. Reservations follow BC Parks' frontcountry policies.

Can I bring my dog?
Yes on a leash, but only at the campground, day-use area or in a boat. Dogs are not allowed in the Cirque Lake Basin.

When is the road open?
BC Parks says it is closed when snow covers it, usually from November to early June.

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: Callaghan 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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