EASY GARIBALDI PARK OLD-GROWTH FOREST DAY PASS

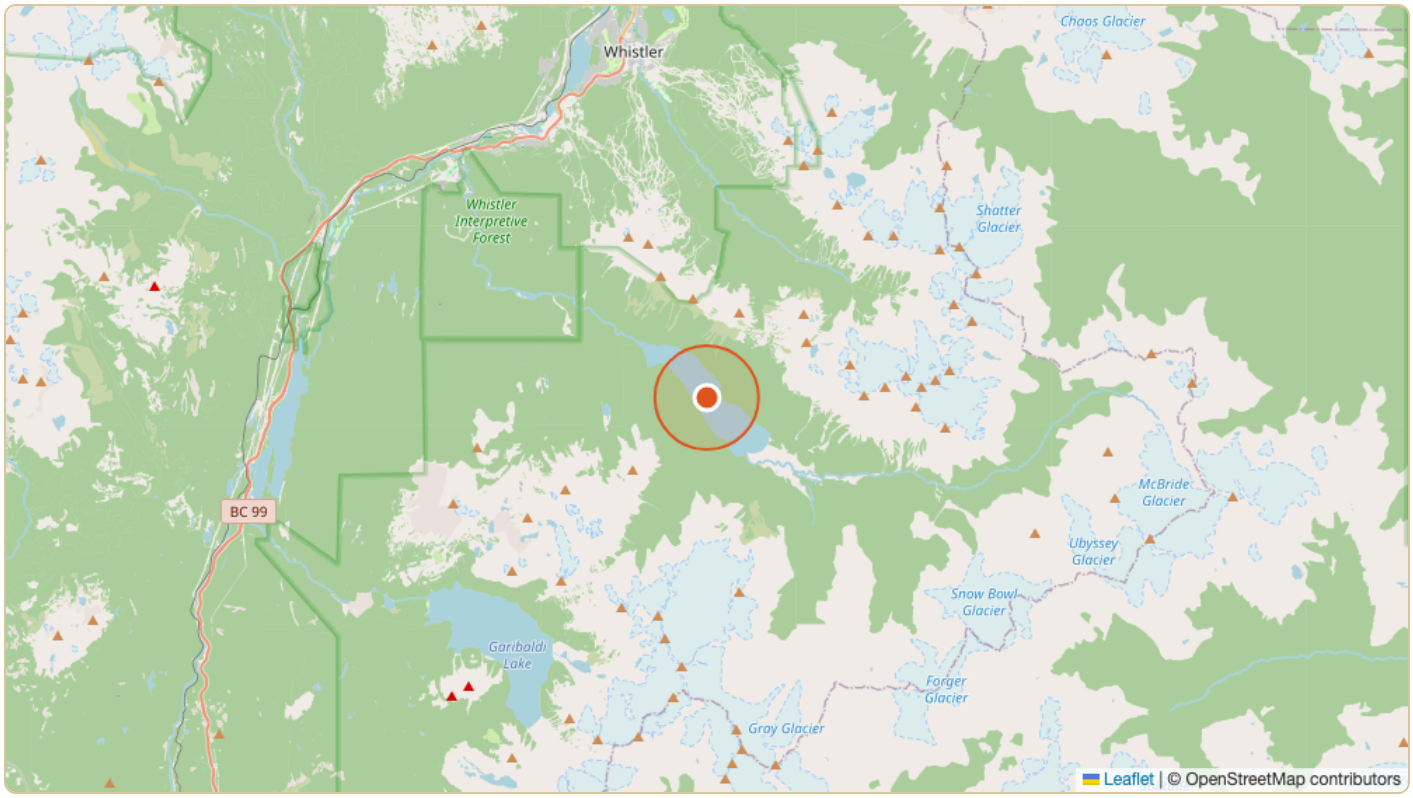
Cheakamus Lake

Garibaldi's gentlest trail: 3.5 km and about 90 m of climbing from the trailhead to a turquoise lake, after a rough gravel road.

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	TO THE LAKE	ELEVATION GAIN
Easy	**3.5 km**	**≈ 90 m**
BC Parks: easy, Type II trail	One way, to the campground	BC Parks

TO SINGING CREEK	ACCESS ROAD	DAY PASS
+ 4 km	**7 km gravel**	**Summer**
50 m more gain	Rough, potholes; 4x4 advised	Free, book online



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

Park	Garibaldi Provincial Park
Access	7 km Cheakamus FSR from Hwy 99
Lake campground	3.5 km, 90 m gain
Singing Creek	4 km further, 50 m
Camping	Reservation required

Biking	Permitted on lake trail
Fires & dogs	Prohibited

Overview

The Cheakamus Lake trail runs 3.5 km from the parking lot to Cheakamus Lake Campground with about 90 m of elevation gain. BC Parks rates it easy, on a well-defined Type II trail. Past the campground, the trail continues 4 km to Singing Creek (50 m of gain, rated moderate).

The rough part is getting there: BC Parks describes the 7 km Cheakamus Forest Service Road as rough gravel with potholes and recommends a 4x4.

3.5 km one way · ≈ 90 m gain · 4x4 recommended · No dogs or fires

Getting there

The road From Highway 99, a 7 km rough gravel road with potholes (Cheakamus Lake FSR). BC Parks recommends 4x4 vehicles, and asks you to watch for oncoming traffic and pull over when safe.

Day-use pass BC Parks requires free vehicle day-use passes during summer months at the Cheakamus, Diamondhead and Rubble Creek trailheads. Book at reserve.bcparks.ca/dayuse and check current dates.

Camping Reservations are required year-round for Cheakamus Lake Campground and Singing Creek Campground. All camping in the park needs a permit.

Rules & safety

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

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

Pack it out The park is user-maintained with no garbage removal. Use the outhouses provided, and bring your own toilet paper beyond trailheads.

Biking BC Parks permits biking on the Cheakamus Lake trail as far as Singing Creek. Fires are not permitted on this trail.

Beyond the lake The Cheakamus Lake Trail junction to Helm Campground is 7 km with 600 m of gain and is rated difficult (Type IV).

Questions

How long is the Cheakamus Lake trail?
BC Parks lists 3.5 km from the parking lot to Cheakamus Lake Campground with about 90 m of gain, and a further 4 km to Singing Creek.

What is the road like?
BC Parks says the 7 km Cheakamus Forest Service Road is rough gravel with potholes and recommends a 4x4.

Do I need a day pass?
BC Parks requires free vehicle day-use passes at Cheakamus during summer months. Book at reserve.bcparks.ca/dayuse.

Can I bring my dog or bike?
Dogs are prohibited in the park. Biking is permitted on the Cheakamus Lake trail as far as Singing Creek.

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).

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)