HARD · ACROSS THE SQUAMISH RIVER · STEEP CLIMB · SOURCES VARY

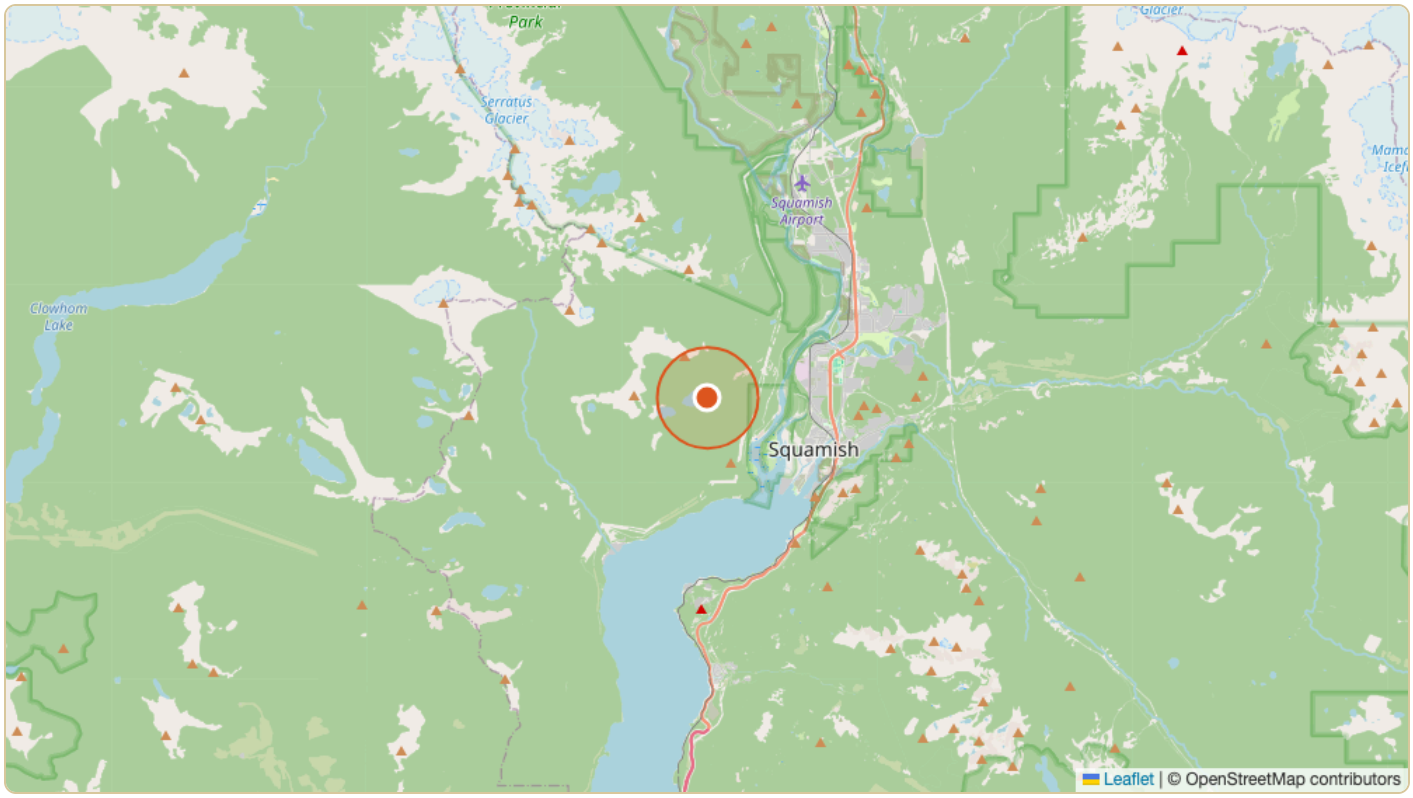
Echo Lake & Echo Falls

A hard climb on the west side of the Squamish River to a waterfall and an alpine lake. Distances range from about 8 km and 900 m to 1,000 m depending on source.

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	DISTANCE	ELEVATION GAIN
Hard	**≈ 8 km**	**≈ 900–1,000 m**
Challenging (sources)	Sources: 7.8–8.4 km	Sources vary

ACCESS	TRAIL SURFACE	DATA QUALITY
River crossing	**Roots, rock, loose dirt**	**Limited**
Squamish River	Seasonal snow	Cross-check a recent track



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

Area	West bank, Squamish River
Access	Squamish River crossing
Distance	≈ 7.8–8.4 km
Gain	≈ 900–1,000 m
Surface	Slippery roots, rock, loose dirt

Sources	Figures disagree

Overview

The Echo Lake trail near Squamish is described as challenging, starting from the banks of the Squamish River. Sources give the distance as about 7.8 to 8.4 km and elevation gain as about 900 to 1,000 m, and one source says the route crosses the Squamish River again on the return.

We found only a few sources, and none covered the river crossing, Echo Falls or parking in detail. Cross-check a recent GPS track and local advice before you go.

≈ 8 km · ≈ 900–1,000 m · River crossing · Limited data

Getting there

River crossing Sources describe the route as starting from the banks of the Squamish River. We could not confirm whether the crossing is by boat, ford or bridge: confirm locally.

Parking One guide suggests Squamish Spit Road for parking. Others give no details. Confirm current access.

Our canoe tie-in Squamish Canoe Rental has canoes and paddleboards, but ask locally whether a river crossing is appropriate for your skills and the season.

Know before you go

River The Squamish River is cold and tidal near its mouth, with currents that change. Do not attempt a crossing without suitable craft, skills and local knowledge.

Trail surface Sources list slippery roots, rock and loose dirt, with seasonal snow and chains in places.

Steep About 900 to 1,000 m of gain in about 8 km is sustained climbing. Carry water, layers and a headlamp.

Questions

How long is the Echo Lake trail?
Sources give about 7.8 to 8.4 km, with about 900 to 1,000 m of gain, so check a recent track.

Is there a river crossing?
Sources suggest the route starts from the Squamish River bank and crosses it again on the return, but none gave details. Confirm locally.

Where do I park?
One guide suggests Squamish Spit Road. Confirm current access before you go.

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 Ski Uphill: Echo Lake; 10Adventures: Echo Lake Trail; Trailforks.

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)