MODERATE | 11–12 KM RETURN | TRAILHEAD ACROSS HWY 99 | NO TOILETS ON TRAIL

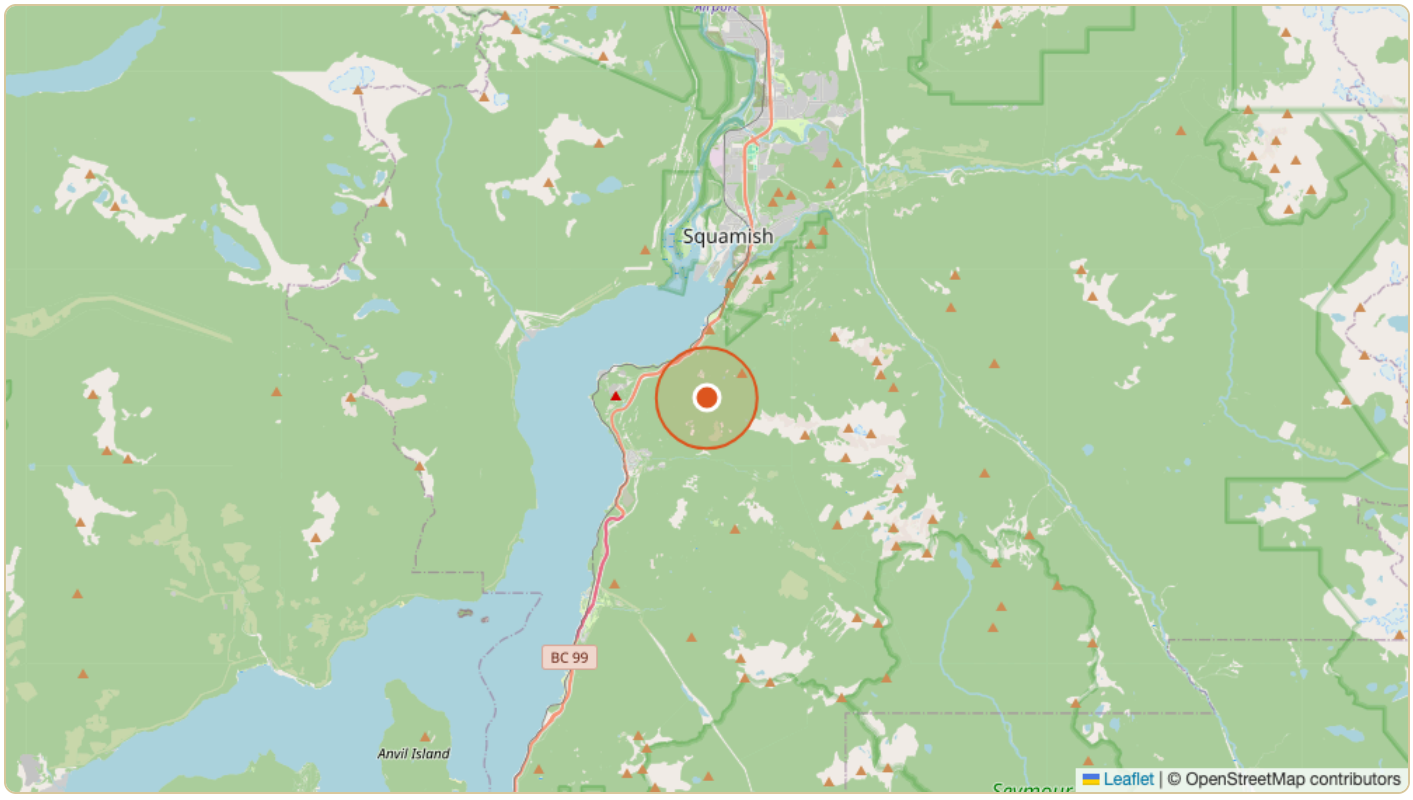
# Petgill Lake

A forest hike to a quiet lake above Howe Sound: about 11–12 km return and 640–650 m of climbing, from a trailhead across the highway from Murrin Park.

**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 | RETURN DISTANCE | ELEVATION GAIN |
|---|---|---|
| **Moderate** | **≈ 11–12 km** | **≈ 640–650 m** |
| Intermediate (Vancouver Trails) | Sources: 11–12 km | Most sources |

| TIME | TRAILHEAD | TOILETS |
|---|---|---|
| **5.5–6 h** | **Across Hwy 99** | **Murrin lot only** |
| Typical | From Murrin Park lot | None on trail |




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

| | |
|---|---|
| Trailhead | Across Hwy 99 from Murrin Park lot |
| Parking | Murrin Park lot; fills |
| Return | ≈ 11–12 km |
| Gain | ≈ 640–650 m |
| Time | ≈ 5.5–6 h |

| | |
|---|---|
| Season | Mar–Oct (one source) |
| Highway crossing | Dangerous when busy |

## Overview

Most sources put the Petgill Lake hike at about 11 to 12 km round trip with 640 to 650 m of elevation gain, taking roughly 5.5 to 6 hours. Vancouver Trails rates it intermediate and gives a March to October season.

The trailhead is across the Sea to Sky Highway from the Murrin Provincial Park parking lot, a few steps north of the lot. Parking fills quickly and crossing the highway is dangerous when it is busy.

≈ 11–12 km · ≈ 650 m gain · Cross Hwy 99 with care · No toilets on trail

## Getting there

**Parking** Use the Murrin Provincial Park parking lot. Parking fills quickly, and one source advises avoiding weekends. Overnight parking at Murrin is prohibited.

**Crossing the highway** The trailhead is across the Sea to Sky Highway. Cross carefully, because the road is fast and busy.

**Toilets** There are no toilets on the trail. Outhouses are at the Murrin parking area.

## Know before you go

**A long day** Allow 5.5 to 6 hours. Start early and carry a headlamp.

**Sources vary** Distances range from about 10 to 13.6 km and gains from about 573 to 882 m, depending on the start and the method.

**Dogs** Vancouver Trails lists the trail as dog friendly, but dogs are strictly prohibited at Murrin Park's main beach and picnic area.

## Questions

**How long is the Petgill Lake hike?**
Most sources put it at 11 to 12 km round trip with 640 to 650 m of gain and 5.5 to 6 hours.

**Where does the trail start?**
Across the Sea to Sky Highway from the Murrin Provincial Park parking lot, a few steps north of the lot.

**Are there toilets?**
Not on the trail. Outhouses are at the Murrin parking area.

**When is the best time?**
Vancouver Trails gives March to October.

## 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 Vancouver Trails; The Georgia Straight; BackcountryBC; Explore Squamish.

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)