HARD GARIBALDI PARK SPEARHEAD COUNTRY RESERVATION REQUIRED

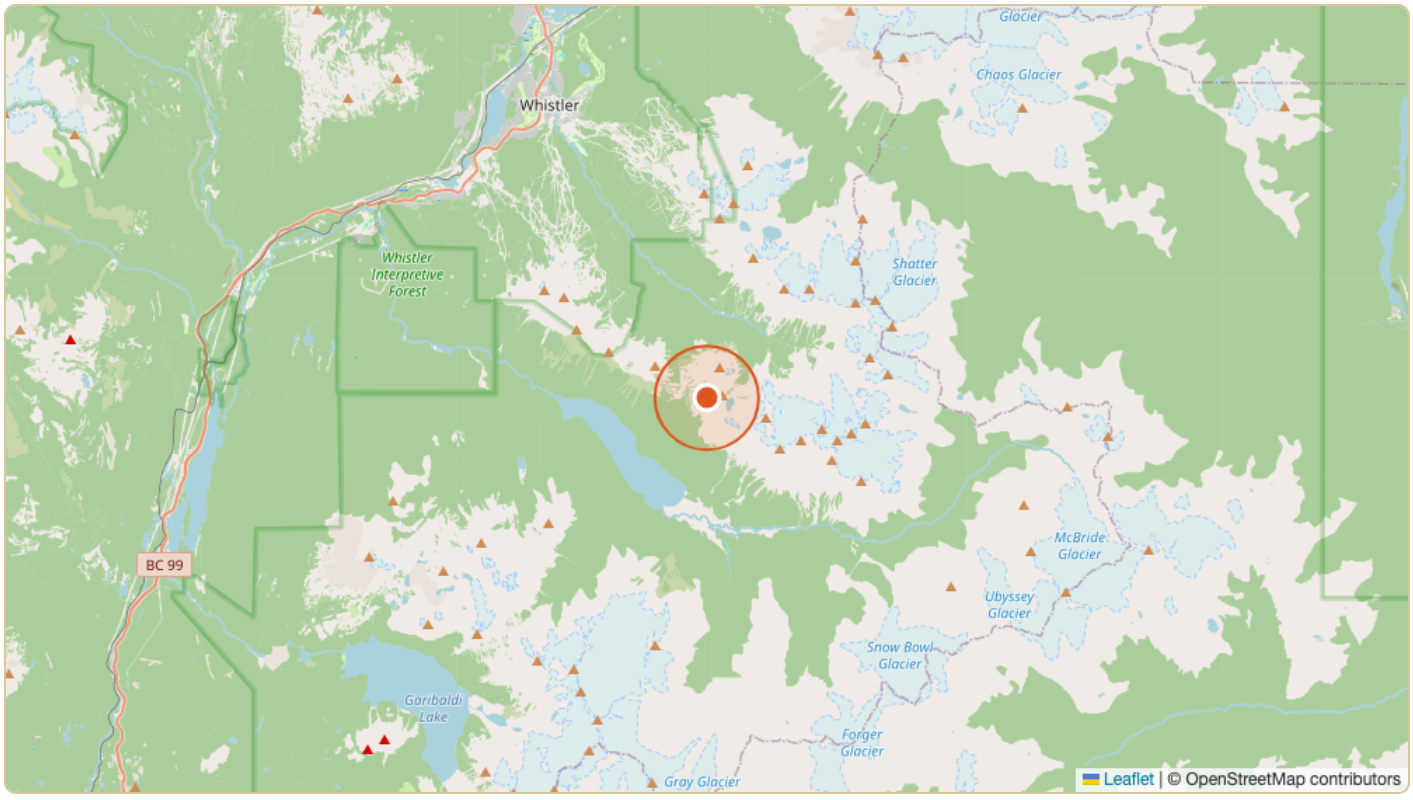
Russet Lake

A small alpine lake in the Spearhead area: 14.5 km and about 1,450 m via Singing Pass, or a shorter lift-assisted route.

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	VALLEY ROUTE	VALLEY GAIN
Hard	**≈ 14.5 km**	**≈ 1,450 m**
BC Parks: strenuous	11.5 + 3 km one way	1,200 + 250 m

LIFT ROUTE	CAMPING	DOGS
Lift ticket	**Reservation**	**Prohibited**
Musical Bumps access	Required year-round	Park-wide



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

Park	Garibaldi Provincial Park
Singing Pass trail	11.5 km, 1,200 m
Pass to Russet	3 km, 250 m
Musical Bumps	3.5 km, 100 m (lift access)
Camping	Russet Lake Campground

Creek crossing	Harmony Creek: no bridge
Dogs & drones	Prohibited

Overview

Russet Lake can be reached two ways, according to BC Parks' trail table. The valley route follows the Singing Pass Trail for 11.5 km (1,200 m of gain) to the Singing Pass and Musical Bumps junction, then 3 km (250 m) to the lake. The high route uses the Whistler Village Gondola and the Musical Bumps trail: 3.5 km (100 m) from Flute Summit to the junction, then the same 3 km to the lake.

The lift route needs a valid lift ticket to reach the park boundary. See our Singing Pass guide for the valley route.

≈ 14.5 km valley route · Lift option · Unbridged creek · No dogs

Getting there & camping

Valley route BC Parks lists the Singing Pass Trail as starting from Parking Lot 5 in Whistler: 11.5 km and about 1,200 m to the junction, rated strenuous.

Lift route Access from the Whistler Village Gondola to Musical Bumps and the park boundary requires a valid lift ticket. Access without a lift ticket is permitted only on designated routes. Check Whistler Blackcomb for lift openings.

Camping Russet Lake Campground reservations are required year-round. Camping on the Spearhead Traverse requires a wilderness permit.

Rules & safety

Harmony Creek BC Parks: use extreme caution crossing Harmony Creek on the valley route. There is no bridge.

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.

Avalanche and glacier These hazards exist year-round, and travelling beyond the maintained trail needs special skills and equipment.

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

Questions

How far is Russet Lake?
By BC Parks' figures, 11.5 km on the Singing Pass Trail plus 3 km to the lake, about 14.5 km one way, with about 1,450 m of gain. From Flute Summit via Musical Bumps it is 3.5 km plus 3 km.

Do I need a reservation?
Yes. BC Parks requires reservations for Russet Lake Campground year-round, and all camping needs a permit.

Can I hike without a lift ticket?
Yes, via the Singing Pass Trail from Parking Lot 5. The Musical Bumps route from the gondola needs a lift ticket.

Is there a bridge at Harmony Creek?
No. Use extreme caution crossing it.

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.

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