HARD GONDOLA SUMMIT UP ON FOOT, DOWN BY GONDOLA APR–OCT

Sea to Summit Trail

Squamish's famous climb from sea level to the Sea to Sky Gondola summit: 6.5 km and about 918 m, per the gondola's own numbers.

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	ONE WAY	ELEVATION GAIN
Hard	**6.5 km**	**918 m**
Steady, steep climbing	Gondola FAQ	35 m up to 885 m

TIME UP	MAIN SEASON	RETURN
3–5 h	**Apr – Oct**	**By gondola**
Typical, varies	Explore Squamish	Or hike back down



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

Start	Sea to Sky Gondola base lot
Distance	6.5 km one way
Gain	918 m (35 → 885 m)
Time	3–5 h up (varies)
Main season	April to October

Tickets	Check the gondola site

Overview

The Sea to Summit Trail climbs from near sea level to the summit of the Sea to Sky Gondola. The gondola's own FAQ gives the trail as 6.5 km one way, starting at 35 m and reaching 885 m, for about 918 m of gain including a few short descents.

Most people hike up and ride the gondola down to save their knees. Other sources quote different distances and times, so treat the 6.5 km gondola figure as the reference.

918 m gain · 6.5 km one way · 3–5 h typical · Apr – Oct

Getting there

Start The trail begins at the gondola base parking lot. A source reports the first section shares the trail with the Stawamus Chief before the Sea to Summit route turns off.

Parking Explore Squamish reports a time limit in the main lot and a free shuttle from an overflow lot at Darrell Bay. Check posted signs and the gondola website.

Tickets We couldn't find a current official price. Check the Sea to Sky Gondola website for ticket prices and operating hours.

Know before you go

Dogs 10Adventures reports that dogs can't ride the gondola down. Confirm the current policy with the gondola before bringing a dog.

Allow the time Estimates range from 3 to 5 hours up. Plan around daylight and gondola closing time.

Steady climb 918 m of gain over 6.5 km is a sustained climb. Bring water and layers.

When to go

Explore Squamish gives the main season for this trail as April to October. Check conditions and the gondola's operating schedule before you go.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

April to October The main hiking season, per Explore Squamish.

November to March Colder, shorter days and possible snow. Check conditions and gondola hours.

Questions

How long is the Sea to Summit Trail?
The Sea to Sky Gondola's FAQ gives 6.5 km one way, from 35 m to 885 m elevation, about 918 m of total gain. Other sources quote 5.5 to 8 km, so use the gondola's figure as the reference.

How long does it take?
Estimates range from about 3 to 5.5 hours up, depending on fitness and stops.

Can I take the gondola down?
Yes, most hikers ride the gondola down. Check the gondola site for current tickets and hours.

Can I bring my dog?
A source reports dogs can't ride the gondola down. Confirm with the gondola 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 Sea to Sky Gondola: Sea to Summit Trail FAQ; Explore Squamish: Sea to Summit Trail; Vancouver Trails; 10Adventures.

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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