SERIOUS GLACIER TRAVEL CLASS 4 FROM THE GONDOLA

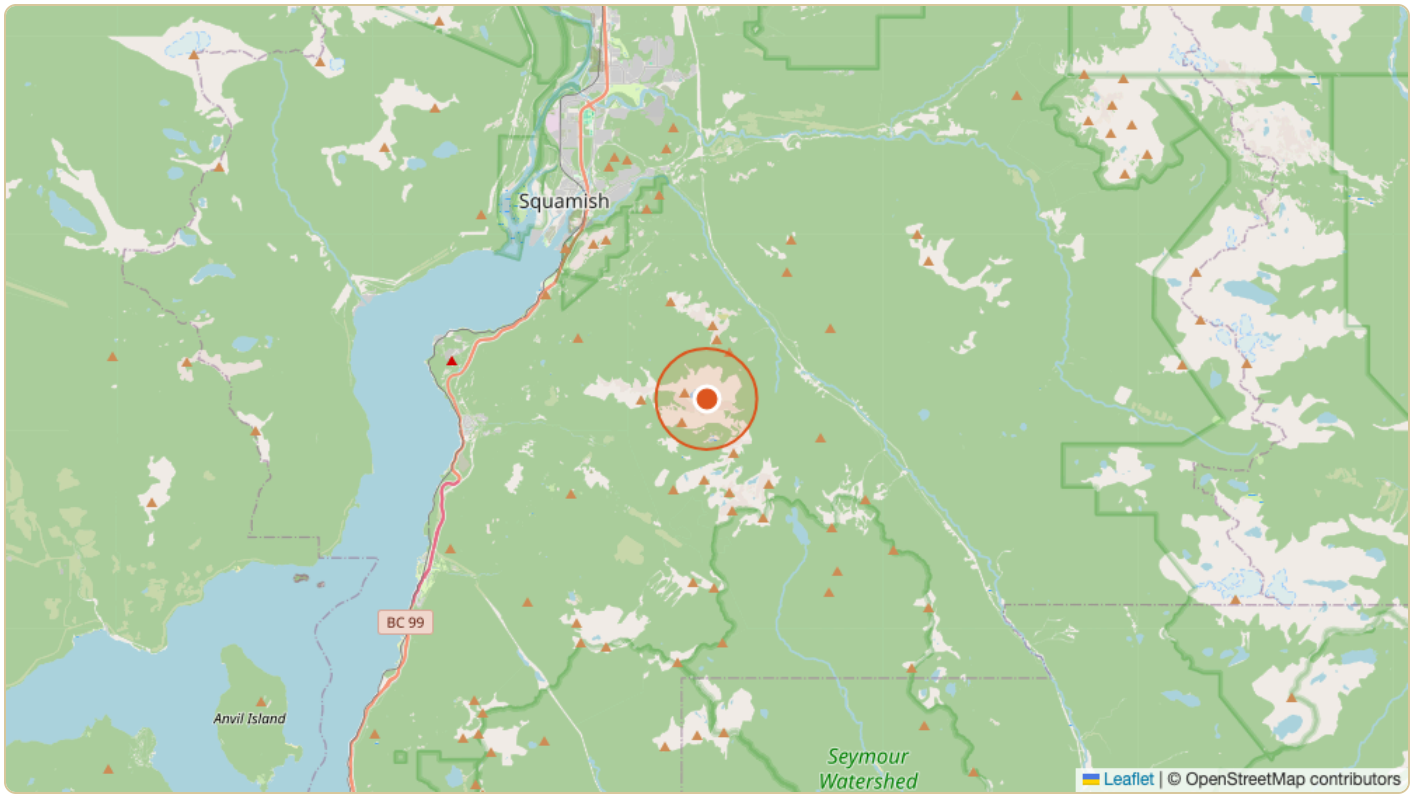
Sky Pilot Mountain

A serious mountaineering objective above the Sea to Sky Gondola: about 15–18 km return from the gondola and about 1,250–1,300 m of climbing, with a glacier crossing.

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 FROM GONDOLA	ELEVATION GAIN
Serious	**≈ 15–18.5 km**	**≈ 1,250–1,300 m**
Grade I, Class 4 (one source)	Sources vary	From the gondola

SUMMIT	TERRAIN	SEASON
≈ 2,030 m	**Stadium Glacier**	**May 15 – Oct 15**
Sources	Glacier skills needed	One guide



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

Start	Sea to Sky Gondola summit
Return	≈ 15–18.5 km
Gain	≈ 1,250–1,300 m
Summit	≈ 2,031 m
Route	Crosses Stadium Glacier

Season	Mid-May to mid-October (one guide)

Overview

Sky Pilot is a glaciated peak above the Sea to Sky Gondola. Sources put the route at about 15 to 18.5 km return from the gondola with about 1,250 to 1,300 m of elevation gain, reaching a summit of about 2,031 m. One source rates it Grade I, Class 4.

The route crosses the Stadium Glacier and gains the west ridge, and the col can hold snow well into summer. This is a mountaineering objective, not a hike: guided trips are available, and you should have glacier travel and scrambling skills and equipment.

Glacier crossing · Class 4 · ≈ 1,300 m gain · Mid-May to Oct

Getting there

Start The usual approach starts at the Sea to Sky Gondola, which one guide says saves hours of approach with almost a vertical kilometre of elevation gain. Check the gondola website for operating hours.

Sources vary Figures differ because some measure from the gondola summit and others from the base, and some are one-way.

Season One guide lists mid-May to mid-October. Check snow on the col and glacier before going.

Know before you go

Glacier travel The route crosses the Stadium Glacier. Crevasses, snow bridges and changing conditions require glacier skills, equipment and a competent party.

Scrambling Rock difficulty is reported as fourth class, with steepness around 45 degrees.

Long day Allow a full day, and be off the glacier before conditions deteriorate.

Guided option Guiding companies such as Altus Mountain Guides run Sky Pilot trips.

Questions

How hard is Sky Pilot?
It is a serious mountaineering objective. One source rates it Grade I, Class 4, and the route crosses the Stadium Glacier.

How long is the route?
Sources give about 15 to 18.5 km return from the gondola with about 1,250 to 1,300 m of gain.

When can I climb it?
One guide lists mid-May to mid-October. Snow on the col lasts into summer.

Can I go with a guide?
Yes. Several guiding companies offer Sky Pilot trips.

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 Wikipedia: Sky Pilot Mountain; The Outbound: Scramble Sky Pilot; FastestKnownTime; Altus Mountain Guides.

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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