MODERATE | ABOUT 17 KM RETURN | 4X4 ROAD | HUT

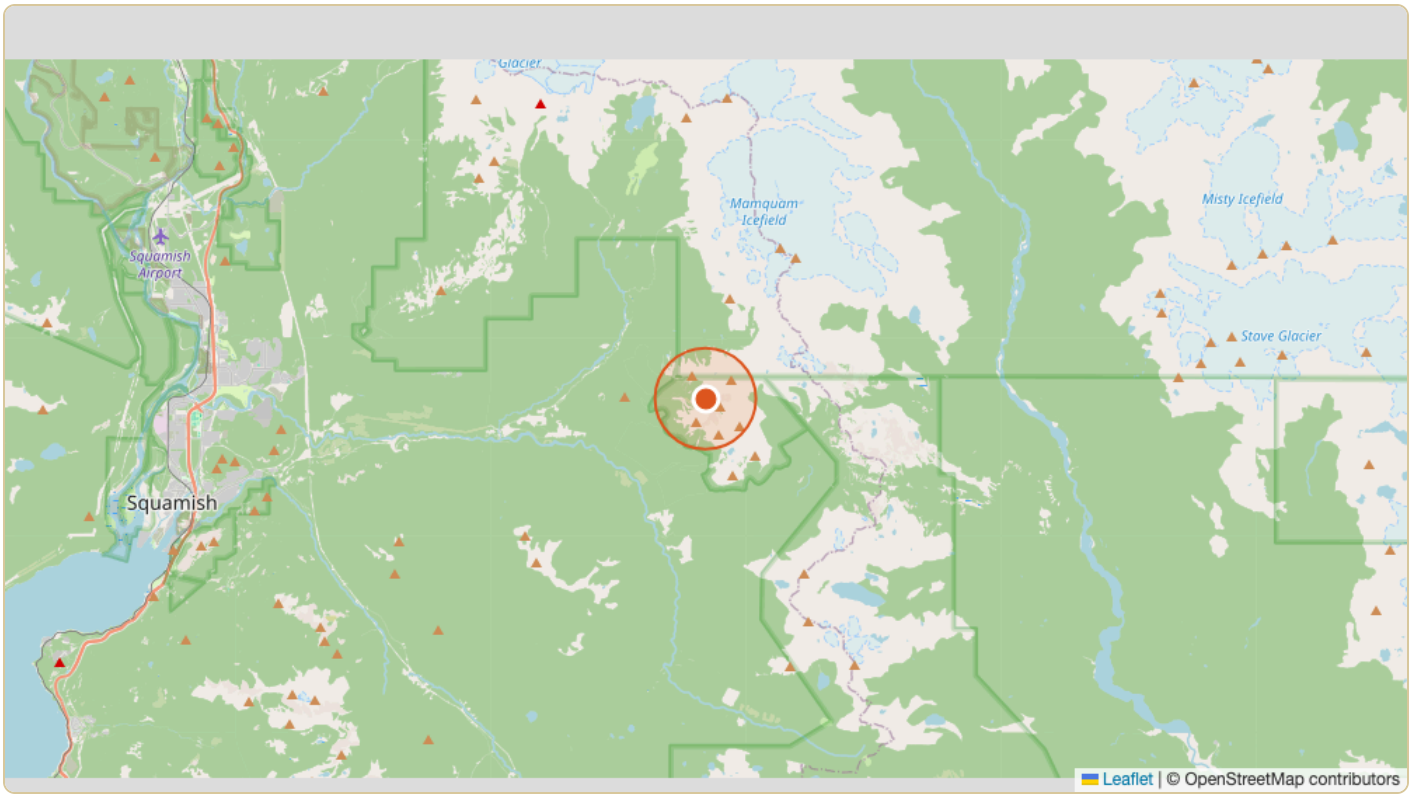
Watersprite Lake

A turquoise lake in a granite bowl east of Squamish: about 17 km return, 6.5–7 hours, and a long forest-road drive.

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	**≈ 17 km**	**≈ 700 m**
Long day; short steep finish	Most sources	Listed; GPS total ≈ 1,000 m

TIME	ROAD	HUT
6.5–7 h	**≈ 20 km FSR**	**Check BCMC**
Plus time at the lake	4x4 or AWD, clearance	Sources conflict



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

Area	East of Squamish
Road	≈ 20 km up Mamquam & Skookum FSRs
Return	≈ 17 km
Gain	≈ 713 m listed
Time	6.5–7 h

Hut	BCMC hut, ≈ 10 sleeps (confirm)
Road status	Verify before driving

Overview

Most sources put the Watersprite Lake hike at about 17 km round trip. One guide lists 713 m of elevation gain and a highest point of about 1,470 m, while a GPS track totals about 996 m including all ascents and descents. Typical time is 6.5 to 7 hours plus time at the lake.

Descriptions are fairly consistent that it is moderate, with long flat sections, some boulder scrambling and a short, steep final climb to the lake.

≈ 17 km return · ≈ 700 m gain · 4x4 or AWD · Hut: check BCMC

Getting there

The road Sources say the trailhead is about 20 km up the Mamquam and Skookum forest service roads and needs a 4x4 or AWD vehicle with good clearance. We found no current road report: verify before driving.

BCMC hut One 2026-era page says the BCMC hut is first-come, first-served, sleeps around 10 and needs no reservation, while another source points to a BCMC reservation link. Check bcmc.ca before you go.

Know before you go

Remote road Forest service roads change with weather and use. Check current conditions and carry a spare tire and tools.

Long day About 17 km round trip is 6.5 to 7 hours for many hikers. Start early and carry a headlamp.

Scrambling Expect some boulder sections and a brief steep final climb to the lake.

Sources vary Gain figures differ because some are net and some include every ascent and descent.

Questions

How long is the Watersprite Lake hike?
Most sources say about 17 km round trip, with typical times of 6.5 to 7 hours.

How much climbing is it?
One guide lists about 713 m of gain, while GPS totals including all ups and downs are closer to 1,000 m.

Do I need a 4x4?
Sources say a 4x4 or AWD vehicle with good clearance is needed for the roughly 20 km of forest road. Verify current conditions.

Do I need to reserve the hut?
Sources conflict. Check the BCMC website 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 Outdoor Vancouver; Best Hikes BC; The Outbound; 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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