

Camping Ethics

Desolation Sound Marine Park provides a wilderness experience for boat-oriented recreation. Few facilities are provided.

Anchorage and pit toilets are available at Prideaux Haven, Tenedos Bay and Grace Harbour. Walk-in campsites are also available at Tenedos Bay and Grace Harbour.

Bring your own drinking water as no potable water is provided in the park.

Activities at Curme Islands and other non-serviced areas are user-maintained. Do your part to minimize impact and practice no-trace camping. Where outhouses are not provided, bury your waste in a shallow hole at least 50 metres from any water sources, campsite and trails.

Use a gas stove for cooking. Campfires are only permitted on the beach below the high tide line. Do not use driftwood from salt water, as this produces toxic air emissions. Campfire bans may be in place when forest fire hazard is high.

There are no garbage disposal facilities in the park so follow the pack-it-in, pack-it-out rule. Do not put garbage down the outhouse holes or discharge pollutants into waterways.

Excessive noise is not allowed at any time. Consider your neighbours and observe the quiet time from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Do not operate noisy equipment or generators at this time.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in public areas within provincial parks.

Things to Do

The sheltered waters, islands and bays of Desolation Sound are suitable for exploration by small boats, kayaks and canoes. There are many opportunities to enjoy swimming, fishing, picnicking and hiking.

At Tenedos Bay a short trail leads to Unwin Lake, a nice spot for a swim.

At Prideaux Haven, numerous small islands and inlets off shore invite exploration.

Anchorage are available at Roscoe Bay, Teakerne Arm, Walsh Cove and Copeland Islands. Campsites are available at Roscoe Bay, the Copeland Islands and Okeover Arm Provincial Parks.

At Teakerne Arm there is a 1-kilometre trail to the 30-metre high Cassel Falls and Cassel Lake where swimming may be enjoyed. At Roscoe Bay there is a trail to Black Lake, also suitable for swimming.

Valid BC freshwater and/or tidal waters sport fishing licenses are required for fishing and shellfish collection in the park.

Please respect private property within and adjacent to the park, particularly Portage Cove to Wooten Bay and around Grace Harbour and Galley Bay.

Help Protect Our Environment

Trees, plants, rocks, shells and marine life are part of the park's natural heritage. The inhabitants of the intertidal zone at the edge of the ocean depend on each other for survival. Be careful where you step and return shells and rocks to their original position. Leave everything as you find it.

Do not use soap or detergents in lakes and creeks to prevent contamination of the water. Wash 30 metres away from any water source.

Some of the bays and inlets in the park have little tidal action. Help protect the water quality by not discharging sewage or bilge water in any anchorages or channel ways.

Use bilge cloths for engine oil and other pollutants, and never fill portable fuel tanks on board.

There are many archaeological sites within the park. Do not disturb them. Archaeological and other heritage sites are legally protected under Section 13 of the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

Safety

Be aware of the weather and check charts when crossing the larger inlets inside and outside the park as winds and weather can change very quickly. Ensure your boat has the proper safety equipment before venturing out.

All wildlife is potentially dangerous. Be careful when viewing wildlife, keep a safe distance and do not feed any animal.

To prevent bear-human encounters, use food caches (not provided) or bear-proof food containers.

For More Information

BC Parks

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection



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Desolation Sound Marine

PROVINCIAL PARK



Prideaux Haven

Welcome. Desolation Sound Marine Provincial Park was established in 1973 to protect an isolated area of safe boating waters, surrounding inlets and islands and a natural marine environment at the head of Georgia Strait. Encompassing 8,449 hectares and situated 32 kilometres north of Powell River, this jewel of the marine parks system was named by Captain George Vancouver in 1792, when he experienced a bleaker side of these popular waters.

High forested hills drop steeply to the sea with upland lakes, saltwater lagoons, sheltered bays and pocket beaches. Protected from the prevailing winds and currents, seas are unusually warm in summer making ideal conditions for swimming and diving to observe an abundance of coastal and marine life.

Lower Mainland Region