

GETTING THERE

The north entrance is reached by driving 17km south of Kelowna on Pandosy Sreet, then on to Lakeshore Drive and on to the park entrance, then follow 2km of unpaved road to the parking lot. From Penticton follow Naramata Road 17km to Chute Lake Road which forks right. A further 5km, turn left on to Gemmill Lake Road for 1km to the south parking lot.

HISTORY

Historic trails form part of the current trail network, some dating back to 1860, when Father Pandosy established an oblate mission near Kelowna. Settlers used a trail through Wild Horse Canyon, but finding the south end of the trail crossed extremely rough and rocky country, Father Pandosy instituted a better trail higher up to the east. Goode's Creek Canyon Trail was named for Dave Goode, supplier of survey crews for the Kettle Valley Railway, built in 1915. The horses are gone now, but at one time the local Salish Indians used the canyon as a wild-horse trap. Wild Horse Canyon is most dramatic in the spring and fall when vegetation doesn't obscure its sheer rock walls. It can be unbearably hot in summer and visitors will need to bring water.

Houseboats and pleasure craft visit the beaches and coves along the shoreline. Mooring buoys at each site are compliments of the Okanagan Safe Boating Society. A bronze plaque at Commando Bay recognizes the contributions of Chinese-Canadians who secretly trained here for guerilla warfare in 1944, during World War II.

Little remains at the crash site of a DC3 passenger plane that went down in December of 1950, approximately one km north-east of Divide Lake. The two CP Air pilots died in the crash, while 16 others on board were rescued by local search and rescue teams. There is no trail access to the site and very little to see as nature has slowly reclaimed the site over the years.

TRAILS

All trail times are one-way.

Trailhead North Parking Lot

- ▶ **Boulder Loop Trail**
North Parking Lot to Boulder Trail to Dead Horse Creek to Golden Mile Rd.
Distance 5km 3 hrs. easy
- ▶ **Old C.N. Trail**
North Parking Lot to Divide Lake Road
Distance 3km 2hrs. easy
- ▶ **Divide Lake North Trail**
(Restricted Access Road) Rimrock Gate to Divide Lake
Distance 8km 3.5 hrs. easy
- ▶ **Boulder Trail**
Jut. Old C.N. Trail to Dead Horse Creek
Distance 3km 2 hrs. moderate

- ▶ **Dead Horse Creek to Gate**
Distance 1.5km 1 hr. easy
- ▶ **Goode's Basin Trail**
Dead Horse Creek to Pinnacles
Distance 2.5km 1.5 hrs. moderate
- ▶ **Dead Horse Creek to End of Canyon**
Distance 7.5km 5 hrs. easy
- ▶ **Rim Trail via Wild Horse Canyon Trail**
Distance 1km .75 hrs. moderate
- ▶ **End of Canyon to Commando Bay**
Distance 1.8km 1 hr. moderate
- ▶ **End of Canyon to Buchan Bay**
Distance 1.5km .75 hrs. moderate
- ▶ **End of Canyon to Goode's Creek**
Distance 3km 2.5 hrs. difficult
- ▶ **Divide Lake to Baker Lake**
Baker Lake Trail
Distance 2km 1.5 hrs. difficult
- ▶ **Baker Lake to Victor Lake**
Distance 1km .75 hrs. moderate

Trailhead South Parking Lot

- ▶ **Gemmill Lake**
Distance 2km 1 hr. easy
- ▶ **Divide Lake via Mountain Goat Trail**
Distance 5km 3 hrs. difficult
- ▶ **Viewpoint Trail**
Distance .5km .5 hrs. easy
- ▶ **Trailhead South Parking Lot to Divide Lake Trail South Junction**
Distance 5km 2hrs. moderate
- ▶ **Divide Lake Trail South**
Junction at Wild Horse Canyon Trail to Divide Lake
Distance 5km 2 hrs. moderate
- ▶ **Trailhead South Parking Lot to Frederick Creek**
Distance 6km 2.5 hrs. moderate
- ▶ **Frederick Creek to Baker Lake**
Distance 4km 3hrs. moderate
- ▶ **Frederick Creek to Goode's Creek**
Distance 4km 4 hrs. moderate
- ▶ **Goode's Creek Lake Trail**
Junction of Wild Horse Canyon Trail and Goode's Creek
Distance 1km .75 hrs. moderate

SPECIAL MESSAGE

Weather conditions can change quickly — let someone know about your planned destination and return time.

As there is little surface water available away from the lakes, carry plenty of drinking water, particularly in summer.

It is easy to become disoriented by the rugged terrain and deep canyons. Stay on designated trails where established.

If cycling, carry a repair kit and hand pump as the trail surface is sharp rock in sections.

Practice safe boating procedures and be prepared for gusty winds that can swell up suddenly on Okanagan Lake.

Hunting is permitted in this park, in season. For safety purposes, bright clothing should be worn by all visitors to the park in the fall.

Topographic Map Sheets 82E/12 and 82E/13 covering the park area are available for a fee from most map/book stores and outdoor equipment outlets.

Canadian Hydrographic Chart 3052 for Okanagan Lake is available for a fee. Phone (250) 765-3995 in Kelowna and (250) 492-2628 in Penticton.

A WARNING

Poison Ivy is a low plant with three glossy, bright green leaves and white berries. A severe skin rash may appear; an effective treatment is Calamine lotion.

Rattlesnakes, while seldom seen, live in many areas of the Okanagan. They rarely strike and should never be picked up. In the event of a bite, get to a hospital as soon as possible; bites are painful, but rarely fatal.

Sunburn can be extremely uncomfortable. The hot, dry climate can result in overexposure to the sun. Please use sunscreen and wear a hat during long periods in the sun.



For More Information

BC Parks
www.bcparks.ca



Okanagan Mountain PROVINCIAL PARK

Welcome. The bold profile of Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park is formed by an elbow of land jutting out from the eastern shore of Okanagan Lake, between Kelowna and Penticton. The park includes 10,580 hectares of carefully preserved backcountry wilderness and spectacular marine foreshore. It exemplifies the true Okanagan Basin landscape and is the only large section of undeveloped shoreline left on Okanagan Lake.

The park was established in 1973. Its designation as a Class A park is primarily due to the efforts of local residents and various organizations supporting the preservation of unique Okanagan ecosystems. There are several smaller parcels of private land within the park boundaries; the long term objective is to acquire these properties as funds become available.

A wide variety of ecosystems and micro-climates are a result of the park's size and differing elevations. Semi-desert wilderness at lake level offsets lush, green forests in upland areas. Wild Horse Canyon and Goode's Creek Canyon, which cut deeply north and south through Okanagan Mountain, are home to mule deer, elk and black bears. Ospreys build their massive nests in the taller trees of Baker, Divide and Norman lakes.

Okanagan