

Message to Visitors

Help us protect your provincial parks. Leave it as you have found it so that future visitors may enjoy the park as you have.

Please do not litter. The lakes and streams are sources of drinking water. Even biodegradable soaps will pollute water. Protect the delicate balance of the water system by brushing your teeth and washing your dishes at least 100 metres from any waterway. Use the grey water pit where provided.

Camp on tent pads and walk on trails where provided to avoid vegetation damage. Tents and boots destroy wet environments, heather meadows and alpine flowers.

Flowers, shrubs, trees, snags, rotting logs and rocks are integral to the parks' ecology. Please do not damage or remove them.

Fires are not allowed except in designated areas using driftwood or other supplied wood. No cutting or collecting of firewood is allowed.

Mountain bikes, motor vehicles (including motorcycles and ATVs) and similar conveyances are restricted to motor vehicle roads and parking lots. Motorboats are prohibited except on Slocan Lake.

Snowmobiles and other over-the-snow vehicles are prohibited except on vehicle roads.

There are no developed horse trails within Valhalla Provincial Park.

Firearms are allowed only for licensed hunters with valid species tags during lawful hunting seasons. Check your regulations.

All anglers must have a valid provincial fishing license. Refer to the current hunting and fishing regulations.

Dogs and other pets are prohibited except as noted. They can be carriers of giardia parasites (beaver fever). They may harass small animals and they may provoke a bear attack.

How to Get to the Park

The park is accessed from Hwy 6 by logging roads at Passmore and Slocan City. Water access is from Slocan City, Silverton and New Denver, all of which have boat launches. In addition, commercial water taxis operate in the area to take visitors across the lake. Be cautious if you choose to canoe or kayak to the beaches and trails as strong cross winds may blow up suddenly.

Wildlife Caution

Many wild animals are potentially dangerous and may be encountered at any time. Be careful when near wildlife. Bears are particularly unpredictable. They are extremely powerful animals that can cause serious injury or death. While the risk of attack is low, you can heighten your safety by following some simple advice:

- ▶ Animals that lose their fear of people and become used to eating human food and garbage are especially dangerous. Female bears with cubs are very dangerous. Never approach or feed bears or other animals. Make lots of noise when hiking in bear habitat.
- ▶ Securely store food by hanging it from a tree at least 4 metres above the ground and 2 metres from the trunk. Always use storage facilities where provided.
- ▶ Do not cook or store food in your tent and keep your campsite clean.
- ▶ Do not burn or bury refuse since this attracts animals. Pack out what you pack in.
- ▶ More information about bears and other wild animals is available from BC Parks.

For More Information

BC Parks

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



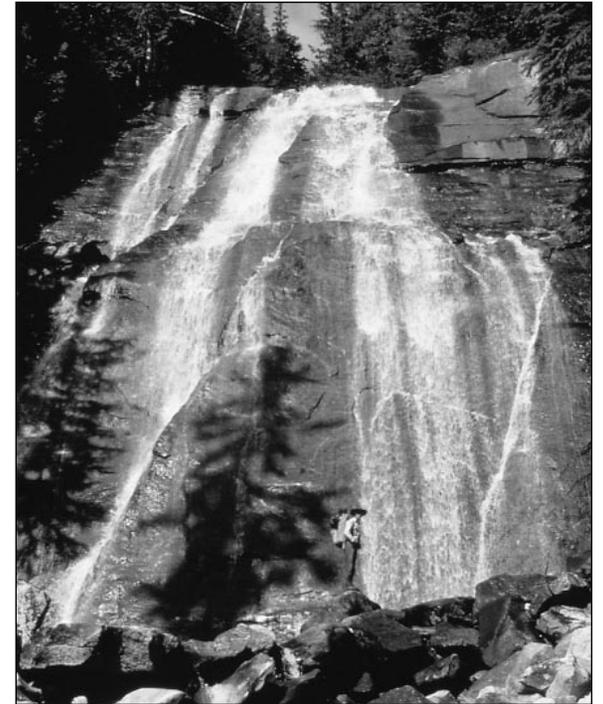
Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection



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PROVINCIAL PARK



Welcome. Valhalla Provincial Park is a dramatically diverse area encompassing 30 kilometres along the west shore of Slocan Lake and most of the Valhalla range of the Selkirk mountains. The peaks are truly magnificent in the northwest; New Denver Glacier (2,758 metres) dominates the landscape while the block-shaped Devil's Couch (2,667 metres) and Hela Peak (2,717 metres) define the central area. Along the southwestern boundary is an outstanding group of spires including Mount Dag, the Wolf's Ears, Gimli, Asgard and Gladshiem (all over 2,660 metres).

Kootenay

Conservation

Valhalla Provincial Park was established in 1983 to protect 49,893 hectares of the Southern Columbia Mountains. This park is unique in that it shields several complete watersheds from valley bottom (lakeshore) to alpine habitat. The forest vegetation is a diverse mixture of species with cedar and hemlock being the most common. Species to watch for are the impressively large spruce, cedar old-growth stands, coastal salal and yellow cedar.

History

Pictographs on the rock bluffs overhanging Slocan Lake are reminders of First Nation inhabitants while overgrown trails and logging flumes mark the passing of the local mining boom that brought European pioneers to this area a century ago.

Wildlife

The park supports important populations of mountain goat and grizzly bear along with other locally common species of large and small animals. Alpine ptarmigans and golden eagles are favoured birds to watch when hiking.

Facilities

There are few facilities in this park. Pit toilets, campfire rings, and bear caches are provided at Slocan, Emerald, Cahill and Evans lakes. In the alpine sites from Drinnon to Gwillim lakes, there are pit toilets and food caches. Bring a portable stove for cooking. Please refer to map for further facility information.

Valhalla Provincial Park encompasses 30 kilometres of Slocan Lake shoreline with many attractive sand and cobble beaches for boaters to enjoy. There are eight camping areas with outhouses and bear-proof food caches. A popular trip is to canoe the length of the park, staying close to the shore, over two to five days. It is recommended that larger motor-boats anchor in the more protected area as strong winds can come up with little notice. Dogs are allowed on the lakeshore but they must be kept on a leash. Please use driftwood only for small fires in designated areas.

Trails

BANNOCK BURN TO GIMLI RIDGE – Difficult, 4 kilometres, 2 hours, elevation gain: 600 metres. Turn off Hwy 6 at Slocan City and follow Little Slocan Forest Service Road for 15 kilometres to Bannock Burn logging road to the trailhead. From the ridge you can view Mulvey Basin, a spectacularly beautiful alpine area with world-class climbing opportunities. The descent into Mulvey Basin is suitable only for experienced mountaineers equipped with ice axes and ropes.

DRINNON PASS/GWILLIM LAKES TRAIL – Access this trail from Hwy 6 at Slocan City and follow Little Slocan Forest Service Road for 44 kilometres. Several peaks and traverse routes can be accessed from points along this trail. They require route finding, mountaineering skills and climbing equipment. The terrain is often dangerous, and many areas are prime grizzly bear habitat. To protect the fragile alpine meadows, stay on trails and marked routes while enjoying the picturesque vistas. Hike and camp in a manner which minimizes the impact on the vegetation and wildlife. Camp only on the constructed tent pads. Fires and pets are not allowed.

Trailhead to Drinnon Lake – Moderate, 2 kilometres, 1.5 hours, elevation gain: 435 metres. Facilities include three tent pads, outhouse, bear-proof food cache and good fishing.

Drinnon Lake to Drinnon Pass – Moderate, 1.5 kilometres, half hour, elevation gain: 125 metres. There are six tent pads, outhouse, bear-proof food cache and cooking centre at Wicca Lake.

Drinnon Pass to Gwillim Lakes – Moderate, 2.5 kilometres, 1.5 hours, elevation gain/loss: 250/120 metres. Facilities include eight tent pads, outhouse, bear-proof food cache and cooking centre.

SLOCAN CITY/EVANS CREEK/BEATRICE LAKE TRAIL – Parking for this trail is just south of the Slocan River bridge. Non-resident parking is not permitted north of the bridge. Many people shorten the hike to Beatrice Lake by boating across Slocan Lake to the small cove south of Evans Creek. Several peaks and traverse routes can be accessed from points along this trail. They require route finding, mountaineering skills and climbing equipment. There are few facilities so hike and camp in a manner which minimizes the impact on the vegetation and wildlife. The terrain is often dangerous, and many areas are prime grizzly bear habitat. Fires are only permitted in designated areas. Dogs are only allowed on the Slocan City to Evans Creek section of the trail.

Slocan City to Evans Creek – Moderate, 7.2 kilometres, 2.5 hours, no elevation gain but many steeper sections. The trailhead is located 200 metres to the right of the bridge on a residential road. A good early season trail with flowers, swimming and fishing. Please respect the private land that is posted.

Evans Creek to Emerald Lake – Moderate, 4 kilometres, 2.5 hours, elevation gain: 500 metres (steep for the first 1.5 kilometres). Look for remnants of a logging flume and corduroy wagon road near the lake. Facilities include four tent pads, outhouse, bear-proof food cache and excellent fishing.

Emerald Lake to Cahill Lake (east end) – Moderate, 2 kilometres, 1.5 hours, elevation gain: 215 metres. Watch for dams that were used to store water for the logging flumes.

Cahill Lake (west end) – Easy, 1.5 kilometres, half hour. Facilities include six tent pads, outhouse and bear-proof food cache.

Cahill Lake to Beatrice Lake – Moderate, 2.5 kilometres, 1.5 hours, elevation gain: 215 metres (steep near Beatrice Lake). Although camping is not permitted at Beatrice Lake, there are excellent fishing opportunities.

NEMO CREEK TRAIL – Easy/moderate, 4 kilometres, 4 hours, elevation: 905 metres. Access the trail by boat on the west shore of Slocan Lake. This trail features the picturesque Nemo Falls, Rock Castles, an historic cabin and a massive old-growth cedar/hemlock forest. Due to the extensive prime grizzly bear habitat, travel in the upper part of this drainage is not recommended.

SHARP CREEK TRAIL TO NEW DENVER GLACIER – Difficult, 8.8 kilometres, 8+ hours (each way), elevation gain: 1,900 metres. Access this trail by boat on the west shore of Slocan Lake. While travelling this very steep trail, watch for waterfalls and cascades, and stunning views from the glacier. There is also access to traverse routes from this trail. There are no facilities so camp and hike in a manner that minimizes impact on the vegetation and wildlife.

WEE SANDY LAKE TRAIL – Difficult, 14.4 kilometres, 10 hours, elevation gain: 1,370 metres. This trail is only accessible by boat on the west shore of Slocan Lake. The first 6.4 kilometres follow an historic logging trail. At Iron Creek, 11.2 kilometres from the trailhead, there is an overnight log shelter with a stove. The lake is beautiful, with excellent fishing. Access to other lakes, peaks and traverses require route finding and mountaineering skills. There are no facilities at or past Wee Sandy Lake so hike and camp in a manner that minimizes the impact on the vegetation and wildlife. Fires are only permitted in designated areas and dogs are not allowed past Slocan Lake beach.