

## Message to Visitors

**H**elp us protect your provincial parks. Remember to take only pictures and leave only footprints so future visitors enjoy the park as you have.

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

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 trail braiding and vegetation damage. Tents and boots destroy wet environments, heather meadows and alpine flowers.

Fires are not allowed in the park or at trailheads.

Mountain bikes, motor vehicles (including motorcycles, ATVs and snowmobiles) and similar conveyances are restricted to motor vehicle roads and parking lots. Motor boats are not allowed.

Horses are prohibited.

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

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

Feeding of any wildlife is prohibited. These animals need to rely on their staple diets to endure the hostile alpine environment.

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.

Dogs and other pets are not allowed. 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

Kokanee Glacier Park is situated northeast of Nelson. There are five access roads leading to the start of trails into the central area of the park. These roads may not be suitable for low-clearance vehicles.

- ▶ **From Hwy 3A:** 19 kilometres northeast of Nelson, drive up Kokanee Creek for 16 kilometres to Gibson Lake.
- ▶ **From Hwy 31:** 10 kilometres north of Ainsworth, drive up Woodbury Creek for 13 kilometres to the trailhead.
- ▶ **From Hwy 31A:** 6 kilometres northwest of Kaslo, drive up Keen Creek for 16.5 kilometres to the trailhead.
- ▶ **From Hwy 6:** 14.4 kilometres north of Slocan City, drive up Enterprise Creek for 13 kilometres to the trailhead.
- ▶ **From Hwy 6:** 8 kilometres south of Slocan City, drive up Lemon Creek for 16 kilometres to the trailhead.

## Park Fees

There is a fee for camping and cabin use in Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. Three cabins are available on a first-come, first-served basis: **Slocan Chief** (sleeps 12), **Woodbury** (sleeps 8) and **Silver Spray** (sleeps 10). You must be prepared to camp out if the cabin is full. When parking for overnight stays, it is recommended that you surround your vehicle with chicken wire to protect it from porcupines that like to chew on rubber.

## For More Information

BC Parks

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



Ministry of Water, Land  
and Air Protection



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**Kokanee  
Glacier**

P R O V I N C I A L P A R K



**W**elcome. Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park is a rugged wilderness area of the Selkirk mountains between Slocan and Kootenay lakes. Lying mostly above 1,800 metres in elevation, the park has three glaciers: Kokanee, Caribou and Woodbury which feed over 30 lakes and are the headwaters of many creeks.

**Kootenay**

## Conservation

Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park was established to protect 32,035 hectares of mountain wilderness. The park's primary conservation roles are to:

- ▶ Represent sub-alpine, alpine landscapes and associated ecological resources of the Selkirk Mountain ranges.
- ▶ Conserve examples of grizzly bear and mountain goat habitat.
- ▶ Maintain the characteristics and qualities of the natural environment and associated features, and
- ▶ Conserve cultural heritage of the early alpine mining history of the West Kootenays.

## History

Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park, one of the oldest parks in the province, was set aside in 1922 under the name of Kokanee Park. In 1924, it was renamed for the glacier clinging to the slopes of 2,774-metre Kokanee Peak, which stands almost in the park's centre. The many remains of small, turn-of-the-century mining operations in the park add historical and human interest to the landscape. Slocan Chief Cabin is one of the few remaining structures of the pre-1900 mining era.

## Wildlife

Severe winter conditions and cool short summer seasons pose limiting factors on the diversity and abundance of wildlife. There have been over 60 positive bird sightings in the park. These include grouse, ptarmigan, Clark's nutcracker, gray jay, chickadees, dark-eyed junco and the varied thrush. Small animals include the hoary marmot, pika, ground squirrels and marten. Mountain goat, mule deer, black bear, wolverine, cougar and lynx are also present. The park contains quality range for grizzly bears and this was the main reason for the expansion of the park in 1995. In addition to rainbow trout, Dolly Varden and brook trout, the Yellowstone cutthroat trout is the most common fish species.

## Facilities

The park's elevation is approximately 1,800 metres with half the park above 2,100 metres. It provides for wilderness camping, day hiking, mountaineering, picnicking, fishing and wildlife viewing. Please refer to map for more facility information.

## Winter

The Slocan Chief Cabin is available for winter use by reservation only. A lottery for reservations is held in mid-October for the upcoming winter. Contact BC Parks for details.

## Cabins

**Slocan Chief Cabin** – The 12-person cabin, built in 1896, is located northwest of Kokanee Glacier. It is not for overnight camping, but is maintained as an interpretive display centre.

**Silver Spray Cabin** – The 10-person cabin, built in 1994, is located south of Sunrise Mountain with a tenting area nearby. The area is rich with mining history and flower meadows.

**Woodbury Cabin** – The 8-person cabin, built in 1984, is located north of Woodbury Glacier. Flower meadows and glacier views are nearby.

**Several peaks and traverse routes can be reached from these cabins. These are only for experts with appropriate mountaineering skills and equipment.**

## Trails

**GIBSON LAKE TRAILHEAD LOOP TRAIL** – Easy 2.5 kilometres, one hour return, elevation: 1,536 metres. Trail access is from Hwy 3A, 19 kilometres north of Nelson. Follow the gravel road for 16 kilometres to the parking lot at Gibson Lake. Picnic tables, outhouse, day-use shelter and fishing are offered. Great views of surrounding peaks and old mine workings. Camping is not allowed at Gibson Lake.

**GIBSON LAKE TO THE SLOCAN CHIEF CABIN TRAIL** – Moderate, 8.3 kilometres, 4 hours, elevation gain/loss: 590/100 metres. Stay on the trails and camp only on constructed tent pads to protect the fragile environment.

**Gibson Lake to Kokanee Lake** – Moderate, 4 kilometres, 2 hours, elevation gain: 445 metres. While fishing, watch for marmots and pikas along the side of Kokanee Lake. Camping at this lake and feeding of any animals in the park is prohibited.

**Kokanee Lake to Kaslo Lake** – Easy, 3 kilometres, 1.5 hours, elevation gain/loss: 40/100 metres. Facilities include eight tent pads, outhouse, bear-proof food cache, cooking centre, grey water pit, fishing at Keen, Garland and Kaslo lakes and beautiful alpine meadows.

**Kaslo Lake (north end) to the Slocan Chief Cabin** – Moderate, 1.3 kilometres, 0.5 hours, elevation change: 105 metres.

**ENTERPRISE CREEK TO THE SLOCAN CHIEF CABIN TRAIL** – Moderate, 10.2 kilometres, 5 hours, elevation gain/loss: 759/107 metres, trailhead elevation: 1,340 metres. Trail is accessed from Hwy 6, 14.5 kilometres north of Slocan City. Follow the logging road for 13 kilometres to the parking lot and trailhead.

**Enterprise Creek to Tanal Lake** – Moderate, 6.4 kilometres, 3 hours, elevation gain: 409 metres. Good fishing is offered. Facilities include two tent pads, outhouse, grey water pit and bear-proof food cache.

**Tanal Lake to Kaslo Lake** – Moderate, 2.5 kilometres, 1.5 hours, elevation gain/loss: 245/107 metres.

**ENTERPRISE CREEK TO BLUE GROUSE BASIN TRAIL** – Moderate, 6.4 kilometres, 3 hours, elevation gain: 540 metres. No facilities are available.

**KEEN CREEK DRAINAGE TO SLOCAN CHIEF CABIN TRAIL** – Easy/moderate, 7.5/5 kilometres, 3.5/3 hours, elevation gain: 452 metres. Hwy 31A and Keen Creek Road access the trailhead at Desmond Creek parking lot. The trail begins on an easy road and then progresses to a harder trail after the Joker Millsite at 7.5 kilometres. During berry season (mid-August to early October) Keen Creek Drainage to Slocan Chief Cabin trail is closed to allow bears to feed. Joker lakes and area are ideal grizzly bear habitat so the trails are not maintained and not recommended for travel.

**SLOCAN CHIEF TO KALMIA** – Facilities include an historic cabin, used as an interpretive centre. This glacial area is fragile. Please stay on trails.

**WOODBURY TRAILHEAD** – Two trailheads are accessible from Hwy 31. Follow the logging road for 12 kilometres to the parking lot. Sunset Lake trailhead is at the parking lot. The trailhead to Woodbury Creek and Silver Spray cabins is one kilometre farther.

**Woodbury Creek To Woodbury Cabin Trail** – Moderate, 8 kilometres, 4 hours, elevation gain: 762 metres, trailhead elevation: 1,321 metres.

**Woodbury Creek Trailhead to Silver Spray Cabin Trail** – Difficult, 7 kilometres, 5 hours, elevation gain: 1,016 metres. This trail is steep with many switchbacks.

**Woodbury Creek to Sunset Lake Trail** – Easy, 3 kilometres, 1.5 hours, elevation gain 193 metres. Hike or drive for one kilometre up Scranton Mine Road. Enjoy the scenic views while fishing.

**LEMON CREEK TO THE SLOCAN CHIEF TRAIL** – Moderate, 14.3 kilometres, 7.5 hours. Access from Hwy 6, 8 kilometres south of Slocan City and follow the logging road for 16 kilometres to the trailhead. This trail is not maintained and may not be clear in some sections.

**Lemon Creek to Sapphire Lakes** – Moderate, 9.8 kilometres, 5 hours, elevation gain: 950 metres. Facilities located at the east end of the lake include food cache, cooking centre, grey water pit and toilet. Some of the attractions are the old-growth forest, waterfalls and remnants of an old mine cabin.

**Sapphire Lakes, Lemon Pass, Kaslo Lake to Slocan Chief Cabin** – Moderate, 4.5 kilometres, 2.5 hours, elevation gain/loss: 105/320 metres.