

# Lake O'Hara 2020

Lake O'Hara is a unique alpine environment and is one of the most popular destinations in the mountain national parks. Bus access to the area is limited by the Parks Canada shuttle reservation system as a means to protect the fragile alpine environment while preserving a quality backcountry experience. The daily seats allow for 42 day users, along with overnight visitors staying at the park's 30-site campground, two Alpine Club of Canada huts, and a small private lodge.

## Reservations for licensed guiding companies

All companies licensed to guide in Yoho National Park are able to conduct commercial trips in Lake O'Hara area. To ensure fair access to bus seat reservations for both the public and commercial interests, a maximum of eleven commercial bus seats per day have been allocated. Six of these may be reserved up to three calendar months in advance of your visit on a first come, first serve basis. The remaining five seats within the commercial limit are to accommodate the needs of local alpine guides who have traditionally used the area as a poor weather mountaineering alternative. These five seats may only be reserved 24 hours in advance, on a first-come, first served basis.

### What you need to know

- Changes to the reservation process for day-use bus access for visitors, by allocation through a random draw reservation system, do not apply to commercial guides.
- Licensed companies will be limited to no more than **ten reservation bookings per calendar month**.
- Modifications cannot be made less than seven days prior to the original booking date.
- **Maximum group size is six.**
- Licensed companies may only reserve space on the public bus within the licensed guides allowances.
- The quota is **for licensed guides and their paying clients only**. Commercial reservations may only be made under respective company names.
- Companies that have obtained commercial sector reservations **shall not sell or trade** the space to any other commercial or private interests.

## Bus Schedule Day Users Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

Please arrive at the bus staging area <b>20 minutes</b> prior to departure <b>June 19 to October 4, 2020</b>	
Ingoing	Outgoing
8:30 am	9:30 am
10:30 am	11:30 am
	2:30 pm
	4:30 pm
	6:30 pm

## Lake O'Hara Day Use Fees

Fee	Adult	Youth (6-16)	Child (0-5)
<b>Bus: return trip</b>	\$14.70	\$7.30	No charge
<b>Bus: return only</b>	\$9.75	\$4.75	No charge
<b>Reservation fees</b>	For 1 or 2 persons - \$4.50 per ticket if booked on-line or \$6.25 per ticket if booked by telephone (non-refundable). For 3 or more persons - flat rate of \$11.50 if booked on-line or \$13.50 if booked by telephone		
<b>Cancellation fees</b>	Visit <a href="https://reservation.pc.gc.ca/ReservationPolicy.aspx?index=4">https://reservation.pc.gc.ca/ReservationPolicy.aspx?index=4</a> for details.		

**Note: All fees are subject to change.**

## Hours of operation (Mountain Time)

<b>Lake O'Hara Reservation Line: 1-250-343-6433</b>
<b>Phone hours:</b> 8 am to 12 pm/1 pm to 4 pm MDT
<b>April 1 to October 4, Monday-Friday</b>

\*On Saturdays and Sundays, licensed guiding companies wishing to make a reservation 24 hours in advance can call the Yoho National Park Visitor center to make their reservations at 1-250-343-6783

## Cancellation and Refund Policy for guided groups

Cancellations can also be received by answering machine at **250- 343-6433**. Please leave your name, reservation number, credit card number and expiry date.

- Cancellations and modifications made less than seven days prior to the planned date of the trip will forfeit refunds.
- An \$11.96 cancellation fee applies.

## Checklist

The Lake O'Hara Valley is a high-elevation backcountry area with trails that are often snow-bound, muddy or inaccessible. Come prepared for all weather conditions and to be self-sufficient. Here's a checklist to help you get ready:

- Extra clothing, sunscreen, hat, gloves, rain gear
- Sturdy shoes or hiking boots
- Valid National Park Pass (for purchase at any Parks Canada Visitor Centre or from the Lake O'Hara bus attendant)
- Bus confirmations required at arrival
- Guiding license
- Arrive at the bus staging area at least 20 minutes prior to departure
- Cash to buy snacks at *Le Relais* day use shelter!
- Please note that **no valuables should be left in your parked vehicle.**
- Please stay on the trails to minimize your impact.

## Pets and Bicycles

You may walk your pet on leash into the valley, but pets are not allowed on the bus or at the campground.

Cycling is not permitted on the Lake O'Hara road.

## Important reminder

- You will be required to show your guiding license and your confirmation letter to the Lake O'Hara attendant at the bus.
- Arrive at the bus staging area at least 20 minutes prior to departure
- For licensed guides and their paying clients only.

## Stewardship

Please stay on trails to minimize your impact. Research has identified important grizzly bear habitat and a regional wildlife corridor in the area.

- To ensure wildlife can move freely through McArthur Pass, please **voluntarily limit** your use of the Odaray Highline trail, which cuts across the wildlife corridor at this narrow pass.
- McArthur Valley (from McArthur Pass to the Ottetail River) is closed to hikers until August 15. After August 15, when seasonal plant foods favoured by grizzly bears have peaked, McArthur Valley is opened to two hiking parties per week. A hiking permit is required to hike this unmaintained wilderness route. It can be obtained by phoning the Yoho National Park Visitor Centre at **250-343-6783**.
- Do not feed wildlife and stay on the trails.
- Don't move any natural objects in the park.
- Read the brochure **Bears and People**. It is available on the Yoho National Park website, at the bus and at *Le Relais*.

## The Lake O'Hara Trails Club

The Lake O'Hara Trails Club operates *Le Relais* day use shelter during the hiking season. Here, you may warm up, receive trail information, buy a hot drink or snack (cash only).

Parks Canada trail crew, with support from the Lake O'Hara trails Club [www.lotc.ca](http://www.lotc.ca), maintain a vast network of trails at Lake O'Hara

# Yoho National Park

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