

# Lake O'Hara 2020



Parks Canada  
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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. The Lake O'Hara parking lot is located 15 km west of Lake Louise and 12 km east of Field, a short distance off the Trans-Canada Highway.

Reservations are required to take the bus to Lake O'Hara for day use and camping. **In 2020, the bus operates from June 19 to October 4** (start and end dates vary from year to year).

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/lakeohara>

## For Day Use (Bus Only)

Beginning in 2020, a random draw reservation system will be used to assign day-use bus reservations. Visitors who want to enjoy Lake O'Hara for the day in the 2020 season will have a one-month period to enter the random draw. Bookings will be confirmed with successful applicants after all spots have been drawn. Please note that this option does not apply to campers or licensed guiding companies.

**\*Day Use Applications for the entire season must be submitted between February 1, 2020 and February 29, 2020**

\*Application for the random draw can be made at [www.reservation.pc.gc.ca](http://www.reservation.pc.gc.ca) or by telephone at: 1-877-737-3783.

\*Maximum of 6 people per reservation.

\*A non-refundable application fee of \$10.00 per application applies.

## Lake O'Hara Day Use Fees

Fee	Adult	Youth (6-16)	Child (0-5)
Bus: return trip	\$14.70	\$7.30	No charge
Bus: <b>return</b> only	\$9.75	\$4.75	No charge
Reservation	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 (non-refundable).		
Cancellations	Visit <a href="https://reservation.pc.gc.ca/ReservationPolicy.aspx?index=4">https://reservation.pc.gc.ca/ReservationPolicy.aspx?index=4</a> for details.		

For any inquiries please call the Yoho National Park Lake O'Hara

office: 1-250-343-6433 (after April 1) or the Lake Louise Visitor Centre: 1-403 522-1264 (before April 1).

## Bus Schedule Campers and 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
*3:30 pm	2:30 pm
*5:30 pm	4:30 pm
*overnight guests only	6:30 pm

## For Camping

New in 2020, all overnight camping reservations at Lake O'Hara will be offered on the Parks Canada Reservation Service ([reservation.pc.gc.ca](http://reservation.pc.gc.ca)). Beginning at **8:00 a.m. MST on January 24, 2020**, the entire overnight camping season will be available to reserve on a first-come first-serve reservation model. Camping reservations include the ability to reserve an ingoing bus ride. Reservations can be changed only by the person who made them.

\*Maximum of 3 nights for camping

\*Maximum of 2 sites per reservation and 1 small 4person tent per site.

\*Preferred ingoing bus time: reservations are not required for outgoing bus

## Lake O'Hara Campground Fees

Fee	Adult	Youth (6-16)	Child (0-5)
Bus: Return Trip	\$14.70	\$7.30	No charge
Camping	\$10.02/night	No charge	No charge
Reservation	\$11.50 (non-refundable)		
Cancellation	\$11.50		

*Également offert en français*

## Reservation services hours of Operation

**International:** 1-877-RESERVE (737-3783)  
**Canada and USA:** 1-519-826-5391  
**Phone Line Hours:** **8:00 am to 7:00 pm MDT** from April 24 to October 4, 2020  
**Online 24/7** [www.reservation.pc.gc.ca](http://www.reservation.pc.gc.ca)  
**Online Hours:** Open 24/7 (Tip: Create an account in advance, anytime.)

## Campground Cancellation and Refund Policy

- Cancellations made after 4:00 pm on the day prior to arrival or on the day of arrival forfeit refunds.

## 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 Ottertail 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 Field Visitor Centre at **250-343-6783**.
- Do not feed wildlife.
- 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.

## 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)
- Bring your bus and/or camping confirmations
- 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.

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). **www.lotc.ca**

## 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.

## Camper Information

To help us maintain a backcountry atmosphere at the Lake O'Hara Campground, this information is important.

- Baggage is restricted to one large or two small bags per person (maximum weight 25 kg/55 lbs; maximum length 97 cm/38 inches).
- Small soft-sided coolers (maximum volume: 9621 cm<sup>3</sup>/512 in<sup>3</sup>) will be permitted but included within luggage allowance.
- Hockey bags exceed the luggage capacity.
- Hard-sided food coolers, hard sided storage bins, and items stored in plastic bags or loose items will not be accepted on the bus.
- Musical instruments, electronics, chairs and hammocks are not permitted on the bus and in the campground.
- A compact backcountry stove is required for cooking.
- Bear-aware procedures for cooking and storing food and garbage must be observed.
- One medium-sized storage locker (60 cm/24 in deep, 50 cm/20 in high, 60 cm/24 in wide) is assigned per campsite.
- Communal campground facilities include two kitchen shelters with wood stoves; a fire pit; firewood and a splitting maul; separate food and garbage storage; grey water disposal; pit privies; and treated well water (not always available early and late season).
- Tent pads (2.5 m x 2.5 m) are designed for smaller backpacking tents, to a maximum size of one 4-person tent per campsite.

## Important Reminders

1. Campers who do not register at the bus staging area for their first night stay will forfeit their entire camping reservation.
2. Campground checkout is 10:30 am.
3. Campers are not permitted to change to day-user status.
4. Hikers who wish to hike the 11 km access road may be able to return to the parking lot by bus **if space allows**. Hikers must be prepared to hike the 11 kms access road back down. Reservations are not available and a one-way cash fee is collected.