

Lake O'Hara 2019

To protect this sensitive alpine area and maintain a wilderness experience, a quota system is in place to limit the number of visitors using the public bus service into Lake O'Hara. The daily quota allows 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 2019, the bus operates from June 19 to October 4** (start and end dates vary from year to year).

Seasonal trail conditions and campground availability reports begin April 2nd, 2019. <http://www.pc.gc.ca/yohotrails>

For Day Use (Bus Only)

Visitors enjoying Lake O'Hara for the day only can book their bus reservation either on-line or by telephone with the Parks Canada Reservation Service. Reservations may be booked as of Tuesday, April 23 for any day of the season. Please note that this option is not yet available to campers or licenced guiding companies.

Day Use reservations for the entire season open Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 8:00 am MDT.

Maximum of 6 people per reservation.

Hours of Operation

Canada and USA: **1-877-RESERVE (737-3783)**

International: 1-519-826-5391

Phone Line Hours: **8:00 am to 7:00 pm MDT on April 23, 2019**
and 8:00 am to 7:00 pm MDT
from April 24 to October 4, 2019

Online 24/7: www.reservation.pc.gc.ca

Online Hours: Open 24/7 (Tip: Create an account in advance, anytime.)

Lake O'Hara Day Use Fees

Fee	Adult	Youth (6-16)	Child (0-5)
Bus: return trip	\$14.70	\$7.30	No charge
Bus: return only	\$9.75	\$4.75	No charge
Reservation	1 to 2 persons: \$4.50/ticket online or \$6.25/ticket by phone; 3+ persons: flat rate \$11.00 online or \$13.50 by phone (non-refundable)		

Bus Schedule Campers and Day Users

Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

Please arrive at the bus staging area 20 minutes prior to departure June 19 to October 4, 2019	
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

Camping

Reservations for the campground are accepted three calendar months in advance of your visit, by telephone only, and are usually fully booked within the first hour that the reservation line is open. Camping reservations include the ability to reserve an ingoing bus ride. Reservations can be changed only by the person who made them.

Camping reservations are strictly for campers – please don't book if you don't intend to camp!

Hours of Operation

Canada, USA and International: **1-250-343-6433**

Phone Line Hours: 8 am to 12 pm/1 pm to 4 pm MDT
April 1 to May 24, Monday to Friday
May 25 to June 16, daily
June 17 to October 4, Monday to Friday

When you call, please have the following ready:

- Dates requested: **maximum of 3 nights for camping**
- Number of campsites: **maximum of 2 sites per reservation and 1 small 4 person tent per site.**
- Preferred ingoing bus time: **reservations are not required for outgoing bus**
- MasterCard, Visa or American Express number: **all fees are collected at the time of booking**

Lake O'Hara Campground Fees

Fee	Adult	Youth (6-16)	Child (0-5)
Bus: return trip	\$14.70	\$7.30	No charge
Camping	\$9.80/night	No charge	No charge
Reservation	\$11.70 non-refundable		
Cancellation	\$11.70		

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Campground Cancellation and Refund Policy

Cancellations are received by an answering machine at 250-343-6433. Please leave your name, reservation number, credit card number and expiry date.

- An \$11.70 cancellation fee is in effect for camping reservations. Cancellations made after 4:00 pm on the day prior to arrival or on the day of arrival forfeit refunds.
- The first night's camping fee is forfeited after 4 pm, with less than five days' notice prior to the first reserved date. For example, to cancel a reservation with the arrival date of Friday, the Lake O'Hara office must be contacted by 4 pm on Sunday.

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**.
- Please don't 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 cm³/512 in³) 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 (2.7 m x 2.7 m) are designed for smaller backpacking tents, to a maximum size of one 4-person tent per campsite.
- Campers choose their site once they arrive. It's not always possible for parties to camp at adjacent sites.

Important Reminders

1. Campers who cancel their first night will forfeit their entire reservation.
2. Campers with reservations for the 10:30 am bus who are no-shows without notifying our office by noon will forfeit their entire bus and camping reservation.
3. Campground checkout is 10:30 am.
4. Campers are not permitted to change to day-user status.
5. 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 11kms access road back down. Reservations are not available and a one-way cash fee is collected.