MODERATE THREE LAKES DAY PASS NO DOGS

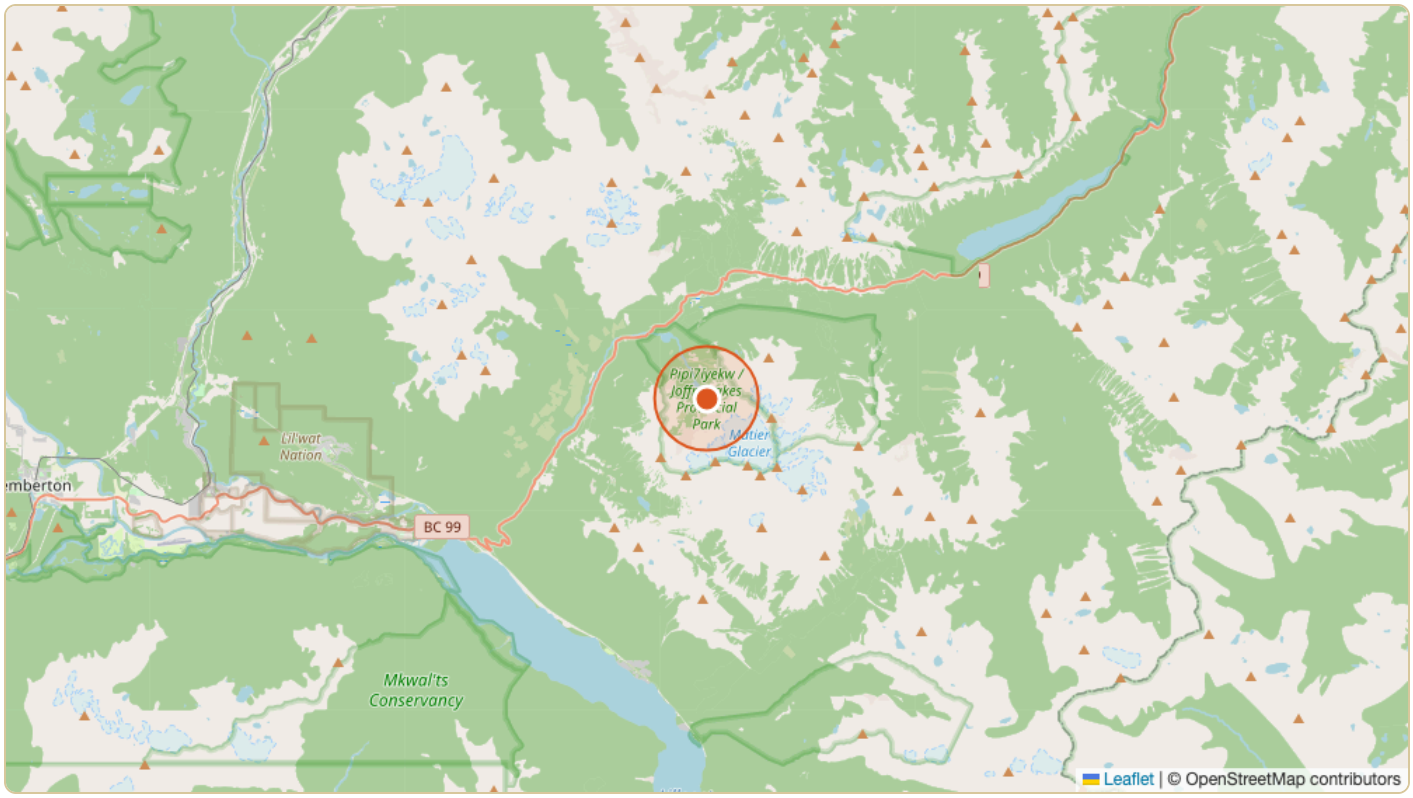
Joffre Lakes

Three glacier-fed turquoise lakes stacked up one steep valley. What BC Parks says about passes, parking, dogs and safety.

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH FIRST. This is not a navigation tool and must not be your only source. Confirm everything with the land manager.

DIFFICULTY	GAIN TO UPPER JOFFRE	DISTANCE
Moderate	**≈ 400 m**	**≈ 10 km return**
Steady climb, rock and roots	BC Parks	Our notes; BC Parks gives none

DAY PASS	DOGS	CELL SERVICE
Peak season	**Not allowed**	**None**
Free? Check BC Parks	In the park	No emergency services



Approximate area only, not a trailhead or route. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Park	Joffre Lakes Provincial Park
Access	Off Highway 99, east of Pemberton
Gain to Upper Joffre	≈ 400 m (BC Parks)
Day pass	Typically in peak season
Camping	Upper Joffre only, reservation

Dogs & fires	Not allowed
Swimming	Not recommended

Overview

Joffre Lakes Provincial Park has three turquoise lakes along one trail, Lower, Middle and Upper Joffre. BC Parks gives about 400 m of elevation gain from the parking lot to Upper Joffre Lake.

BC Parks does not publish trail distances. Our own notes and most local guides put the hike at about 5 km each way. The park has no emergency services and no cell service, and the lakes are glacier-fed and very cold.

≈ 400 m gain · Day pass · No dogs · No cell service

Passes, parking & camping

Day-use passes BC Parks says passes are typically required during peak season and are not needed with a camping reservation. Book at reserve.bcparks.ca/dayuse. The page does not list exact dates or say whether passes are free, so check before you go.

Parking Park only in designated lots. Parking along the edges of Highway 99 is not allowed. Winter spaces are limited, and vehicle access from November to May depends on weather.

Camping Only at Upper Joffre Lake Campground, on designated tent pads, usually spring to fall. Reservations are required at camping.bcparks.ca. A metal cache is provided for food.

Rules & safety

Dogs Dogs and other pets are not allowed in the park.

Cold water BC Parks says swimming is not recommended: the lakes are glacier-fed and very cold, with no lifeguards.

No services No emergency services and no cell service. No drinking water: boil, filter or treat all water.

Winter & avalanche Avalanche risk exists for much of the year, and winter conditions are severe from November to May. Winter travel is for experienced, well-equipped people only.

Wildlife Bears live in the park. Keep to designated trails.

Campfires & garbage Campfires are banned year-round: bring a stove. Pack out all garbage.

Questions

How long is the Joffre Lakes hike?
BC Parks does not give a distance or time. It gives about 400 m of elevation gain to Upper Joffre Lake. Local guides put the hike at roughly 10 km return.

Do I need a day pass?
BC Parks says passes are typically required during peak season, and not needed if you have a camping reservation. Book at reserve.bcparks.ca/dayuse and check current dates and fees.

Can I bring my dog?
No. Dogs and other pets are not allowed in Joffre Lakes Provincial Park.

Can I swim?
BC Parks does not recommend swimming. The lakes are glacier-fed, very cold and have no lifeguards.

Can I camp?
Only at Upper Joffre Lake Campground on designated tent pads, with a reservation made at camping.bcparks.ca.

Safety checklist

Tell someone your plan Leave your route, group size and expected return time with someone you trust, and check in when you are back. BC AdventureSmart (adventuresmart.ca) has a free trip-plan form.

Check conditions the same day Look at the weather, road and trail conditions, closures and (in snow season) the avalanche forecast on the day you go, not last week. Use the land manager's page for this guide.

Set a turnaround time Pick a time to turn back whatever happens, start early, and carry a headlamp. Most trips go wrong in the last hours of the day.

Carry the essentials Water, food, navigation (map and offline GPS), light, first aid, extra layers, sun protection, a whistle and fire or shelter. A phone alone is not a plan.

Emergencies Call 911. Cell coverage is unreliable or absent in much of the Sea to Sky backcountry, so consider a satellite messenger and know your location.

Water and wildlife Wear a life jacket on the water: cold water can disable you in minutes. Carry bear spray where bears are present, keep food secured and give wildlife space.

Sources & disclaimer

This guide draws on BC Parks: Joffre Lakes Park; our own field notes.

Last checked November 18, 2026. Figures marked ≈ are approximate, and sources sometimes disagree. Always confirm with the land manager before you go.

Outdoor recreation involves risk, including serious injury and death. This guide is general information compiled from the public sources listed above and was last checked on November 18, 2026. Conditions, access, closures, fees and rules change, and some figures differ between sources. It is not a substitute for current information from the land manager, for proper skills, equipment and preparation, or for your own judgment. You are responsible for your own safety and decisions. To the extent permitted by law, Sea to Sky Trails and its authors accept no liability for loss, injury or damage arising from use of this guide.

> Do your own research first. This guide is not a navigation tool and must not be your only source: it is general information, last checked November 18, 2026, and conditions, access and rules change. Outdoor recreation is risky. Confirm everything with the land manager before you go, and read the terms of use & disclaimer. (seatoskytrails.com/disclaimer)