



Wells Gray

Murtle Lake Marine Guide

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



Welcome. Murtle Lake is a provincially significant wilderness lake within Wells Gray Park. At 6,900 hectares, it has over 100 kilometers of shoreline. Visitors come to the lake to experience a wilderness trip without motors and with only occasional interactions with other visitors.

Thompson Region

Special Information

Access to Murtle Lake is from Blue River by a narrow, winding, 27 kilometre gravel road. A parking lot at the end of the road is the trailhead for a 2.5 kilometre level trail to the canoe launch. A further 1.5 kilometre trail from the launch takes visitors to a campsite on a sandy beach on the lake. A permit for camping and for firewood use at Murtle Lake **must** be picked up in Blue River before venturing out. Use of the canoe cart lock-up system at the launch area is mandatory.

Please fill out our survey form; it gives us valuable feedback for improving your experience at Murtle Lake. Visitors must be prepared to be self-sufficient because the only facilities provided are for visitor safety and to help protect this pristine environment. Some restrictions are necessary in order to balance recreational enjoyment with the needs of conservation. We hope you appreciate why the restrictions are in place.

If we all do our best to leave only a light footprint during our visit, we will ensure that Murtle Lake remains a place of peace, solitude and beauty for all who come after us. In the interest of providing quiet enjoyment, internal combustion engines, electric motors, pets, and firearms are prohibited at Murtle Lake.

Bears

Responsible behaviour and conduct will prevent bears from becoming conditioned to people and will help prevent potentially dangerous bear/human encounters. For your personal safety, observe and obey warning signs and notices. Specific areas of the park may be closed at any time during periods of high bear hazard.

It only takes one unstowed pack to attract a bear. Food caches are provided at all campsites and must be used. Visitors caught not using food caches will be charged.

Clean all fish before returning to shore; fish remains are very attractive to bears.

Management Messages

Camping

- ▶ Groups are limited to 10 people or fewer. Group camping is available at Aurthur, Strait, and South Lagoon sites only.
- ▶ Fairyslipper Island is closed to overnight camping to protect the fragile environment.
- ▶ Use backpacking stoves for cooking. Consider using an open fire only in emergencies.
- ▶ Do not cook food or have food in your tent.
- ▶ Boil or purify all water before drinking to reduce the risk of Giardia Lamblia (beaver fever).

Campfires - Fires are only permitted when you purchase firewood which is authorized by permit.

Firewood is available in limited quantities at locations shown on the map located at the parking lot or canoe launch area. Take only what you need for a small fire. Do not remove dead or live wood from around your campsite: it is part of the ecosystem of the area. Campfires are permitted only in the metal rings provided. **Think before you light that fire — do you really need it?**

Angling - A valid BC license is required and must be carried with you.

Commercial Operations are not permitted at Murtle Lake. Commercial operators found contrary to the above will be charged and evicted.

Trails - The hiking trails listed to the right can be reached only by canoe or kayak. Distances are for one way travel. Trailheads are marked by signs.

Be aware of signs of bear activity on any of the trails, and be prepared to take evasive action.

For More Information

BC Parks, Thompson Region
<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>

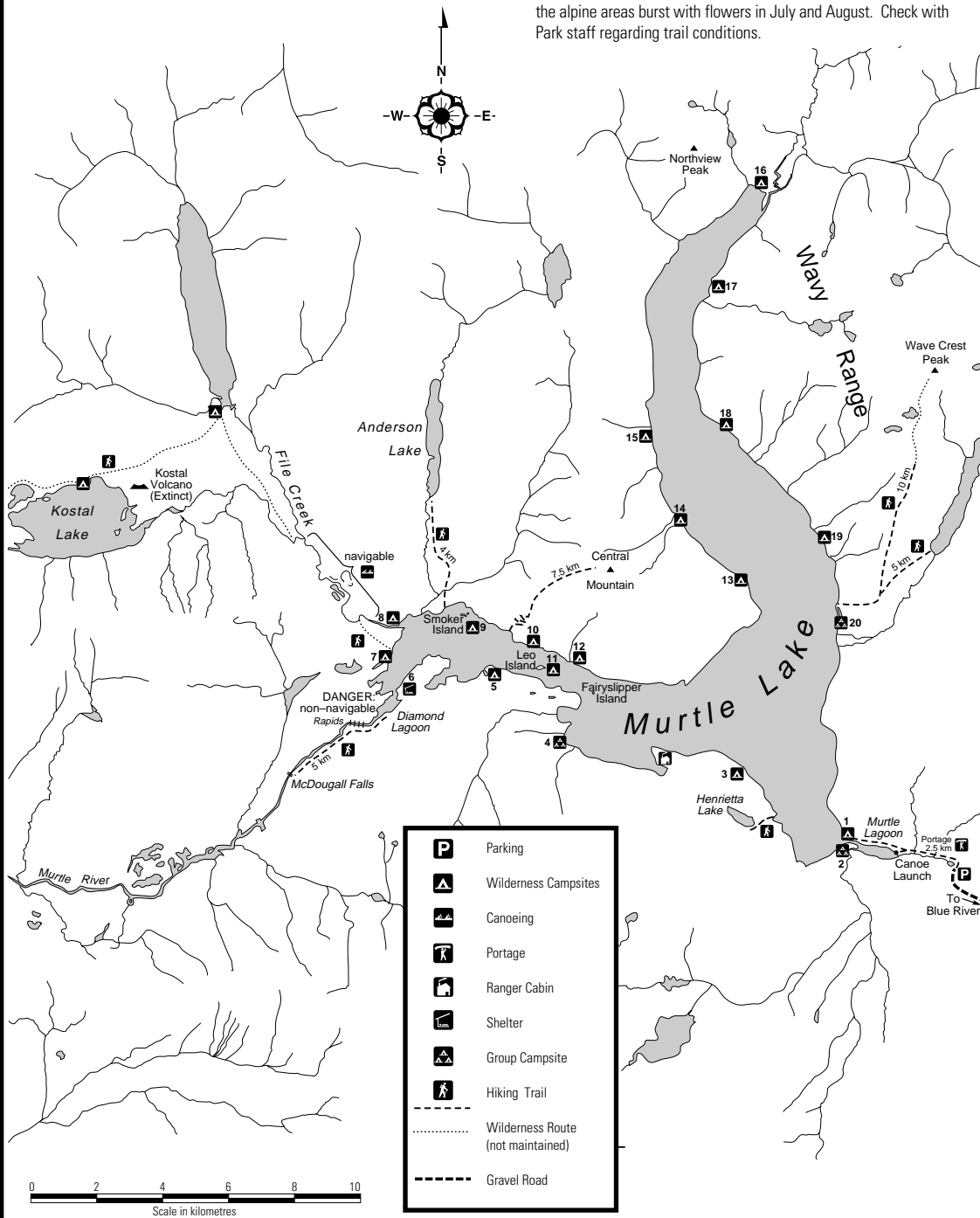


BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

Murtle Lake Marine

Murtle Lake offers beautiful scenery, excellent fishing and trails to the alpine. Keep a clean campsite and a watchful eye on the weather. Caribou are sometimes visible on Central Mountain and the alpine areas burst with flowers in July and August. Check with Park staff regarding trail conditions.



Trails

Henrietta Lake: easy 20 minute hike, 1 km.

- ▶ trailhead 4 km west of Murtle Lagoon
- ▶ fishing

Anderson Lake: easy 1.5 hour hike, 4 km.

- ▶ trailhead just west of Smoker Islands abandoned cabin; beautiful vista; mosquitoes

McDougall Falls: easy 1.5 hour hike, 5 km.

- ▶ trailhead across Diamond Lagoon; stay clear of lagoon outlet as fast river current starts suddenly

File Creek/McDougall Lake Route: 1.5 km portage trail to bypass rapids on File Creek, then upstream via File

Creek to head of navigation.

- ▶ trailhead at Kostal campsite
- ▶ continuation of the trail from head of navigation to McDougall Lake over lava beds from Kostal Volcano is not easy
- ▶ carry water and watch carefully for orange markers

Wavy Alpine: moderate to difficult 4 hour hike; 7 km with 975 m elevation gain

- ▶ trailhead on east shore of North Arm, at end of long sandy beach north of Strait Creek campsite
- ▶ extensive hiking and overnight camping opportunities once alpine is reached; views, alpine meadows, lakes
- ▶ the Strait Lake access trail also branches off the Wavy Alpine trail

| DEVELOPED MARINE CAMPSITES | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------------|
| HIGH USE CAMPSITES | | | | LOW USE CAMPSITES | | | |
| | Food Cache | Pit Toilets | Rustic Tent Pads | | Food Cache | Pit Toilets | Rustic Tent Pads |
| 1 Murtle Lagoon North | Yes | Yes | 4 | 13 Sunshine Cove | No | No | 1 |
| 2 Murtle Lagoon South (Group Site) | Yes | Yes | 6 | 14 Wavy View | No | Yes | 3 |
| 3 Sandy Point | Yes | Yes | 3 | 15 Little Anderson | Yes | Yes | 2 |
| 4 Authur (Group Site) | Yes | Yes | 5 | 16 Murtle Beach | Yes | Yes | 4 |
| 5 Tropicana | Yes | Yes | 5 | 17 Eagle Point | Yes | Yes | 3 |
| 6 Diamond Lagoons | Yes | Yes | 3 | 18 Moonlite Bay | Yes | Yes | 2 |
| 7 Kostal | Yes | Yes | 4 | 19 Cross Creek (Day Use) | No | No | 0 |
| 8 File Creek | Yes | Yes | 4 | 20 Strait Creek (Group Site) | Yes | Yes | 6 |
| 9 Smoker Island | No | Yes | 2 | Canoe Launch | Yes | | |
| 10 Cottowood | No | Yes | 2 | | | | |
| 11 Leo Island | Yes | Yes | 4 | | | | |
| 12 Birch Beach | Yes | Yes | 3 | | | | |