EASY CAMPING DIVING PEBBLE BEACH

Porteau Cove Provincial Park

Camping, an artificial-reef dive site and a day-use beach on the shore of Howe Sound, 38 km north of Vancouver.

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
Easy
Drive-up day use

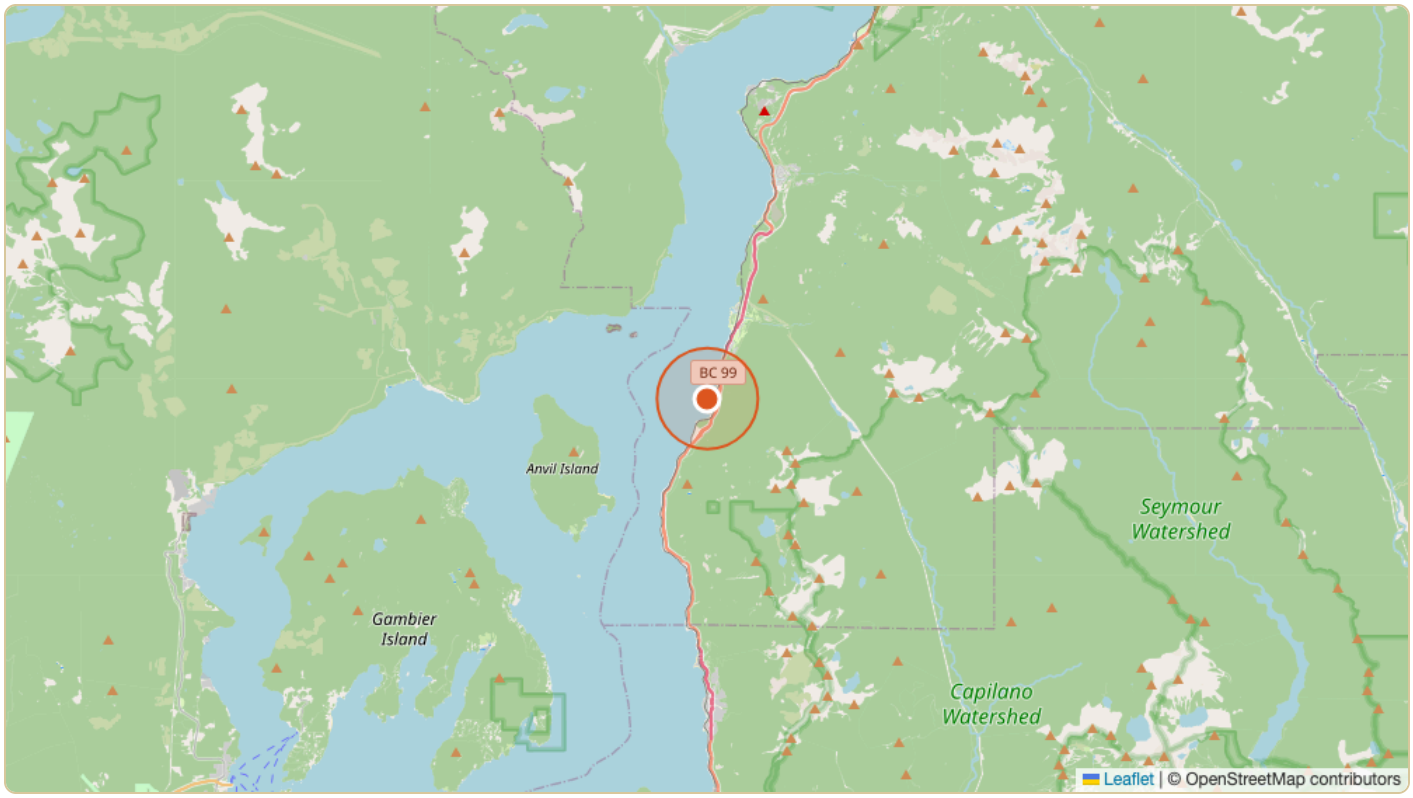
LOCATION
38 km N
Of Vancouver on Hwy 99

DIVE REEFS
6–18 m
Reefs + two sunken vessels

CAMPING
Walk-in & vehicle
Max 7 nights/yr per person

DOGS
Leashed
Not on beach areas

SEASON
Year-round
Limited winter services



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

Park	Porteau Cove Provincial Park
Access	Hwy 99, 20 km south of Squamish
Diving	Reefs at 6–18 m, marked by buoys
Boat launch	Yes; not for scuba divers
Anchoring	Prohibited in the park

Shower	Mar 1 – Nov 12
Phone booking	$5 fee

Overview

Porteau Cove Provincial Park is 38 km north of Vancouver on Highway 99, 20 km south of Squamish and 8.5 km south of Britannia Beach. It has a campground, a day-use beach and a marked dive area with man-made reefs and two sunken vessels at depths of 6 to 18 m.

The beach is rock and pebble, and BC Parks recommends sneakers or beach shoes. There are no lifeguards.

Dive site · Camping · Leashed dogs · Open year-round

Camping & season

Camping Walk-in sites have one vehicle space each. Each campsite allows two vehicles, with one extra for a fee. Each person may camp up to 7 nights per year. BC Parks' page does not list the number of sites or rates: check camping.bcparks.ca.

Winter Day use is open in winter with limited facilities, and winter camping is permitted with limited services. The outdoor shower runs March 1 to November 12.

Reservations Phone reservations, changes or cancellations cost $5.

Diving & rules

Dive area The dive area is marked by buoys. BC Parks does not recommend penetrating the vessels, and diving from a boat is prohibited within the park boundary.

Boats A boat launch exists, but scuba divers may not use it. Anchoring is prohibited within the park boundary.

Dogs Pets must be leashed and are not allowed on beach areas or in park buildings.

Swimming The beach is rock and pebble. BC Parks has no lifeguards on duty.

Questions

Where is Porteau Cove?
BC Parks says it is 38 km north of Vancouver on Highway 99, 20 km south of Squamish and 8.5 km south of Britannia Beach.

Can I dive here?
Yes. BC Parks describes man-made reefs and two sunken vessels at 6 to 18 m, marked by buoys. Penetrating the vessels is not recommended, and diving from a boat is prohibited within the park.

Can I launch a boat?
There is a boat launch, but scuba divers may not use it, and anchoring is prohibited within the park boundary.

Is it open in winter?
Day use is open with limited facilities and winter camping is permitted with limited services.

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: Porteau Cove Park.

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.

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