



# Lake O'Hara 2011

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 12 km west of Lake Louise and 13 km east of Field, a short distance off the Trans-Canada Highway.

## Reservations

Reservations are required to take the bus to Lake O'Hara for day use and camping. A reservation fee applies. The bus operates from mid-June to the first weekend in October (start and end dates vary year to year). You may reserve up to three calendar months in advance of your visit, *by telephone only*.

There are no restrictions on the number of people who wish to hike the 11 km access road. Reservations are not required for buses returning from Lake O'Hara, but a one-way cash fee is collected.

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

<b>Lake O'Hara Reservation Line: 250-343-6433</b>
<b>Hours of Operation (Mountain Time):</b>
<b>April 1 - May 27:</b> Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 12 pm/1 pm - 4 pm (closed Easter weekend, April 22 to 25 inclusive)
<b>May 30 - Sept. 30:</b> Daily, 8 am - 12 pm/1 pm - 4 pm
<b>October 1 - 2:</b> reduced hours

### When you call, please have the following ready:

- Dates requested: *maximum of 3 nights for camping*
- Number of people: *maximum of 6/party for day use*
- Number of campsites: *maximum of 2 sites/party and 1 tent/site*
- Preferred ingoing bus time: *reservations are not required for an outgoing bus*
- Mastercard, Visa, or American Express number: *all fees are collected at the time of booking*



The Lake O'Hara Trails Club operates Le Relais Day Shelter during the hiking season. Here you may warm up, receive trail information, buy a hot drink or snack (cash only).

## O'Hara Bus Schedule (Mountain Time)

Please arrive at the bus staging area at least **20 minutes** prior to departure.

mid-June – September		early October	
Ingoing	Outgoing	Ingoing	Outgoing
8:30 am	9:30 am	10 am	11 am
10:30 am	11:30 am	3 pm	4 pm
3:30 pm*	2:30 pm		
5:30 pm*	4:30 pm		
*overnight guests	6:30 pm		

## O'Hara Fees

FEES	Adult	Youth (6-16)	Child (5 & under)
<i>Bus return trip one-way, out</i>	\$14.70 \$9.75	\$7.30 \$4.75	No Charge
<i>Camping</i>	\$9.80/night	No Charge	No Charge
<i>Reservation</i>	\$11.70 non-refundable		
<i>Cancellation</i>	\$11.70		

If you hold an annual Wilderness Pass, your O'Hara backcountry campground fee is covered.

Également offert en français

## Cancellation & 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 both bus and camping reservations. Cancellations made after 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to arrival or on the day of arrival forfeit refunds.
- The first night's camping fee is forfeited *after 4 p.m., with less than four 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 p.m. 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.



Hoary Marmot  
© W. Karhoffer/Parks Canada

- 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 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 a small number of hiking parties. A hiking permit is required to hike this unmaintained wilderness route. It can be obtained by phoning the Field Visitor Centre: 250-343-6783.
- Please don't feed wildlife.
- Don't move any natural objects in the park.
- Read the brochure *Bears and People: a guide to safety and conservation on the trail*. It is available on the park website, at the bus and at *Le Relais*.

## Important Reminders

- Campers who cancel their first night will forfeit their entire reservation.
- Campers with reservations for the 10:30 a.m. bus who are no-shows without notifying our office by noon will forfeit their entire bus and camping reservation.
- Campers are not permitted to change to day user status.

## 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 Park Visitor Centre or from the 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 shelter!
- please note that no valuables should be left in your parked vehicle**

## Camper Information

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

- Baggage restricted to one large or two small bags per person (max. weight: 25 kg; max. length + width + height: 158 cm/62").
- Hard-sided food coolers and storage bins and items stored in plastic bags or loose items will not be accepted on the bus. Only small, soft-sided coolers will be permitted (max. length + width + height: 67cm/26"). Please leave musical instruments, electronics, chairs and hammocks behind.
- Primus stove required for cooking.
- Bear-aware procedures for cooking and storing food and garbage *must* be observed.
- One medium-sized locker is assigned per campsite—you may bring a padlock.
- 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 *small* backpacking tents. **One tent per campsite.**
- Campers choose their site once they arrive. It's not always possible for parties to camp at adjacent sites.

## Pets & 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.