

Hiking: Elfin Lakes

A Squamish classic, hiking to Elfin Lakes is a gorgeous access into Garibaldi Provincial Park. It's typically a full-day affair, but it's possible to camp or stay at the Elfin Lakes Shelter if you'd like to stay overnight. It's a great place to wake up!

How to get there:

Turn east onto Mamquam Road from Highway 99. Turn left onto Highlands Way S and exit the roundabout onto The Blvd. Pass Quest University then take a left back onto Mamquam Road. The road will turn to gravel and during winter it can be hard-packed snow. 4WD and chains are required to reach the upper parking lot. From there, the trail begins right at the sign.

Route:

A small gravel road winds its way for 5km through old growth forest and past a small waterfall up to the Red Heather Meadows where a day use shelter makes for a good rest stop. From here, gain some elevation onto Paul Ridge at 1660m and break into the sub-alpine. Check out the view behind you! The trail then moves slightly downhill to wind its way toward Elfin Lakes.

The first and larger lake is fine for swimming and on a hot summer day, there's nothing better than jumping in to cool off. The second lake is for drinking water and swimming is forbidden.

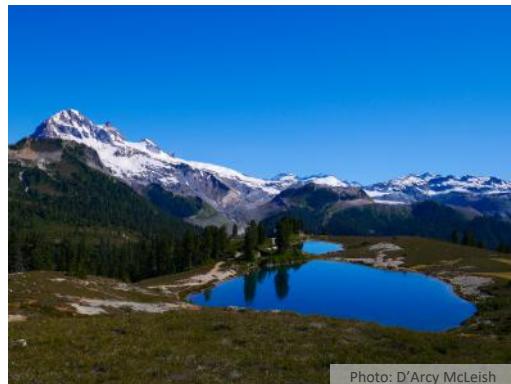


Photo: D'Arcy McLeish

Difficulty	◆	Challenging
Trail Type	⇄	Out & Back
Length	📏	11 km each way
Elevation Gain	↑↑	690 metres
Duration	⌚	6 – 8 hrs
Pet Friendly?	🐶	No

Equipment:

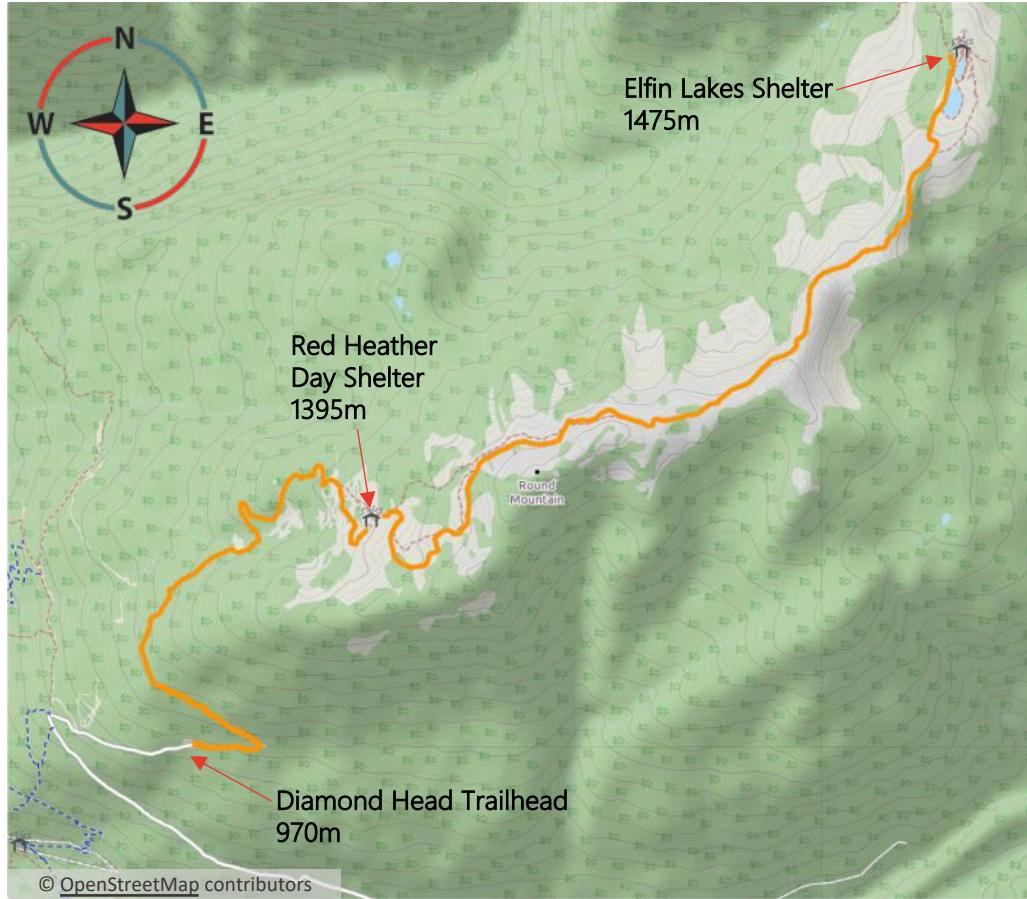
- Good walking shoes or boots.
- Waterproof Jacket and Pants
- Water Bottle
- Sun Hat or Warm Hat
- Sun Cream
- Food
- Map
- First Aid Kit
- Mobile Phone

Be Adventure Smart 🌲

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Leave what you find
- Dispose of waste properly
- Respect wildlife and control pets
- Be considerate of other visitors



Map



Weather

Check the weather before you go. Take care in heavy rain, high winds and low visibility. Beware sun exposure on hot, sunny days.

Know before you go

- The campground has over a dozen, camping overlooking the valley. beyond and once you see them,
- The Elfin Lakes Cabin is a fully equipped hut with cooking utensils, stove and can sleep up to 22.
- Be wary of wind and sun exposure on Paul Ridge

When to cancel hike

- Poor Weather.
- Inadequate equipment or fitness.
- Any situation which may jeopardise the safety of your group.

Lets make the world a better place

- Feel free to take me, but If you want to **save** paper, take a photo of me instead.
- If I still look good when you're finished, please **return** me for someone else to use.
- If my time is done, **recycle** me!

Have you?

- Checked the weather
- Checked route conditions
- Got correct equipment
- Checked group fitness
- Told someone where you're going

Emergency

If you require emergency assistance, please call 911.