

POWELL FOREST CANOE ROUTE

SITES, ROUTES & DISTANCES

1	Lois Lake Camp (Vehicle access)
2	Lois Point Horsemen's Camp (Remote access)
	Lois Lake Paddle > 8.5 km
3	Lois-Horseshoe Portage > 1,502 m
4	Horseshoe River Camp (Remote access)
5	Horseshoe Lake South Camp (Remote access)
	Horseshoe Lake Paddle > 4 km
6	Horseshoe Creek Camp (Remote access)
7	Nanton Lake (Vehicle access)
8	Nanton-Ireland South Camp (Remote access)
9	Nanton Lake-Ireland Lake Portage > 2,310 m
10	Middle Point Camp (on portage) (Remote access)
11	Nanton-Ireland North Camp (Remote access)
	Ireland Lake Paddle > 1 km
12	Ireland North Camp (Remote access)
13	Ireland-Dodd Portage > 985 m
14	Dodd Lake (Vehicle access)
	Dodd Lake Paddle > 7 km
15	Chipmunk/Canoe Pt. (Dodd SE) Camp (Remote)
16	Dodd Lake North Camp (Remote access)
17	Dodd-Windsor Portage > 717 m
	Windsor Lake Paddle > 2.2 km
18	Windsor Lake Camp (Remote access)
19	Windsor-Goat (most difficult) Portage > 2,379 m
20	Goat lake Camp (Remote access)
	Goat Lake Paddle > 500 m
	Powell Lake Paddle > 28.5 km

ALTERNATE SITES, ROUTES & DISTANCES

	Lois - Khartoum Paddle > 14 km
21	Khartoum Lake Camp (Vehicle access)
22	Horseshoe Lk-Little Horseshoe Portage > 1,307 m
	Little Horseshoe Lake Paddle > 500 m
23	Little Horseshoe Lake Camp (Remote access)
24	Little Horseshoe-Beaver Portage > 740 m
25	Beaver Lake South Camp (Remote access)
	Beaver Lake Paddle > 500 m
26	Beaver Lake North Camp (Remote access)
27	Beaver Lake - Dodd Lake Portage > 476 m
28	Powell-Inland Portage > 700 m
29	Lower Powell Lake Site (Remote access)
30	Tony Lake Camp (Vehicle access)
31	Lewis Lake Camp (Vehicle access)

LEGEND

Paved Road

Gravel Road

Canoe Route

Portage Route

Trail Route

Cabin

Campsite, Road Access

Campsite, Remote

Parking

Site info #

Portage info #

0

1

2

4

6

8

KILOMETRES

The main map displays the Powell Forest Canoe Route, a network of trails and lakes in the Powell River region. Key features include:

- Lakes:** Powell Lake, Goat Lake, Windsor Lake, Dodd Lake, Nanton Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Little Horseshoe Lake, Beaver Lake, Lois Lake, Khartoum Lake, Duck Lake, Inland Lake, and Lewis Lake.
- Mountains:** Goat Mountain (elev. 1,451 m), Rainbow Peaks (max elev. 1,770 m), Tin Hat Mountain (elev. 1,193 m), Overlook Mountain (elev. 1,795 m), The Knuckleheads (elev. 1,615-1,667 m), and Mount Troubridge (elev. 1,173 m).
- Trails and Routes:** Various numbered routes (1-31) are shown, including paddles and portages. Key portages include Lois-Horseshoe, Nanton-Ireland, Ireland-Dodd, and Beaver Lake-South.
- Infrastructure:** Highway 101, Highway 101, and various roads like Haslam Rd., Dixon Road, and Third Lake Rd. are marked.
- Geographic Features:** GOAT ISLAND, HARWOOD ISLAND, TEXADA ISLAND, and Jervis Inlet are shown.
- Warnings:** Several areas are marked with "CAUTION! Dangerous Rapids" and "CAUTION! One-Way traffic only."

This inset map shows the route from Goat Lake to Windsor Lake. It highlights the portage across active logging roads, marked with "USE CAUTION!". The route is numbered 19 and 18.

This inset map shows the route from Windsor Lake to Dodd Lake. It highlights the portage across active logging roads, marked with "USE CAUTION!". The route is numbered 17 and 16.

This inset map shows the route from Dodd Lake to Nanton Lake. It highlights the portage across active logging roads, marked with "USE CAUTION!". The route is numbered 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, and 7.

This inset map shows an alternate route from Dodd Lake to Horseshoe Lake. It highlights the portage ON active logging road, marked with "USE CAUTION!". The route is numbered 15, 26, 27, 25, 24, 23, 22, and 6.

This inset map shows the route from Horseshoe Lake to Lois Lake. It highlights the portage across active logging roads, marked with "USE CAUTION!". The route is numbered 5, 4, 3, and 2.

This inset map shows the route from Lois Lake to Khartoum Lake. It highlights the portage across active logging roads, marked with "USE CAUTION!". The route is numbered 2, 1, and 21.

CAUTION!
Road closed to public access during business hours.
Active Logging

Spring 2022 Edition

POWELL FOREST CANOE ROUTE

WELCOME

The Powell Forest Canoe Route is one of the finest journeys in the province. Experience the beauty of the Coast Mountains above cedar, fir, and spruce forests from fjord-like waters, where wildlife such as bald eagles and black bears may be witnessed.

This is a journey across eight lakes and over five portage routes, covering 57 kilometres and taking about five days. The best time to experience the route is from June through October.

EXPERIENCE AN EXTRAORDINARY CANOE
ADVENTURE IN THE WILDS OF THE
BEAUTIFUL SUNSHINE COAST.

A lake-to-lake campsite and portage circle route
for single- or multi-day paddling trips.



Bill Sirota photo.



Sunshine Coast
TOURISM



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GETTING THERE

From the ferry at Saltery Bay, drive north toward Powell River for approximately 10 km. The entrance to the canoe route will be indicated by a sign on the right side of the road, across the highway from Loubert Road. Turn right onto Canoe Main (gravel) road and follow it up the hill and approximately 5 km to the Lois Lake campsite which is the recommended starting point of the canoe route.

NOTE: Caution should be used when driving on all logging roads and please keep headlights on. There also may be active logging in the area so please observe and obey all signs.

If time doesn't allow for a full five days of canoeing and portaging, you can get a head start from any access point along Goat Lake Main, or put in at Windsor Lake and descend back down to Lois Lake (three days). Alternatively, start at Lois Lake and canoe to Khartoum Lake (two days). Whichever route you choose, paddlers are advised that there can be strong, inflow winds blowing down Powell Lake from the North, and the portage from Goat Lake to Windsor Lake is a steep uphill climb which would make going the reverse direction more challenging.

We suggest taking all the time you can to explore the beauty and serenity of this incredible chain of lakes. Portages are mostly along forested trails to lakes that are generally calm. As with any paddle, you'll want to be prepared for the longer stretches by watching and anticipating weather changes so you are not paddling through rough waves in strong winds. Paddling earlier in the day will generally be calmer with less chance of gusting winds.

SAFETY/FAQ

The majority of the Powell Forest Canoe Route lies within a Working Forest managed by Western Forest Products. All roads, with the exception of Canoe Main, have restricted access and may only be used on weekends, or weekdays between 8 pm and 5 am. Caution should be



Hugh Prichard photo.



Bill Sirota photo.



Brigit Sirota-Goldammer photo.



Hugh Prichard photo.

exercised at all times as there may be unscheduled traffic. Drive slowly and cautiously and all signs should be observed and obeyed. Check local road info before you leave: wfproadinfo.com/powell-river

The following procedures are recommended if an emergency arises, if communciation is needed, or a return to Powell River is required.

A) Proceed to either Nanton or Dodd Lake drive-in recreation sites as they generally have recreational users during summer months.

B) Proceed to either Goat Main or Stillwater logging roads in order to flag down a vehicle.

- Before you go, file a trip plan and leave word with someone indicating where you are going to paddle and when you expect to return. Report back to them once you have returned.

- Connector streams should NOT be portaged due to numerous falls, chutes and log jams.

- Keep local wind conditions in mind when paddling Lois, Horseshoe, Dodd, Goat and Powell lakes.

- Wear a life-jacket or PFD and carry emergency supplies including extra food, a change of clothing, rain gear, a boat repair kit, First Aid, and survival equipment (including flares).

ACCOMMODATIONS/CAMPING - Each campsite has a picnic table, an outhouse, tent sites, and a fire ring, but bringing a camp stove is recommended. Some sites have docks for easy access. Designated campsites are open to everyone for shared use on a first-come, first-served basis. Some sites are accessible by vehicle, others are not.

FIRES - Build fires only if necessary, and first make sure there is no fire ban in effect. Obey signage, use existing fire pits and dead wood only.

CELL PHONES - Count on no cell reception at all, especially on the lakes where coverage is blocked by the mountains.

CLOTHING - Pack proper rain gear, footwear and spare dry clothing; weather can change dramatically without warning.

LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY - Most of the canoe route is easy-to-moderate paddling, but cumulatively it can be a challenge even to the most seasoned experts.

CACHES - Some sites have a rope and pulley system to hang food and garbage to deter bears and other animals. Bring rope or consider using bear-proof canisters. Always minimize risks by practicing Leave No Trace and pack out all garbage.

PORTAGE TRAIL HEADS - Portage trail heads are marked with orange triangular markers.

CANOE RESTS - Single and tandem canoe rests are located on all portage trails and are approximately 100 -150 m apart.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

All distances are in metric with the exception of road mile markers.

LOIS LAKE

The main campsite at Lois Lake has a large parking area along with day-use and overnight camping areas. Caution should be used when paddling Lois Lake due to numerous submerged stumps and snags. Also be aware that winds can at times make crossing the main, northern section of the lake quite hazardous.

A nice side trip can be taken to Khartoum Lake via an obvious narrows on the far north-east corner of Lois Lake. Along the way consider stopping at the Lois Point Horsemen's Camp, an alternate site for the paddler that would prefer a quieter, more peaceful experience. To get there, travel eastward from Lois Lake main camp along the southern shoreline approximately 500 m just to the left of a small point of land, and here you will find a campsite with an outhouse.

LOIS-HORSESHOE LAKE PORTAGE - 1.7 KM

The trail begins at a small bay on the northern end of Lois Lake. This scenic portage parallels the river on its eastern bank, with a small, rustic campsite approximately half-way along. There is also a campsite at the end of the portage. Under certain conditions, this southern end of Horseshoe Lake can accumulate a lot of drift wood, therefore four different launch points have been established along the southern shore.

HORSESHOE AND NANTON LAKES

Any activities on Horseshoe Lake should be taken with great care when winds are blowing. There are numerous sheltered bays and coves as well as small islands suitable for refuge if unfavourable conditions occur.

At the northern end of Horseshoe Lake, just east of the narrows, is Little Horseshoe Creek recreation site. It is a small rustic site and is only accessible by canoe. It serves as an alternate to the Nanton Lake site which can sometimes be overcrowded. This site is also at the beginning of the Little Horseshoe-Beaver Lake alternate portage route.

Once into Nanton Lake, you have a choice of two recreation sites:

The main Nanton site is on the west side of the lake (and has vehicle access), or a small site that is canoe-only access and is 300 m up from the entrance of the connector stream. At high water one can canoe to the site on the stream, but during long periods of dry weather you may have to use the low-water portage.

NANTON-IRELAND PORTAGE - 2.4 KM

This portage follows along the western edge of the Horseshoe River and passes through a moist, deciduous, lowland ecosystem that supports an abundance of wildlife. There are numerous cedar walkways and bridges crossing a network of feeder streams and marshes. There are two recreation sites along the portage.

IRELAND LAKE

This is a small, shallow lake with a recreation site at the southern end. The next portage begins on the eastern shore at the mouth of a small connector stream, adjacent to a small rest area. There is also a remote access recreation site at the north end of the lake.

IRELAND-DODD PORTAGE - 0.8 KM

This is a relatively short portage with a gentle adverse grade built to avoid a portion of the Horseshoe River which has several large log jams, and is very dangerous to canoe at any time. It terminates at the Dodd Lake (vehicle access) recreation site.

DODD LAKE

Dodd is a large, open lake that in warm afternoons can be subject to sudden wind squalls. Either shore can be followed, and winds usually abate by 5 pm. There are three recreation sites on Dodd Lake. The large, main site on the southwest end can be accessed by vehicles, so it is not favoured by paddlers seeking a solitary, wilderness experience. The two small campsites at the southeast corner and northeast end of the lake are accessible by water only, and offer a good alternative to the main site.

HORSESHOE-DODD (Alternate Route) - 3.5 KM

This route starts at Little Horseshoe Creek recreation site and travels in a northeast direction to Little Horseshoe and Beaver Lakes, terminating at the recreation site at Dodd Lake. There is more portage than paddling, but it allows paddlers with limited time to start at either the Nanton or Dodd recreation site (both have vehicle access) and circumnavigate a smaller area.

DODD-WINDSOR PORTAGE - 0.7 KM

This is a short portage that follows an old road built in the 1930's for the extraction of forest products. The portage starts at the recreation

DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUED...

site located on the small lagoon at the north end of Dodd Lake. The landing at Dodd Lake is the original landing site used to supply old logging camps in the area.

WINDSOR LAKE

Windsor Lake is the highest lake in the circuit at an elevation of 196 m. It is one of our colder lakes and has a small recreation site at the north end which is only accessible by water.

WINDSOR-GOAT PORTAGE - 2.4 KM

This is the most difficult portage on the route. It descends from Windsor Lake (elev. 196 m) to Goat Lake (elev. 85 m). The beginning of the portage climbs slightly to where it crosses a logging the road before it begins a rapid descent to the Goat Lake recreation site. Caution should be taken when crossing the active logging road.

GOAT LAKE

A large, fjord-like lake with two recreation sites, which are only accessible by water. A side trip may be taken up the lake to the mouth of the Eldred River. At the southwest end of the lake you will pass through a narrows linking Goat Lake to Powell Lake. Caution should be taken when paddling through the west end of the narrows due to submerged stumps and snags.

POWELL-INLAND PORTAGE (Alternate Route) - 0.7 KM UNMAINTAINED TRAIL! A short portage with a slightly adverse grade for the first 200 m. The trail follows an old railroad grade used for hauling logs from the Inland Lake drainage to Powell Lake. There are camping/resting areas at each end of the trail.



Lois Lake looking East, Brigit Sirota-Goldammer photo.

INLAND LAKE (Alternate/additional route)

A beautiful recreational lake with several sandy beaches and good fishing. The lake has two Provincial Park sites; a remote access campsite on Anthony Island and a vehicle-access campground on the southern end.

The site on the island is accessible by boat or by hiking. It is located just off the northeastern shore and connected by a bridge to the trail. The Inland Lake campground is a large vehicle-oriented site with ample parking and unrestricted vehicle access — a good alternate termination point for the canoe route. This site has a caretaker and the gate is locked at night.

Inland Lake also has a level, 13 km trail completely surrounding the lake with several rest areas along the way. There is also a short trail to Lost Lake, which is a small, marshy-edged lake that drains into Inland Lake.

POWELL LAKE

This lake should be paddled early in the morning or late afternoon since the winds may be strong. Winds usually pick up around noon and abate by 5 pm, but extra care should be taken at all times on this section.

Approximately a quarter of the way down Powell Lake from its connection with Goat Lake is Fiddlehead Landing, the site of a small hut built for hikers on the Sunshine Coast Trail. Approximately half way along the southern shore of Powell Lake, east of the small, unnamed island, is the Powell Lake recreation site. This small, rustic site has a sandy beach and provides good refuge from the afternoon winds.

Powell Lake has many privately-owned cabins along its shore and with the exception of emergencies, their floats and facilities should not be used. The sites on this lake are all user-maintained by paddlers and local cabin owners.

The southern shore is the preferred route while canoeing west on Powell Lake, and the eastern shore should be used when paddling south. There are two other campsites on Powell Lake – one situated at the beginning of the Powell-Inland portage and the other is located at Haywire Bay at the southeast end; it is a Regional District Campground so there is a fee for its use.



GETTING TO POWELL RIVER

BY CAR: Powell River is on Highway 101, about 4-5 hours north-west of Vancouver. Although Powell River lies on a mainland highway, it requires two ferry rides, (Horseshoe Bay to Langdale and Earl's Cove to Saltery Bay) to reach the hub of the Northern Sunshine Coast.

BY FERRY: BC Ferries offers sailings directly to Powell River from the Little River ferry terminal in Comox on Vancouver Island, and from Earl's Cove to Saltery Bay (south of Powell River city limits) on the Southern Sunshine Coast. For scheduled ferry times, visit **BCFerries.com**

BY AIR: The Powell River Airport (YPW) is centrally located within city limits. Pacific Coastal Airlines offers daily flights to Powell River. Private charter flights are also available. For scheduled flights, visit: **PacificCoastal.com**

GETTING AROUND: Once in Powell River, travel by car is recommended, but options include municipal and rural public transit, taxi, biking and walking.

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Typical canoe rest along a portage. Brigit Sirota-Goldammer photo.



Nanton Lake. Brigit Sirota-Goldammer photo.



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