

## ***TRIP PLAN OUTLINE***

**Route: Boat Shuttle to Baie Fine – Threenarrows Lake – Great Mountain Lake – David Lake - Bell Lake  
Access Point**

### **About your route:**

Killarney Provincial Park (KPP) offers dramatic scenery and a variety of routes for the novice and experienced paddler. The KPP is a favorite for many visitors because of the diverse landscape including “dead lakes”, white quartzite rock scattering the La Cloche Range and true Canadian Wilderness with excellent fishing! The northern section of KPP is where the most secluded lakes in the park can be found! This is also the best place to view wildlife as there are less trippers in this area.

To estimate tripping times we use an average paddling time of 3-4 km/hour (this will vary depending on the group’s experience and weather). The following is an outline of the trip. Please keep in mind that camping on sites in KPP is first come, first serve; a spot on a specific lake is reserved, not a specific site. Please let us know if there are any questions about the route.

### **Getting Started:**

Permits will be ready for pickup at the KPP main office (George Lake Campground). The Killarney main entrance can be found on the north side of Hwy 637, approximately 55 km from the Killarney turnoff from Hwy 69.

Killarney Outfitters is located five minutes past the park entrance and approximately 4km before the village of Killarney. Stop by and pick up any remaining items that may have been forgotten and get set up for the boat shuttle! Park in the parking lot of George Lake during the trip (make sure to put a parking permit in the vehicle), this is where the trip will end. Time to start the adventure!

### **Some things to see while visiting the town of Killarney!**

The town of Killarney was originally used as a fur trading post; later the logging and fishing industries flourished and dominated the local area. Until the 60’s, Killarney was only accessible with the use of small aircraft or boats. In 1961 the road from highway 69 was put in place, and its opening in 1962 made access to KPP possible.

Once in the town of Killarney, sit along the channel and cast a line; or even try Herbert’s Fish & Chips - caught in Georgian Bay!

Check out the lighthouse down Ontario Street if looking for a nice quiet spot to relax. There is also access to the lighthouse through the Lighthouse Trail which is located by the entrance of the Killarney Mountain Lodge property (just left of the drive way).

### **Killarney Adventure!**

#### **Day 1:**

***Access Point*** – Boat Shuttle to Baie Fine

***Campsite*** – Threenarrows Lake

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Today sets off from the town of Killarney where Killarney Outfitters staff will take you on a boat cruise to Baie Fine, an approximate hour and a half. Cruising through some of the most renowned fresh water cruising areas! The ride gives you an amazing view of the La Cloche mountain range which you will soon be portaging over as well as distant views of Manitoulin Island and surrounding areas.

### **BAIE FINE**

Baie Fine, pronounced “Bay Fin”, is a fjord like bay extending from the waters of Georgian Bay. The alluring scenery in this area was a favorite of the Group of Seven artist Arthur Lismer, who introduced this area to fellow artist A.Y Jackson. Jackson was the man behind the fight to keep these beautiful lakes un-logged. The lumber cabin in this area is where talks of lumbering Trout Lake (now O.S.A) took place. Because of Jackson’s efforts the establishment of the KPP was put into place. Many other well-known families once ventured into the waters of Baie Fine such as Mr. Ole Evinrude, the inventor of the outboard motor!

Old logging roads from Baie Fine are now used by hikers, paddlers and yachters alike as a portage trail accessing Topaz Lake. Baie Fine is a popular area for yachters and motor boats so be sure to keep an eye out while paddling to the campsite.

Once the boat is unloaded sort out any gear and portage into Threenarrows over The Pig portage!

### **PORTAGE FROM BAIE FINE TO THREENARROWS LAKE (THE PIG)**

Follow the northern shoreline of Baie Fine and paddle eastwards (away from Georgian Bay) to a narrow channel. Follow this channel until it takes a sharp southward turn into what is known as “The Pool”. It is at the turning point that the first 230m section of this approximately 1550m (in total) portage presents itself. Be sure to have the map close to hand, as this route intersects with two other trails. The first junction is a fork in the trail at the 230m point; here the portage from Artist Lake joins the trail from the east (to the right).

Affectionately dubbed “The Pig”, this 1320m portion of the route is the tallest portage in the park. The route crosses over Blue Ridge (a section of the La Cloche Mountain Range), and is very steep on both sides. The trail itself is very rocky so pay attention to footing. Due to the strenuousness of this portage, we recommend attempting it in two portions with a rest at the top of Blue Ridge. At this point the trail levels out for a short time before its descent down the mountain. Stop here, have a snack, and regain strength before moving on. Just before reaching the end of the portage the turn off for the Silhouette Trail can be found on the left, keep straight to reach Threenarrows Lake.

If seeking a longer break while portaging take a small trail and spend some time on Topaz Lake!

### **TOPAZ LAKE**

Topaz Lake can be found along the Baie Fine section of the La Cloche Silhouette Trail, nearly half way along “The Pig” portage into Threenarrows Lake. Topaz is an ultra-clear lake with white quartzite diving cliffs that go up at regular intervals. This lake was the site of Arthur Lismer’s (Group of Seven) work 'Bright Lands'. It’s a fun place to spend an afternoon, or stop for a break while portaging.

### **THREENARROWS LAKE**

Vast Threenarrows Lake is the product of bygone logging activity in the Killarney area. Originally named Long Lake, the body of water we see today was created in 1900 when a wooden dam was constructed across Kirk

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Creek (on the western end of the lake). This caused the water levels in three pre-existing lakes to rise by five meters and overflow into each other. This massive new lake allowed logging companies to float their logs a great distance, and enabled them to expand further east than was previously possible. In exchange for the lease of Doris Island, the dam was rebuilt in 1934 by Mr. F.D. Coppock. Rumor has it that it was Mr. Coppock's great love of fishing which prompted his interest in the project. Further evidence of this area's logging past is the steep portage to Baie Fine known as "The Pig", which used to be a logging tote road. Tales have been told that Coppock had also built the cabin owned by William Hale Thompson, one of Chicago's most flamboyant mayors. Thompson had been associated with the Chicago gangster Al Capone. A silencer from a 22-calibre gun was discovered in the wall of the cabin when it was dismantled; said to belong to the gangster. Remnants of the foundation of this old cabin can still be found nestled in the forest across from "The Pig" portage.

There are great views from the ridges surrounding Threenarrows if off-trail hiking is planned. The split geography of marsh and mountains makes for great photos on this lake. A large portion of the La Cloche Silhouette Trail borders Threenarrows, so it is possible to join the trail and explore sections of it. The portions of it on the north side of the lake are best, as this section of the trail is mostly high on the ridge. The section on the western side of the lake is mainly a flat trail leading through the forest.

One of the most stunning views along this section of the trail is a clearing to the east of the creek that hiking site H23 is on. To reach this from Threenarrows, park the canoe at the creek mouth and follow the creek up to the trail. From there head east, climb away, and enjoy the view of Threenarrows Lake and Blue Ridge. This is fairly simple by bushwhacking standards as the terrain leads towards the trail pretty well. Nonetheless, when off trail for any amount of time, a map, compass, and buddy are essential.

Threenarrows makes for a great place to set up camp for a few nights. There is so much to explore around Threenarrows Lake. The lake itself is vast, and there are side lakes, ridges, and sections of the La Cloche Trail to visit.

Be sure to leave ample time to find a campsite on Threenarrows, as the size of this lake can sometimes make this a lengthy process. When choosing a campsite for the night, we suggest #50 located on Doris Island. Island sites are always a fun camping option, however keep in mind that large animals such as bears can (and will) swim. Make sure to still take all of the same precautions as on mainland, including hanging food in a tree for the night.

## **YORK LAKE**

York Lake shares the same reservation as Threenarrows. This small lake is a lovely alternative to camping on Threenarrows with its clear green waters that are smooth as glass. York Lake has only one campsite on it, and is very peaceful because it doesn't get many visitors (unless they are passing through on their way to, or from, Great Mountain Lake).

Threenarrows Lake is also one of the easiest lakes to get a booking in Killarney Provincial Park. This is due to two factors; there are lots of sites, and the portages to access this lake will work up a sweat! If doing a last-minute trip during peak season, try for Threenarrows. There's a good chance it will have an open spot. Get an early start if planning to camp on Threenarrows the first night of a trip. This is not a journey to depart on after lunch due to the amount of portaging required to get in.

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### **Day 2:**

#### ***Campsite*** – Great Mountain Lake

Rise and Shine! If the campsite chosen yesterday was along the western side of Threenarrows get an early start on paddling to the north eastern section of the lake. Locate the series of portages to access Great Mountain Lake!

### **PORTAGE FROM THREENARROWS LAKE TO GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE**

There are two points from which you may begin this multi-portage route; either from the eastern shore of the large northern portion of Threenarrows, or, from the very easternmost point on the southern bays. We recommend the former route from the north. This route begins with a 785m portage through a forest of pine and birch to York Lake. Paddle east across York Lake to find the next 530m portage which leads to Kirk Creek. If the southern route is taken instead, paddle south down the eastern shore of Threenarrows into its southern portions. Turn eastwards and follow the northern shoreline until you reach the most north-eastern tip of Threenarrows (approximately 10km from the large northern section). From here, it's just a short 130m portage north to Kirk Creek. Although Kirk Creek is impassable at other points, this portion leads towards Great Mountain via a series of liftovers and short portages of varying difficulty (approximately 285m in total). Bear in mind that some of these portages have tricky sections of sloping rock or clay that are slippery when wet. Begin by paddling north on the creek, and then west. Be sure to check the map frequently as this is a tricky route which changes its appearance with heavy rainfall or beaver activity; both of which may shift the location of portages or liftovers from year to year. The next big portage can be found where Kirk Creek becomes no longer navigable. This fairly easy 835m portage covers gently rolling terrain and ends at a marshy tributary of Kirk Creek. From here, the next 770m leg is also not difficult as it is very flat, save for a moderate slope at either end. This ends at Little Mountain Lake. A quick paddle across Little Mountain lakes you to the last 55m portage to Great Mountain Lake.

### **GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE**

Great Mountain Lake is a secluded paradise. It is certainly one of the most remote lakes in the park, not only because of its northern location, but also due to the difficulty of the portages leading into it. For these reasons, most visitors don't make it to this lake. The effort to get here is well worth it. Great Mountain is partially surrounded by the steep white cliffs of the La Cloche Mountains, offering spectacular views from any point on the lake. The lake sits in the foothill on the back of the northern ridge, with the feeling that it is "just hanging off" the mountain.

Since Great Mountain is located in the less-travelled northern boundary region of the park it is good place to catch a glimpse of some wildlife (especially moose). Animals prefer this area over the more popular southern portions of the park because there are far fewer visitors.

When choosing a campsite for the night, we recommend site #157. Located beside the Little Mountain Lake portage, this site has a breathtaking view, and it's a great spot to begin a hike up the small mountain across from it.

Please note that Great Mountain Lake is a fish sanctuary which enjoys protection from the Canadian Government, meaning that fishing of all species is prohibited year-round.

Time permitting, why not check out Little Mountain and Gail Lakes?

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### **GAIL LAKE & LITTLE MOUNTAIN LAKE**

If it's not along the route, make a point of visiting Gail and Little Mountain Lake. Both are beautiful clear lakes, just a short portage from Great Mountain. Little Mountain Lake is also on the La Cloche Trail, so it is possible to explore sections of it from here. Heading west is recommended, as east leads to David Lake, and therefore, more travelled country. The climb out of the Little Mountain valley is one of the steepest sections on the trail. Once on the ridge, there are some great viewpoints. Shigaug Lake is a pretty lake to visit, and the viewpoint before the trail descends to Moose Creek (the creek H23 is on) is one of the nicest vistas on the trail.

#### **Day 3:**

***Campsite:*** David Lake

There is no need to get an early start today, however eat a hearty breakfast before setting off on one of the parks long steep portage accessing David Lake. This portage is not difficult but if doubling back is required it could take some time to complete. There is the option to hike Silver Peak either today or tomorrow, if today is chosen get an early start!

### **PORTAGE FROM GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE TO DAVID LAKE**

Located at a rock landing in the eastern arm of Great Mountain Lake, this 2945m portage is considered as one of the more difficult in the park. This is because its route covers steep, hilly terrain with many twists and turns. Take a moment and appreciate the beauty of the location as it changes from forested lowlands to rocky outcrops. The portage ends at the westernmost point on David Lake.

### **DAVID LAKE**

Situated at the base of Silver Peak, David Lake is one of Killarney Provincial Park's more popular destinations. Paddle around the twists and turns, watch as new sections of the lake are slowly revealed. David Lake's rugged beauty is framed by the rolling foothill crag at the base of Silver Peak as well as other spectacular rock formations. This large deep lake is dotted with many tiny islands that make excellent picnic locations for hungry paddlers. Amateur botanists may be surprised to find that the lush forest surrounding David plays host to a rare mix of fir, maple, poplar, and oak trees. These tree varieties almost never grow together, and it is only around David Lake where geographic conditions allow such a combination. Oak trees rarely grow this far north or at such high elevations, however they can be found in abundance throughout KPP.

When choosing a campsite for the night, we recommend site #106. This site is located high off the water and has several tent pads (clear areas on the ground). Beautiful views of Silver Peak make this campsite ideal.

Please note that David Lake is a fish sanctuary which enjoys protection from the Canadian Government, meaning that fishing of all species is prohibited year-round.

#### **Day 4:**

***Campsite:*** David Lake

### **SILVER PEAK HIKING TRAIL**

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Pack a lunch and enjoy spectacular views of the park and Georgian Bay from the highest point in KPP. The Silver Peak trailhead can be found on the western-most end of David Lake. On the park map, the trail is represented by a dotted line. Leave the canoe here and pick it up at the end of the hike. Sturdy footwear is recommended because certain sections of the trail can be very steep. Also bring along sufficient water and layers of clothing. The elevation is not extreme but conditions can vary considerably from the lakeshore to the exposed ridge tops.

The first section of the trail is gently rolling and passes through a number of wetlands and hardwood forests. This is an excellent chance to view a great variety of wildflowers and ferns, which thrive in these fertile soils. From here the terrain will become more difficult and will start a gradual and steep climb to Killarney's apex. The last kilometer is somewhat rugged and challenging but the view is well worth it.

The La Cloche Mountain range is approximately 2.3 billion years old and at one time its peaks were taller than the Rocky Mountains. Years of erosion from wind, water and frosts have caused these once massive cliffs to transform into rolling hills. The white quartzite is one of the most recognizable features of KPP and amazes geologists and tourists alike.

The exposed quartzite peak is rewarding with a spectacular 360-degree view of KPP and the vast waters of Georgian Bay. At one time, Silver Peak was destined to be a ski resort that would compete with Mount Tremblant. However, due to its steepness and isolation the project was cancelled and Silver Peak's natural beauty was protected. Despite the lack of ski facilities, Silver Peak's mixture of pink granite and white quartzite still draws tourists to its base. Sitting at an elevation of 543m (nearly the height of the CN Tower in Toronto) this hike is surely an unforgettable adventure that will make you feel on top of the world.

Expect the hike to take approximately 2 hours each way.

### **Day 5:**

**Return Access Point:** Bell Lake Access Point

Today is the last day of your Killarney Adventure! Pack up the site on David Lake and paddle south to David Creek where a series of portages will lead into Bell Lake.

#### **PORTAGE FROM DAVID LAKE TO BELL LAKE VIA DAVID CREEK**

This two-part portage starts with a 200m portage, located at the south eastern tip of David Lake. This first portion is fairly flat, and covers a considerable amount of exposed bedrock. This half of the portage finishes at David Creek. A quick paddle south on the creek leads to the second 745m portage. The next half of the portage also covers relatively moderate terrain with gradual inclines and declines with good footing. The trail exits at a shallow landing on the westernmost arm of Bell Lake.

#### **BELL LAKE AND THREE MILE LAKE**

Bell and Three Mile Lakes are connected by a narrow channel at the northern end of Bell. A large rock island located in the middle of this channel is a great spot on a hot summer's day; jump or dive in! Although this area has enough depth, it is always a good idea to check before to check, as water levels can vary throughout the season.



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Beautiful views of La Cloche mountain range can be found to the west rising above the majestic pines which border these two lakes. Many campers on Bell & Three Mile (closer to three kilometers) have reported hearing the haunting howls of wolves at night, though it is very rare to see these shy creatures.

Fishing enthusiasts will be pleased to find ample stocks of Bass (Small Mouth and Rock varieties) and Northern Pike in Bell Lake. Please keep in mind that fishing Lake Trout is prohibited for all seasons due to fish sanctuary regulations in the park.

We hope you have enjoyed this Killarney adventure! Killarney Outfitters staff will pick you up and shuttle you back to the outfitters where your vehicle will be at a prearranged time.

### **Important Notes**

KPP is a wilderness park, and restricts access to canoeists, kayakers and hikers. On some lakes where cottages and camps existed before the establishment of KPP (1964), you may find outboard boats used for transportation and recreational fishing. Please take note of and adhere to all park regulations concerning fishing and wildlife protection.

Killarney Outfitters has attempted to outline a trip suited to your paddling level and the type of experience you requested. We make every effort to determine experience level before completing a trip plan, and will be happy to offer any additional information to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable journey. Killarney Outfitters is not responsible for any information that was misrepresented to our staff about your skill level, fitness or health condition. Please let us know in advance if you feel this trip is not appropriate for you or your fellow travelers.

The \$13.00 KPP Reservation fee is non-refundable (required for each reservation made); it is payable at the time your reservation is confirmed.

To cancel or change a KPP reservation, call 1-888-ONT-PARK (668-7275). A \$10.50 fee will be charged for each change or cancellation. Reservations cannot be changed or cancelled more than four months in advance of your arrival.

Hope you have a great trip and enjoy your time in Killarney!

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