

## ***TRIP PLAN OUTLINE***

### **Route: Boat Shuttle to Baie Fine – O.S.A. Lake - George 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*** – O.S.A. Lake

Today sets off from the town of Killarney waterfront, 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

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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 unpacked and you are ready to set out, take a short detour to hike to the stunning Topaz Lake, there is no need to bring the canoe at this point!

### **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.

Upon reaching the canoe, take a map out to ensure the correct trail is taken to Artist Lake as the route intersects with the Silhouette trail. Bring the canoe and gear to the put in on Artist Lake and begin the paddle!

When on Artist Lake paddle east to find the Artist Creek Falls landing for the next 185m portage. This landing has a steep incline and can be very slippery during wet weather – watch footing. This portage leads into a small unnamed pond teeming with small plants and wildlife such as birds, frogs, and even otters. Put in at the smooth sloping granite landing and paddle east for approximately 500m. On the eastern shore there is a marshy take-out for the final 110m portage to Muriel Lake.

### **MURIEL LAKE**

While paddling Muriel Lake expect to find a mix of everything; a small island, quartzite ridges, clear water and friendly wildlife such George the resident snapping turtle who hangs around the two sites on that lake! Many loons have been spotted on Muriel and the echo of their haunting calls can be heard bouncing off the surrounding ridges.

### **PORTAGE FROM MURIEL LAKE TO O.S.A. LAKE**

This 595m portage can be found on the northern shore of Muriel Lake’s eastern end. Please watch footing here as a layer of duff covers the bedrock and can create slippery conditions. This portage is particularly scenic as it passes through a hemlock forest.

### **O.S.A LAKE**

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O.S.A., formerly known as Trout Lake, is the true birthplace of Killarney Provincial Park. It was here that Group of Seven Painter A.Y. Jackson and a group of environmentalists halted the progress of the Spanish River Lumber Company. This company had plans to cut down the great pines beloved by Jackson which grew along the lake's shores. Due to Jackson's effective letter writing campaign this area was established as The Trout Lake Forest Reserve. In recognition of the efforts of Jackson and other members of the Ontario Society of Artists, the lake was re-named O.S.A. Lake in 1933. In 1959, the KPP area was set aside as a wilderness reserve. Killarney finally became a Provincial Park in 1964, thanks to the continued lobbying efforts of the Ontario Society of Artists.

Nestled between Blue Ridge to the north and Killarney Ridge to the south, O.S.A. with its many islands is considered one of the most scenic locations in the park. These white quartzite ridges surround the lake, rising steeply out of its crystal clear waters offering excellent opportunities for off-trail ridge hiking. The tops of these ridges are studded with oak trees and thickets of blueberry bushes which attract a variety of local wildlife. Amateur botanists should look out for the small blackened water pools which play host to unique plant life spurred by humid weather in the summer months. Please remember if hiking to always bring proper footwear, a map, and compass.

When choosing a campsite for the night, we recommend site #29. This site has excellent swimming and stunning views of the La Cloche Range; and at the right time of year, blueberries can be found growing nearby.

Near the eastern end of the lake, there is an island upon which sits the foundations of a historic trapper's cabin. Although this is a nice spot for pictures, due to the fragility of the land and ruins the park prohibits access to the island itself.

### **Day 2:**

***Campsite*** – O.S.A. Lake

There is the option to hike The Crack today, if this is of interest get an early start!

### **PORTAGE FROM O.S.A LAKE TO KILLARNEY LAKE**

The 455m portage from O.S.A to Killarney Lake begins at a shallow gravel beach and provides good footing. Expect a gradual incline and decline before reaching Killarney. There is an alternate portage, however this route can be difficult to reach due to shallow water levels at times and the portage itself is more strenuous.

### **KILLARNEY LAKE**

Beautiful Killarney Lake is bordered on all sides by the La Cloche Range. White quartzite cliffs bring out the striking indigo-turquoise colour of Killarney's waters. This beautiful hue is due to its low levels of suspended silt, organic matter, and microscopic organisms.

Killarney Lake is also quite popular due to its striking beauty and ease of access. It can be explored as a day trip from George Lake, and for interior campers, it is often a first stop on paddler's itineraries. Killarney Lake makes for a great place to spend a few nights due to the day trip possibilities available. In either direction are beautiful lakes to visit: O.S.A, Muriel, Artist, and Topaz in one direction and Norway, Sandy, and beyond in the other direction. The Crack viewpoint can be accessed from the Killarney to Kakakise portage, and the ridges all around the lake make for excellent off-trail hiking. Whenever going off trail, make sure you have a map, compass, and a buddy.

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Along the north shore, archaeological surveys of Killarney Lake's ancient beaches have turned up evidence of prehistoric humans. Quartzite flakes, broken stone tools, and fire-cracked rocks suggest a culture which highly valued the quartzite found there. If lucky enough to find such archaeological remains please leave them undisturbed.

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

If hiking The Crack is of interest pull out the map and locate the portage separating Killarney Lake from Kakakise. Paddle to this portage and leave the canoe off to the side! Hike this portage until it intersects with the day hike trail to The Crack...take a left!

### **THE CRACK**

The Crack is a popular spot for many adventurous paddlers to take a crack at! This is an excellent day hike which culminates in a spectacular panorama of the Killarney Provincial Park and Georgian Bay areas. "The Crack" is a section of the Killarney Ridge that has separated over many years. Hikers are now able to climb the small slope in between the now two ridges, and have an amazing view of the surrounding area from the top. This is a popular spot for day trippers so find a piece for you. Have lunch and soak up some sun. The trail is of moderate difficulty with some steep sections but is well worth the effort upon reaching the top.

### **Day 3:**

***Return Point:*** George Lake Access Point

Although this was a short trip, this route leads along some of the most sought after views of Killarney! Pack up the site on O.S.A. and paddle east to reach the portage accessing Killarney Lake.

Paddle to the southern shores of the lake to find the next portage of the day!

### **PORTAGE FROM KILLARNEY LAKE TO FREELAND LAKE**

The 380m portage from Killarney to Freeland covers flat to moderate terrain. It begins at a wide shallow landing along the southern shores of Killarney Lake. This portage follows a small stream through a canopy of mountain maple, birch, and pine. Once at Freeland Lake watch footing as it can sometimes be muddy and wet.

### **FREELAND LAKE**

Freeland is a shallow lake, and during the summer can be full of aquatic plants such as pickerel weed and water lilies. Twist and turn through the paths in order not to damage this beautiful flora. Also be on the lookout for the moose, beaver, muskrat, and herons who feed on these plants. This is a great place to see some wildlife - if quiet.

### **PORTAGE FROM FREELAND LAKE TO GEORGE LAKE**

This portage is only 80m, but be careful it is a little rocky. It is also extremely easy to find, as it has a wooden dock to land at. On this busy portage, as on all portages, gear should be moved off to the side before beginning to carry as a courtesy to other paddlers.

### **GEORGE LAKE**

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Leaving from the George Lake main beach, gives a great feel for Killarney's stunning landscape. George Lake is unique lake at an intersection of two dominant rock types – granite on the south shore and massive quartzite cliffs on the north shore. It can be busy at times being the campground lake, but shoulder season, early morning, or sunset make great times to enjoy the lake without the crowds.

There are many nice areas around the lake to visit - the ridges on the north shore make for excellent off-trail hiking (This is rugged terrain – bring a map, compass, good footwear, and a buddy).

### **LITTLE SHEGUIANDUH LAKE**

Little Sheguiandah can be found along the southern shore of George Lake directly across from campsite #4. A small, hidden portage separates this small lake from George, well worth the lift over! Little Sheguiandah is shallow and surrounded by high red granite cliff faces making it a perfect little hideaway.

Looking to cool off? There are jumping rocks around George Lake, keep right around the first bend from the main beach to find a great spot along the shoreline of that bay! Remember to always check the depth first.

We hope you have enjoyed your Killarney adventure and hope to see you back soon!

### **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 reservation, call 1-888-ONT-PARK (668-7275), or go on-line at [www.ontarioparks.com](http://www.ontarioparks.com). An administration fee of \$10.50 will apply if your reservation is changed through the call center and \$8.50 if it is changed online. 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!***

**Killarney Outfitters ~ Killarney Ontario Canada P0M 2A0**

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