

Killarney Outfitters

Killarney Provincial Park Lake and Portage Descriptions

GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE, Killarney Provincial Park

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 rocky outcroppings to forested lowlands. The portage ends at the westernmost point on David Lake.

PORTAGE FROM GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE TO THREENARROWS LAKE VIA LITTLE MOUNTAIN LAKE & KIRK CREEK

Begin this multi-portage route with the short 55m portage to Little Mountain Lake, located at the southern tip of Great Mountain Lake. A short paddle across Little Mountain leads to the entrance to the two part Kirk Creek portage. The first 770m leg is not difficult as it is very flat, save for a moderate slope at either end. Just a short paddle across Kirk Creek to reach the second 835m leg of this route; this section is also relatively easy as it covers gently rolling terrain. Although Kirk Creek is impassable at other points, south of the second 950m portage it provides access to Threenarrows Lake 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 west on the creek, and then south. 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 last portage in this series splits, with both routes leading to Threenarrows. The eastern fork leads 130m south (this may be longer when water levels are low) to the easternmost bay on Threenarrows. Although this fork may seem like the better option, if the desired destination is the northern end of Threenarrows, it's still a long paddle (10km) to get there. Conversely, the 530m western fork leads to York Lake. Paddle west across York to find the last 785m portage leading through a forest of pine and birch to the large northern portion of Threenarrows.

PORTAGE FROM GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE TO LITTLE MOUNTAIN LAKE

Located at the southern tip of Great Mountain, this short 55m portage should present no major difficulties. However this route can sometimes be a bit slippery, so be careful with footing. Both landings are rather small and somewhat rough; especially when the wind is funnelled through the narrow gully through which the portage leads.

PORTAGE FROM GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE TO GAIL LAKE

This short 179m portage is located on the western shore of Great Mountain, just across from the lake's largest island. This relatively easy portage has only a small incline and decline to cover before it reaches the lovely shores of Gail Lake.

PORTAGE FROM GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE TO FISH LAKE

To find the entrance of this 375m portage, paddle into the central bay of Great Mountain Lake and then east along the shores of the large peninsula to the north-western shore. Continue northwest into a small marshy arm of the lake where a narrow, sometimes muddy, landing can be found. Be sure to keep an eye out for stumps and other debris in the water approaching the landing. From here, it's just an easy carry over a long gradual decline to Fish 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.

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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.

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.

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.