EASY SALTWATER LAUNCH DIVE REEFS 38 KM FROM VANCOUVER

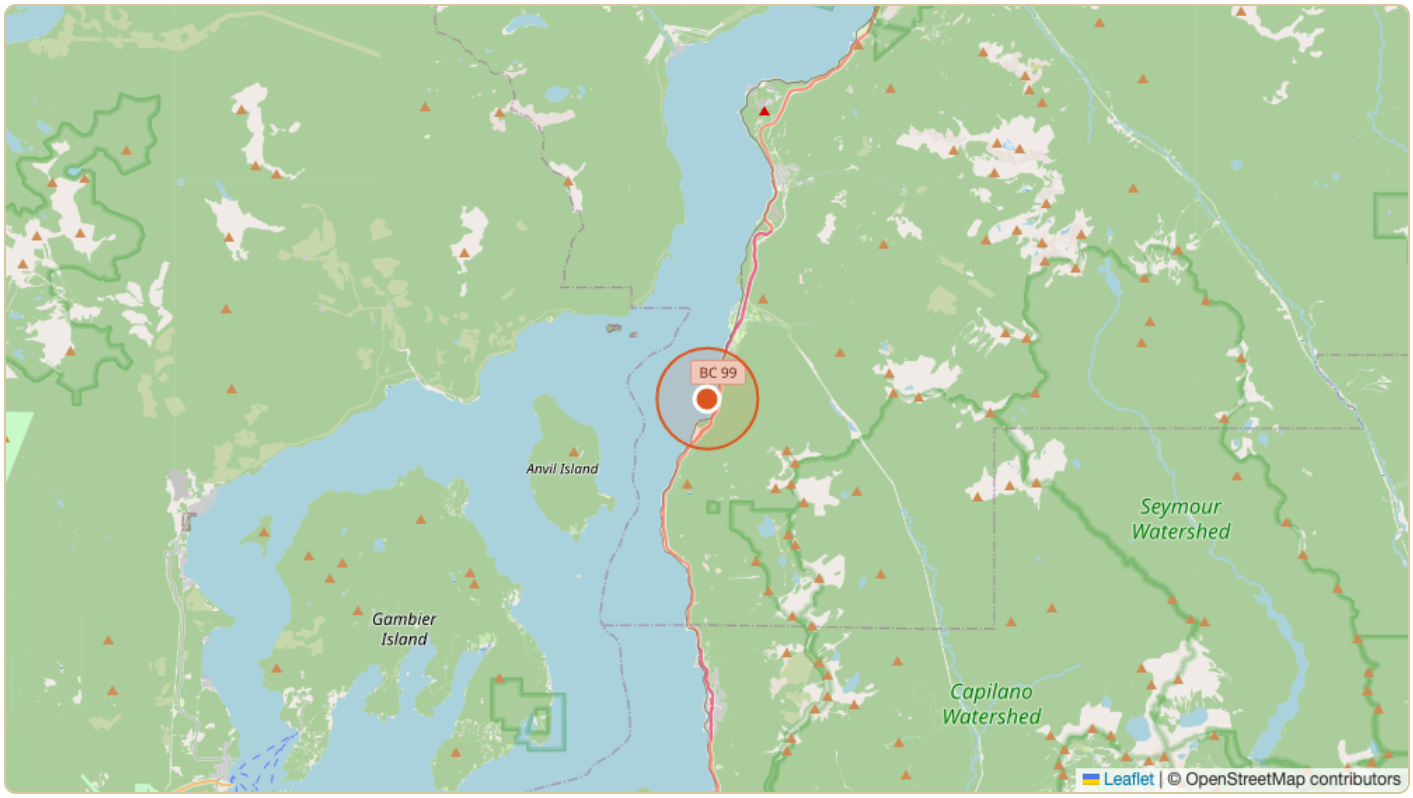
Porteau Cove

The saltwater launch and dive beach on Howe Sound, 38 km north of Vancouver: what BC Parks says about boats, anchoring and diving.

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH FIRST. This is not a navigation tool and must not be your only source. Confirm everything with the land manager.

DIFFICULTY	LOCATION	BOAT LAUNCH
Easy	**38 km N**	**Yes**
Beach and launch	Of Vancouver on Hwy 99	Not for scuba divers

ANCHORING	DIVE REEFS	DOGS
Prohibited	**6–18 m**	**Leashed**
Within the park	Marked by buoys	Not on beach areas



Approximate area only, not a trailhead or route. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Park	Porteau Cove Provincial Park
Access	Hwy 99, 20 km south of Squamish
Boat launch	Yes; scuba divers may not use it
Anchoring	Prohibited in the park
Diving	From shore; no diving from boats in the park

To Anvil Island	≈ 5 km paddle (one guide)

Overview

Porteau Cove Provincial Park is 38 km north of Vancouver on Highway 99, 20 km south of Squamish and 8.5 km south of Britannia Beach. BC Parks says there is a boat launch but scuba divers may not use it, anchoring is prohibited within the park boundary and diving from a boat is prohibited within the park.

The beach is rock and pebble. One guide says the beach and trailhead on Anvil Island are about 5 km from Porteau Cove by paddle: see our Anvil Island guide.

Boat launch · No anchoring · Dive reefs · Leashed dogs

Getting there

Highway 99 38 km north of Vancouver, 20 km south of Squamish and 8.5 km south of Britannia Beach.

Launch BC Parks mentions a boat launch but gives no hours or fees. Scuba divers may not use it.

Camping and day use See our Porteau Cove Provincial Park guide for camping and season details.

Rules & safety

Anchoring Anchoring is prohibited within the park boundary.

Diving The dive area is marked by buoys. Penetrating the sunken vessels is not recommended, and diving from a boat is prohibited within the park.

Beach The beach is rock and pebble, and BC Parks recommends sneakers or beach shoes. No lifeguards.

Dogs Leashed at all times, not on beach areas or in park buildings.

Questions

Where is Porteau Cove?
BC Parks says 38 km north of Vancouver on Highway 99, 20 km south of Squamish and 8.5 km south of Britannia Beach.

Can I launch a boat?
There is a boat launch, but scuba divers may not use it. Anchoring is prohibited within the park boundary.

Can I dive from a boat?
No. Diving from a boat is prohibited within the park boundary.

Is it open in winter?
Day use is open with limited facilities.

Safety checklist

Tell someone your plan Leave your route, group size and expected return time with someone you trust, and check in when you are back. BC AdventureSmart (adventuresmart.ca) has a free trip-plan form.

Check conditions the same day Look at the weather, road and trail conditions, closures and (in snow season) the avalanche forecast on the day you go, not last week. Use the land manager's page for this guide.

Set a turnaround time Pick a time to turn back whatever happens, start early, and carry a headlamp. Most trips go wrong in the last hours of the day.

Carry the essentials Water, food, navigation (map and offline GPS), light, first aid, extra layers, sun protection, a whistle and fire or shelter. A phone alone is not a plan.

Emergencies Call 911. Cell coverage is unreliable or absent in much of the Sea to Sky backcountry, so consider a satellite messenger and know your location.

Water and wildlife Wear a life jacket on the water: cold water can disable you in minutes. Carry bear spray where bears are present, keep food secured and give wildlife space.

Sources & disclaimer

This guide draws on BC Parks: Porteau Cove Park; Inside Vancouver: Porteau Cove to Anvil Island.

Last checked November 18, 2026. Figures marked ≈ are approximate, and sources sometimes disagree. Always confirm with the land manager before you go.

Outdoor recreation involves risk, including serious injury and death. This guide is general information compiled from the public sources listed above and was last checked on November 18, 2026. Conditions, access, closures, fees and rules change, and some figures differ between sources. It is not a substitute for current information from the land manager, for proper skills, equipment and preparation, or for your own judgment. You are responsible for your own safety and decisions. To the extent permitted by law, Sea to Sky Trails and its authors accept no liability for loss, injury or damage arising from use of this guide.

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