

ACCVI 2023 Wheeler Hut Camp – Information Guide

August 13-20, 2023

General

The purpose and intent of the ACCVI summer camps is to provide a variety of remote mountain experiences and opportunities to club members. Activities may include mountaineering, glacier travel, rock climbing, hiking, and scrambling, within a social, supportive, team-oriented environment.

The Area

Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park is one of the most spectacular and accessible regions in the Canadian Selkirks. Camp participants will find a great variety of exhilarating hiking, scrambling and climbing opportunities here, along with the comfort and convenience of staying in the ACC's A. O. Wheeler Hut. These activities both develop skills and foster camaraderie among ACCVI Section members. An experience to cherish!

Accommodation

We will have the exclusive use of the Wheeler Hut, which is unique among ACC huts in being accessible by car from parking, just beyond the Illecillewaet Campground. For sleeping, there are rooms with foam mattresses on platforms and overall space for up to 30 people (though we are planning for 25).

For cooking, there is a well-equipped kitchen with a propane gas stove with oven, additional countertop burners, pots, pans, plates, dishes and cutlery. Gas lamps provide light in the evening. An outhouse is a short distance from the hut. There is no electricity or running water – water is obtained from the nearby stream and must be boiled before consumption. This is a communal activity, and everyone is encouraged to pitch in to draw and boil the water as required. There is also no refrigeration in the hut, and it is not allowed to put food outside or in the creek to cool it. There are wood stoves for warmth and drying gear and an ample supply of firewood.

We have also reserved three nights at the 2100-m Asulkan Cabin, so that camp participants can spend a night or two up there with its access to glaciers and snowfields. The cabin sleeps 10, so everyone will have the opportunity of staying there a night if they wish.

Transportation

You'll need to arrange your own transportation to the Wheeler Hut to arrive on Sunday, August 13, but we'll do our best to arrange for car-pooling in advance. Most people will probably reserve and catch the 7 AM ferry and drive up to Rogers Pass in one day. We'll leave for home on the following Sunday, August 20.

You will need to purchase a National Parks vehicle pass for your car while in Glacier National Park. They are not cheap! - about \$150 for a family group annual Discovery Pass (up to seven people arriving in a single vehicle). It can work to share the cost among the travellers and then

share the pass on trips during the next year. You can buy the pass at a National Parks entry booth or on-line.

Food and Meals

You will need to take care of your own breakfasts, lunches, snacks and beverages. For dinners, participants will have been organized into seven cooking teams, each providing one evening meal for the entire group of about 25. The meal should include appetizers, main course and dessert, and be designed with accommodating possible vegetarian participants in mind. It works well to have a pasta/rice dish, a substantial vegetarian sauce, and a separate meat side sauce/dish. The cooking group cleans up after the meal as well and also disposes of garbage/refuse/compost the next morning. Careful planning for portion size of the shared meal is important so left-overs and food waste are minimized.

Cooking for the group provides flexibility for all members to make the most of every day, with the exception of a single cooking evening, and provides the opportunity for all members to creatively consider and contribute to others' welfare and dietary needs. This is part of the social interaction and team effort of these camps.

People with allergies or food sensitivities may bring supplemental food of their own while **participating in the communal meals to the degree possible** (most allergies and sensitivities will be identified in the camp planning process).

Since there is no refrigeration at the hut, and all food must be stored indoors (cupboards are provided), well-keeping and/or dried foodstuffs are a necessity. Please also note that there are no food/grocery outlets nearby, although Revelstoke and Golden are each about a 45-minute drive away if you wish to buy fresh food or perishables for your cooking night.

Those who wish to stay at the Asulkan Hut for one or two nights will be responsible for their own dinners. Participants will need to carry out their own garbage.

General Camp Information

- Participants are expected to be active in camp life and participate in group activities. You should understand and respect all Summer Camp policies as set out in this guide and communicated by the Camp Managers.
- Waiver. You will need to sign an ACC waiver to come on the camp. A copy is available on our Section's website. Please read it carefully beforehand and be prepared to sign it when you arrive at the hut.
- You will need to bring your own personal gear, including clothing, toiletries, sleeping bag and day pack.
- Each day, groups assemble for different trips based on recreational interest. Each evening, people come together to share a meal, tell stories of the day and relax before retiring.
- Participants spend most days in small self-guided groups walking, hiking, scrambling, crossing glaciers, and/or achieving mountain summits or technical rock-climbing objectives. The length and duration of any day's activities depends on the particular group, but typical groups are away from camp for 4 hours or more.
- Groups sign out and back in a sign-out sheet binder so that there is a record of where everyone is going for the day. When you return, be sure to note that on the sheet.

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- Quiet hours are 10 PM to 7 AM. Please respect this, as people will be trying to sleep during this time. If you will be up early for an alpine start, please have your gear and food prepared the previous night so as to minimize disturbance for the others in the pre-dawn hours.
- Ear plugs. Inevitably some of your fellow campers will be snorers, so it is highly advisable to bring ear plugs to help you get a sound night's sleep.
- Radios. We provide radios so that each group will have a way of communicating during trips. Every two hours on the even hour we'll have a radio check-in.
- First aid. A club-supplied first aid kit will be taken to the hut, but you should bring your own personal first aid kit with the basic essentials.
- Club-provided materials. Along with the first aid kit, we will provide toilet paper, hand sanitizer, tea towels, matches/lighters, batteries for the smoke detector, and garbage bags. But please bring at least one roll of toilet paper yourself in case of an unexpected shortage!
- Music. There should be a guitar at the Wheeler Hut. No electronic musical devices, please!
- People are encouraged to write up their trips and experiences in a log book (supplied). A volunteer will be sought to write up the story of the entire camp for the Island Bushwhacker Annual, and the log book is invaluable for this purpose.
- Emergencies. Call 911 for police, fire or ambulance, or 1-877-852-3100 for Parks Canada Dispatch. Tell dispatchers you have a backcountry emergency and require assistance.
- Cell service in the park is sporadic and you may need to drive some distance along the highway to find a spot where it is available. Texting is more reliable than voice.

Safety

- Safety while in camp and on daily expeditions is a key element of success of Summer Camps.
- For your own and others' safety and enjoyment, you should have a reasonable degree of fitness. Typical day hikes (see list below) may involve 10 km distance and 500-1000m elevation gain.
- Participants are highly discouraged from undertaking solo excursions from camp. Group size improves response and outcomes from accidents, injuries, getting lost and other emergencies. Time for others to locate and administer assistance to a lone hiker in an emergency situation can be substantial.
- While away from camp, participants are expected to carry foul weather clothing, survival gear and their own personal first aid kit and necessary medications.
- Campers are advised to give a duplicate set of medications to another camper in case their own supply is lost or damaged (e.g., gets wet).
- Each hiking group carries an FRS radio, or several if the group is larger or may split up during the day. Radio check-ins are scheduled every two hours, or more often if needed.
- Personal emergency satellite communication devices (such as SPOT X, Garmin InReach, ACR Bivy Stick, etc.) are NOT provided – participants may use their own if desired.
- Batteries, battery chargers, and solar chargers are kept in camp for use ONLY for camp FSR radios and the satellite phone; they are NOT for personal use.
- For scrambles you will need to wear a helmet.
- For climbs and/or glacier travel, ropes, helmets, and harnesses, and crampons ice axes are required.
- We recommend that you bring your own climbing ropes. The Section may provide one or two ropes suitable for glacier travel.
- The Section has some gear available for rental – please see our website.

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- Camp members are a team which, in the case of sickness or emergency, is expected to pull together to ensure the safety of all.
- There are no hired medical practitioners in camp. However, it is likely that each camp week will include some members who have first aid training, current or expired.
- There are no hired hiking guides or instructors in camp. A mix of hikers, technical climbers and mountaineers attend these camps and some mentoring within the bounds of safety may be offered. Members are encouraged to participate in activities within their comfort level.
- Participants under 19 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Participants are expected to follow guidance presented in the [ACCVI 2023 Wheeler Hut Camp Communicable Diseases Prevention Plan](#).
- Participants from outside BC should ensure their personal medical coverage is sufficient. Emergency evacuation by Search and Rescue in BC is free of charge, however other emergency medical, hospital and transportation costs can be substantial.

Registration and Cost

Initial registration is limited to (1) ACC members of the Vancouver Island Section with addresses on Vancouver Island or adjacent Islands, or (2) non-local ACCVI members who have a history of service to the VI section. Beyond this initial priority period of four weeks following opening of registration, all ACC members are welcome to apply to register. Members who are not currently VI section members are required to take out a VI section membership before registering. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis subject to the initial priority restriction.

The cost for the camp is \$550.

Announcements about opening of registration will be made on the ACCVI Events web page, the ACCVI Forum, and emails and newsletters to members.

We have adopted an online registration form (a Google Form). This online registration form will not be accessible until registration is open. The registration form is simple and intuitive:

- Click [here](#) to access the online registration form.
- Follow the online instructions and provide information by entering short answers and/or checking boxes.
- Click on “Submit” to complete the registration form and send it off.
- An acknowledgement of a completed form will be displayed on-screen.

To register, registrants must first fill out and submit the on-line registration form. We will respond by email confirming eligibility for camp (i.e., ACCVI membership, residency, completed registration form) and whether there is space. Once these have been confirmed, you will be asked to pay the fee. Electronic transfer can be made to wheeler@accvi.ca. (No cheques, please.)

Registration will be given final confirmation only when the completed registration form has been received and the payment of fees has been received. This will be confirmed by email.

If all the camp spaces have been filled, you'll have the option of being put on a wait-list in case a space becomes available in the future. Registrants on the wait list are asked not to submit camp fees until they are offered a spot in camp.

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We will hold a planning meeting in Victoria during June or July, at which cooking groups and travel groups will be finalized, and you'll have a chance to ask questions and meet your fellow campers.

In the event you have to withdraw, the ACCVI will assist in advertising your place, however, a refund will only be expected if and when a replacement is confirmed.

Participants under 19 years of age will need an accompanying parent or guardian.

We make every effort to budget carefully for these costs, but there are always unknowns, such as the total number of people who sign up. The Summer Camp Committee have therefore developed the following policies to ensure the final costs are fairly covered:

1. If there is a surplus of >10% of the cost paid, participants will be refunded their share of the surplus. These amounts will be calculated and distributed in a timely way after the camp.
2. If there is a shortfall, participants will be asked for a contribution to make up the deficit. Again this calculation will be made in a timely way after the camp.

Further Information

For inquiries or more information about the summer camp, please contact Cedric Zala or Geoff Bennett at wheeler@accvi.ca.

ACCVI's Motto:

- 1) *Come back alive*
- 2) *Come back friends*
- 3) *Respect the land*
- 4) *Have fun*
- 5) *Get to the top*

Objectives from Wheeler Hut or Nearby

Some hiking options are (one-way distance, elevation gain):

- 1885 Trail (to Loop Brook): 2.9 km, 219 m
- Avalanche Crest Trail: 4.2 km, 795 m
- Sir Donald Trail: 4 km, 915 m
- Perley Rock Trail: 5.6 km, 900 m
- Great Glacier Trail: 4.8 km, 320 m
- Glacier Crest Trail: 4.9 km, 1005 m
- Asulkan Valley Trail (to Cabin): 6.5 km, 925 m
- Meeting of the Waters Trail: 1 km, 10 m
- Marion Lake Trail: 2.2 km, 425 m
- Abbot Ridge: 5 km, 1040 m
- Balu Pass (trailhead at Rogers Pass Visitor Centre): 5 km, 748 m
- Hermit Trail (trailhead 2 km north of Rogers Pass Visitor Centre): 2.8 km, 770 m

Scrambles include:

- Eagle Peak (2846 m)

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- Uto Peak (2927 m - a scramble from west side, but an excellent climb from the Uto-Sir Donald col)

Climbing and mountaineering opportunities include:

- Mount Sir Donald (3284 m)
- Jupiter Traverse, or the full Asulkan-Jupiter Traverse

Other Opportunities:

- Mount Revelstoke Park is a 90-km (80-minute) drive from Rogers Pass, and its trails have substantially less elevation gain than many of those in the Rogers Pass area
- If you need a spa break, Albert Canyon Hot Springs Resort, a 33-km (23-minute) drive, has mineral pools for a fee (\$15 or so)

For further details, consult a current map or guidebook.