

Trip Report

Elfin Lakes, August 9, 2022

On this hot sunny Tuesday, 8 of us arrived enthusiastically at the trail head of Elfin Lakes, Garibaldi Provincial Park. This is a scenic 22 km hike with an elevation gain of 600 meters. We started our hike at 9:30 am up the wide gravel road. There were lots of black flies and they were feasting on us as soon as we stopped for a little break. If you plan on visiting the Garibaldi Provincial Park in summer, remember to bring insect repellent and a mesh bug shield over your head. I guarantee you won't regret it. After hiking a little over an hour, we reached the Red Heather Shelter and chatted with a few backpackers who were heading up the Elfin Lake campground and spending the night. The trails were ascending gradually as we enjoyed the scenic alpine views around us. It was really breathtaking and soon we saw two cabins in the distance around 12 noon. As we continued, the trail started descending towards the two lakes. Elfin Lakes consist of two small and scenic lakes. People are allowed to swim in the first lake while the second one is reserved for drinking. Around 12:30 pm, we arrived at an area with big boulders and a panoramic view of the Elfin Lakes and the surrounding area. Su-Jane announced that we would have one hour for lunch and enjoy the scenery. Rimka and I decided to head down to the lake so we could put our feet into the cool water. Wasting no time, Catherine R. was soon changed into her bathing suit and got in for a refreshing swim. After lunch, we all walked around the lake area and saw lots of tents in the camping area. There were two tall racks where campers may hoist up their food bags to safeguard from the bears and other animals. Now it was time to head back. As we descended, we again encountered the large patches of snow next to the trail. Lina and Catherine were stuffing snow into their hats and into their bras to keep cool. Su-Jane, Rimka, Lina and I arrived at the parking lot at 4:45 pm while the rest of the group joined us around 5 pm. It was the most beautiful and memorable hike we had.

Trip report by Winnie
Photos by Janice, Lina, Su-Jane