

Frequently Asked Questions

What is provided at a backcountry campsite? These campsites provide the barest of essentials for those who desire simplicity and being surrounded by nature to complete their outdoor experience. Designated campsites are identified by a site marker and have a fire pit, in some locations a pit privy and a picnic table may also be present on the site. Campers are expected to be self-sufficient; water needs to be boiled or filtered and all garbage should be packed out.

Can backcountry sites be reserved? Most backcountry sites are first-come, first-served. However, there are some exceptions in Nopiming Provincial Park and western Manitoba. Check the charts [walk-in](#) and [water route](#) categories for details. Some parks may require you to check-in prior to heading out on your adventures. Please be aware that there is no exclusive rights to backcountry sites, backcountry travellers are expected to share sites with other groups when required.

Should I be worried about bears and other wildlife? Follow this link to the brochure [Wildlife Smart – Coexisting with Black Bears](#).

Can I camp anywhere? You must camp at a designated site for walk-in and water route backcountry camping. A select number of parks offer open wilderness camping areas but this style of camping requires extra preparation and is not intended for beginner campers.

Are sites maintained? Remember that you are sharing the experience with others during and after your trip. Keeping our water routes and backcountry clean is everyone's responsibility. Always carry out everything you carry in - there are no regular patrols for maintenance and garbage collection. Practise [Leave No Trace](#) principles in order to protect our wilderness and to ensure that everyone can continue to enjoy it in the future. Please keep these seven principles in mind when planning a backcountry trip:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife.
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

How long can I camp at a site? First-come, first-served backcountry campers may occupy a site for up to three days. For campsites that can be reserved, campers can reserve a site for up to 7 days.

Are there group size restrictions? At Shoe Lake in Nopiming Provincial Park, a group use site allows larger groups to camp and experience the backcountry together. In all other locations. Groups of 10 or more must apply for a [special events permit](#) prior to their trip.

How do I start planning? Take a look at the information and links provided by the amenities charts available by clicking on the type of camping. We also recommend that you consult a recommended gear list when packing for your trip. Remember to always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return. Cell service is minimal in almost all remote areas of provincial parks— carrying a GPS transmitter or satellite phone is recommended.

Can I have a fire? Open fires are prohibited, designated sites are equipped with fire pits and we recommend using a camp stove in wilderness camping areas. Report Wildfires 1-800-782-0076

Backcountry Paddler's Checklist

Consult a canoeing book or brochure and/or talk to experienced canoeists regarding appropriate gear to bring. This checklist is intended to remind you of essential equipment only.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe or kayak | <input type="checkbox"/> First-aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddles (including a spare) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tent | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PFD/life jacket for each person on the trip | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen/sunglasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Topographical map/compass/global positioning system (GPS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking implements | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof matches/fire starter, in a waterproof container | <input type="checkbox"/> Food (for one more day than planned) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small flashlight |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle for each person on the trip, plus spare(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket knife |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper |