

Killarney Outfitters

Killarney Provincial Park Lake and Portage Descriptions

O.S.A. LAKE, Killarney Provincial Park

PORTAGE FROM O.S.A LAKE TO KILLARNEY LAKE

The 455m portage from O.S.A to Killarney Lake begins at a shallow gravel beach and provides good footing. Expect a gradual incline and decline before reaching Killarney. There is an alternate portage, however this route can be difficult to reach due to shallow water levels at times and the portage itself is more strenuous.

PORTAGE FROM O.S.A LAKE TO MURIEL LAKE

This 595m portage can be found on the western most arm of O.S.A. Lake. Please watch footing here as a layer of duff covers the bedrock and can create slippery conditions. This portage is particularly scenic as it passes through a hemlock forest.

O.S.A LAKE

O.S.A., formerly known as Trout Lake, is the true birthplace of Killarney Provincial Park. It was here that Group of Seven Painter A.Y. Jackson and a group of environmentalists halted the progress of the Spanish River Lumber Company. This company had plans to cut down the great pines beloved by Jackson which grew along the lake's shores. Due to Jackson's effective letter writing campaign this area was established as The Trout Lake Forest reserve. In recognition of the efforts of Jackson and other members of the Ontario Society of Artists, the lake was re-named O.S.A. Lake in 1933. In 1959, the KPP area was set aside as a wilderness preserve. Killarney finally became a Provincial Park in 1964, thanks to the continued lobbying efforts of the Ontario Society of Artists.

Nestled between Blue Ridge to the north and Killarney Ridge to the south, O.S.A. with its many islands is considered one of the most scenic locations in the park. These white quartzite ridges surround the lake, rising steeply out of its crystal clear waters offering excellent opportunities for off-trail ridge hiking. The tops of these ridges are studded with oak trees and thickets of blueberry bushes which attract a variety of local wildlife. Amateur botanists should look out for the small blackened water pools which play host to unique plant life spurred by humid weather in the summer months. Please remember if hiking to always bring proper footwear, a map, and compass.

Near the eastern end of the lake, there is a small island upon which sits the foundations of a historic trapper's cabin. Although this is a nice spot for pictures, due to the fragility of the land and ruins the park prohibits access to the island itself.

Please note that O.S.A. 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 #29. This site has excellent swimming and stunning views of the La Cloche Range; and at the right time of year, blueberries can be found growing nearby.