

Hiking the Stawamus Chief

The main starting point for this hike is from the Stawamus Chief parking lot. From the parking lot head along the trail through to the far end of the campsite, here you will find the stairs to begin your hike. This is a moderately difficult hike with some ladders, chains and very steep sections. Hikers should know their limits and be prepared for the elements.

To ensure your day of hiking is safe and enjoyable please note the following hiking tips:

Be prepared: Take the essentials, Leave a trip plan with a responsible party, be bear and cougar aware, know the weather conditions. For details on preparedness check Adventuresmart.ca or [click here](#).

Leave no Trace: pick up after your pets, pack out all your litter, and take with you only photographs.

Stay on the Trail: Shortcuts cause major trail erosion and may be unsafe.

Use Caution: There are many steep sections where mud, moss, and loose gravel can become very slippery.

Directions

The first 30 to 45 minutes you will steadily climb uphill on wooden steps and a dirt path. Upon reaching a junction, stay left and in another 10 minutes, or so, you will arrive at a fork where you can decide which peak to climb. All three peaks can be completed in about 5 hours roundtrip, or for a shorter hike you can choose just one of the peaks. All three peaks offer stunning views of Howe sound and the city of Squamish.

First Peak – 610 m approximate roundtrip hiking time of 3.5 hours

At the junction stay left. Follow the stairs up, eventually the forest gives way to exposed rock. Use the chains and ropes to help pull your way up to the summit.

If you plan on ascending the other two peaks, head back down the route you came and back into the forest. Walk back down to the junction you passed earlier and go left (right if you were coming uphill) towards second peak.

Second Peak – 655m approximate roundtrip hiking time of 4 hours

At the junction follow the signs to second peak. This trail will eventually lead to chains and then a ladder which helps you onto the rock near the peak. Follow the orange markers from here up the rock to second peak.

If you plan on ascending third peak from here follow the orange markers northward and drop down through the trees into the saddle. Continue in this direction up a rocky section, follow a ridge to the left and in a short distance you will find Third peak.

Third Peak – 702m approximate roundtrip hiking time of 4 hours

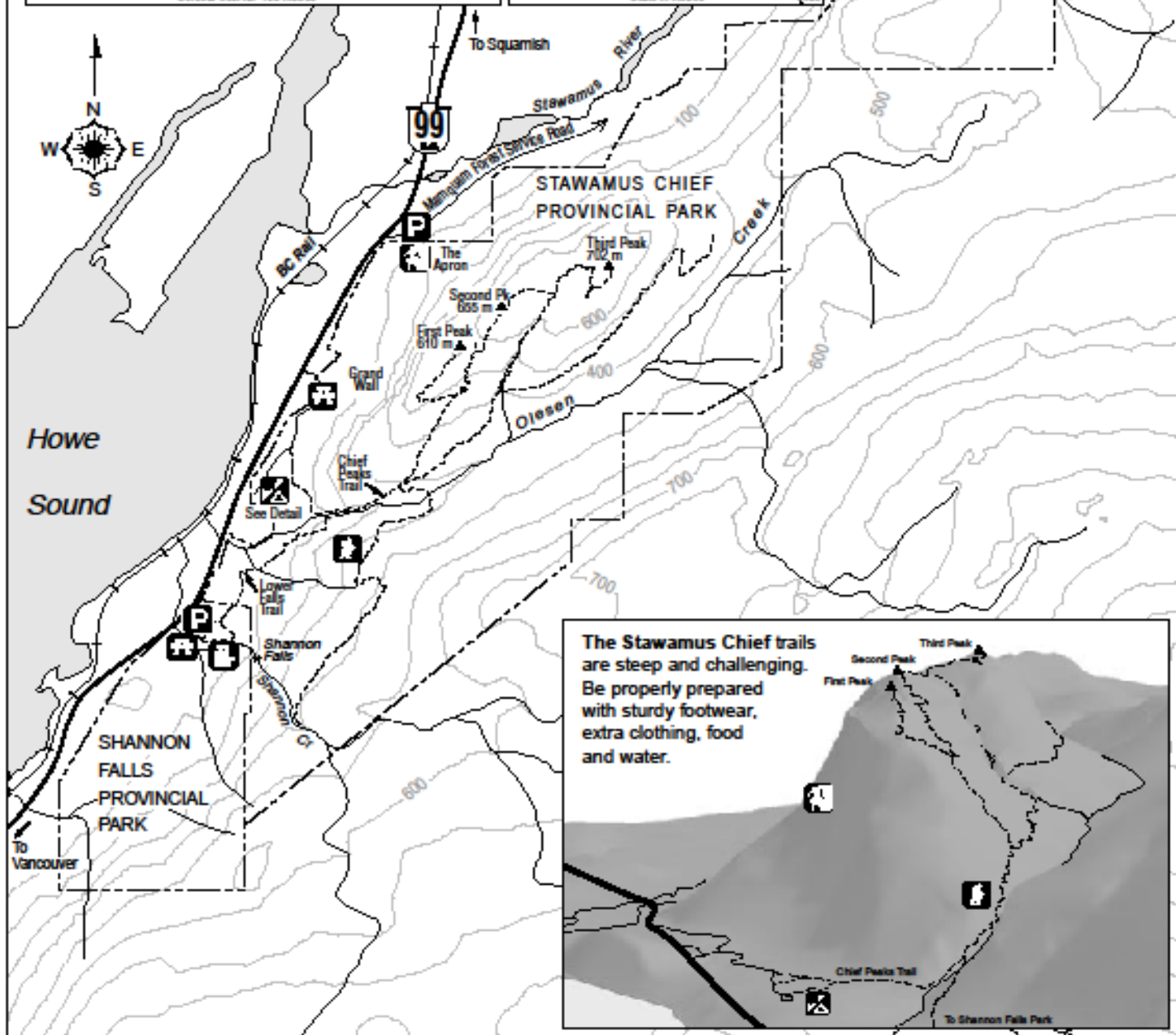
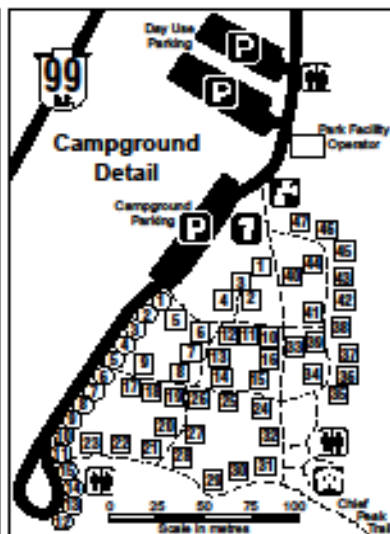
This is the highest peak of the three Chief peaks. At the junction follow the signs to Third peak. This trail continues upward over dirt and rocks until you reach the peak. This is the longest of the trails but has no ladders or chains to climb.

To return follow the route you came up and remember if you are heading back to Shannon Falls you must take a left at the bridge on your way down or you will end up at the Stawamus Chief Parking lot.

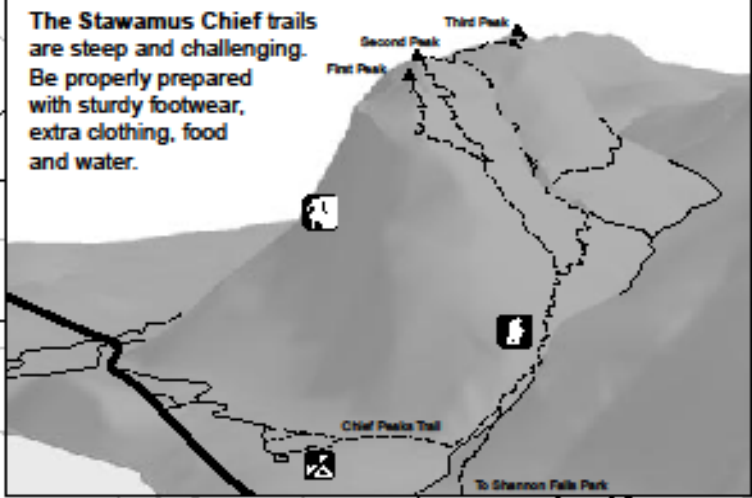
Stawamus Chief and Shannon Falls Provincial Parks

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|----------------|
| | Campground | | Information |
| | Vehicle Camping | | Water |
| | Tent Camping | | Toilets |
| | Picnicking | | Picnic Shelter |
| | Parking | | Viewpoint |
| | Rock Climbing | | Road |
| | Hiking | | Trail |
| | | | Park Boundary |

Scale in metres
Contour interval 100 metres



The Stawamus Chief trails are steep and challenging. Be properly prepared with sturdy footwear, extra clothing, food and water.



About The Chief

The Stawamus Chief was named after the Native village, STA-a-mus, located at the north end of the Squamish River. It is the second largest granite monolith in the world and provides a good nesting habitat for the Peregrine Falcon. Due to the attraction of these falcons, please respect them and keep your distance. Viewing is best with a pair of binoculars or other viewing aides.

The Chief is a popular destination for hikers and climbers. It is recommended that you are in good physical condition to attempt these hikes and climbs. In sharing the space with wildlife, please respect and obey the posted closure of climbing routes on the Chief from March to July, during the critical nesting season of the Peregrine Falcons.

The Stawamus Chief Provincial Park is the home of a 700 meter tall granite monolith well known for its climbing and hiking trails. Please report any observations of the Peregrine Falcons to (604) 898-3678 ext. 2221. Hiking trails can be accessed from the day-use parking lot near the campground or from Shannon Falls Provincial Park.



SEA TO SKY PARKS
PARK FACILITY OPERATOR

Serving you in BC Parks

www.seatoskyparks.com

604.986.9371

info@seatoskyparks.com