

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do I catch the tour bus?

The tours leave from the CRD Field Office parking lot at 2955 Sooke Lake Road (near Goldstream Park campground) and return to the parking lot at the end of the tour. There will be a sign on the road indicating the tour parking area. There is a BC transit bus stop about 5- 10 minute walk from the parking lot. See BC Transit #58 Goldstream Meadows.

For those registered for the Saturday June tours, there is an optional pick up at the Integrated Water Services Office (479 Island Highway) leaving at 9:00am to pick up more passengers at the Field Office parking lot by 9:15am. At the end of the tour the bus will drop passengers off at both locations.

What will I see?

Long Tour:

Sooke Lake Reservoir and the water supply intake, dam and spillway

One of the main streams supplying the reservoir

A walk in the Forest

The Deception Reservoir and dam

The Goldstream Reservoir and dam

Short Tour:

A walk in the Forest

Sooke Lake Reservoir and the water supply intake, dam and spillway

The Goldstream Reservoir and dam

*The Japan Gulch Disinfection Facility is under construction so the tours will not be able to visit this year.

Will there be a lot of hiking?

There will be some short walks at some of the stops. There is a walk of several hundred metres through the forest. However, no one needs to get off the bus if they are unable to walk.

What should I wear?

Wear clothes suitable for the weather because the tours will go ahead even if it is raining. It can be windy and cooler up at Sooke Dam because it is higher in elevation than down in the city. The weather can change so it is a good idea to wear layers. Wear walking shoes.

What time will we be back?

Long Tour (5.5 – 6.0hr):

The bus leaves the CRD Field Office Parking (2955 Sooke lake Road) at 9:15am and returns to the parking lot around 3pm.

For those registered for the Saturday June tours there is an optional pick-up (at 9:00am) and drop-off at the IWS office (479 Island Highway).

Short Tour (3hr):

The morning short tour will begin at the CRD Field Office Parking lot (2955 Sooke lake Road) at 9:15am and returns to the parking lot at 12:15pm. The afternoon tour will leave the CRD Field Office Parking lot (2955 Sooke lake Road) at 1:15pm and returns to the parking lot around 4:15pm.

We cannot guarantee that the bus will be back exactly at these times, but the tour leader will try to be back by then.

How many people on a tour?

The tours (Long & Short) can accommodate 42.

Do I need to bring anything?

Bring your questions, a camera, a lunch or snack and something to drink. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Can I bring my children?

The Long and Short tour is unsuitable for children under 12 years of age because the information provided is geared towards adults.

Is there a Waitlist?

Yes – Please register and the system will put your name on the waitlist and notify you via email if there is an opening.

Wheelchair Accessibility?

No - Not at this time. The buses used for the tours are not wheelchair accessible (no lifts). They are school buses that have no storage. Please leave your name, phone number and email address to be added to a waitlist. If there is enough interest (10+) we will provide a dedicated tour in the fall. Please feel free to email watertours@crd.bc.ca or to contact Kathy Haesevoets at 250- 474-9627 or Annette Constabel at 250-391-3556 to discuss options.

Are there Washrooms?

Outhouses are located at each stop. There is no washroom on the bus. .

Why can we only register for one tour?

Tours are offered as a public service and they are intended to provide an opportunity for all residents of the Region to visit the water supply area and to see first-hand where their tap water comes from. Space is limited and tours do fill-up. In order to ensure that this opportunity is available to as many residents as possible, we ask that you choose the tour that interests you the most and register for only one tour.

More Info:

Visit www.crd.bc.ca/watertours for more information on:

- Map of Tour routes
- Parking Location Map
- BC Transit bus trip planning link
- Tour Details

If you have any questions or comments, please contact watertours@crd.bc.ca or call 250-474-9627