



## Questions and Answers about house-boating on Shuswap Lake

### 1. Isn't the lake overcrowded? Will I find privacy?

While there may be a hundred or more houseboats on the lake in mid-summer, that does not crowd the Lake. Shuswap Lake is 310 km<sup>2</sup> in size, with a shore line of 600 km. Cinnemousin Narrows may get a bit crowded, and you may have company at a few of the favorite beaches, but there is plenty of room to find privacy and solitude in the lake. The above photo was taken in mid season.

### 2. Do I need a boating license to captain a houseboat?

Yes, you do. But it is only the standard Pleasure Craft Operator Card. You can take a course online and when you think you have mastered the material, also take the exam online. If you pass, your card will be mailed to you. That said, getting behind the helm of a 60-foot houseboat after just passing that exam is a little like getting behind the wheel of a big rig with only a learner's license. So, caution is necessary. You will receive detailed orientation and even assistance before you depart.

### 3. What activities are there to do around the lake?

The most common activities around the lake are the beach activities which you design yourself. The lakeshore is dotted with beaches throughout, all available for you to pull up to except in front of private cottages and a short section of the provincial park. There are plenty of hikes from the shoreline, as well, including hikes to several picturesque waterfalls. Fishing is good, with the lake offering up Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Bull Trout, Dolley Varden, Steelhead, Whitefish, Kokanee, and Burbot, as well as four species of Salmon: Chinook, Coho, Pink and Sockeye. You can also rent a wide variety of water toys at both Sicamous and Salmon Arm. Or you can pull up to Hyde Mountain Golf Course at Sicamous for a round. But a lot of the fun happens on the houseboat itself.

### 4. Is the lake dangerous?

The lake can be dangerous when a storm blows in. And storms do come up quickly. Therefore, it is imperative to keep an eye on the sky, and an ear to the weather forecast. At the first sign of cloud build-up, you need to find a sheltered cove or a beach where you can safely tie up the boat. Appropriate caution will keep you safe.

### 5. Is there cellular service on the Lake?

Most of the Lake is covered with cellular service.

### 6. Where do I park the houseboat for the night?

You must pull up to shore and secure your houseboat there a half hour before dusk. Boats cannot be anchored as the lake is up to 161.5 m (530 ft) deep, with an average depth of 61.5 m (202 ft).

### 7. Do I need to come back to the marina for supplies?

No. There is a floating supply store and restaurant at Cinnemousin Narrows, near the center of the Lake, where you can refuel with gasoline and propane, and get most of the supplies you may need.

### 8. Is the water cold?

It depends on the time of year and the depth of water you are in. In mid-summer, a warm layer of water develops at the surface that is very comfortable.

### 9. Will I have fun?

Absolutely! It's almost impossible not to! Unless you're afraid of water, or do something to get yourself into trouble.