

Seba Beach Cabin Guide

132 7th Street S.

Summer Village of Seba Beach, Alberta



To see a short slide show of our cabin click on the link:

<http://www.daviddodge.ca/cabin-for-rent/>

101 Years at Seba Beach

Getting There:

Head west out of Edmonton on Highway 16 toward Jasper. Seba Beach is about 75 kilometres west. You will go past Wabamun, past Fallis and take the Seba Beach/Isle Lake turn-off. It's a major turn off with a very large sign. Once off the highway turn left (south). Seba Beach is 3 kilometres south of the highway. The speed trap is normally located just a little past the 50 kph sign in the summer village! Go down the hill and up the next our cabin is on 7th Street S. Our barn shaped cabin is #132 on the North side of the Street. You should turn left at 6th Street S in order to come up on the right side of 7th Street.

There is no gas station in Seba Beach! You must travel east about 15 kms east back to the Shell or 20 kms west to Entwistle, or South 18 km to Tomahawk to get gas. For propane, you must go all the way to the Village of Wabamun (20 kms east) or Entwistle (20 kms west).

What you will need: Please read over our information document (below) and this should help you figure out what you need to bring. Most of it is common sense, but some things you may want to consider:

- **Wood** – Please bring your own wood. If we have wood available, we may be able to make small quantities available for \$15 (please ask);
- **Water** – The water comes from our well, it is clear water, but sometimes has a bit of an odor. The water was tested and is fine, but we make no guarantees. We drink and enjoy it, but you may want to bring your own drinking water (our waste water must be trucked out, so your efforts to conserve water are appreciated);
- **Beach and Bath Towels** – Bring your own. We provide dish cloths and tea towels only.

The Keys:

You have the key to the front door and the deadbolt. The power should be on. Please ask us if there is a problem with power. We must be very careful not to turn off the water pump.

The Bathroom:

The water comes from a well and waste water goes into a septic tank. The toilet is a very efficient using just 4.8 litres per flush, but the hot water heater is small, so please keep your showers short. Enjoy the running water, but your efforts to conserve water are appreciated since it is expensive to truck the sewage out. The biggest water consumer in the cabin is the shower—the shower is low flow, but it still runs at 9.5 litres per minute!

In the Kitchen:

In the kitchen you will find the following (and more):

- Fridge, Stove
- Pots, pans, dishes and cups;
- Dish soap, dish cloths and dish towels;
- Salt and pepper;
- Utensils (silverware), cutting knife;
- Cutting board, cheese grater, garbage bags, etc.
- Toaster;
- Coffeemaker (hopefully with filters) and Kettle;
- Frying Pan
- Hot Air Popper (you just need to bring the popcorn)

And more...the very basics are provided, but bring spices, condiments and anything special you require. If you forget something, the General Store on 5th Street has the basics. Garbage is bagged and goes out to the bin at the back of the lot. Make sure it goes in the cans so the critters don't make a mess with it.

Hazards:

Please inspect the cabin and yard for hazards that may affect you and your family and be aware that some hazards exist. Some to watch for include:

- **Fire** – keep the hose or a pail full of water on hand if you have a fire outside and don't burn if it is really dry;
- **Wood Piles & Nails** – there are piles of wood with nails in it. Please be very careful around these piles (there may be several piles of such wood);
- **Darkness** – please be careful, bring a flashlight, or turn on the light (and please do not leave outdoor lights on at night—it attracts moths and there is a tradition of not lighting the place up too much at night so people can enjoy the darkness, stars, bats etc.);
- **Theft** – You should lock up your car at the beach and the cabin if you are leaving it for any period of time (its pretty quiet most of the year, but thefts can happen, especially on busy weekends).

Starting a Fire Inside:

Starting a fire in the airtight stove is easy!

Make sure the damper is open (slide it to the to right to open it...)

Open the front door of the stove, add some paper, place some fine kindling on top and some slightly larger material on top of that. Light the paper and keep the door open just ONE inch or so (not fully open—it works better open just an inch).

Once the fire starts burning well, put a larger piece of wood on and close the door securely. Wood burns for quite some time in the wood stove and it will warm a cool cabin up in short order.

- *Please do NOT chop any trees, dead or alive; • Please do NOT store anything at all on the fire proof platform that the stove sits on — especially flammables!*
- *Also, please do NOT burn garbage in the air tight stove — it is only designed for wood.*

General Store:

If you forget anything there is a General Store on 4th Street S. Alcohol is also available at the General Store so you can enjoy a cool one at the cabin or around the fire at night.

Local customs and rules (just a few no-nos)

- No alcohol on the streets or beach – we have a quiet community and we like it that way – besides it's enforced
- No pets in the cabin
- No dogs on the beach – local bylaw
- No fireworks in or near the yard – they are only legal three nights of the year and they are never allowed near the cabin
- No smoking inside the cabin

The Beach:

The beach (half a block east of the cabin) is beautiful and although the docks are private, you are welcome to use them. The white buoy marks the limit for boats. They are supposed to stay outside of there unless they are coming in to a dock and then they must go dead slow. There are NO boats allowed in the swimming area at the 7th street beach (the space between the piers).

Bring sunscreen, a blanket, lawn chairs and whatever you need to have fun in the water or relax on the beach.

Other Info:

Please take your shoes off at the door. This helps keep the cabin clean, otherwise it becomes a sandbox. You might want to bring slippers to keep your feet cozy.

Parking:

There is room for one car in the front and more room at the back. Please park in front or at the back in the parking spots and not in the yard. And never drive over the septic tank in the yard!

Closing Up the Cabin:

- Close and lock all windows. Also pull the blinds down and close them;
- Sweep up the floor, shake out the small area rugs at the entrances;
- Vacuum the rugs – the vacuum is in the bathroom closet
- Clean the kitchen;
- If you've used the bedding, please pull it off the bed and put it on the floor. We can wash and put it back on for the next guests.
- Please mop the floors using the mop in the closet in the bathroom.

You are expected to leave the cabin the same way you found it or better! We have not failed to return a deposit yet, which means our guests are the best.

Natural and Historical Notes:

Welcome to Our Family Retreat from the Big City!

Our family built a cabin in the Summer Village of Seba Beach in 1919. The roads were not as good then. My grandfather said it could take two days to get there if it rained! Our old family cabin (constructed in 1919 and reconstructed by Dave in his youth) still stands on 3rd Street. The address is 110 3rd Street S. We purchased two empty lots on 7th Street from Barbara Hay in the early 1990s. One lot was relatively clear, the other was almost fully treed. Today they form a 100-foot refuge from the city where nature dictates most of our yard maintenance requirements. We cut the limited lawn about once a year. Seba Beach is not a wilderness and in fact it has been a summer getaway location for Edmontonians for almost a century. There are many motorboats, and unmotorized craft and weekends can get busy there, but perhaps because of the somewhat natural setting it is still a nice place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. The Selwood's old place (now owned by Gordon Kerr) across the Street was a field trip destination point for well-known naturalist Dr. Jim Butler's students to come and see birds they were learning in their Forest Zoology class at the University of Alberta.

Our yard (the grey cabin) is very good this way as well. You will commonly see Hairy Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers (their smaller cousins) and you will hear the familiar songs of Black-capped Chickadees. Both White-breasted and Red-breasted nuthatches visit the feeders and occasionally you may be lucky enough to see the very large Pileated Woodpeckers, whose loud and very junglesque calls echo through the village as they come to work over the standing dead trees loaded with grubs and bugs, just the right stuff for their woodpecker palate. If you listen carefully you may hear warblers such as Yellow Warblers or Myrtle Warblers singing from the tree-tops. Pine Siskins are regular visitors often arriving in small flocks to pick over the ground beneath the feeders. Calling from the topmost branch of one of the many White Spruce in the neighborhood you will hear Ruby Crowned-kinglets as they issue their melodic song that sounds a little like a musical car starting up. If you hear all of the birds squawking (not singing) but calling out in alarm, it is probably because the neighborhood Merlin (a small falcon) is training it's young to hunt birds! The young are quite noisy, whining for food until they are old enough to hunt.

At night the bats roost above the upper deck on the barn cabin as they rest between flights darting about catching insects in the late evenings around dusk. You can sit on the deck and watch them dart about at night or head out for a walk and watch the sky as they flitter about.

The two yards are nearly a perfect mix of open space and nearly mature forest. This is why so many kinds of woodpeckers come to our yard (along with those

mentioned you may also see Yellow-shafted Flickers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (celebrated in the game Careers) and Black-backed Woodpeckers) along with warblers and even the brightly coloured American Goldfinches that occasionally come to the feeders.

We leave the dead logs on the ground, and some standing up as well to complete the habitat in the yard. Please do not cut down trees, dead or alive!

Down at the beach early in the morning you may see a Great Blue Heron (a bird that stands almost a metre tall) standing under a dock or walking in the water looking for minnows. Shy of people, the heron will fly off and hide somewhere down the creek (off to the south) once people and boats get up and take to the water. You will also see Ospreys flying overhead looking for Pike and other fish out on the lake. They can carry a remarkably large fish back to their nest. On the beach the habitat is not very natural for birds (it is ploughed and raked regularly by humans) but it is great for kids and swimmers. You may see Spotted Sandpipers or perhaps Ring-billed Gulls who will steal your snacks if you look the other direction for too long.

On the water Mallards are common, Coots hang out near the reeds to the south, Common Loons are here and there and can be heard nearly every night singing their amazing songs across the water. Red-necked Grebes are common, fishing not too far out in the water and Western Grebes (the white-necked cousins of the Red-necked Grebes) hang out only in very deep water.

Enjoy an early morning walk or simply sit on the deck and take in the sounds. Whatever you do, be sure to slow down enough to enjoy the setting that is Seba Beach.

There is a Farmer's Market at the Hall on Saturday's from May until the September long weekend. The hours are from 11-12:30 pm. The produce sells fast, so get there early.

Enjoy your time with us, take time on your own or feel free to join us around the fire!

David Dodge, Monette Malley

Jan. 2021

Questions:

Cell 780-232-6162