

TIPS AND TECHNICAL ADVICE FOR USING THE PARKS RESERVATION SERVICE ON OPENING DAYS

Plan in Advance

Log on to the Parks Reservation Service before the opening dates to confirm your account information and to review reservation and camping policies. You can also review photos and descriptions of campsites (photos are turned off on launch dates to help improve system speed).

If you want the best chance of getting your dream site, make a list of your top campsites in advance and book as soon as the service opens. Have a few back-up sites and locations on your list.

Some locations have campsites with a minimum seven-night stay booking requirement. These are designed for those looking for an extended stay. To acquire one of these sites, a reservation must include a minimum seven-night stay that includes a Sunday-to-Sunday stay. This offer is only available on the day reservations open for the corresponding campground. At midnight of each opening day, the seven-night restrictions are removed. A list of locations with seven-night sites is available at <http://prspub.gov.mb.ca/>.

On Monday, April 4 (cabins, yurts and group use), only two reservations may be made per session, after which you will need to get back in line if you wish to make more. During the other launch days, only three reservations may be made per session. These restrictions are in place to keep the queue moving and give as many opportunities as possible for people to book sites.

Log on for 7 a.m.

Thousands of Manitobans log on to the online reservation service at once. Because of the high traffic, users are placed into a queue and given a ticket number, similar to booking a concert ticket online. You will then have to wait your turn in line to make reservations.

Be patient

Wait times are dependent upon how many people are logged in and how well the system is handling the traffic. There are thousands of campers just like you all vying for the same campsites with the same arrival dates.

The queue page is programmed to refresh automatically every minute to show your place in line, but some browsers may require a manual refresh. If you need to manually refresh your browser, please don't do so more than once every minute – doing so more than once a minute will slow the system down and will not provide the information any faster.

Only use one device

There is no benefit to using multiple devices. Doing so needlessly increases the demand on the servers and slows the system down. Using multiple devices may also slow down your own internet speeds. We recommend using a computer instead of mobile devices for an optimal experience. You may want to ensure your browser is updated prior to booking day.

If do not have access to a computer or experiencing connection issues, you may contact our call centre at 1-888-482-2267. You will be placed in a similar queue on the phone to speak with a call centre agent.

Additional Tips:

Try a new park

Many people camp in the same park or even the same site every year. But did you know there are over 50 different campgrounds in Manitoba's provincial parks? Explore a new piece of the province – find a list of parks by region here: <https://bit.ly/3Gx1tpS>.

Campgrounds closest to Winnipeg book up first, so driving an extra couple of hours really expands your options. If you are looking for a more secluded campsite, a campsite on a busy weekend or holiday and awe-inspiring natural beauty, then plan a trip to our western and northern parks.

Be willing to compromise

The more flexible you are able to be about campsite specifics, the easier you will land a campsite, especially at a busy park or during a busy weekend.

Full Service, electric sites and sites that accommodate large RVs are extremely popular. Consider trying a non-electric site or a different campground.

If you require an electrical site, the next tip is a good one for you.

Book weekdays or shoulder seasons

Campsites and cabin or yurt rentals book quickly on weekends, holidays and during peak vacation times (July and August).

However, there are often top-quality campsites (including electrical sites) sitting empty during the week, particularly in the spring and fall.

Book late

You do not have to face the competition and stress of the opening days. Parks receive many cancellations, many at the last minute. Savvy campers keep a close eye on the reservation service, ready to snatch up newly available sites and yurts.

The best days to look for cancellations are Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays for the following weekend, but keep checking the reservation service throughout the summer for last-minute openings.