

# Prince Albert NATIONAL PARK

## Winter Adventure Guide



*"A million acres of snow-covered wilderness lie waiting to be explored ... choose your own adventure."*

*Winter in Prince Albert National Park is a whole new experience. Feel at ease in the peace, tranquility and beauty of this special place.*



*The Park offers a vast array of activities that are sure to satisfy your urge to get outside. Cruise down a cross-country ski trail, float across the snow on a pair of snowshoes, relax by the campfire with friends and family, or listen to the call of the wolves in the distance. The winter Park awaits and warmly welcomes you!!*

Aussi disponible en français.



### Go Wild!

Winter is a great time of year to view wildlife. Elk, white-tailed deer, moose, red fox, plains bison, wolf and lynx are some of the larger mammals you may see. Watch for otter, fisher, marten, snowshoe hare or weasel. Bird watchers may enjoy seeing over 20 species of birds that make Prince Albert National Park their winter home.

#### Wildlife Viewing Opportunities

- Take a drive along the many roadways.
- Look carefully across the frozen lakes for wolves.
- Visit the Narrows of Waskesiu Lake where otters often play in the open waters.
- Travel to the Park's West Side where you may see the wild plains bison.



The snow is like the white pages of a book that tells the story of an animal's travels. Learn how to identify a few tracks and try to figure out who's been traveling along the same path as you.



### Cross Country Ski Trails

**Townsite** (distance, difficulty, trail grooming)

#### Wapiti 2

5.6 km loop, Medium, Classic  
A perennial favourite, this short trail follows the golf course. The course's rolling terrain makes for a great ski. Watch for chilly conditions on windy days.  
**Access:** Behind the Post Office on Waskesiu Drive at the south end of the parking lot

#### Fisher 5

7.2 km loop, Easy, Classic  
This trail is great for a family outing; scenic, close to Waskesiu and relatively flat. The trail ventures through mixed woods, aspen stands and black spruce muskeg.  
**Access:** Adjacent to Highway 264 entrance to Waskesiu

#### Beaver Glen 1

5.8 km loop, Easy, Classic and Freestyle  
This trail parallels Waskesiu Drive then circles the Beaver Glen Campground. The Beaver Glen portion links to both the Lee and the Red Deer Yellow trails. The section of trail along Waskesiu Drive is lit.  
**Access:** Lakeview Drive and Waskesiu Drive intersection

#### Red Deer Red 3 7

5.2 km one way, Medium, Classic  
This trail links Wapiti with the Fisher trail. The route, although gently rolling in many sections, has a few significant hills with challenging corners.  
**Access:** West end of the trail begins off of the Wapiti trail while the east end is located at the Fisher trailhead

#### Red Deer Yellow 4 7

2.7 km one way, Easy, Classic  
This trail is linked to Red Deer Red, Fisher and Beaver Glen trails. The route is flat to gently rolling.  
**Access:** Opposite the boulder by the tennis courts

#### 8 Cross Country Skiing

The Park offers a range of cross-country ski trails for all skill levels. There are groomed trails for both skate and classic skiing or you can choose your own route and venture off the beaten path. Enclosed camp kitchens are available at the end of Crean and Trappers trails where you can build a fire. Pack a lunch and make a day of it!

For updated trail conditions contact the Visitor Centre or visit our website at [www.pc.gc.ca/princealbert](http://www.pc.gc.ca/princealbert).

See map for trail distances and difficulty levels

#### 9 Snowshoeing

Enjoy one of the oldest forms of winter transportation. Grab your snowshoes and try one of these routes or blaze your own through the forest. Designated routes are not groomed and you may encounter fallen trees. Use extra caution when snowshoeing over ice.

Respect skiers; please do not snowshoe on any designated ski trails.

#### 10 Skating

If it is too cold to play outside, take advantage of Waskesiu's indoor skating rink! Located at the south end of Montreal Drive, the Paul G. Horne Memorial Arena is open around the clock, seven days a week for public use. Warm up area and washroom facilities available. There is a donation box on-site for the Waskesiu and District Recreation Association to help with the costs of running the arena.

#### Kite Skiing/Boarding

Looking for some adventure on a windy day? Bring your gear and head out onto the lakes for a great day of exhilarating kite skiing/boarding.



#### 11 Enclosed Shelters

Need somewhere to warm up? Our enclosed shelters offer the perfect sanctuary for a winter picnic. Find one in the following locations: Paignton Beach, Birch Bay, Trappers Lake, Crean Lake, Kingsmere (Southend) and Sandy Lake.

#### 12 Fishing

If you need to scratch that fishing itch, ice fishing season on Waskesiu Lake is open until March 31. A valid Prince Albert National Park fishing permit is required. Permits can be purchased at the Park Visitor Centre. Good luck!!



#### 13 Winter Camping

Why not spend the night? The northern sky, solitude and sense of adventure make a winter camping experience unlike any other. Travel by road or trail to one of the designated winter campsites or pick your own route and bedroom. Random campsites must be a minimum of 2 km from public highways and campgrounds. All designated campsites have firewood and pit toilets. Designated winter campsites are found in the following locations: Paignton Beach, Birch Bay, Southend, Crean Kitchen, Trappers Lake and Fish Lake.

YOU MUST CONTACT the Visitor Centre before any overnight excursions. Park use and camping fees apply.

### Safety is a Priority

Proper pre-trip preparation will ensure that your visit to Prince Albert National Park is a safe and enjoyable one. When planning your trip ensure you take the following steps:

1. Research your trip before heading out, and ask Parks Canada staff for advice if needed;
2. Check on expected weather and road conditions for the area in which you will be travelling;
3. Inform someone of your travel plans;
4. Always plan for the unexpected by bringing a first aid kit, enough warm clothing, and food and water to spend an extra 48 hours in the wilderness. (this includes afternoon or day trips);
5. Ensure you have a map and a compass and know how to use them; a GPS is a great tool but can be unreliable in areas of thick vegetation cover and during poor weather;
6. Ensure your vehicle has sufficient fuel to complete the trip as there are no gas stations in the Park, and always pack emergency equipment in your vehicle including a flashlight, extra blankets, gas line antifreeze, and jumper cables;
7. Be extremely cautious when travelling over lakes, rivers, and boggy areas as ice thickness can vary over a short distance;
8. Where possible travel with a partner; and
9. Do not rely on your cell/satellite phone to get you out of trouble. Coverage is variable throughout the Park.

*Be prepared and enjoy your trip.*



### Waskesiu and Area Services

#### 14 Visitor Centre (306) 663-4522

The Parks Canada Visitor Centre is located in the heart of Waskesiu. If you are looking for updated ski trail conditions, planning a winter camping excursion, or would simply like to stop by for a chat, our friendly staff are here to help. Park entry permits are required year round and can be purchased at the Visitor Centre, the East and South Gate automated pay machine.

#### Visitor Centre Winter Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
*Hours may vary due to weather conditions*

#### 15 Accommodations and Dining

Winter accommodations are available in and around the townsite of Waskesiu, ranging from hotel style lodging to rental cabins and suites. Services are also available at nearby Elk Ridge and Anglin Lake. For specific details regarding accommodations and dining opportunities, please contact the Visitor Centre.

#### 16 Gas Station

The nearest gas station to Waskesiu is LT's Food & Fuel located at the junction of Highways 2 and 264, approximately 12 km from Waskesiu.

#### Contact Information

Prince Albert National Park Visitor Centre  
Phone: 306-663-4522 Fax: 306-663-5424  
[www.pc.gc.ca/princealbert](http://www.pc.gc.ca/princealbert) Email: [panp.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:panp.info@pc.gc.ca)  
Toll Free National General Information Line: 1-888-773-8888

**Catch our interpretive activities for winter fun!**  
Ask Visitor Services staff for details

#### Emergency 911

Road Reports 1-888-335-7623  
<http://roadinfo.telenium.ca>  
<http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca>



#### Kingsmere Road

##### Lee 6

15.2 km return, Easy, Classic  
This trail was once a part of the Prince Albert to Lac La Ronge Freight Trail. It travels through an area of aspen-topped hills, followed by a relatively flat section through aspen woods and the occasional muskeg. Lee ends at the Park's eastern boundary.  
**Access:** 2 km north of Waskesiu on the Kingsmere Road

##### Crean 7

19 km return, Easy, Classic and Freestyle  
With long gentle slopes, this trail parallels the Heart Lakes following a patrol road. The trail passes through mature coniferous forest dotted with balsam fir before it crosses Crean near its entrance to the Heart Lakes. You may continue across the lake to a winter campsite on Crean Lake's southwest shore, where you will find yourself in the very heart of the Park's northern wilderness. Be cautious when crossing the lake.  
**Access:** 500 m south of Birch Bay, 11 km north of Waskesiu on the Kingsmere Road

#### Narrows Road

##### North Freight 8

8.6 km loop, Medium, Classic  
The western portion of this trail gradually climbs through mixed woods before descending a steep hill to Beartrap Creek. Before crossing the creek, the trail turns left (north) and returns to the trailhead along a fire access road. This trail links to the Beartrap Lake Access Trail.  
**Access:** 1.6 km down the Narrows Road and 1.4 km south on Beartrap Road

#### Highway 263

##### Trappers 15

7.2 km return, Easy, Classic - double track  
This flat, easy trail follows a summer road through a large jack pine stand over Bitter Creek to a winter campsite at the lake's edge.  
**Access:** 21 km south of Waskesiu on Highway 263

##### Anglin Lake 10

24 km return, Medium, Classic and Freestyle  
This trail takes you through aspen and balsam poplar forest and along the Spruce River. At approximately 2 km, stop and enjoy the panoramic view of Anglin Lake.  
**Access:** 29 km south of Waskesiu on Highway 263 for second access travel another 10 km south

##### Spruce River Highlands 14

8.5 km loop, Difficult, Freestyle  
This trail is a challenge, great for an advanced skier! It travels clockwise climbing through a continuous series of ups and downs along the Spruce River hillsides. At 4.5 km is a junction. To the right the Spruce River Highlands trail continues, completing the 8.5 km loop through mixed woods and aspen stands. To the left the trail travels 1 km and connects to a network of provincial ski trails at Anglin Lake (Contact Saskatchewan Environment for trail conditions - 306-982-6250).  
**Access:** 27 km south of Waskesiu on Highway 263

##### Kinowa 13

9.6 km return, Medium, Classic  
Starting beside Kinowa Lake, this rolling trail travels through aspen woods, jack pine stands and open meadows, ending at Anglin Lake.  
**Access:** 33 km south of Waskesiu on Highway 263

##### Elk 16

22 km return, Medium, Classic and Freestyle  
This route skirts the edge of Sandy Lake, through mixed and aspen hazelnut forest. At 10.6 km, Elk meets the Fish Lake Trail; turn right (north) and continue another 2.5 km to the shore of Fish Lake and a backcountry campsite.  
**Access:** 4 km north of South Gate, 39 km south of Waskesiu on Highway 263

##### Fish Lake 12

23 km return, Easy, Classic and Freestyle  
This gently rolling trail travels through aspen and mixed forests, passes several small lakes and ends at a backcountry campsite on the shore of Fish Lake.  
**Access:** Route 240 (Cookson Road) 10 km west of Highway 263

