Yoho In Winter
Cross-country skiing is a wonderful way to enjoy Yoho National Park in winter. There are 100 km of trails, and the Rockies form a dramatic backdrop to the pleasures of travelling over crisp snow through Yoho’s valleys.

Wilderness Pass
Anyone planning an overnight trip into a hut, shelter or campground must have a Wilderness Pass. You can get a Wilderness Pass from Parks Canada visitor centres in Field and Lake Louise, or Parks Canada offices in downtown Calgary. Pets must be on a leash and under control at all times.

Winter Trail Etiquette
To help ensure everyone has a pleasant time:
• Treat other hikers with courtesy. People going uphill should yield to downhill skiers.
• When overtaking others, slow down and call out to make them aware of your intentions.
• Walk or snowshoe beside the ski tracks, not on them.
• On trackset trails, fill in any holes you make after a fall and stay clear of the trail during rest stops.
• If you see someone in need of assistance, take the time to stop and help.
• Pack out all garbage.
• Dogs not permitted on groomed track set ski trails.

Huts and Shelters
The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) operates two huts in Yoho National Park:
• Stanley Mitchell Hut in the Little Yoho Valley
• Scott Duncan Memorial Hut on Mt. Daly
You must book a night at one of your own discretion.
• Abbott Hut on the col between Mt. Victoria and Mt. Lefroy
Contact the Parks Canada office for information and reservations.

Amiskwi Lodge, located just outside the park boundary at Amiskwi Park, can be reserved by calling 1-403-678-1800 or write to Amiskwi Lodge Inc., Box 82A, Canmore, Alberta T3Z 2B9. The picnic shelters at Takakkaw Falls and Lake O’Hara are usually stocked with firewood and offer a protected resting place for lunch.

Easy Trails
Suitable for inexperienced skiers. Skiers are flat and may have some short, downhill runs. Avalanche hazards exist on the Emerald Lake trail and the Tally Ho trail.

Wapta Falls 8.6 km return
The trail starts from the Trans-Canada Highway in the park’s west end. The first 2 km are along the summer access road before joining the hiking trail. There are a few rolling hills and the trail continues to a lower viewpoint down river from the falls; take your skis off and walk an 800 m section to make this lower section easier.

Chancellor Peak Road 4.0 km return
From the Trans-Canada Highway, the summer access road to Chancellor Peak Campground parallels the Kicking Horse River and offers great views of the Ottertail and Beaverhead ranges.

Field Visitor Centre to Natural Bridge, on the Tally Ho Trail 7.0 km return
From the Visitor Centre, the trail follows the Kicking Horse River downstream for 0.9 km. The Trans-Canada Highway to join the Tally Ho Trail. The trail climbs gradually for about 1.5 km then descends to a junction; this section of the trail across an avalanche area. The left trail descends to the Natural Bridge, where it links to the Kicking Horse Trail; the trail on the right is the Emerald Lake Connector trail.

Natural Bridge to Otterhead River on the Kicking Horse Trail 1.40 km return
From the Natural Bridge, ski 2.4 km along the road down a gradual slope, past the Emerald River to the Kicking Horse Bridge. Cross the bridge and continue left along this abandoned fire road for 4.1 km to the Otterhead River.

Emerald Lake Snowshoe Trail 4.6 km return
This trail follows the western side of the lake, connecting the parking area with the Emerald Alvarald.

Emerald Alvarald Fan Loop 4.3 km circuit
For skiers who want a longer ski, take the left fork along the Emerald Basin trail on a loop around the alvarald, through trees and glades back to the Emerald Lake Horse Trail.

Emerald Lake Loop 5.3 km circuit
This trail begins by the lodge and follows the perimeter of the lake. Once a groomed trail has been established on the lake ice, please follow this route and avoid the avalanche path section.

Great Divide Trail (1A) 11 km circuit
From the Lake O’Hara parking lot, just east of Wapta Lake, ski along the road to the picnic shelter and interpretive display. For other options, continue east along the road to Lake Louise (7.5 km one way, the trail is track set in Banff National Park), or take a side trip to Ross Lake (9.3 km one way).

Moderate Trails
Longer trails requiring more stamina, or trails with downhill stretches that require skiers to turn and make quick stops. The Emerald Connector trail, the Yoho Valley Road, and the Ross Lake Road are groomsed cross-country, but some sections may require technical skills.

Emerald Lake Connector Trail 2.9 km return
The south end of the Connector Trail beginning at the junction with the Natural Bridge/Kicking Horse trail will not be trackset in 2011 due to avalanche hazard. The north end of the Connector Trail will be groomed from Emerald Lake southward for a distance of approximately 3km. This round-trip route is rolling terrain provides a good opportunity for skiers to work on their technique.

Yoho Valley Road to Takakkaw Falls 26 km return
Winter, the Yoho Valley Road is not maintained for vehicle traffic beyond Monarch Campground. On the way, you pass the Upper Spiral Tunnel Viewpoint and the Meeting of the Waters, where the Yoho River flows into the Kicking Horse River. Skiers continuing beyond the switchbacks to Mt. Field, Takakkaw Falls and the upper Yoho and Little Yoho valleys (see Little Yoho) should be equipped for a steep terrain ski trip. This trail travels through sizable avalanche terrain and crosses several avalanche paths on the east slopes of Mt. Wapta and Mt. Daly. Danger at the lower end of the valley. Yoho camping is available at Takakkaw Falls campground; a Wilderness Pass is required.

Sherbrooke Lake 6.2 km return
From the parking lot behind West Louise Lodge on Wapta Lake, the trail climbs steadily for 2 km, levelling off before reaching the lake at kilometre 3.1. The lake sits in a narrow valley bounded by steep avalanche slopes. If you continue to the back of the lake, 1.4 km, you will be in avalanche terrain. NOTE: Skiers exit the Wapta Traverse on this trail.

Ross Lake Circuit 9.5 km circuit
From the Lake O’Hara parking lot, follow Highway 1A until you reach the Ross Lake trail head sign on your right. The trail climbs gradually for 1.5 km to this small lake bounded by snow-covered slopes. The lake and campsite are 3.2 km to the Lake O’Hara fire road. Turn north (right) at the fire road to return to the parking lot. There are some narrow and fast sections on this circuit.

Emerald Lake Trail 15.4 km return
The trail starts at the left of the entrance to the Emerald Lake Parking Lot, the Hamilton Falls trail. Turn left at the 4-km junction and follow the trail as it travels along the Emerald River. The trail is narrow and steep in sections.

Lake O’Hara Fire Road 22 km return
From the Lake O’Hara parking lot located near the junction of the TransCanada and 1A Highways, the trail climbs moderately to the shores of Lake O’Hara. The trail crosses several avalanche paths. At km 10.0 strong skiers can take the trail to Linda Lake, 2.5 km away and Duchesnay Basin, 5.0 km one way. Detailed maps of the Lake O’Hara area can be purchased at the Field Visitor Centre, or at the Lake O’Hara Fire Road cabin. The fire road to the Lodge from February to April. The day-use cabin, Le Relais, is open on weekends for shelter only; no services are offered at the lake in winter. Check with the Field Visitor Centre for details.

Difficult Trails
More extended trips where strong skiing ability and more experience in assessing hazards are required. The trail is on avalanche slopes in some places. Climbing skills may be necessary for this grade.

Hoodoo Creek Campground to the Lower Ice River Warden Cabin 32 km return
From Ganghek Creek follow the road for 4 km to the gate at the beginning of the year and find the snowmobile trail. The trail is a former fire road which ascends gradually over slightly rolling terrain, with some moderately steep hills, to the lower Ice River warden cabin.

Amiskwi Trail to Amiskwi Pass 75.8 km return
The trail starts at the Natural Bridge, and follows part of an old First Nations trade route which traversed Amiskwi Pass. After crossing the bridge over the Amiskwi River, turn north along the Amiskwi trail for another 35.5 km.

Little Yoho Valley 44.4 km return
From the trail head on the Yoho Valley Road, ski 13.0 km to Takakkaw Falls (see Yoho Valley and Lake O’Hara) and continue another 3.8 km up the Yoho Valley to Laughing Falls. This last stretch is a gradual climb except for a steep section on Hollingworth Hill. Follow the summer trail from Laughing Falls into the Little Yoho Valley. After a series of switchbacks, the climb moderates to an easy grade until the ACC’s Stanley Mitchell Hut.
Know how to recognize avalanche terrain. If you plan to cross avalanche areas, each member of your party should carry a shovel, a transceiver and a probe, and know how to use them.

This portion of trail will only be track-set in the early season when avalanche risk is low. Trail on lake surface will be groomed once the ice is safe.

This portion of trail will NOT be track-set in 2011-12 due to avalanche risk. An alternate route will be established for the 2012-13 season.
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Left-hand turns on the Trans-Canada Highway are permitted at signed intersections only. Distances are approximate. This is not a topographical map and is not suitable for route-finding. The following topographical maps can be purchased at the Field Visitor Centre.

Yoho National Park Topo Map 1:50,000
Lake Louise/Yoho Recreation Map 1:50,000

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