

# Winter Guide



Aussi disponible en français

## 1 HOUR OF FUN

- Borrow snowshoes from the Hawood Inn and stomp around Waskesiu in search of forest friends. Pick up a GPS unit at the Visitor Centre that will lead you from one animal silhouette to the next. Find all six to see what animals may follow your tracks this winter.
- Take the kids to the Visitor Centre to check out the new interactive displays, dress up in animal costumes and watch a nature video. Buy a Parka souvenir or build a snowParka by the lake.



## UNDER 3 HOUR ADVENTURES

- Have a true Canadian winter experience! Ski the family-friendly Beaver Glen loop then head to an enclosed shelter to warm up with a fire and some hot chocolate. Feeling energized? Bring a Frisbee to play winter disc golf!
- Enjoy an afternoon of ice skating at the indoor rink in Waskesiu. Tired out from your friendly game of hockey? Take a relaxing scenic drive to Paignton Beach for a picnic and fantastic view of Waskesiu Lake.
- Pick up your fishing licence, snowshoes and ice fishing equipment from the Hawood Inn then make tracks to the fish shack on Waskesiu Lake. After your fish fry find a cushy spot to lie in the snow and watch the northern lights dance.



Cross-country ski trails are groomed by Waskesiu Lake Cross-Country Ski Club Inc. To learn more, join or donate, contact [waskesiuclub@sasktel.net](mailto:waskesiuclub@sasktel.net).

### Trail Report

Get the latest information on trail conditions by checking the trail report online: [pc.gc.ca/princealbert](http://pc.gc.ca/princealbert) and at the **Visitor Centre: 1-306-663-4522**. The report is updated weekly.

### Trail Etiquette

- Keep to the right when meeting oncoming skiers.
- When resting or visiting, move off the trail.
- Pack out all your garbage.
- Please do not walk or snowshoe on groomed ski tracks.

### Dogs are Welcome

Get out on the trails with your dog! However, to allow the track to set, please keep dogs off trails that are freshly groomed. Remember to pick up after your pet and keep them on a leash.



### Planning

- Research your trip and ask park staff for advice if needed
- Check the weather forecast and road conditions
- Inform someone of your travel plans
- Study trail information and choose one suitable for your group
- Travel with a partner or in a group
- Be prepared for sudden weather changes
- Trails are not patrolled – use them at your own risk

### What to Bring

- Trail guide, map and compass
- First aid kit
- Warm clothing
- Food and water for 48 hours
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Camera and binoculars

## REMEMBER!

Be extremely cautious when travelling over lakes, rivers, and boggy areas as ice thickness can vary over a short distance.

Fuel up your vehicle and pack emergency equipment including flashlight, extra blankets, booster cables, candles and waterproof matches or lighter.

Cell phone coverage is variable throughout the park. Do not rely on your cell phone.

### Visitor Centre

Monday – Thursday 8 am – 4 pm  
Friday 8 am – 8 pm  
Saturday & Sunday 10 am – 6 pm  
Closed December 25th & 26th

1-306-663-4522  
[panp.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:panp.info@pc.gc.ca)  
[@ParksCanada\\_SK](http://pc.gc.ca/princealbert)

**Toll-free National General Information Line:**  
1-888-773-8888

### Emergency

**Dial 9-1-1** RCMP, Fire, and Ambulance  
**1-877-852-3100** For all other calls (Parks Canada Dispatch)

### Road Conditions

[highways.gov.sk.ca/road-conditions](http://highways.gov.sk.ca/road-conditions)  
**Toll-free across Canada:** 1-888-335-7623  
**SaskTel cell network:** \*ROAD (\*7623)



## Services

**Visitor Centre**  
Open Daily  
1-306-663-4522

The Prince Albert National Park Visitor Centre is located in Waskesiu. The friendly staff are here to help with ski trail conditions, planning a winter camping excursion, and upcoming winter events.

Park entry permits are required year round and can be purchased at the Visitor Centre, and at the East and South Gate automated pay machines.

### Accommodation and Dining

- Waskesiu**
- Chateau Park Chalets 1-306-663-5556
  - Lost Creek Resort 1-866-663-8622
  - The Hawood Inn 1-877-441-5544
  - Waskesiu Lake Lodge 1-306-663-6161

### Surrounding Area

- Elk Ridge Resort 1-800-510-1824
- Land of the Loon Resort (Anglin Lake) 1-306-982-4478

### Gas Station

The nearest gas station to Waskesiu is LT's Food & Fuel, located at the junction of Highway 2 and 264, approximately 15 km from Waskesiu.

## FREE Equipment

Available for lend at the Hawood Inn on a first-come first-serve basis:

- Chariot strollers with ski attachments
- Cross-country skis
- Snowshoes
- Ice fishing equipment



## Winter Activities

### Cross-country Skiing

Pack a lunch and make a day of it! There are groomed trails for skate and classic skiing or you can choose your own route and venture off the beaten path.

See map for trail distances and difficulty levels.

A great network of cross-country ski trails are also available at Elk Ridge Resort.

### 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.

Please do not snowshoe on groomed ski tracks.

**Note: Boardwalk and stairs on any designated winter trail are not cleared of snow.**

### Enclosed Shelter

Need a place to warm up and have lunch? The two enclosed shelters in the park offer the perfect sanctuary for a picnic! They can be found:

- Across from the Visitor Centre
- Paignton Beach on the Narrows Road

### Fishing

If you need to scratch that fishing itch, ice fishing season on Waskesiu Lake is open until March 31.

The ice fishing shack across from Visitor Centre on Waskesiu Lake is available for visitors to use. Contact the Hawood Inn for details.

A valid Prince Albert National Park fishing permit is required. Permits can be purchased at these locations:

- Visitor Centre
- The Hawood Inn
- CL Gas – Christopher Lake
- Prince Albert Tourism office



### Winter camping

Why not spend the night? The northern sky, solitude and sense of adventure make a winter camping experience unlike any other. With services close by, you don't have to travel far to have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Paignton Beach is a designated winter campground with access to firewood, enclosed shelter and pit toilets. Contact the Visitor Centre before any overnight excursions and for information on random winter camping.

### Kite Skiing/Boarding

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

### Additional Activities

- Indoor skating rink located on Montreal Drive
- Winter disc golf course across from Main Beach
- Road shinny outside the Hawood Inn
- Toboggan hill, outdoor skating rink, warming shelter and spa located at Elk Ridge Resort



## View Wildlife

Winter is a great time of year to view wildlife. Elk, white-tailed deer, moose, red fox, 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 wild plains bison.

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



## 2014-2015 Winter Events

### Holiday Cheer – December 27 to January 2

- Family fun – Wolf howl, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, geocaching and so much more!
- Daily live music, games and treasure hunt at the Hawood Inn.

- Skiing, skating and tobogganing at Elk Ridge Resort.

### Valentines and Family Day Weekend – February 13 to 15

- Family fun – winter survival and animal tracking program, Wolf howl, snowshoeing, skiing, geocaching and so much more!

- Chocolate Sweetheart Buffet and live music at the Hawood Inn.

- Skiing, skating and tobogganing at Elk Ridge Resort.

### School Break – February 16 to 22

- Family fun – Wolf howl, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, geocaching and so much more!

- Skiing, skating and tobogganing at Elk Ridge Resort.

### More event details available:

Elk Ridge Resort – 1-800-510-1824  
[elkridgeresort.com](http://elkridgeresort.com)  
The Hawood Inn – 1-877-441-5544  
[waskesiuwildernessregion.com](http://waskesiuwildernessregion.com)

## NEW! Visitor Centre Activities

- Hands-on wildlife displays
- Winter activity kits for lend:  
Build a Quincee  
Winter Birding  
Animal Silhouette Geocache

**OPEN DAILY!**

# Prince Albert National Park Winter Trails

## Legend

- First Aid
- Visitor Centre
- Restaurant
- Enclosed Shelter
- Accommodation
- Ice Rink
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Ice Fishing
- Washrooms
- Parking
- Viewpoint
- Snowshoe Route
- Cross-Country Ski Trail
- Road
- Gravel Road
- Park Boundary
- The Rock
- Waskesiu Lake Lodge
- The Hawwood Inn
- Lost Creek Resort
- Chateau Park Chalets

## Cross-Country Ski Trails

(distance, difficulty, trail grooming)

**1 BEAVER GLEN** (5.8 km loop, Easy, Classic & Skating)  
This trail parallels Waskesiu Drive then circles the Beaver Glen Campground. The Beaver Glen portion links to the Red Deer Yellow trail. The section of trail along Waskesiu Drive is lit.

**ACCESS:** Lakeview Drive and Waskesiu Drive intersection

**2 WAPITI** (7.6 km or 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:** Lakeview Drive and Waskesiu Drive intersection or south end of Montreal Drive

**3 RED DEER RED** (5.7 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:** Wapiti Trail, Lakeview Drive and Waskesiu Drive intersection or Fisher Trail

**4 RED DEER YELLOW** (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:** Lakeview Drive and Waskesiu Drive intersection

**5 FISHER** (7.2 km loop or 8.4 km, Medium, Classic)  
This trail is great for a family outing; scenic and close to Waskesiu. The trail ventures through mixed woods, aspen stands and black spruce muskeg.

**ACCESS:** Adjacent to Highway 264 entrance to Waskesiu or Lakeview Drive and Waskesiu Drive intersection

**6 CREAN** (19 km return, Easy, Classic & Skating)  
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. Be cautious when crossing the lake.

**ACCESS:** 500 m south of Birch Bay, 11 km north of Waskesiu on the Kingsmere Road.

Visitors can enjoy several groomed ski trails this winter thanks to volunteers of the Waskesiu Lake Cross-Country Ski Club Inc.

## Snowshoe Trails

- A BEACH WALK** – 5.6 km return
- B KINGSMERE RIVER** – 3 km return
- C TREEBEARD TRAIL** – 1.4 km loop, Parking available at Narrows
- D MUD CREEK TRAIL** – 3 km loop, Access from the Narrows Road
- E WASKESIU RIVER TRAIL** – 2.5 km loop
- F SPRUCE RIVER HIGHLANDS** – 8.5 km loop
- G TAIT SPRINGS TRAIL** – 5 km return, Access from Spruce River Highlands

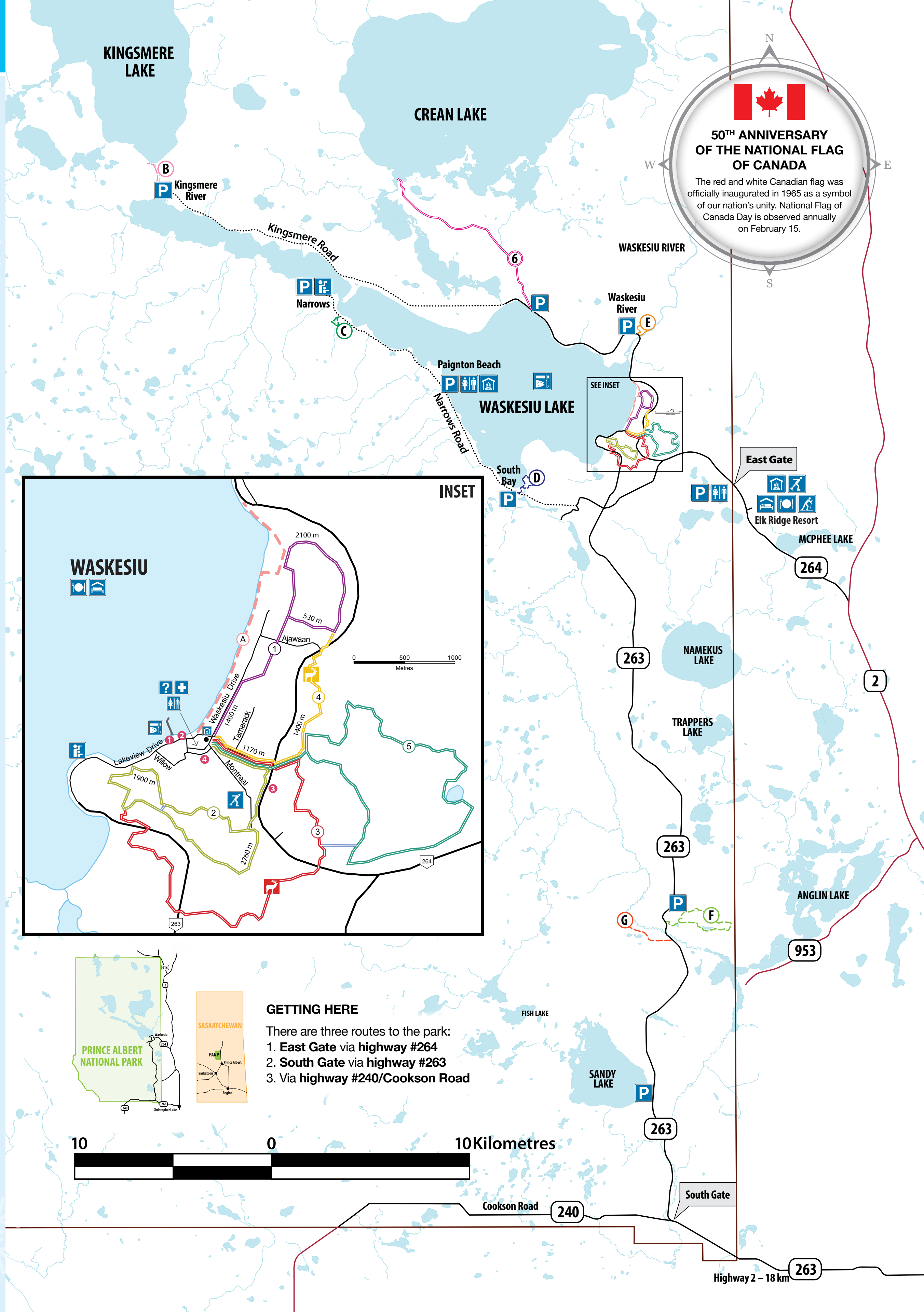
Please do not walk or snowshoe on groomed ski tracks. Visitors are welcome to use snowshoe trails for backcountry skiing.

**Visitor Centre:**  
1-306-663-4522

**Emergency:**  
Dial 9-1-1  
**Parks Canada Dispatch:**  
1-877-852-3100

**Trail Report:**  
[pc.gc.ca/princealbert](http://pc.gc.ca/princealbert)

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## GETTING HERE

- There are three routes to the park:
1. **East Gate** via **highway #264**
  2. **South Gate** via **highway #263**
  3. Via **highway #240/Cookson Road**



Highway 2 – 18 km **263**