

Winter Guide & Trail Map 2017-2018



Aussi disponible en français.



Family-Fun Itineraries

1 Hour of Fun



- Borrow snowshoes at the Hawood Inn and break through fresh snow. As you roam, look for animal tracks to see if wildlife has recently walked the trail.
- Take advantage of the early sunset and gaze into a sky full of stars! For the best views, take a scenic drive to Paignton Beach.
- Take the kids to the Visitor Centre to check out interactive displays, dress up in animal costumes, and borrow a birding or geocache backpack to use while you explore the park!

Adventures under 3 hours



- Have a true Canadian winter experience! Ski an easy family-friendly trail then head to an enclosed shelter to warm up with a fire and some hot chocolate.
- Lace up your skates and head to Waskesiu's indoor skating rink on Montreal Drive. A great way to stay warm on those cold days!
- Take a relaxing drive to Birch Bay for a campfire and picnic with a fantastic view of Waskesiu Lake.
- Pick up your fishing license and ice fishing equipment from the Hawood Inn and make tracks on your way out to the fishing shack on Waskesiu Lake.

Trail Information

Trail Report

www.waskesiulake.ca/winter_activities.php
pc.gc.ca/princealbert
Visitor Centre: (306) 663-4522

Trail Etiquette

- Skiers descending have the right of way.
- Move off the trail when resting or visiting.
- Pack out all your garbage.
- Do not walk, snowshoe, or bike on groomed ski trails.

Dogs are Welcome

Help ensure your safety, the safety of your pet as well as that of other visitors and wildlife by keeping your pet on a leash and under physical control while you hit the trail. Please keep dogs off ski trails that are freshly groomed to allow the track to set.

Waskesiu Ski Club

Ski trails are groomed by the Waskesiu Lake Cross-country Ski Club Inc. To learn more, join, or donate visit www.waskesiulake.ca/winter_activities.php.



Safety

What to Bring

- Trail guide, map, and compass
- Signalling, navigational, and communication devices
- First aid kit
- Pocket knife
- Extra warm clothing
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Emergency blankets
- Camera and binoculars
- Sun protection
- Food and water for 48 hours
- Fire starter

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.

Visit Adventuresmart.ca for more safety tips and trip planning resources.

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.



Directory

Visitor Centre

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (until December 31)
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (January 1 to May 18)
Closed December 25 & 26
Hours may vary
1-306-663-4522
panp.info@pc.gc.ca
pc.gc.ca/princealbert
@ParksCanada_SK

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

Emergency

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

Road Conditions

<https://hotline.gov.sk.ca>
Toll-free across Canada: 1-888-335-7623
SaskTel cell network: *ROAD (*7623)



Services

Visitor Centre

1-306-663-4522

The Prince Albert National Park Visitor Centre, located in Waskesiu, is open year-round. Friendly staff are available to help with ski trail updates, planning a winter camping excursion, and information about upcoming events.

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

In winter, the nearest gas station to Waskesiu is LT's Food & Fuel. This full-service station is approximately 15 km from Waskesiu at the junction of Highway 2 and Highway 264.

FREE Equipment

Available for lend at the Hawood Inn on a first-come first-served 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 and Great Blue Heron Provincial Park.

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 trails.

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 three 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
- Birch Bay on Kingsmere Road

Fishing

Reel in that fishing itch! Ice fishing season on Waskesiu Lake is open until March 31.

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

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

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

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.

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 and Birch Bay are designated winter campgrounds with access to firewood, pit toilets, and enclosed shelters. Register at the Visitor Centre before any overnight excursions and for information on random winter camping.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Bring your own skates to the indoor 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
- Fat biking available on Narrows Road



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, and 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 scenic 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.



2017-18 Winter Events

CHRISTMAS TREE HARVEST
November 24 – December 24

Get in the spirit of the season and cut your own Christmas tree! Pick out a young spruce tree in the designated area to help maintain the Waskesiu Community Fuel Break. Create new Christmas traditions and family memories this holiday season at Prince Albert National Park.

WASKESIU HOLIDAY CHEER
December 27 – January 2

Family programming, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, geocaching, ice fishing and more!

More event details available:
Elk Ridge Resort – 1-800-510-1824 elkridgeresort.com
The Hawood Inn – 1-877-441-5544
waskesiuwildernessregion.com

WASKESIU SNOW DAYS
February 16 – February 25

Embrace winter in the beauty of Saskatchewan's boreal forest and enjoy a number of free activities for the whole family!

Join us in Prince Albert National Park for winter programming, cross-country skiing, skating, snowshoeing, ice fishing, campfires, Indigenous programs, and more throughout the week! After a day of activities, start a fire and warm up in the enclosed camp kitchen near the main beach!

Visitor Centre Activities

OPEN DAILY!

- Hands-on wildlife displays
- Winter activity kits for lend:
 - Build a quinzee
 - Winter birding
 - Animal silhouette geocache
- Dress up in animal costumes
- Pick up Parks Canada official merchandise



Prince Albert National Park Winter Trails

Legend

- First Aid
- Visitor Centre
- Restaurant
- Gas Station
- Enclosed Shelter
- Accommodation
- Ice Rink
- Cross-country Skiing
- Skate Skiing
- Ice Fishing
- Washrooms
- Parking
- Viewpoint
- Snowshoe Route
- Cross-country Ski Trail
- Road
- Gravel Road
- Park Boundary
- The Rock

Cross-country ski trails

(distance, difficulty, trail grooming)

1 BEAVER GLEN REROUTE

(4.5 km, Easy, Classic & Skating)
Temporary trail for 2017-18 takes you through multiple loops of Red Deer Campground and connects to the Red Deer Yellow trail. Distance is approximate.

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

(6.3 km loop or 7.5 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 reaches Crean Lake near its entrance to the Hanging Heart Lakes. Be cautious if 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.

7 GREAT BLUE HERON PROVINCIAL PARK

Saskatchewan Parks maintains 18 km of groomed cross-country ski trails at Anglin Lake. From rolling hills to challenging slopes, these trails offer a variety of options for skiing. Trailhead parking is located at Jacobsen Bay Boat Launch off Highway 953 approximately 40 km from Waskesiu. For more information contact the Great Blue Heron park office at (306) 982-6250 or greatblueheron@gov.sk.ca.

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 – 4 km loop, Access from the Narrows Road
- E** WASKESIU RIVER TRAIL – 2.5 km loop
- F** SPRUCE RIVER HIGHLANDS – 8.5 km loop, 1 km spur to Great Blue Heron Provincial Park ski trails
- G** FREIGHT TAIT SPRINGS TRAIL – 2 km one way

Please do not walk, snowshoe, or bike on groomed ski trails.

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