



# Winter Activities

Waterton Lakes National Park  
 parkscanada.gc.ca

www.pc.gc.ca/waterton

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- International Peace Park
- Waterton Glacier
- International Peace Park
- Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995



Parks Canada, Edwin Knox



Parks Canada, Nicholas Alexander

**Winter in Waterton** is a quiet time when visitors can experience the park blanketed in snow. It's an excellent time to enjoy mountain scenery, and opportunities abound for photographing wildlife such as elk, deer and bighorn sheep. However, facilities are limited, but include some accommodation, camping, restaurants, and gift shops. The gas station and grocery store are closed. We invite you to enjoy the park and its many winter activities during this quieter time of year.

## Park Access

The entrance road leading to the village remains open year round while Akamina Parkway is maintained to the Little Prairie picnic site, three kilometers from Cameron Lake. The Red Rock Parkway and the Chief Mountain Highway are closed to motor vehicles during winter months.

## Weather

Waterton's weather and snow conditions vary dramatically. Be prepared for conditions ranging from temperate winter weather to extreme cold and gusting wind.

## Travel Conditions

Poor visibility, icy roads and drifting snow occur frequently. Variable weather conditions keep park road crews busy. In the event of falling or drifting snow, maintenance of the road to and in the village is our first priority.

Please obey parking zones at Little Prairie picnic area. Snow clearing equipment operates daily and requires sufficient room to safely pass parked vehicles and turn around.

## Information

Trail and other winter program information is available on signs at the Park Operations Building, cross country ski trailheads, or at [www.pc.gc.ca/waterton](http://www.pc.gc.ca/waterton).

Personal information is available at the Park Operations Building, or by calling (403) 859-5133, weekdays between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

More information on winter activities is available on our website, follow the links to Winter in Waterton.

## Avalanches

Most backcountry trails traverse avalanche prone terrain and require skills for evaluating avalanche risk. All backcountry travellers are responsible for their own decisions and safety, and should be well informed about the type of terrain they will encounter.

Travel in avalanche prone terrain requires the use of specialized equipment (avalanche transceiver, probe and shovel). Use of this equipment requires practice, and instruction from a skilled user. Backcountry avalanche information can be obtained by calling the Canadian Avalanche Association (1-800-667-1105) or visit [www.avalanche.ca](http://www.avalanche.ca).

You may also obtain current backcountry travel and avalanche conditions by contacting the park or at [www.pc.gc.ca/waterton](http://www.pc.gc.ca/waterton).

 [twitter.com/parksmtnsafety](https://twitter.com/parksmtnsafety)

## Hazardous Activity Registration

Voluntary self-registration is available at the Warden Office to anyone undertaking what they consider to be a hazardous activity. Registration is provided to ensure your safe completion of an activity. Once registered you *must* check in at the completion of your activity.

 **24 HOUR EMERGENCY**  
**403 859-2636**

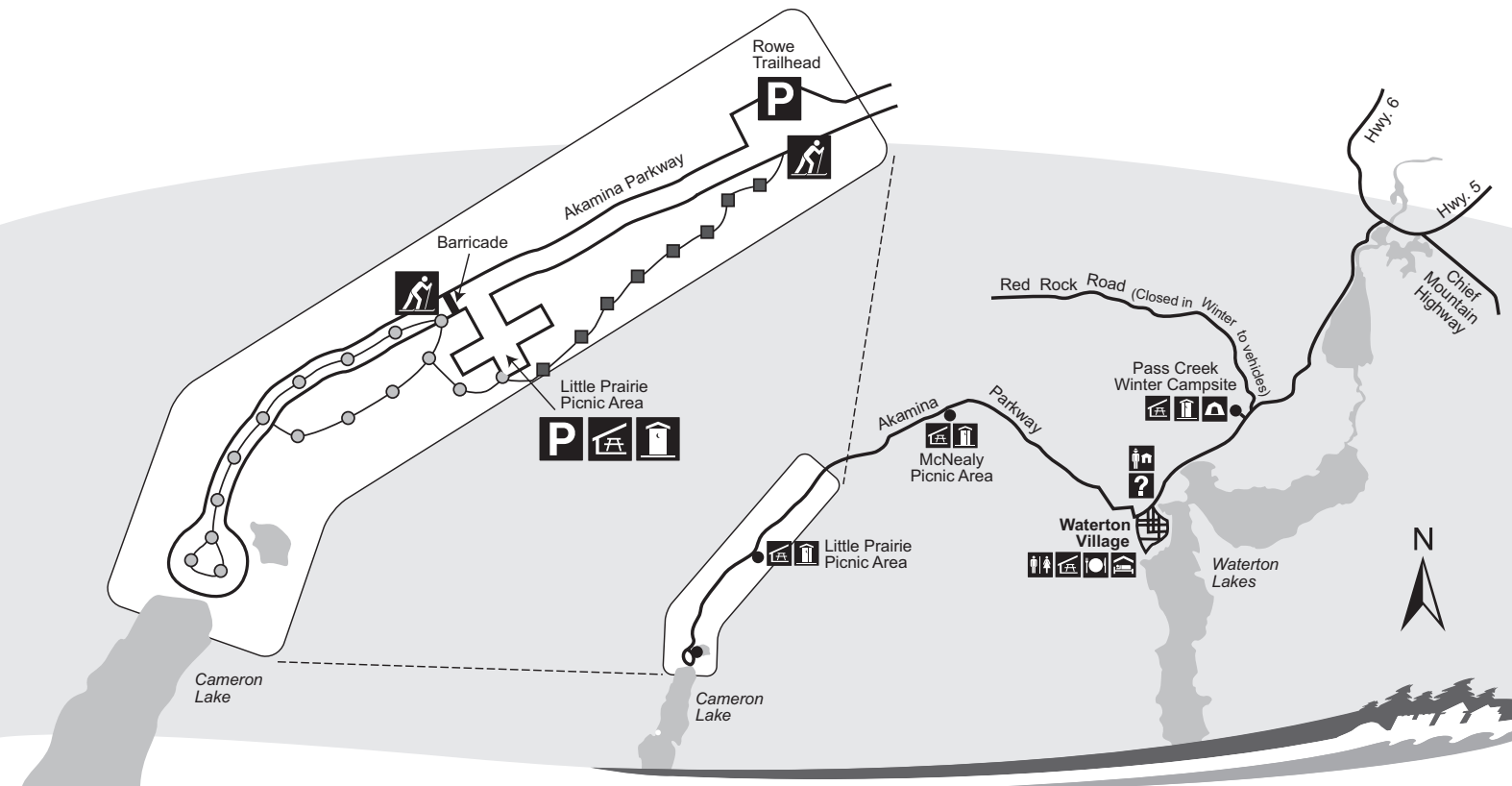


Parks Canada





# Waterton Lakes National Park



## Designated Ski Trails

**Cameron Ski Trail** 5 km Roundtrip  
Little Prairie Trailhead to Cameron Lake  
Easy ○—○

**Dipper Ski Trail** 6.5 km Roundtrip  
Rowe Trailhead to Little Prairie  
Moderate ■—■

## Legend

- Ski Trail 
- Information 
- Parking 
- Washrooms 
- Outhouse 
- Accommodation 
- Restaurant 
- Picnic Shelter 
- Camping 

## Wildlife Viewing

Along the Akamina Parkway you might see moose, mule deer, red squirrels, snowshoe hares and marten. Watch for playful otters at Cameron Lake.

Deer and bighorn sheep are common, especially in the community.



Jeff Plomley



Parks Canada, Jeff Yee

## Birding

The community has the best variety of birds, while Cameron Lake is the place to see cheeky Steller's and gray jays, boreal chickadees, crossbills and pygmy owls. Keep your eye on roadsides for snow buntings and redpolls.

## Cross Country Skiing

The best snow conditions for cross-country skiing often exist along the upper Akamina Parkway. Two designated cross-country ski trails are accessible in this area. Winter trail conditions may be obtained by visiting the park website at [www.pc.gc.ca/waterton](http://www.pc.gc.ca/waterton). Please note: dogs are prohibited on designated ski trails.

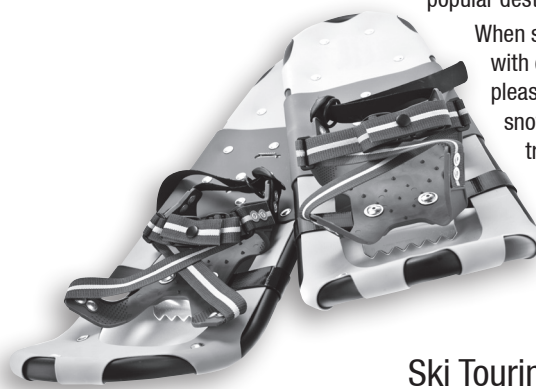
## Frontcountry Camping

Interested in enjoying a winter camping experience? Pass Creek, located on the entrance road five kilometers from the village, offers a sheltered winter campground. Services include a kitchen shelter, wood stove, and toilets. Heated washrooms and running water are available at the Firehall located in the village on Fountain Avenue.

## Snowshoeing

Depending on the weather and snow conditions, Waterton can be a great place to snowshoe. Visitors can snowshoe at many locations in Waterton, but Cameron Lake and Crandell Lake are two of the most popular destinations.

When snowshoeing in areas with designated ski trails, please preserve the trail by snowshoeing beside ski tracks, not on them.



## Ski Touring

Depending on snow conditions, excellent opportunities for ski touring may exist on or off the park's trail system. Popular trails include Crandell Lake (easy-moderate), Rowe Trail, Akamina Pass, Summit Lake and Wall/Forum Lakes (all difficult). These trails are not marked or maintained and may be subject to avalanche hazard.

Ski touring enthusiasts should carry avalanche beacons, have knowledge of avalanche conditions and route evaluation, and be capable of self rescue. A detailed avalanche forecast and information regarding backcountry skiing conditions are available online at [www.pc.gc.ca/waterton](http://www.pc.gc.ca/waterton) or by contacting the Canadian Avalanche Association 1-800-667-1105.



Canadian Tourism Commission

## Picnicking

Bundle up and come for a picnic! Kitchen shelters with stoves are available, but you must supply your own wood, and bring your own supplies (no grocery store is open in the village in winter). Each picnic area outside the village includes an outhouse. There are no outhouses near the community picnic shelters, but water and barrier free washrooms are located at the community firehall on Fountain Avenue.

## Wilderness Camping

All overnight visitors to the backcountry should contact the Warden Office at (403) 859-5140 Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm for advice. Opportunities for random winter camping are limited and available by prior arrangement only. For further information and to make bookings, please call the park at (403) 859-5133.

## Sledding

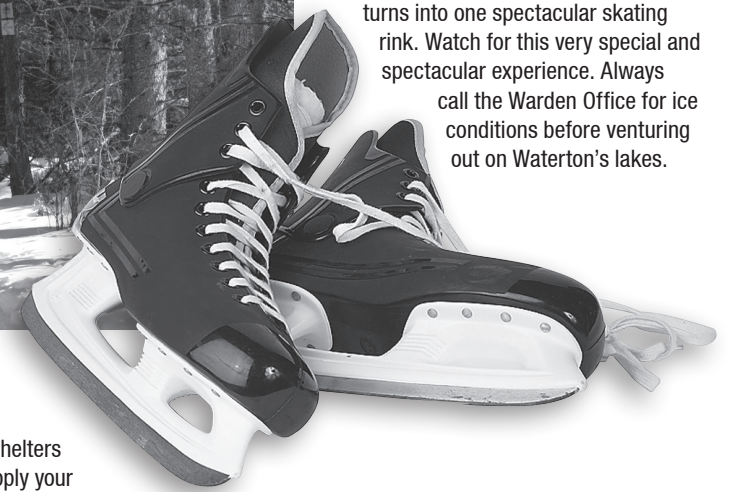
Bring a toboggan or a sled and take advantage of Waterton's slopes and drifts. Be careful to stay off avalanche paths, but otherwise pick your spot to slide. Some favourites exist on the Prince of Wales Hill, and around the village.

## Ice Climbing

There are a number of locations in Waterton suitable for ice climbing. Please call the park for information about the best locations, weather and avalanche conditions. Please see **Hazardous Activity Registration**.

## Ice skating

Once in a while the ice on the lake turns into one spectacular skating rink. Watch for this very special and spectacular experience. Always call the Warden Office for ice conditions before venturing out on Waterton's lakes.



Parks Canada, Thane Vanderaegen



Parks Canada, Edwin Knox