

# Winter Guide & Trail Map 2023-2024



Aussi disponible en français.

## 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.

Enjoy more cross-country ski trails at Elk Ridge Resort and Great Blue Heron Provincial Park too.

### Snowshoeing

Inspired by nature, snowshoes are a way to become lighter on your feet in deep snow. So, think light on your toes like a lynx or a hare! Use extra caution when snowshoeing over ice.

Please do not snowshoe on groomed ski trails.

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

### Picnic Shelter

Need a place to warm up and have lunch? The five enclosed shelters in the park offer the perfect sanctuary for a picnic:

- Main Beach across from the Visitor Centre
- Paignton Beach on the Narrows Road
- Birch Bay on Kingsmere Road
- Crean Day Use Area at end of Crean ski trail
- Southend Campground on Kingsmere Lake

### Fishing

Ice fishing season on Waskesiu Lake is open until March 31.

A valid Prince Albert National Park fishing license is required. Licenses can be purchased at the Visitor Centre.

### Winter Camping

Why not spend the night? The northern sky, solitude and sense of adventure make a winter camping experience unlike any other.

Paignton Beach and Birch Bay are designated winter campgrounds with access to firewood, pit toilets and enclosed picnic shelters. Enclosed picnic shelters are shared, public spaces. Overnight camping in the shelters is prohibited. Register at the Visitor Centre before any overnight excursions, including backcountry winter camping.

#### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Fat biking.

Skating: The indoor rink located on Montreal Drive is operated by the Waskesiu Recreation Association. Bring your own skates, fees apply.



## Trail Conditions

For up-to-date trail conditions visit [parks.canada.ca/PANP-trail-conditions](https://parks.canada.ca/PANP-trail-conditions)

**Park entry fees apply year-round.** Breeze by the Visitor Centre to pick up your permit before hitting the trails.

### Ski Trail Etiquette

- Do not walk, snowshoe, bike or take dogs on groomed ski trails.
- Descending skiers have the right of way.
- Move off the trail when resting or visiting.
- Pack out all garbage.
- Avoid damaging the classic ski tracks when climbing hills or skate skiing.



### Dogs are Welcome

- Keep your pet on leash and under control while on the trails. This is for their safety, as well as wildlife and other visitors.
- Please do not take dogs on groomed ski trails.

## Safety

### What to Bring

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

### Planning

- Research your trip and ask park staff for advice if needed.
- Check the weather forecast and road conditions.
- Have a travel itinerary and inform someone of your plans.
- Study trail information and choose a trail that is suitable for the energy and experience of your group.
- Travel with a partner or in a group.
- Be prepared for sudden weather changes.
- Trails are not patrolled – help may be more than 24 hours away.
- Remember, overnight stays must be registered with the park at the Visitor Centre.

Visit [Adventuresmart.ca](https://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. Keep batteries warm to preserve power.



Cell phone coverage is variable throughout the park. Do not rely on your cell phone or other electronic devices.

## View Wildlife



Winter is a great time of year to view wildlife and their tracks. Elk, white-tailed deer, moose, red fox, wolf and lynx are some of the larger mammals you may see. Watch for signs of otter, fisher, marten, snowshoe hare and weasel too. Bird watchers can also search for the over 30 species of birds that make Prince Albert National Park their winter home.

**Remember:** Do not feed wildlife; they have a greater rate of survival and are healthier when they eat natural food.



Lynx Wolf Fox



Deer Elk



Hare Coyote



## 2023-24 Winter Events

### CHRISTMAS TREE HARVEST November 24 - December 23

Start a new family tradition and help protect Waskesiu from wildfire. Come cut down a Christmas tree in the Waskesiu Community Fuel Break. Pick up your free tree permit and map at the Visitor Centre.

For more information about the Christmas tree harvest and to obtain a permit, call the Visitor Centre at 1-306-663-4522.

### GUIDED PROGRAMS

Parks Canada interpreters are enthusiastic and knowledgeable and offer public programs and paid private programs ready for groups. Call the interpretation team at 1-306-930-5323 for more information.

### Family Forest Walk

Walking or snowshoeing, follow the winding path through snow-covered trees and locate silhouettes of a few of the park's winter residents. Visit the Family Forest Walk after sunset and experience the trail lighting up! Don't forget to bring your activity pamphlet, available at the Visitor Centre. The trail is located across the street from the Hawood Inn, between the Nature Centre and Main Beach.

### Wildlife Viewing Opportunities

- Take a drive along the park's many scenic roadways.
- Look carefully across frozen lakes, you may spot wolves.
- Visit the Narrows of Waskesiu Lake where otters often play in the open waters. Be cautious and stay off the ice – it is very thin here.



## Services

### Visitor Centre 1-306-663-4522

The Prince Albert National Park Visitor Centre is in Waskesiu and open year round. Friendly staff are available to provide information about trail conditions, upcoming events and winter camping.

- Register here for winter camping
- Pick up:
  - Park entry passes
  - Fishing licenses
  - Brochures
  - Parks Canada official merchandise

### Accommodation and Dining

#### WASKESIU

	Chateau Park Chalets	1-306-663-5556
	Elk Ridge on the Lake	1-306-663-6161
	Hawood Inn	1-877-441-5544
	Kapasiwin Bungalows	1-877-963-5225
	Lost Creek Resort	1-866-663-8622
	The Suites at Waskesiu	1-306-663-4620

#### SURROUNDING AREA

	Elk Ridge Resort	1-844-306-4653
	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. It is approximately 15 km from Waskesiu at the junction of Highway 2 and Highway 264, outside of the park.

### Winter Equipment

Winter equipment is available to loan at the Hawood Inn on a first-come, first-served basis, including cross-country skis and snowshoes.



## Directory

### Visitor Centre

Check the park website or call the visitor centre for hours of operation.  
Closed December 25 & 26

1-306-663-4522  
[princealbertinfo@pc.gc.ca](mailto:princealbertinfo@pc.gc.ca)  
[parks.canada.ca/princealbert](https://parks.canada.ca/princealbert)  
 @ParksCanada\_SK  
 [facebook.com/PrinceAlbertNationalPark](https://facebook.com/PrinceAlbertNationalPark)

**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 emergencies (Parks Canada Dispatch)

### Road Conditions

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

### Prince Albert National Park Entry Fees Apply Year-Round!

Prince Albert National Park is open 365 days of the year for visitors to enjoy this special place. Annual and day park passes can be purchased at the Visitor Centre during hours of operation and online.

# Prince Albert National Park Winter Trails

## Legend

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| First Aid            | Viewpoint                |
| Visitor Centre       | Winter Camping           |
| Restaurant           | Parks Canada Merchandise |
| Gas Station          | Shower                   |
| Enclosed Shelter     | Police                   |
| Accommodation        | Snowshoe Route           |
| Ice Rink             | Cross-country Ski Trail  |
| Cross-country Skiing | Paved Road               |
| Skate Skiing         | Gravel Road              |
| Ice Fishing          | Park Boundary            |
| Washrooms            | Big Rock                 |
| Parking              |                          |

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

## Cross-country ski trails

(distance, difficulty, trail grooming)

### 1 BEAVER GLEN\*

Starting at the Big Rock - 5.7 km loop, Easy, Classic & Skate Skiing

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 for night skiing.

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

\*Trail may change. Please contact the visitor centre for updated trail information.

### 2 WAPITI

Starting at the Big Rock - 8.5 km loop, Medium, Classic

A perennial favourite, this 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. For the best experience, ski the route counter-clockwise.

### 3 RED DEER RED

Starting at the Big Rock - 6.9 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

Starting at the Big Rock - 2.8 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

Starting at the Big Rock - 8.9 km loop, 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. For the best experience, ski the route clockwise.

### 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 connection with the Heart Lakes. Be cautious of thin ice on Crean Channel.

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

### 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. A 0.9 km spur trail connects Spruce River Highlands Trail to 18 km of ski trails in the Anglin Lake area.

For more information, visit [saskparks.com](http://saskparks.com) or contact the Great Blue Heron park office at 1-306-982-6250 or [greatblueheron@gov.sk.ca](mailto:greatblueheron@gov.sk.ca).

## Snowshoe Trails

**A KINGSMERE RIVER** - 1.5 km one way

**B MUD CREEK TRAIL** - 2 km loop. Access 450m from the Narrows Road.

**C WASKESIU RIVER TRAIL** - 2.5 km loop

**D SPRUCE RIVER HIGHLANDS** - 8.5 km loop, 0.9 km spur to Great Blue Heron Provincial Park ski trails. Note that this is a multi-use trail, and can be used for both snowshoeing and skiing.

**E FREIGHT TAIT SPRINGS TRAIL** - 2 km one way

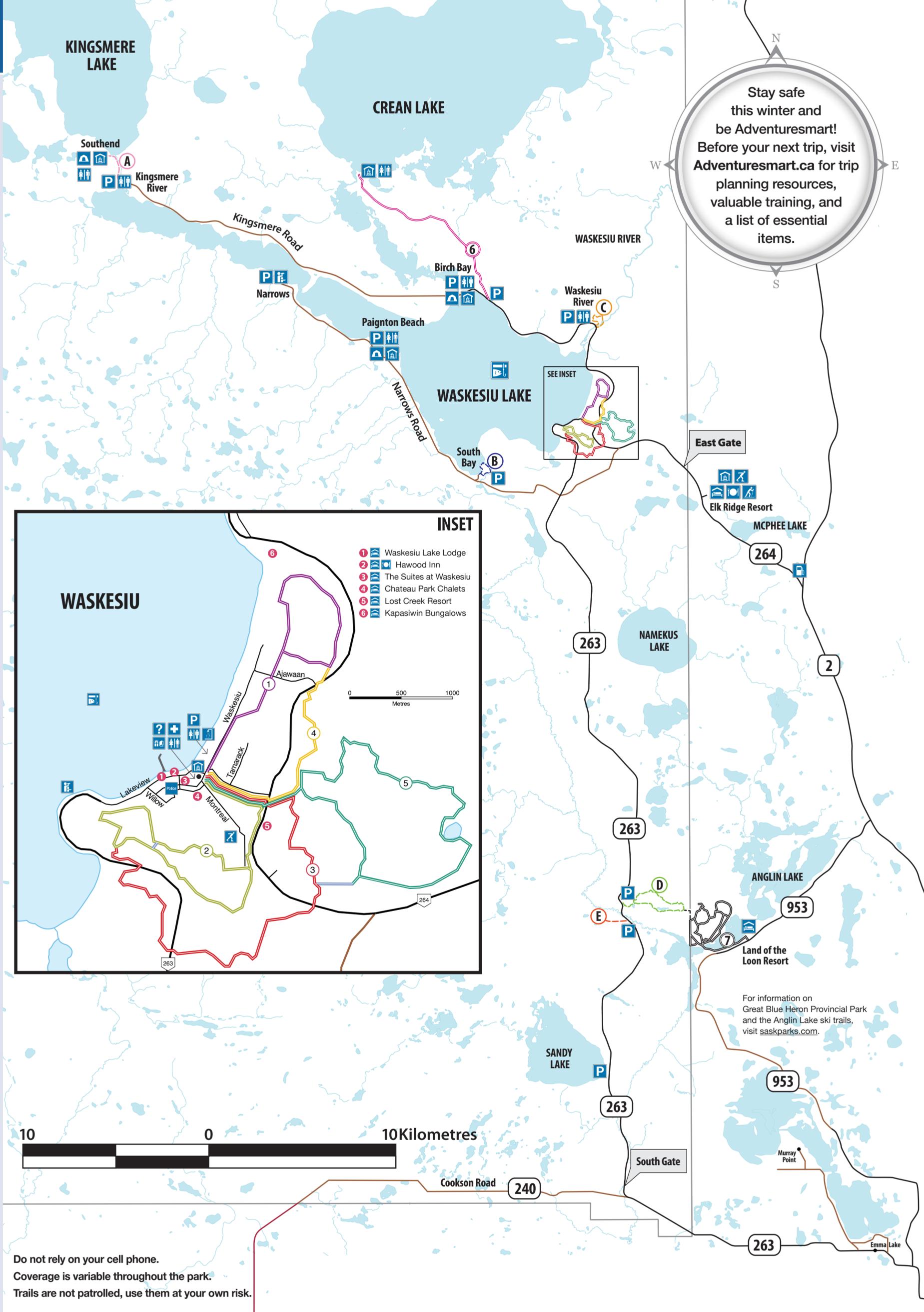
**Visitor Centre:** 1-306-663-4522

**Emergency:** Dial 9-1-1

**Parks Canada Dispatch:** 1-877-852-3100

**Trail Conditions:**  
[parksCanada.gc.ca/PANP-trail-conditions](http://parksCanada.gc.ca/PANP-trail-conditions)

Printed on recycled paper



Stay safe this winter and be Adventuresmart! Before your next trip, visit [Adventuresmart.ca](http://Adventuresmart.ca) for trip planning resources, valuable training, and a list of essential items.

Do not rely on your cell phone. Coverage is variable throughout the park. Trails are not patrolled, use them at your own risk.