Canada

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

IN PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

2006

Aussi disponible en français

Tell Us What You Think!

We want to hear from you.
Your feedback is important.

If you have comments or suggestions about the cross country ski program, please let us know.

Please register at the trailheads and add your comments or contact PANP at panp.info@pc.gc.ca; Box 100 Waskesiu Lake, Sk S0J 2Y0; or (306) 663-4522.

1. Townsite

A Wapiti

Length: 5.6 km loop
Level: Novice/Intermediate
Condition: Classic track
Time: Approximately 1.5 hours
Start: South end of parking lot by the Chateau Park Chalets and Post Office

A perennial favourite, this short trail follows the golf course. Watch for chilly conditions on windy days.

B Fisher

Length: 7.2 km loop
Level: Novice/Intermediate
Condition: Classic track, Self-guiding
Time: Approximately 2 hours
Start: Adjacent to Route 264 entrance to Waskesiu

This self-guiding trail is great for a family outing; scenic, close to Waskesiu and relatively flat. The trail is best skied clockwise, through mixed woods, aspen stands and black spruce muskeg.

C Beaver Glen

Length: 1.6 km / 5.8 km loops
Level: Novice
Condition: Classic track
Time: Approximately .5 hour/1.5 hours
Start: Lakeview Drive and Tamarack intersection

A short lit ski around the portable cabin area or triple your strides by circling Beaver Glen Campground.

D Red Deer South

Length: 5 km connect
Level: Novice/Intermediate
Condition: Classic track
Time: Approximately 1.5 hours
Start: Off Wapiti and Fisher trails

The southern portion links Wapiti with Fisher. The route, although gently rolling in many sections, has a few significant hills with challenging corners. The west end of the loop begins at the Wapiti while the east end is located at the Fisher Trailhead.

E Red Deer Central

Length: 3 km connect
Level: Novice
Condition: Classic track, Self-guiding
Time: Approximately 45 minutes
Start: Opposite the boulder by the tennis courts

The central portion links the Beaver Glen, Fisher and Wapiti trails. The route is flat to gently rolling.

2. Crean

Length: 19 km loop
Level: Novice
Condition: Classic track & Freestyle track
Time: Approximately 3.5 - 4 hours
Start: Crean Lake Patrol Road, 500 m south of Birch Bay, 11 km north of Waskesiu on Kingsmere Road.

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. Ending at a winter campsite on Crean Lake's southwest shore, you will find yourself in the very heart of the park's northern wilderness.

3. Freight

This historic trail dates back to the 1800s when burly horses and men of the hardiest breed hauled furs and supplies between Prince Albert and La Ronge. Today, this quiet wooded trail offers a feeling of northern wilderness, heightened by winter's subtle beauties.

A-B Amiskowan

Length: 8.6 km loop
Level: Intermediate
Condition: Classic track
Time: Approximately 2 hours
Start: 1.6 km down the Narrows Road and 1.4 km south on Beartrap Road

The western portion of this trail gradually climbs through mixed woods before descending a steep hill to Beartrap Creek. Before crossing the creek, the trail turns left (north) and returns to the trailhead along a fire access road.

B-D Beartrap Creek Crossing - Spruce Reach

Length: 19.4 km return
Level: Intermediate
Condition: Classic track
Time: Approximately 3 -4 hours
Start: Via 3A or 3C

This portion of the trail ranges from rolling pine and aspen covered hills to relatively flat terrain where the trail emerges intermittently onto the banks overlooking Spruce River. Take the 3 km return access trail to Beartrap Lake's shore.

C-D Cowan Creek Access

Length: 3 km return
Level: Novice
Condition: Classic track
Time: Approximately 45 minutes
Start: 14 km south of Waskesiu on Route 263

D-E Cowan Creek

Length: 10 km return
Level: Novice
Condition: Classic track
Time: Approximately 2 hours
Start: Via 3C

Due to high water levels and safety issues related to crossing the creek, the east side of the Cowan Creek Country Ski Loop will not be packed or groomed this year.

E-F Tait Springs Reach

Length: 9 km return
Level: Intermediate
Condition: Classic track
Time: Approximately 2.5 - 3 hours
Start: 25.5 km south of Waskesiu on Route 263

Two kilometers from the trail's end, on Hwy. 263, is Tait Springs, a natural spring used as a night stopover during the freighting days.

4. Trappers

Length: 7.2 km return
Level: Novice
Condition: Classic, double track
Time: Approximately 2 hours
Start: 20 km south of Waskesiu on Route 263

This flat, easy trail follows a summer road through a large jack pine stand over Bitter Creek to a winter campsite at the lake's edge.

5. Kinowa

Length: 9.2 km return
Level: Intermediate
Condition: Classic track
Time: Approximately 2 hours
Start: 30 km south of Waskesiu on Route 263

Starting beside Kinowa Lake, this rolling trail travels through aspen woods, jack pine stands and open meadows, ending at Anglin Lake. A brisk ski across the lake will link you up with the provincial ski trail network, ending at Jacobsen Bay. Be careful crossing the lake, watch for thin ice or slush conditions.

6. Anglin Lake

Length: 24 km return
Level: Novice/Intermediate
Condition: Classic track & Freestyle track
Time: Approximately 3.5 - 4 hours
Start: 27 km south of Waskesiu on Route 263

This trail takes you through aspen and balsam poplar forest and along the Spruce River. At approximately 2 km, stop and enjoy the panoramic view of Anglin Lake.

7. Elk

Length: 25 km return
Level: Novice/Intermediate
Condition: Classic track & Freestyle track
Time: Approximately 4.5 - 5 hours
Start: 4 km north of South Gate, 37 km south of Waskesiu on Route 263

This route skirts the edge of Sandy Lake, following the old fire road through mixed and aspen hazelnut forest. At km 10.6, Elk meets the Fish Lake Trail; turn right (north) and continue another 2.5 km to the shore of Fish Lake and a backcountry campsite.

8. Fish Lake

Length: 23 km return
Level: Novice
Condition: Classic track & Freestyle track
Time: Approximately 5 - 5.5 hours
Start: Route 240 (Cookson Road) 10 km west of Route 263

This gently rolling trail follows a warden patrol road through aspen and mixed forests, passes several small lakes and ends at a backcountry campsite on the shore of Fish Lake.

9. Spruce River Highlands

Length: 8.5 km loop
Level: Advanced
Condition: Freestyle Track
Time: Approximately 2.5 hours
Start: 25.5 km south of Waskesiu on Route 263
Note: 4.5 km along the Sruce River Highlands trail is a link to the Anglin Lake provincial ski trail network with 18 km of trails.

This trail is a challenge, great for an advanced skier! It travels clockwise climbing 4 km through a continuous series of ups and downs along the Spruce River hillsides. At 3.5 km, the trail's highest point on a jack pine slope offers a commanding view of Anglin Lake. From here the trail begins to descend. At 4.5 km is a junction. To the right the Spruce River Highlands trail continues, completing the 8.5 km loop through mixed woods and aspen stands.

To the left the trail travels 1 km and connects to a network (classic track) of provincial ski trails at Anglin Lake. Several loop trails exist in the network to make a total of 18 km. Retrace your tracks to the original trail to complete the final 4 km of the Spruce River Highlands Trail. Half a kilometer from the parking lot stands the 10 m. high Spruce River Tower - worth a climb any time of the year.

Camping

DESIGNATED WINTER CAMPSITES: Trappers, Fish, Crean & Sandy Lakes, Waskesiu Lake (Paignton Beach & Birch Bay) and Kingsmere Lake (Southend). See map for location details.

YOU MUST REGISTER at the Information Centre, the South Gate or by phone before any overnight excursion. De-registration upon return is now voluntary. If you choose to de-register, you must contact us in person at the Information Centre, or by phone during office hours at (306) 663-4522, prior to your trip. Park use and camping fees apply.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY call **911**
Be prepared for all emergencies!

We appreciate your comments on our winter services;
call: (306) 663-4522
e-mail: panp.info@pc.gc.ca
or write:
Box 100
Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan
S0J 2Y0