

Winter Activities Guide 2020

Downhill skiing and snowboarding is usually the reason most visitors come to Lake Louise in the Winter, but why not try out some of these other great activities whilst you're here!

Cross Country Skiing



Lake Louise's ski season is one of the longest in North America, running mid-November through to April. Scenic trackset and skate skiing options are available in the Lake Louise, Banff and Castle Junction areas. Early and late season conditions are best in Lake Louise, with optimal skiing throughout the park from late-December to early April. Wax up your skis and enjoy one of many cross-country ski trails.

For rentals, visit Wilson Mountain Sports in the village of Lake Louise- 5 minute walk from the Post Hotel:

<https://www.wmsll.com/winter-rentals.html>

For up to date trail conditions and grooming/track-setting information, visit:

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/banff/activ/randonee-hiking/etat-sentiers-trail-conditions>

Lake Louise Area				
Trail	Distance	Elevation	Track Setting	Trailhead
Moraine Lake Road	15.6Km return	250m	Double trackset with skating lane	Moraine Lake Road
Fairview	4.6Km one way	60m	Single trackset	Chateau Lake Louise
Tramline	4.8km one way	195m	Double trackset	Train Station
Lake Louise Loop	4.1km loop	15m	Double trackset	Chateau Lake Louise
Upper Telemark	1.4km one way	65m loss	Double trackset	Chateau Lake Louise
Great Divide "Old 1A"	20km return	60m loss	Double trackset with skating lane	Great Divide
Peyto	2.2km One way	45m loss	Double trackset	Behind Deer Lodge
Lower Telemark	4km One way	110m loss	Double track set	Great Divide
Bow River Loop	6.6km loop	No elevation	Single trackset	Post Hotel
Campground loop	2.2km Outer loop	15m	Double Trackset	Campground
Townsite	0.7km one way	No elevation	Double trackset	Village Road
Pipestone Loop	13.3km loop	190m	Single trackset	Pipestone parking lot
Hector	3km One way	95m	Single trackset	Pipestone
Drummond	2.7km one way	24m	Single trackset	Pipestone
Merlin	2.3km one way	55m	Single trackset	Pipestone
Bow Valley Parkway Road #1A				
Baker Creek to Protection Mountain Campground	3.5km one way	No elevation	Single trackset	Baker Creek
Castle Junction	8.7km of trails	20m	Single trackset	Hostel or Rockbound or Castle lookout trailheads

Snowshoeing

Prime snowshoeing is available late December through early April and conditions are best after a recent snowfall. Be aware that avalanche season in the mountains extends from November to June. Designated winter trails follow portions of summer hiking trails but not all sign-posted destinations are safe for winter travel. Strap on a pair of snowshoes and enjoy one of many snowshoeing trails in the Lake Louise area.

Snowshoes can be rented from Wilson Mountain Sports in the village of Lake Louise- 5 minute walk from the Post Hotel:

<https://www.wmsll.com/winter-rentals.html>



For up to date snowshoe trail conditions and information, visit:

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/banff/activ/randonee-hiking/etat-sentiers-trail-conditions>

For Snowshoe tours we recommend Joel at Great Divide Nature Interpretation: <https://www.greatdivide.ca/>

Snowshoe Trails

Lake Louise Area			
Trail	Distance	Elevation	Trailhead
Lake Louise Lakeshore	4km return	No elevation	Chateau Lake Louise
Fairview Lookout	2km return	100m	Chateau Lake Louise
Louise Creek	5.6km return	195m	Bow River Bridge
“Highline” trail to Paradise Creek	9km return	60m	Chateau Lake Louise
Mirror Lake via Lake Agnes Hiking trail	5.4km return	295m	Chateau Lake Louise
Taylor Lake	12.6km return	585m	Parking lot 18km east of Lake Louise
Icefields Parkway #1A			
Peyto Lake Viewpoint	1.5km Return	25m	Peyto Lake Parking lot

Fat Biking



Another great activity to try for fun (and fitness!) is fat biking. They can be rented at Wilson’s Mountain Sports and the trails follow some of the ski/snowshoe trails (remember to stay off the ski tracks)

Moraine Lake Road- 10.6km one way- Rated Difficult

Great Divide 1A – 10km one way – rated Moderate

Bow River Loop – 7km loop – rated Easy

Tramline – 4.5km one way – rated Moderate/Difficult

Dog Sledding

We recommend Kingmik Dog Sled Tours based in Lake Louise and just 10 minutes from the Post Hotel. Kingmik offers a variety of tours ranging from an introductory half hour to longer full day options.

Visit the following link for more information and to make a reservation: <https://kingmikdogsledtours.com/>

There are a couple of dog sledding companies also in the area, based out of Canmore (near Banff):

Snowy Owl: <https://www.snowyowl.com/>

Howling Dog: <https://howlingdogtours.com/>



Snowmobiling



Snowmobiling is not allowed in the National Park, but there are companies based out of Golden (1 hour west) and Invermere (1.5 hours south) that offer great tours to suit all levels and experience.

In Golden we recommend White N Wild: <https://www.whitenwild.ca/snowmobiling/> and Rocky Mountain Riders: <https://www.rockymountainriders.com/>

A bit further away, but well worth the visit if you can is Toby Creek snowmobiling near Invermere <https://tobycreekadventures.com/>

Ice Skating

Outdoor ice skating is a popular activity in Lake Louise and the Banff area, please be aware that Parks Canada does NOT monitor natural ice surfaces for safety or mark potential hazards. Many environmental factors affect the thickness of the ice. **If you choose to skate on natural ice, you do so at your own risk.** The recommended ice thickness is 15 cm.

There are a few areas in Lake Louise to go ice skating including: Post Hotel skating rink, Lake Louise (the lake itself by the Chateau) and the recreation centre.

Skates can be rented from Wilson's Mountain Sports or Alpine rentals at the Chateau.

Sleigh Rides

Brewster Adventures brings a Christmas card image to life at Lake Louise with a sleigh ride that follows the lake-side trail beneath Victoria Glacier.

Visit their website for more information and to book a ride:

<https://www.brewsteradventures.com/winter-sleigh-rides>

