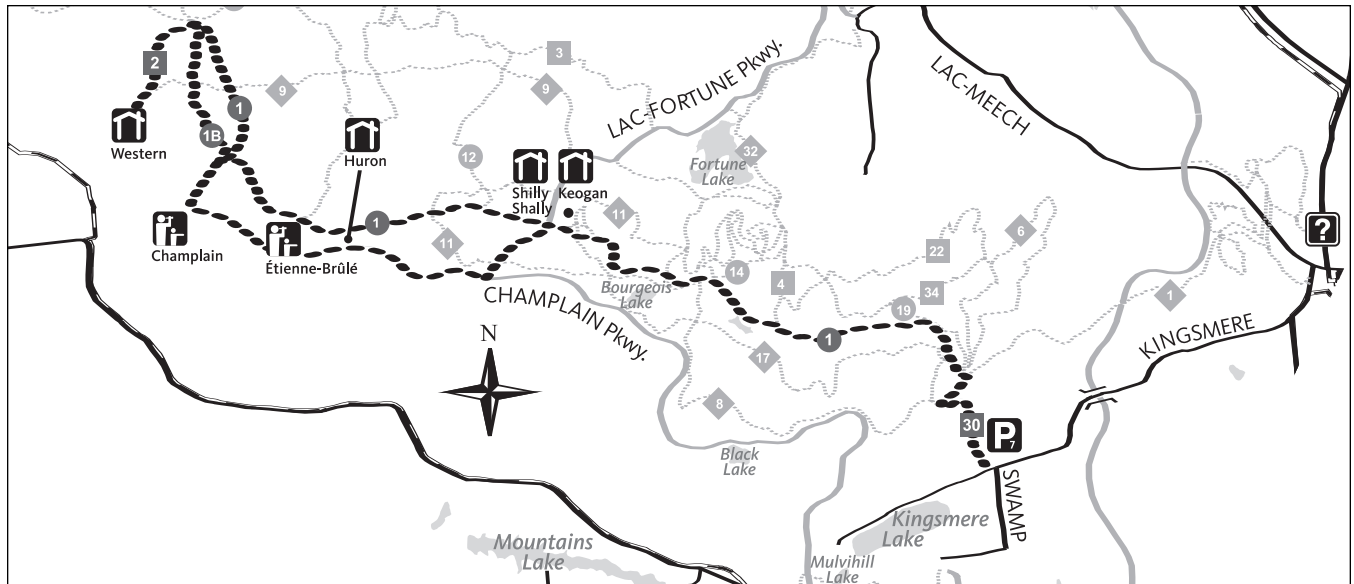


Gatineau Park Cross-Country Ski Route, in Canada's Capital Region

The Heart of the Network

P7 to Western



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Start: Parking lot 7, Kingsmere Road, Chelsea

Total distance: 18.7 km (it is possible to turn around at any point)

Level of difficulty: Easy to intermediate

Technique: Classic or skate skiing

Route: Trails 30, 1 and 2; stop at Western Shelter; return via trails 2, 1B, Champlain Parkway, Fortune Parkway and 1

Note: The first 1.5 km includes a challenging climb.

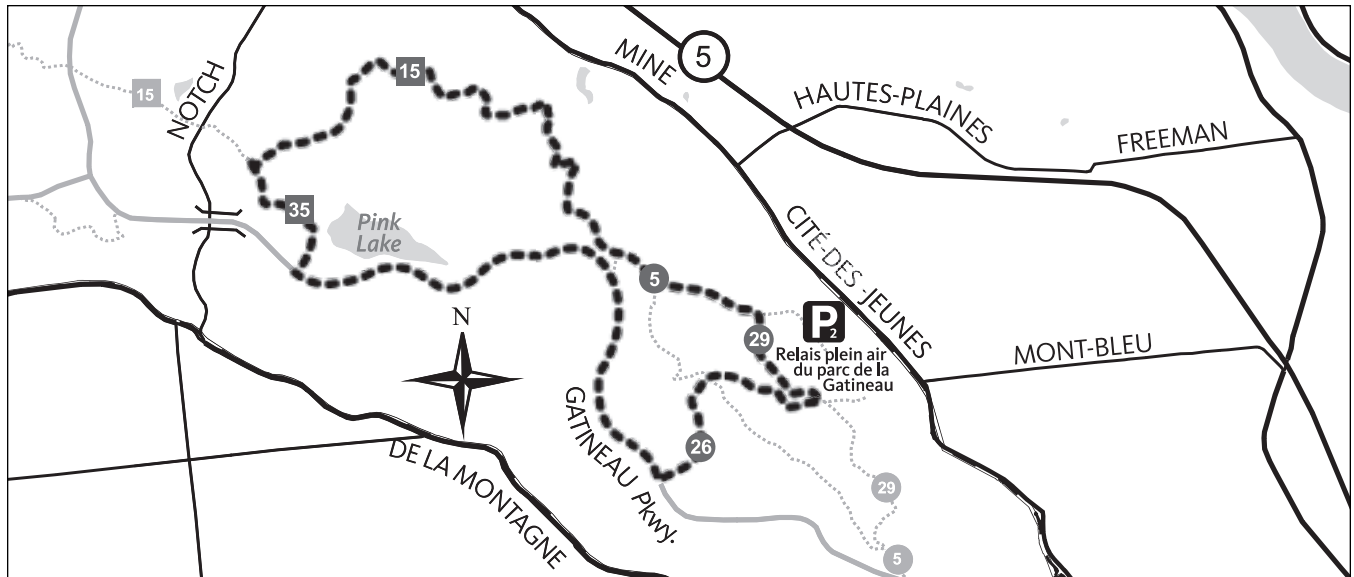
POINTS OF INTEREST

- There are **four shelters** on this route: Keogan, Shilly Shally, Huron and Western. This loop trail in the heart of the network was developed by the Ottawa Ski Club in the early 20th century. People have been skiing in this area for close to 100 years.
- **Wattsford Lookout** provides an exceptional view of the cities of Gatineau and Ottawa.
- **Champlain Lookout** offers an impressive view of the Ottawa Valley from a height of 300 m, atop the Eardley Escarpment. The escarpment marks the junction where the Canadian Shield meets the St. Lawrence Lowlands. Facing south-southwest, the cliff has a warm, dry microclimate that supports rare types of vegetation.
- At the beginning of the 17th century, **Samuel de Champlain** became one of the first Europeans to admire the escarpment. He was equipped, guided, escorted and protected by Aboriginal people, who enabled him to reach the lookout that today bears his name.

Gatineau Park Cross-Country Ski Route, in Canada's Capital Region

From the City to the Wilderness

Relais plein air du parc de la Gatineau to Pink Lake



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Start: Parking lot 2, Relais plein air du parc de la Gatineau, 397 Cité-des-Jeunes Boulevard, Gatineau

Total distance: 11.4 km

Level of difficulty: Easy to intermediate

Technique: Classic

Route: Trails 29, 5, 15 and 35 to Pink Lake; return via Gatineau Parkway, and trails 26 and 29 to Relais plein air du parc de la Gatineau

Note: The first half of this loop is a gradual uphill, which includes several steep climbs. The return includes a long, but easy, downhill section on Gatineau Parkway from Pink Lake.

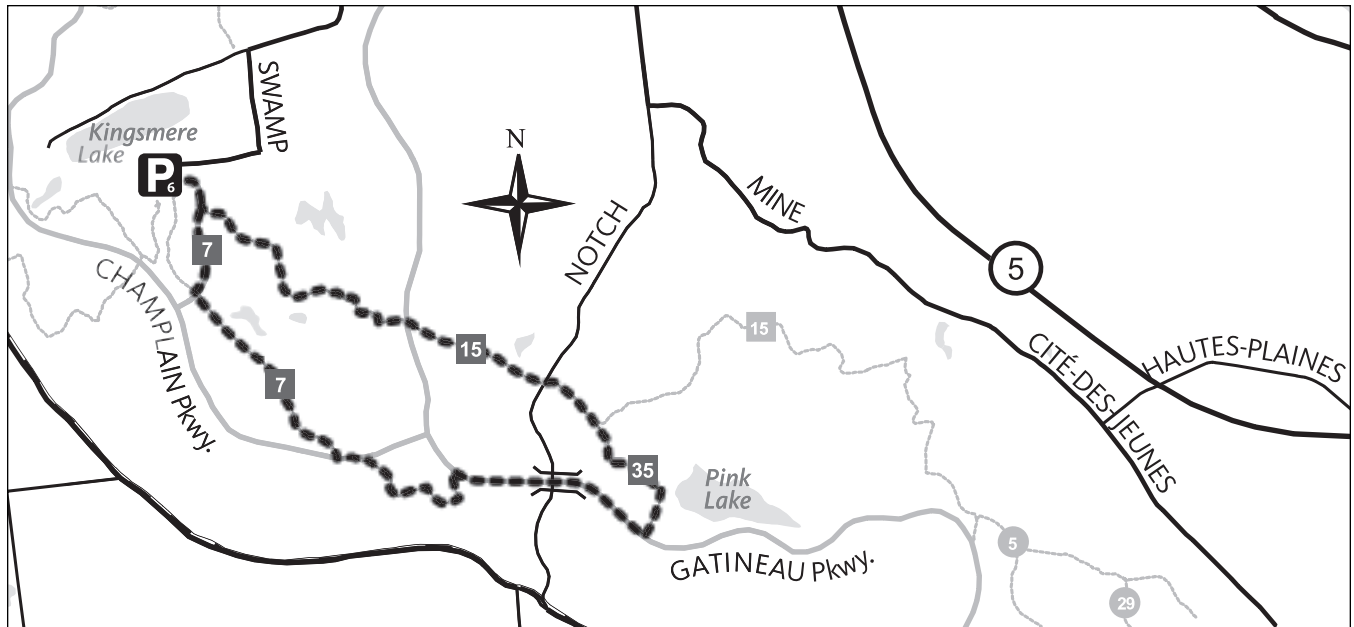
POINTS OF INTEREST

- The **Relais plein air du parc de la Gatineau** is a great place to start and finish a day of skiing. The building, operated by a not-for-profit organization, offers warm shelter, washroom facilities, rental equipment, refreshments and a waxing room.
- This loop features a **variety of scenery and terrain**, including open fields and a gently rolling trail that winds through mature forests. The route also covers sections of trail that are used for the **Keskinada Loppet** (www.keskinada.com), Canada's largest cross-country ski event.
- The end of trail 35 provides a view of beautiful **Pink Lake**. This exceptional lake is classified as meromictic, which means that, because of its sheltered position and bowl-like shape, the water layers of the lake do not mix. The result is that the deepest 7 metres of the lake contain no oxygen.
- The approach to trail 26 during the return along Gatineau Parkway provides a unique view of the **cities of Ottawa and Gatineau**.

Gatineau Park Cross-Country Ski Route, in Canada's Capital Region

A Prime Minister's Backyard

Mackenzie King Estate to Pink Lake



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Start: Parking lot 6, Mackenzie King Estate, Barnes Road, accessible from Chelsea

Total distance: 7.9 km

Level of difficulty: Intermediate

Technique: Classic

Route: Trail 7, then along Gatineau Parkway to trail 35 at Pink lake; return via trails 35 and 15

Note: This route runs primarily downhill from the beginning to Pink Lake, and is mostly uphill on the return. There is one big climb near the end of the loop.

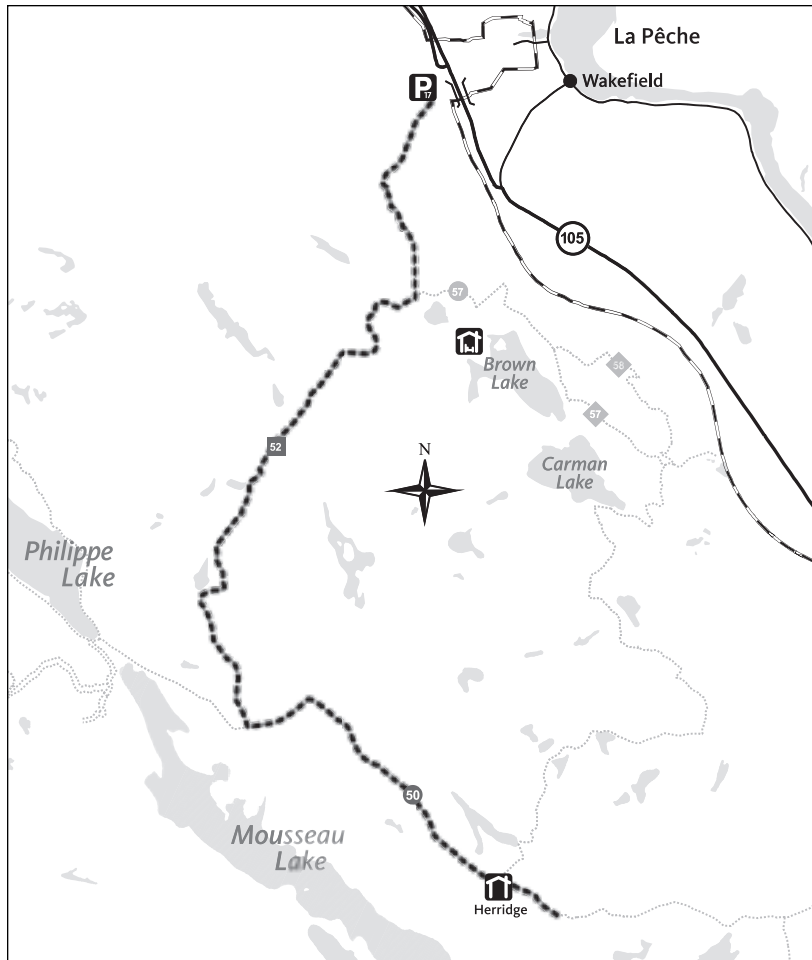
POINTS OF INTEREST

- Parking lot 6 is at the heart of the **Mackenzie King Estate**. This was the summer home of William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's longest-serving prime minister, who was in office for close to 22 years, between 1921 and 1948.
- As you leave on trail 7, you will pass the **Abbey Ruins**, arguably the most famous set of architectural ruins that Mackenzie King assembled to landscape his garden.
- The beginning of trail 35 provides a view of beautiful **Pink Lake**. This exceptional lake is classified as meromictic, which means that, because of its sheltered position and bowl-like shape, the water layers of the lake do not mix. The result is that the deepest 7 metres of the lake contain no oxygen.
- Trail 15, which you will follow for most of the way back, is a particularly scenic trail that winds its way through **mature forests and rolling hills** for about 3 km.

Gatineau Park Cross-Country Ski Route, in Canada's Capital Region

Paths of the Early Settlers

Wakefield to Herridge



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Start: Parking lot 17, Highway 105, La Pêche

Total distance: 20.4 km

Level of difficulty: Intermediate

Technique: Classic

Route: Trails 52 and 50 to Herridge Shelter for a rest stop; return via the same trails

Note: This route involves several long and sustained climbs on trail 52. On the way back, these become fairly long and fast downhill sections.

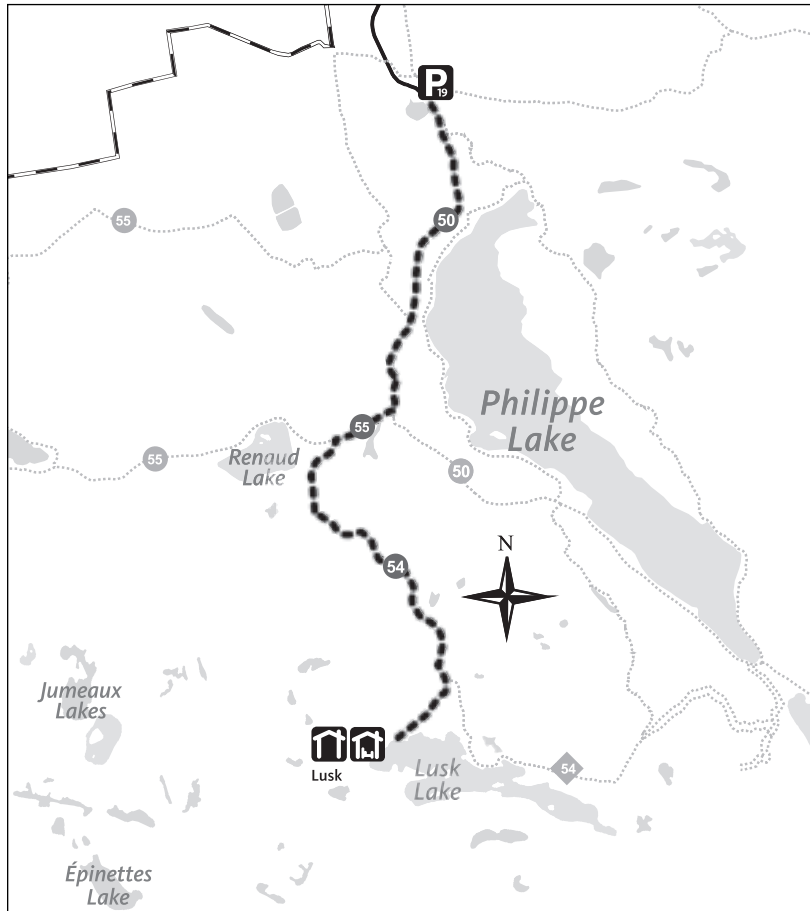
POINTS OF INTEREST

- Trail 52 is an exceptionally beautiful, classic style-only trail, which passes through a **magnificent forest** of majestic pines, enormous hemlock trees and a few beech groves.
- One might consider making an overnight stay along this route, by reserving **Brown Lake Cabin**, located less than 3 km from parking lot 17.
- The rest stop, **Herridge Shelter**, is an original settler's house which was built in the late 19th century. It has been completely restored so that it can be used every day in the winter by skiers and snowshoers. There's always lots of activity at the **bird feeders** just a few steps from the shelter, which are very popular with birds that overwinter in the Park.
- This route is part of the **Trans Canada Trail**, which runs through the Park for a distance of 35 km from Gatineau to La Pêche (Wakefield).

Gatineau Park Cross-Country Ski Route, in Canada's Capital Region

Nature and Tranquility

Philippe Lake to Lusk Lake



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Start: Parking lot 19, Lac-Philippe Road from Highway 366, La Pêche

Total distance: 11.4 km

Level of difficulty: Intermediate

Technique: Classic and skate skiing

Route: Trail 50 to the camping kiosk, then 55 to the right and 54 to the left toward Lusk Lake Cabin; return via the same trails

POINTS OF INTEREST

- There are several spots along trail 50 that provide a great view of beautiful frozen Philippe Lake.
- Philippe Lake flows into Mousseau Lake, which in turn flows into Meech Lake. This chain of three lakes represents an important habitat for a variety of fish and water birds. The lakes are also home to a very rare species of snail found nowhere else in Canada: the Gatineau tadpole snail.
- This northern sector of the Park is less used than the southern portion, which allows for wonderful moments of solitude in a winter paradise.
- It is possible to reserve the Lusk Lake Cabin for an overnight stay, as this day shelter is used for overnight accommodation after 4 pm.
- This route provides a great view of Lusk Lake and the surrounding scenery, which is both rugged and beautiful. The cabin deck faces south, which allows you to soak up the sun when you stop here for a break.
- The route has very pleasant, rolling terrain, with more climbing involved on the way in and fairly lengthy downhills on the way back.