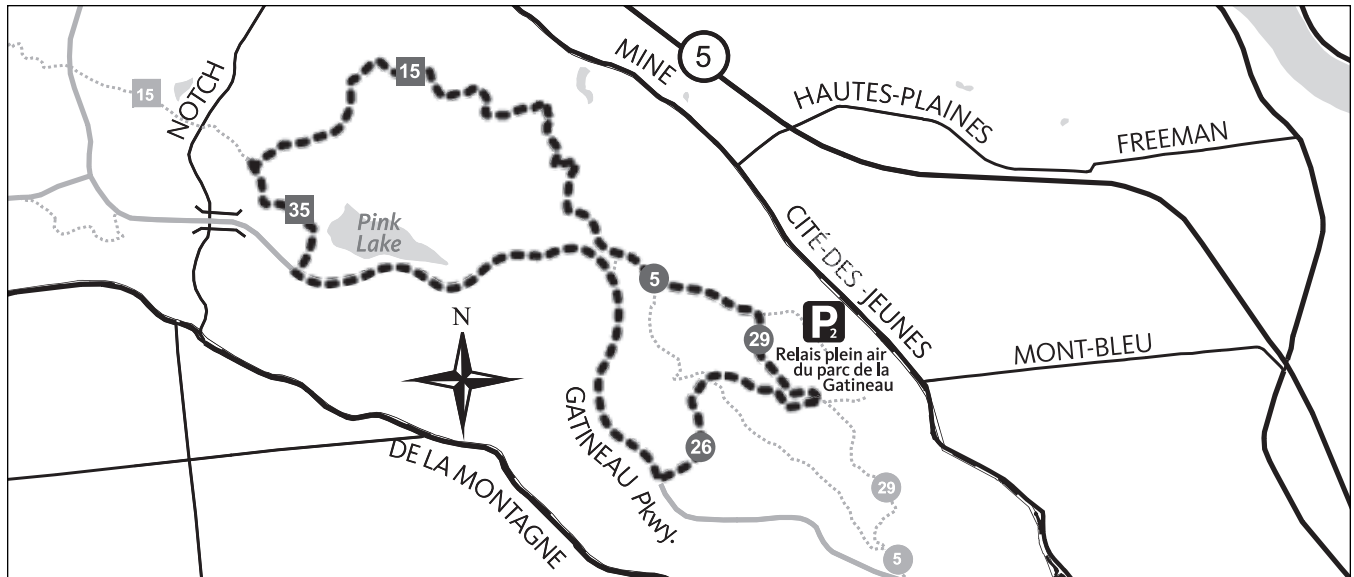


Gatineau Park Cross-Country Ski Route, in Canada's Capital Region

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**.