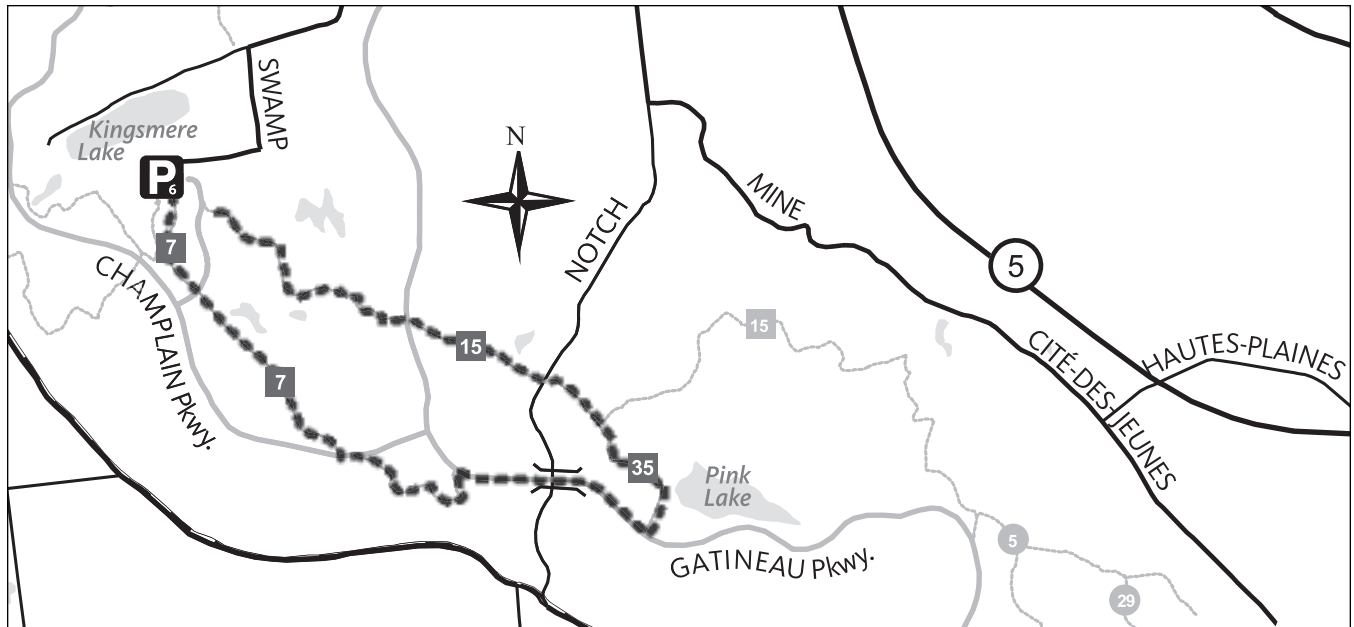


Gatineau Park Cross-Country Ski Route, in Canada's Capital Region

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.