

MOUNT ALBERT WINTER PILOT PROJECT / 2026-2028

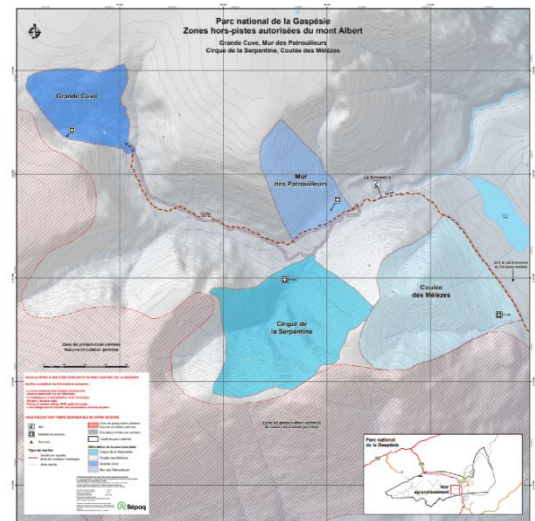
For a harmonious balance between conservation and mountain skiing.

The **parc national de la Gaspésie** is implementing a winter pilot project in the Mount Albert area aimed at promoting responsible mountain skiing in the context of preserving fragile and threatened ecosystems. Over a period from winter 2026 to winter 2028, four (4) backcountry zones will now be accessible for mountain skiing at Mount Albert. The zones are:

- **La Coulée des Mélèzes**
- **Le Cirque de la Serpentine**
- **La Grande Cuve**
- **Le Mur des Patrouilleurs**

These zones were selected based on various factors, including their geographical location, access to emergency services, and overall, snow cover.

Furthermore, these zones are located outside of extreme preservation areas, which are parts of the territory dedicated exclusively to the protection of natural and scenic heritage. It is strictly prohibited to venture outside of authorized backcountry zones.



MOUNT ALBERT AUTHORIZED BACKCOUNTRY WINTER PASS

To access one of the 4 off-piste areas, you must have your

Mount Albert authorized backcountry areas winter pass.

This pass is free and valid for the entire winter season. It will be issued to you after watching a video and completing an online form. The pass will be sent via email. It must be printed or saved on a smartphone to be presented to park employees on the field, along with your daily access rights.

The purpose of this pass is to raise awareness about the conservation and safety issues specific to Mount Albert, as well as to understand the mechanism for opening backcountry zones. It represents a real commitment to complying with current regulations.

[Download your Mount Albert authorized backcountry areas winter pass.](#)

MECHANISM FOR OPENING BACKCOUNTRY AUTHORIZED ZONES

Each authorized backcountry zone at Mount Albert is subject to strict criteria before being accessible to the public, ensuring the preservation of ecosystems and skier safety. The absence of caribou, sufficient snow cover to protect vegetation, and safe access for emergency services are the three main criteria evaluated for each zone. When these three criteria are met in a given zone, it can be opened to the public.

To find out which sectors are open or closed, please consult the [trail status table](#) on the **parc national de la Gaspésie** website or inquire at the discovery and visitor center.

CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

The **parc national de la Gaspésie** is a protected area with a priority on the permanent conservation and protection of its territory.

Mount Albert is one of the exceptional natural sites in the park that need protection. Due to its unique geology, altitude, and harsh climate, Mount Albert is home to rare and endangered animal and plant species.

For example, Mount Albert is occasionally visited by the Gaspésie mountain caribou, a population on the brink of extinction and the last living south of the St. Lawrence River. Unfortunately, human presence can disturb the caribou, negatively affecting their health, especially in winter due to the energy required to move and flee. To contribute to their protection, any area where a caribou is observed will be temporarily closed.

Mount Albert also hosts threatened arctic-alpine plants, some of which are unique in the world. Unfortunately, human trampling directly damages these plants, which is why minimal snow cover is necessary to protect them.

The regulations in place aim to protect Mount Albert's unique ecosystem, and user compliance is essential.



In parallel, a research project is underway to document the impact of snow compaction from backcountry skiing on vegetation.

The results will allow for more appropriate regulation of this activity.

SAFETY



Mountain skiing at Mount Albert poses significant risks to user safety. The majority of Mount Albert is in a complex avalanche terrain. The steep slopes, presence of rocks, cliffs, and cornices, terrain and snow conditions conducive to triggering large avalanches, risks of serious or fatal injuries, and difficulties in accessing emergency services mean it should not be taken lightly.

Skiers venturing into these areas must be highly experienced. Thorough planning, excellent knowledge of the terrain, and adopting preventive and safe behaviors are crucial. It is essential to have avalanche safety, communication, navigation, and first aid equipment and, most importantly, to know how to use them

The **parc national de la Gaspésie** does not provide organized rescue services, so rescue times can take hours or even more than a day. **Your safety is your responsibility** at all times.

VISITOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING THE PILOT PROJECT

As a mountain user, it is crucial that you assume your responsibility by respecting the established rules for responsible mountain skiing in the authorized backcountry areas of Mount Albert. Based on observations gathered over the three years of this pilot project, established targets will document the project's success and reflect on its continuity.

Human presence in this exceptional setting is a privilege, and it is our duty to protect and preserve the mountain for future generations.

Therefore, if the measures put in place by the park are not respected, the project could be cancelled and withdrawn.