

Backcountry Skiing Important Information



Backcountry skiing is a great way to explore the unique wilderness terrain of the Parc national de la Gaspésie. Itineraries of several days in the backcountry call for good skiing ability and careful preparation. Weather conditions are variable and range from clement to difficult. **Skiers must be able to handle all types of conditions.**

Levels of difficulty vary considerably due to changing conditions. For example, in fair weather, skiing seems easy on trails that have been hardened by preceding groups. After an abundant snowfall, skiers have to take turns packing the trails. It is therefore essential to start very early and be ready to make extra effort.

Skiers must evaluate their progress in each stage, and plan to return on the same trail if they cannot complete half of the stage in the first half of the day.

When skiers are not able to follow a trail, they must return to the hut they stayed at the night before.

Winter camping is not authorized (except at the Mont-Albert campground). Skiers stay overnight in huts.

Important :

- Hikers must pay park entry fees.
- You must have a stay permit to stay overnight in Parc national de la Gaspésie.
- Due to high volume during some periods, you will not be able to modify your itinerary and reservations along the way: your expedition must be strictly planned in advance.
- The ski trails cross alpine terrain in several places. In these open areas, as is the case everywhere in the park, leaving the trail is prohibited.
- Once you are in the backcountry, outside communications could be difficult. There is no systematic patrol in these sectors. Skiers are responsible for their own safety, and will be charged the costs of search and rescue operations (check beforehand to see if your insurance covers these risks).
- **Open-air fires are prohibited** near the huts or along the trail.

Trails

Backcountry ski trails are not groomed. Several logging roads are used as winter trails.

Backcountry ski trails are loops: the Mont-Logan sector, the Lac-Cascapédia sector and the Mont McGerrigle sector. The Mont-Logan sector is offered in priority, depending on the circuit.

For the exact location of huts, see the map.

A topographical map of the Parc national de la Gaspésie at scale 1:80000 can be purchased from Sépaq.

The numbers of the government topographical maps at scale 1:50 000 covering the Parc national de la Gaspésie are: 22A/13, 22B/5, 22B/16, 22G/1, 22H/4 and 22H/5. Infrastructures (huts, trails, campgrounds) do not appear on these maps.

Backcountry ski trails pass snow fields. Access to snow fields is prohibited except when explicitly authorized (signage, etc.) Circulation on the snowfields exposes skiers to a risk of avalanche.

About Backcountry Snowshoeing

The trail network was designed for cross country skiing. If you're snowshoeing, we don't recommend treks of over 12 km. Some sections are longer than that and are not suitable for snowshoeing.

When you make your reservation, let the personnel know that you intend to go backcountry snowshoeing. They will suggest itineraries adapted to the sport.

Accommodations Along the Trail

Huts are insulated buildings equipped as follows: beds, mattresses, tables, chairs, woodstove and firewood. A pit toilet is located nearby. All huts sleep eight except for Le Huard, which sleeps sixteen, and Mines Madeleine, which sleeps twelve. These are community accommodations: groups share the huts.



Water can be taken from the streams and lakes along the trail. Under many circumstances, it could be better to melt snow.

Please note that water quality is not verified and may not be potable. We recommend that you treat and/or filter the water.

Name of Hut	Water supply	Location
Le Geai-Gris, La Buse, Le Faucon, L'Arlequin, Le Harfang, Le Corbeau, Le Bruant	Washroom facilities	Near the huts
Le Roselin	Ruisseau	50 metres north
La Paruline	Lac Haymard	40 metres west
Le Pluvier, L'Hirondelle	Lac Cascapédia	75 metres west
La Mésange	Ruisseau	125 metres south
Le Huard	Lac Thibault	30 metres west
Le Carouge	Lac Choc	40 metres east
La Chouette, La Nyctale	Ruisseau	500 metres west

Note: Skiers are responsible for bringing back all of their garbage. This rule is in effect along the trails and in the huts.

Baggage Transportation

This service can be used to lighten a skier's load or to deliver provisions. The service must be reserved with Sépaq at least 72 hours in advance.

Costs of baggage transportation depend on the amount of baggage and the distance covered. The unit price of baggage transportation is calculated based on a 20 kg bag or box. The approximate volume is 70 litres. There are extra charges for overweight baggage. Bags or boxes whose size or weight makes handling difficult will be refused.

A stage represents transportation from one hut to another or from a service area to a hut. For example, from Saint-Octave-de-l'Avenir to Le Huard hut is one stage. From intersection of Routes 11 and 299 to Le Huard hut is two stages and costs twice the rate.

Important :

No passenger transportation is available in the winter.

Customers must wrap and clearly identify their matériel. Each box or bag must be marked with the following information:

- Name of customer
- Reservation number
- The place and date of arrival of the package

During transport, packages may be exposed to **heat** and **freezing**. Material and food being transported may be subject to temperature changes.

Meeting place	time
Village Grande Nature Chic-Chocs (Saint-Octave-de-l'Avenir)	8:30 a.m.
Discovery and visitors Centre	9 a.m.
Intersection of Routes 11 and 299 (Huts in Cascapédia sector)	11 a.m.
Huts	Between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Intersection of Routes 11 and 299 (Petit Saut cabins)	1 p.m.

Gear**Essential Items**

- Crosscountry skis with metal edges*
 - Climbing skins
 - Full waxing kit
 - Outdoor equipment repair kit
 - 70 L plus capacity backpack
 - Windbreaker (2-piece, top and pants)
 - Warm clothing
 - Sleeping bag
 - Insulated mat (one per group in case of accident)
 - First-aid kit
 - Map and compass
 - Head lamp and extra battery
 - Matches and candles
 - Food
 - Mess kit and utensils
 - Canteen
 - Toilet paper
 - Filter or other water purifier
 - Camping stove and fuel
 - Identification card and health insurance card
- * Cross country ski equipment is not appropriate

Recommended Items

- Climbing skins
- Sun screen
- Extra laces
- Cellphone (good coverage only on the summits)