

The Klondike Cold Rush: A Guide for Winter Users on the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site

It is hard to travel the Chilkoot Trail NHS without experiencing some element of its wild past. Whether it is the story of Tlingit and Athapaskan First Nation traders and travelers, or the stampede of prospectors making their way to the Klondike goldfields, the living history and natural beauty of the Chilkoot has entranced visitors for decades.

Share the Site

World famous as a summer trail, the Chilkoot Trail NHS has also become a popular winter destination. The Log Cabin Parking Lot and adjacent lands are shared by backcountry skiers and snowboarders, snowshoers, dog walkers, cross country skiers, bike riders, dog mushers, campers and snowmobilers. Parks Canada regulations exist to reduce user conflicts and ensure that the area is protected for all to enjoy.

Winter Safety

This is remote wilderness. Winter users need to be self-sufficient and responsible for their own safety. In the event of an emergency, you should be prepared for lengthy delays in search and rescue response times. Significant avalanche terrain and other natural hazards exist. There is no cell phone coverage in the area. Parks Canada recommends all users carry a satellite phone.

Non-Motorized Weekends

Snowmobiling is permitted in much of the Chilkoot Trail NHS for most of the winter. However, every third weekend, from Friday through Sunday, is set aside exclusively for non-motorized activities. Use of over snow vehicles anywhere in the Chilkoot Trail NHS, including staging, loading and unloading machines in the Log Cabin Parking Lot, is prohibited on the following weekends in 2018:

January 19-21

February 9-11

March 2-4 and 23-25 (Buckwheat Ski Classic Race)

April 13-15

Lindeman and Bennett Restricted Activity Areas (see attached map)

The Lindeman and Bennett town sites have special protections in place to prevent damage to fragile artifacts and historic features. Snowmobiling and random camping are not permitted in these areas at any time. Camping is allowed in the immediate vicinity of the cabins at Lindeman, and near the shelter (closed for the winter) at Bennett.

Lindeman Day-Use Cabins

There are two user-maintained, day-use cabins at the south end of Lindeman Lake that remain open throughout the winter. Each cabin has a wood stove, and you **may** find firewood inside or buried beside the cabins. Best bet is to bring your own. It is illegal to cut or gather wood from the Chilkoot Trail NHS. Please respect the Restricted Activity

Area - snowmobile access to the cabins is via Lake Lindeman only. If you decide to spend the night, pitch your tent near one of the cabins.

Log Cabin Parking Lot

The Log Cabin Parking Lot is part of the Chilkoot Trail NHS and is a hub for winter activity in the area. The parking lot can be busy with kids, dogs, vehicles, snowmobiles, trailers, campers and tents. Be cautious and slow down when driving through. Camping is permitted at Log Cabin between December 1st and May 15th. Open fires are allowed in the parking lot, but only within a fire pan. Bring your own wood. It is illegal to cut or gather firewood within the site. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.

Winter Camping

Winter camping is allowed in most of the Chilkoot Trail NHS. Unlike the summer, camping permits are not required and you do not have to stay in designated campgrounds. In the Lindeman and Bennett Restricted Activity Areas, tent camping is limited to the immediate vicinity of the day-use cabins. Campfires are only allowed in the Log Cabin Parking lot, contained within a fire pan.

Log Cabin Cross Country Ski Trails

Volunteers maintain approximately 25 km of cross country ski trails, just outside the Chilkoot Trail NHS adjacent to the Log Cabin Parking Lot. These trails, home to the annual Buckwheat Classic Ski Race, are enjoyed by thousands of skiers every year. Please, respect the signs and do not drive your snowmobile on the ski trails. For up to date trail conditions call the Mountain Shop in Skagway at 907-983-2544.

First Nation Trapline and Residence

There is an unbroken connection between the modern Indigenous peoples in this area, and their ancestors who trapped and travelled here thousands of years ago. A Carcross Tagish First Nation family maintains a trapline north of Log Cabin and along the railroad tracks, and they have a seasonal residence at Bennett. Respect their privacy and do not interfere with their traps or property. Dogs can disturb traps and may be injured. Please keep your dogs on leash at all times.

Do your Part

- **Leave no trace.** Pack out your garbage, including dog waste.
- **Protect cultural and natural resources.** Do not remove, disturb or damage archaeological or historical objects, plants, animals or other natural objects.
- **Winter users are our eyes and ears on the land.** Contact Parks Canada at 1-780-852-3100 to report damage to facilities, and unusual or illegal activity.
- **Fishing, hunting and possession of firearms is prohibited.**
- **Do not approach, disturb or feed wildlife.**
- **For more information** call 1-800-661-0486 or www.pc.gc.ca/chilkoot.

Parks Canada 24 hour Emergency Dispatch 1-780-852-3100