

Safety, it's part of our NATURE

Snowshoeing and winter hiking are not without risks. In the great outdoors, preparation and prevention are the key to a safe and enjoyable experience. Put all the chances on your side; make safety your priority.

SNOWSHOEING AND WINTER HIKING

BEFORE YOU GO

- ✓ Plan your excursion with the park's official map or [Balise Québec's trail directory](#).
- ✓ Choose an itinerary that suits your abilities and those of your partners.
- ✓ Check the weather and trail conditions. Adjust your objectives accordingly.
- ✓ Dress appropriately for winter. During the activity, adapt your layers of clothing according to your level of effort in order to better manage your body temperature.
- ✓ Bring along the essentials: a means of communication, water and food, a headlamp, a trail map, a first aid kit, and contingency supplies.
- ✓ Inform a close friend about your itinerary and its duration. This person will be your guardian angel and can notify emergency services should you go missing.
- ✓ Make sure you know the rules and regulations, and hours of operation. Get a pass at the park entrance or online.

WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

- ✓ Write down the emergency contact number and the procedure to follow when in areas without mobile phone coverage.
- ✓ Leave early enough to complete your activity before dark or have the necessary equipment to remain safe after sunset. Don't forget that winter days are shorter.
- ✓ Stay on the trails at all times and obey the signs.
- ✓ On multi-use trails, stay in the snowshoeing or hiking corridor and be courteous.
- ✓ At intersections, take the time to check your position and wait for your partners.
- ✓ Conserve your energy by taking regular breaks. Use this time to eat and drink.
- ✓ Respect your limits and do not hesitate to turn back if the chosen route proves too difficult.
- ✓ It is wiser not to set out by yourself.

WHEN YOU RETURN

- ✓ Let your guardian angel know once you are back.
- ✓ Let park staff know of any breakage or potentially dangerous areas observed during your visit.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

- Backpack
- Snowshoes for fresh powder, crampons for hard surfaces
- Winter hiking boots and wool socks
- Multi-layer clothing: base layer (long underwear), insulating layer (fleece or down) and protective layer (waterproof-breathable coat and pants)
- Warm coat for breaks
- Tuque, tubular scarf, gloves or mittens
- Fully charged phone and a whistle
- Map of the trails
- Water in an insulated container and a sufficient amount of food
- Headlamp and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Lighter and fire starter
- Hand and foot warmers
- A piece of insulating foam mattress
- Hand sanitizer
- Toilet paper
- Garbage bag