

Toronto Bicycling Network

Wolf Den Winter - Hostel and Nature Retreat

Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Weekend Getaway

January 27 to 29, 2023

Information:

Stay at the rustic Wolf Den Bunkhouse 'n Cabins close to the entrance of Algonquin Park, from Friday evening until Sunday. Enjoy the company of fellow enthusiasts while reveling in and celebrating the winter season.

We have the entire Hostel booked for the weekend. There are three buildings. The Main Lodge building has washrooms, showers, cooking, and eating facilities as well as bedrooms down stairs. There are also two split winterized cabins (Loon and Bear).

The Loon and Bear cabins do not have washrooms or running water. You must go to the Main Lodge for washrooms and showers. The washrooms, in the Main Lodge, are right next to the front door and will not disturb anyone if used in the middle of the night.

You can choose a bed for yourself and your friends when signing up. View the room and bed layout graphic below. Go to the TBN website and view the Wolf Den web page for the updated rooming list showing who is staying where. The bed graphic is updated manually – it will be modified as often as possible.

MAIN LODGE	
Room 1 (Couple)	Room 2 (Couple)
Double Bed 1A 1B	Double Bed 2A 2B
Room 4 (Singles)	(no room 3!)
Single Bed 3 Single Bed 4	
Room 5 (Singles)	Room 6 (Singles)
Single Bed 5 Single Bed 6 Single Bed 7	Queen Bed 8 Single Bed 9

BUNKHOUSES (Loon to Right, Bear in Front - West faces highway 60)	
LOON EAST (Singles)	LOON WEST (Singles)
Queen Bed 10 Single Bed 11 Single Bed 12	Double Bed 13 Single Bed 14 Single Bed 15 Brenda/Paul
BEAR EAST (Singles)	BEAR WEST (Singles)
Double Bed 16 Single Bed 17 Bunk Bed 18Bot 18Top	Single Bed 19 Single Bed 20 Bunk Bed 21Bot 21Top

Provided will be Friday night food and snacks, two breakfasts, and supplies for two sandwich style lunches. Saturday night dinner will be potluck (group dinner).

Activities:

The area offers cross country skiing, snow shoeing, and hiking. The hostel is a 20 minute walk to Ragged Falls on the Oxtongue River for snow shoeing. The Beetle Lake Trail, and nearby cross country trails, are another hiking/snowshoeing option within walking distance. We will attempt a dark walk to ragged falls Saturday night.

Many will choose to ski in Algonquin Park. The day fees are \$21 per vehicle per day including HST (senior \$16.75). Car pooling reduces costs!

Algonquin Park has four trail networks specifically designed and reserved for cross-country (nordic) skiing. Three trails are packed and groomed on a regular basis and one wilderness ski trail is offered, where no grooming takes place. Go to this website for more information:

https://www.algonquinpark.on.ca/visit/recreational_activites/skiing-in-algonquin-park.php

- [Fen Lake Ski Trail](#)
- [Leaf Lake Ski Trail](#)
- [Old Railway Trail](#)
- [Minnesing Wilderness Ski Trail](#) (not groomed)

Arrowhead Provincial Park (<https://www.ontarioparks.com/skiereport/detail/arrowhead>) and the Frost Centre Trails (<https://algonquinhighlands.ca/ski-snowshoe-trails.php>) are both nearby and popular cross country and snow shoeing destinations. Arrowhead day permit bookings are online only – up to 5 days in advance. Charge is \$21 per vehicle per day. The Frost Centre charges \$14.42 per person per day, including HST. The Blue Spruce motel (<https://bluespruce.ca/resortActivities/?id=4>) has groomed classic trails. They are walkable from Wolf Den.

For snowshoeing in Algonquin Park, any of the Hwy 60 corridor hiking trails can be used in winter. The 5km Booth Rock trail becomes 7 km in winter since the road is not plowed. The 10km Centennial Trail becomes 14 km in winter.

Cross Country Skis can be rented from Algonquin Outfitters (Oxtongue), which is walking distance from the hostel. Call them to reserve: <https://algonquinoutfitters.com/rental/cross-country-skis/>

Registration:

Please register online. You can pay by Credit Card or PayPal.

The cost is \$125 for the weekend (\$135 if not a member of TBN).

When you complete online registration and payment, you will receive an automated confirmation email with a link to download a Confirmation document providing directions to the hostel, an itinerary, and some extra information. The email does not get sent until payment is completed.

Sign up deadline: Sunday, January 15th, 2023

The hostel is about a three hour drive north of Toronto on Highways 400, 11, and 60. Because of the facility and the options available in the area, this is an “all weather” weekend trip.

Car Pooling:

While we will not directly organize car pooling, we will help in the process. Contact us for more information. For car poolers, if you can not find a ride, we will refund your online payment.

If you can provide a ride to someone, it is greatly appreciated. It’s a good way to defray your travel costs and you get to meet a nice person to make the long drive a lot shorter.

Suggestions on what to bring for the weekend:

Potluck Dinner: - Saturday night dinner is a group effort, bring a dish you wish to share.

Bathing suit – there is a sauna outside in its own cabin .

BYOB – alcohol is welcome if you are so inclined

Slippers/Sandals – Shoes and boots are removed in the foyer of the Main Lodge

Skiis and poles, snow shoes, boots, and appropriate clothing

Backpack for lunch, flashlight, phone

Water bottle – for activities, we do not provide bottled water or juice packs for the weekend

What not to bring:

Water – the hostel suggests using their “beautiful UV filtered water”

Plates, cups, and cutlery – the hostel has everything you need

Pillows, bedding, linens, comforters, and towels – these are provided by the Hostel

Cancellation Policy (please read):

All cancellations are manual. TBN weekend trips are not subsidized and can not lose money. Last minute cancellations make it difficult to run an event. We purchase food before the weekend, and in the case of Wolf Den, have to pay for all the beds in the hostel whether used or not. Please refer to TBN’s weekend trip policy for specifics. Do not expect a refund if you cancel two weeks before the event. You are welcome to find someone to buy your spot – please let us know, if you do.

New 2020 – we will be charging a \$15 cancellation fee to recover cancellation costs.

We may have a waiting list for this trip, but filling spots in the last two weeks is virtually impossible. People make other plans. Do not expect a refund if cancelling in the last few weeks. Partial refunds may be possible, if the trip makes more money than we need to return to TBN.

Our goal for these weekend outings is to provide an inexpensive getaway from the city where people can enjoy the outdoors, activities, relaxing, and the company of other nice people.

Comments, suggestions, and feedback of any kind are always welcome.

We make changes and try to improve every year, incorporating your recommendations.

Toronto Bicycling Network

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