

Trail Map Southeastern Manitoba



WHITESHELL

Explore the park

Discover a winter wonderland

Whiteshell Provincial Park is a snowmobiler's heaven that showcases the season's best—white snow sculpted into winter's finest designs against a brilliant blue sky, and crisp, clean air filled with the inviting scent of Jack pine.

The legendary 250 kilometres of groomed trails in Whiteshell are consistently rated Platinum by *SnoRiders* readers as well as sledders from all over North America. Situated on more than 270,000 hectares of picturesque Precambrian Shield, the extensive trail network leads snowmobilers through boreal forest, across lakes and to spectacular, scenic overlooks—a photographer's delight.

Sledders will enjoy the park's warm-up shelters—cozy log structures that boast wood-burning stoves, lighting and gorgeous views through large windows.

The trails are groomed regularly by members of the Whiteshell Snowmobile Club, making the park a fun and safe place for families.

"It is very much geared to family riding," said Mike Adey, a member of the Whiteshell Snowmobile Club in Rennie.

"We have everything," he added. "We have boreal forests, lakes, swamps—pretty much every terrain you can imagine; it is a very scenic spot."

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LAC DU BONNET/PINAWA

Get into the mix

Sledders will love the variety of trails that this area has to offer

by KIRSTEN ARMLEDER

Snowmobilers seeking a change of pace will love the charming atmosphere, terrific scenery and multitude of excellent snowmobile trails that surround the communities of Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa. The area's interesting geography makes it one of Manitoba's most sought-out destinations for outdoor recreation.

"The Lac du Bonnet region is located basically where the Canadian Shield meets the Prairie, so there are a whole variety of different things to see while out on the trails," said Gus Wruck, president of the Eastman Sno Pals snowmobile club.

According to Wruck, the area boasts approximately 320 kilometres of groomed trails that travel near dense forests, granite outcrops, swamps and ice-covered lakes; the interconnecting trail system also gives riders easy access to other popular sledding areas in eastern Manitoba.

Routes to ride

Some of the most favoured places to sled are the rail bed from Seddon's Corner, a trail from Pinawa to King's Kookout and a passage that takes sledders from Halfway Hut through the Agassiz Forest.

Getting there: Many of these areas can be accessed from the parking lot across from Casey's Inn Motor Hotel at 68 1st Street in Lac du Bonnet.

These routes are great for a family outing, as the trails are smooth and have well-maintained warm-up shelters along the way.

"All of the warm-up shelters are built with a stove for heating and cooking," said Wruck. "Firewood is supplied and on winter weekends the fires are kept burning by those passing through."

Teamwork on the trails

An essential ingredient to being recognized as a top sledding destination is having a dedicated snowmobile club—and that is exactly what the Eastman Sno Pals are all about.

Formed in 1996, this regional snowmobile club is made up of members from the neighbouring communities of Pinawa, Lac du Bonnet, Seddon's Corner, Seven

Sisters Falls, Whitemouth and Elma. Together, they spend many hours keeping the trails in top-notch condition.

"We generally try to groom once a week during the major part of the grooming season," said Wruck. "There is also good signage to direct traffic to the next destinations."

Enjoy the countryside

Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa are snowmobile-friendly communities that provide visitors with a wide array of excellent accommodations and restaurants. The rural lifestyle and prime location along the Winnipeg River make the area a perfect place for a snowmobiling getaway. **SR**

Lac du Bonnet | The essentials

Trail passes and maps: Passes and maps are available at most gas stations in Lac du Bonnet. Sledders can also purchase passes at Whiteshell Agencies in Whiteshell Centre and the Pinawa Motor Inn in Pinawa; maps can be picked up at the information office in Pinawa.

For more information on this area: Additional details on this snowmobiling area can be found at www.SnoRidersWest.com.



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www.lacdubonnet.com/town



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