



(IN SUMMER)

How to get to the lodge

Visitors to Skoki Lodge are picked up from Fish Creek Parking Lot near the ski hill at 10:00 a.m. The bus transports people up Temple Road to the trailhead. The hike begins with a short steep climb across a ski slope then evens out into the forest. This lower part of the trail travels through stands of Engleman spruce, alpine fir and a few scattered alpine larches. Wood grouse are often seen or heard in the trees. Soon the trail opens into wide meadows and spectacular mountain views.

Halfway Hut is located just ((2.4 kms)) beyond the trail head, so don't let the name fool you into thinking you are half way to Skoki! This log cabin, perched above Corral Creek, originally served as accommodation for skiers en route to Skoki from the Lake Louise train station. Now it is used as a day shelter for hikers and porcupines. From here you look ahead to Boulder Pass. Behind you is Temple Mountain, the glacier topped peak that rises 3544 m. (11,640 feet), third highest in Banff Park.

The trail continues toward Boulder Pass and beyond to Ptarmigan Lake. This is a gradual curving climb through small larch forests and open meadows. The large boulders at the top of the pass provide a good sheltered place to stop and rest on windy or wet days, before continuing on along the lake. Ptarmigan Lake is just above timberline at 2345 m., and you are now in high alpine scenery. The meadows here are highly populated with ground squirrels, and along the rocky slopes you will hear the calls of pikas and hoary marmots. The alpine wild flowers are bountiful and varied all along the trail.

The trail curves along the north shore of Ptarmigan Lake (to your left), then cuts sharply up toward Deception Pass. From that junction, another trail continues down the valley toward Baker Lake. This is the steepest part of the trail, as you climbing to 8200 feet (2485 m) at the top of the pass. The view of Skoki Valley ahead of you makes it worth the effort. You can see the gleaming glacial blue of the Skoki Lakes and peaks rising and falling on all sides of you into the distance.

The descent from the top of the pass is a gradual stroll through meadows, then larches. From the bottom the last part of the trail to the lodge takes you through a more defined subalpine forest of spruce and fir.

Skoki Lodge is located in the backcountry of the Rocky Mountains behind the Lake Louise ski area. It is tucked away amidst the peaks and valleys of the slate range, one of the outstanding areas for hiking in Banff Park. Ideally the 11km hike from the trailhead to the lodge takes between three to five hours, though it can be done in more or less time than that.

Summer Preparation Sheet

Though the trip is easily accomplished in a day, it is nice to stay for several in order to explore some of the spectacular scenery this area holds. The only access to the lodge for visitors in the summer is by hiking or horse back riding. We recommend you pack a lunch, some water and extra clothes for the trip in as well as a few other necessities. It is a good idea to be able to make repairs to yourself and your gear should you run into difficulties along the trail. Here are some suggestions for what to take with you:

- sunscreen
- sunhat
- wind breaker(rain gear)
- shorts and long pants
- extra socks and shoes
- insect repellent
- first aid kit
- cord, wire and/or tape
- **flashlight**
- Swiss Armyknife
- waterproof matches, toilet paper
- high energy food
- **indoor shoes** or slippers for around the lodge and going to the outhouse
- tensor bandage

It is ideal to dress in layers and to be prepared for rain, cool winds, snow and/or hot sun because conditions can be extremely variable at any time of year.

Your food and bedding will be provided by the lodge. Afternoon tea and goodies will be provided when you arrive, and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Breakfast is at 8:00 a.m. A buffet lunch will be set out for you to pack for your day exploring or for hiking back to Lake Louise.

We hope your trip is safe and enjoyable and we look forward to your visit!

P.S. Skoki is *now* licensed to sell alcohol; you *may purchase* beer, wine or spirits during your stay.