



## Glacier Circle Cabin

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Glacier Circle Cabin by David Toole

# Glacier Circle Cabin

## Booking, Payment and Cancellation Policy

View the Booking, Payment and Cancellation Policies at [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/reservations.html](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/reservations.html)

### Rates

Visit [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/rates.html](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/rates.html) for current hut and wilderness pass prices.

## Getting There

The Glacier Circle Cabin is located near a small lake in the deep cirque bound by Mount Macoun, Mount Fox, Mount Selwyn and Mount Topham in the Rogers Pass area of Glacier National Park in British Columbia, about halfway between Revelstoke and Golden.

It was renovated in 2006, taken off its foundation and a new foundation was put in, along with a new roof, some new logs on the wall, and a new front porch.

The following information should be used in conjunction with the correct topographic map (maps are listed below).

### Summer

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<b>Trailhead location:</b>	Illecillewaet Campground 3.5 km west of Rogers Pass Information Centre
<b>Hiking distance:</b>	14 km
<b>Elevation gain:</b>	1425 m / 4700 ft
<b>Approximate time:</b>	10-12 hours via Illecillewaet

### Winter

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<b>Trailhead location:</b>	3.5 km west of Rogers Pass Information Center Illecillewaet Campground
<b>Skiing distance:</b>	14 km
<b>Elevation gain:</b>	1425 m / 4700 ft
<b>Approximate time:</b>	10-12 hours (more if there is a lot of fresh snow)

### Portering Services

Need help carrying your load? Check out our portering services!

### Trailhead location

Access is off the Trans-Canada Highway approximately 3.5 kilometers west of the Rogers Pass information centre. On the south side of the highway there is a sign for the turnoff to the Illecillewaet Campground and parking area.

In the summertime you can drive up the road to the parking area near the Illecillewaet Campground and start the hike from there. In the winter the road to the campground is not plowed and instead a parking lot exists just off the side of the highway (same parking lot as for Wheeler Hut).

**Please note:** if you are driving up from the east it is a difficult turn to make along a dangerous curve of the highway into the parking lot. The better option is to continue driving several hundred meters further down the highway to a railway access road on the right-hand side where it is safer to turn around and approach the parking lot from the west.

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## Summer approach

There are two approaches to Glacier Circle, where the cabin is located. The classic approach is to go over the Illecillewaet Glacier from the campground. This approach requires mountaineering equipment skills.

The second approach is via a 2-3 day hike up the Beaver Valley into Glacier Circle. This approach is mostly forested and leads to excellent bear habitat.

## Winter approach

The cabin is accessed via the Illecillewaet Neve (14 km from the Illecillewaet Campground). The most usual route on foot or skis, is over the Illecillewaet Glacier. Most people misjudge the length of time that this trip takes causing them to arrive late and in the dark. The difficulty and the obscure route of descent into Glacier Circle, especially in fog, rain, whiteout, needs to be taken into consideration when determining the length of the trip. The hut is deep in the trees, there is NO obvious path and the hut is really difficult to find, even in broad daylight! It's a very serious undertaking. Chic Scott's *Summit and Icefields of the Columbia Mountains* describes two optional routes both traversing the Illecillewaet Glacier.

For further details on route option and description, please see these excellent guide books: *Ski Touring in Rogers Pass* by J.P. Kors and John Kelly and *Summits and Icefields Columbia Mountains* from author Chic Scott.

## Maps and Guidebooks

All of the following books and maps can be purchased through the ACC office or online through the ACC on-line store.

### Map and GPS references

<b>Map reference:</b>	82 N/3 Mt Wheeler
<b>Grid reference:</b>	GR 726689
<b>GPS coordinates:</b>	11N 472547E
<b>Hut elevation:</b>	1800 m

### Maps

- "Touring at Rogers Pass" 1:50,000 topographic map by Murray Toft. This is an excellent map that shows trails and permanent closure areas in detail.
- 'The Adventure Map' Series 1:50,000 topographic map entitled "Rogers Pass". This map highlights summer hiking routes in the area.
- The 1:50,000 Canadian Government issued standard topographic maps; "82N/6 Blaeberry" and "82N/5 Glacier".

### Guidebooks and general interest books

- *Summits & Icefields, Columbia Mountains*, by Chic Scott
- *Ski Touring in Rogers Pass*, by J.P. Kors and John Kelly
- *Selkirks South*, by David P. Jones
- *Selkirks North*, by David P. Jones
- *Backcountry Huts and Lodges of the Rockies and Columbias*, Jim Scott
- *Revelstoke Rock*, by Ruedi Beglinger
- *Footloose in the Columbias*, by the Friends of Mount Revelstoke & Glacier
- *Radium Ski and Snowboarding Guide*, by Ted Johnson & Chris Hofstetter

## Website Links

### Current conditions

**Weather:** Go to [www.weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca) click on <BC>, then scroll down to <Revelstoke> and <Golden>. The weather forecast is not accurate for the exact location, but should be similar enough to give you an idea of the conditions in the Pass.

**Avalanche Hazard:** Go to [www.avalanche.ca](http://www.avalanche.ca) click on the <Public Avalanche Bulletins> and review the section for <Glacier National Park>. The avalanche forecast for this region is kept current throughout the winter season.

**Highway Conditions:** [www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/index\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/index_e.asp) click on <Road Conditions Report> on the left side. Parks Canada updates their <Mountain National Parks Road Conditions Report> by 9 am daily when road conditions change.

### Area information

**Avalanche Terrain Rating System (ATES):** Parks Canada has developed a classification system for avalanche terrain, and has applied ratings to approximately 250 trips in the Mountain National Parks. For more information on ratings throughout Glacier National Park, visit [www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/visit/visit7a1\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/glacier/visit/visit7a1_E.asp)

**1:50,000 Topographic Map:** The Canadian Government offers free downloads of their regular 1:50,000 topo maps. The map files are large (25 MB) and take a few minutes to download. You will find this service at: <http://www.geogratis.gc.ca/geogratis/en/product/search.do?id=10119>. Perform your search by selecting "NTS Mapsheet", and enter 082N06. Next, press <Search> under <Search Options> (without changing any of the information in <Search Options>). Select 082N06 from the options and download it.

**1:50,000 Topo Map:** Area specific version – [YellowMaps.com](http://YellowMaps.com) offers access to the Canadian Government maps, but in smaller, area-specific versions. You will find the Rogers Pass area at: [http://yellowmaps.com/maps/rogers\\_pass\\_topo\\_map.htm](http://yellowmaps.com/maps/rogers_pass_topo_map.htm).

## Parks Canada Info

### Wilderness Passes in National Parks

No wilderness permits are required for staying overnight at any of the ACC huts in Glacier National Parks.

### Vehicle Permits

All vehicles stopping in a National Park must have a Park Motor Vehicle Permit. Annual or single day permits may be purchased at most Park entrance gates and Park visitor centers and soon through the Alpine Club of Canada's national office.

### Glacier National Park Avalanche Control

Wardens in Glacier National Park are involved in avalanche control to maintain the safety of vehicles travelling along the highway. Heavy artillery fire is used on the slopes surrounding the highway and these areas as well as all snow-study areas are closed to the public. More information on the location of the permanent-closure areas is available at the Visitor Centre.

In the wintertime parking is restricted to specific areas along the road in order to avoid interfering with snow plowing and artillery fire. Designated parking areas are snow plowed, however avalanche control may begin while you are out on your day of skiing in which case you may find a card on the windshield of your car. If this occurs, you are asked to remain with your vehicle in the parking area until you are notified that the highway has been re-opened.

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## Closed Area Entry Permits

Certain areas in Rogers Pass are permanently closed due to the threat of avalanches to the highway. Depending on the conditions, the wardens may open some of the restricted-access areas to skiing on a day-to-day basis. If you plan to ski in these areas, a permit is required and can be picked up free of charge from the Rogers Pass Visitor Centre. It is a criminal offence to ski in closed areas without the required permit.

## Voluntary Registration Service

All visitors have the option to register their summer or winter trips within the National Park. It is recommended that anyone participating in hazardous activities in the backcountry register their trips with the wardens. This registration is free and is the best method of ensuring that a search will be initiated if you fail to return on the specified date.

## Maximum Group Size

The maximum group size for hiking is 10 persons. If your group is larger, you will need to split into smaller groups.

# What Is At the Hut

## Summary

<b>Heating:</b>	Coleman stove but NO propane
<b>Lighting:</b>	Propane lantern but NO propane
<b>Cooking:</b>	Propane stove, basic cooking and eating utensils (recommended that you bring some own, dishes & utensils provided)
<b>Sleeping:</b>	Dormitory style on thick foam mattresses
<b>Capacity:</b>	8 in the summer and the winter
<b>Drinking water:</b>	Glacial stream in the summer 150 meter from the cabin at Fox Creek. Snow melt in the winter.
<b>Human Waste:</b>	Outhouse, built new in 2006
<b>Dishwater:</b>	Grey water pit
<b>Garbage:</b>	Pack it out!

## The Building

In 2006, the Glacier Circle Cabin, was completely renovated.

## Capacity

The hut sleeps 8 in the summer as well as in the winter. The sleeping quarters are on thin foam mats (many people bring their own in addition) and are arranged dormitory-style on long, shared bunks in the upstairs loft.

## Kitchen

The kitchen is supplied with basic dishes, cutlery, utensils, pots and pans. There is a burner propane stove for cooking.

## Lighting

The hut is lit by several propane lights. Propane is supplied by the ACC via a large outdoor tank.

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## Heat

The hut is heated by a modern propane furnace.

## Tools

The hut has a good supply of tools including water buckets, axes, saws, shovels, etc. for proper maintenance of the hut.

## Drinking Water

In the summer drinking water can be reached from glacial runoff, and in the winter from snow melt. It is recommended that all water be boiled or filtered before drinking.

## Grey Water

Water can be poured directly down the drains but please ensure that food scraps are pulled out of the sink and strainers. Do not leave food scraps behind, and do not throw them into the outhouse. Please pack it out.

## Human Waste

The outhouse is located approximately 30 meters from the hut. Please do not dispose of any unnecessary waste in the outhouse.

## Garbage

All paper garbage, recyclables, unused food, and food scraps should be packed out of the hut. In the summer garbage can be deposited in Parks Canada containers in the campground. Do not leave any garbage behind, pack it out!

## What you need to bring

- combination lock number for the hut door (call the ACC office to confirm before you go to the hut)
- sleeping bag
- food for the duration of your stay
- toilet paper
- matches
- first aid kit
- 9V battery for the smoke detector
- reservation form from the ACC

## Hut Rules

Here is a list of simple rules we ask that you follow in order to maximize everyone's enjoyment of the "hut experience".

### While at the hut:

- No smoking.
- Dogs are not permitted in any ACC facility (with the exception of seeing eye dogs).
- Some Parks also outlaw dogs entirely; leashed or not. Check before you go!
- If you arrive at the hut before 2:00 pm, put your belongings where they will not disturb the previous nights' occupants.
- Please be considerate of others; the hut should be quiet by 10 pm.
- Carry out all of your garbage.
- Do not do personal washing in cooking pots or nearby streams - use wash basins and slop pits.
- Clean the stoves after using them.

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- Clean up after yourself.
- Follow posted instructions for care and maintenance of toilet systems so that they function properly with minimum odor and environmental impact.

## When leaving a hut:

- If your belongings will be in the hut after 2:00 pm, and you are not staying that night, be sure to pack everything up and leave it out of the way in a corner so the new guests can move in.
- Leave all tools inside the hut when not being used.
- Empty all water containers and slop buckets before leaving the hut.
- Take out all leftover food as food left in the hut encourages rodents. (Other people generally won't use it as they don't know how old it is.)
- Bring out damaged axes, lanterns or stoves and discharged fire extinguishers - advise the national office.
- Close & latch the outhouse door when leaving to keep out rodents & snow.
- Close/lock hut, replace shutters (if applicable), before leaving the hut.
- A nearly full outhouse, damage to hut & similar matters should be reported to the national office (you may call collect).

**Please leave the hut in better condition than you found it.** Thank you for your consideration in following these rules, and have a great time!

## Things To Do Around the Hut

### Hiking, Scrambling and Mountaineering

The rugged terrain in Glacier National Park creates the opportunity for many challenging trips. The mountains are steep, the valleys are narrow and many of the trails involve high elevation gain to reach stunning ridges and peaks. The most common route involves glacier travel and therefore the classic hiking opportunities are somewhat limited once you are at the hut. The Dawson Group and the Bishop Group are mountaineering objectives and are part of the Deville Range, which is located in Glacier National Park. David P. Jones' *Selkirks South* gives you a great overview of all the climbable lines in this area.

### Backcountry Skiing

The potential to access high-quality trips from the Glacier Circle Cabin is outstanding! Glacier Circle Cabin is mostly visited on skis as an overnight trip from the Asulkan Cabin. You can find this amazing ski tour and many others well described in Chic Scott's book *Summits & Icefields, Columbia Mountains*. The trip up to the hut itself, as well as many of the ski touring destinations, crosses glaciated and complex avalanche terrain. Skiers are urged to be prepared with the proper equipment and knowledge for avalanche and glacier travel safety.