

Ski Trails

Athabasca Lookout Nordic Centre has hosted numerous provincial and national cross-country ski and biathlon races, as well as the 1994 World Cup Biathlon Race. The area's diverse trail system offers a wide variety of skiing experiences for all skill levels.

For information about ski programs and trail conditions at Athabasca Lookout Nordic Centre visit the Hinton Nordic Skiers web site at hintonnordic.ca.



Trail Ratings

Groomed trails are rated expert, intermediate and novice to ensure that skiers can select trails appropriate to their abilities. Expert trails provide a variety of steep and challenging terrain, whereas novice trails provide gentler slopes.

Day Lodge

The rustic main lodge is a hub of activity on winter weekends, serving as the coordinating point for Jackrabbit programs and biathlon training. The main lodge once served as the Administration Building for the Columbia Icefields. It was donated to the Nordic centre in 1986. The log building comfortably seats 60 people and is heated by a wood stove.

Registration

A day or season pass is required to use the Nordic centre. Prices are posted at the self-registration box in the main lodge.

Luge Track

The Hinton Luge Association operates the centre's 900-metre-long luge track. The track is generally ready for use by early January. Since 1987 the association has hosted many regional and national competitions. The Hinton Luge Association offers luge training programs for families, schools and individuals. If you're interested in learning to luge, contact the association at 780-865-2922.

Athabasca Lookout Viewpoint

Athabasca Lookout viewpoint offers one of the most stunning views of Alberta's Northern Rockies. At 1,585 metres above sea level, this informal viewpoint provides a spectacular panorama of the foothills and front ranges of the Rockies. Solomon Valley, Roche Miette, Brule Lake and the Athabasca River can all be seen from the viewpoint.

Viewpoint parking is available at the luge parking lot. The hike up the access trail to the lookout takes approximately 15 minutes.

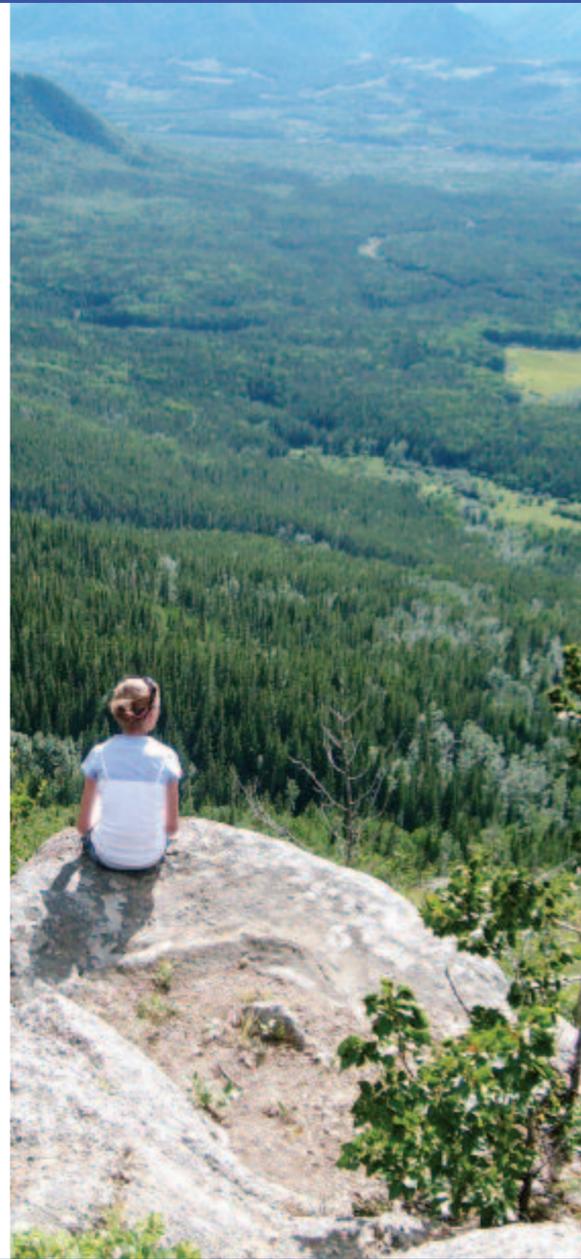


Photo Credit: Hinton Mountain Bike Association



Mountain Biking

Athabasca Lookout Nordic Centre is growing in popularity for mountain biking. The hilly and forested trails have hosted the annual MS Bike Tour and a number of mountain biking competitions. For information on the area's single-track trails, contact the Hinton Mountain Bike Association at bike_hinton@yahoo.ca or check out their web site at bikehinton.googlepages.com.

Group Camping

Group camping at Athabasca Lookout Nordic Centre is available (by reservation only) from May to September. An open grassy area accommodates a large number of tents and the group parking area accommodates RVs. Group campers also have use of the main lodge. For reservations call 780-865-8395.

William A. Switzer Provincial Park

Athabasca Lookout Nordic Centre

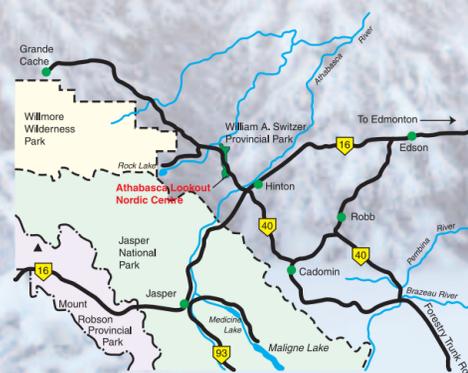
Welcome to

William A. Switzer Provincial Park's

Athabasca Lookout Nordic Centre

This world-class facility provides 35 kilometres of well-maintained cross-country ski trails for skate and classic skiing, a biathlon range, and a luge track. The centre can be enjoyed in spring, summer and fall as well. Forested trails offer opportunities for hiking and mountain biking; there are breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountains and foothills from Athabasca Lookout viewpoint; and the centre also serves as a group use area during camping season.

Athabasca Lookout Nordic Centre is 20 kilometres north of Hinton – follow Highway 16 west to the Grande Cache turnoff then follow Highway 40 north for 14 kilometres to Athabasca Tower Road.



Safety & Etiquette

Athabasca Lookout Nordic Centre trails are not routinely patrolled; visitors are encouraged to take the following precautions:

- Pay careful attention to local weather reports; remember that weather can change quickly and you must be prepared with appropriate clothing and supplies.
- Know your physical limits and select trails that are appropriate to your skill level.
- Whenever possible, ski with a partner.
- Stay on designated trails and obey all "one-way travel" signs.
- Stay to the right and allow faster skiers to pass on your left.
- Yield right-of-way to traffic moving downhill.
- Please do not skate over track-set trails.
- You are in bear and cougar country. Do not approach or feed wildlife.
- Pack out all garbage.
- All-terrain vehicles and horses are not permitted on trails.

For More Information

Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Parks Division
Hinton District Office
3rd Floor Government Centre
131 Civic Centre Road
Hinton, Alberta
T7V 2E6
780-865-8395

For general information about Alberta's provincial parks & protected areas, call 780-427-3582 (toll-free 1-866-427-3582) or visit our web site at AlbertaParks.ca.

For emergencies call 911.

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