Winter at the AMC Maine Lodges

We look forward to welcoming you to the remote AMC Maine Wilderness Lodges in the beautiful 100 Mile Wilderness. Good preparation is the key to a safe, comfortable, rewarding experience. To help you prepare, please review this information thoughtfully.

General Information about Medawisla, Little Lyford and Gorman Chairback Lodges

◊ All Meals are included from dinner on arrival day (6 PM) through trail lunch on the day you depart.
◊ Meals are staff-served buffet with all meals taken back to cabins to enjoy. Dining room seating is closed until further notice. Insulated containers are provided.
◊ Hot beverages are available throughout the day. Carafes available to bring back to cabins.
◊ Please provide dietary restrictions/food allergies at least 2 weeks prior to arrival by calling AMC Contact Service Center.
◊ Covid-19 Updates: AMC follows CDC and State of Maine regulations and recommendations.
◊ Saunas are closed until further notice.
◊ Sleeping bags required for all guests at Little Lyford Lodge lodging and those reserved for bunkhouses at Medawisla and Gorman Lodges.
◊ Gear Shuttle is a required addon service for those going to Lyford and Gorman Lodges, and those skiing Lodge to Lodge including Medawisla Lodge.
◊ Credit/debit cards are acceptable for sales at the lodges, no cash sales.

Information Particular to Specific Lodges

◊ Beer and wine are available for sale at Medawisla and Gorman Lodges. Guests are welcome to BYOB at Little Lyford Lodge and to enjoy in their cabins at the other lodges.
◊ No linens or towels are provided at Little Lyford or in bunkhouses at Medawisla and Gorman. Guests must bring warm sleeping bag. Pillows with case provided.
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Packing Recommendations & Requirements

◊ Standard recommended Winter Packing List for a day trip.
◊ Required: Sleeping bag for those lodging at Little Lyford or Moose Point Cabin, in the bunkhouses at Medawisla, or Gorman Chairback. Pillows and a fresh case are provided. Full bedding is included only for cabins at Gorman and Medawisla.
◊ Headlamp - a critical item to carry with you at all times. It gets dark fast and early.
◊ Warm winter boots with gaiters for walking on the snow-covered trails around camp.
◊ Change of clothes for in-camp comfort and sleeping.
◊ Travel size, biodegradable toiletries (hand soap is provided)
◊ Quick dry towel for shower at Little Lyford Lodge. Towels are provided at Gorman and Medawisla.
◊ Microspikes – a great, option for when conditions are challenging.
◊ Snowshoes or Skis. Complimentary snowshoes are available at the lodges (first come, first served).
◊ Full size snow shovel and jumper cables - to leave in your car to limit surprises at the end of your trip.

Best Practices & Helpful Hints

→ Line your gear bag and your day pack with a plastic garbage bag to keep contents dry. Gear being shuttled is exposed to weather and kicked up snow when being sledded into camp.
→ Get an early start. It starts to get dark at 3:30pm in January and February. Better to get to camp early and explore than to ski in the dark on unfamiliar trails.
→ Allow at least 30 minutes at the winter lot to get gear organized, label your gear and place in applicable shed, get dressed, sign skier register, review trail condition, and get started.
→ Bring a gallon Ziplock to keep your map dry. Paper maps are available at Winter Parking Lot.
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Timing Is Important

→ **10 AM – 12:30 PM** Recommended time to get on the trail by to ski into Lyford or Gorman Lodges or Moose Point Cabin from the AMC Winter Parking Lot. It gets dark early. It generally takes 4-6 hours to get into the lodge depending on conditions, abilities, weather and trails.

→ **2 PM** – Deadline to be on the trail by. If not, please call lodge manager (207-717-0270) from Greenville, & ask how to proceed. The manager will decide if you are required to be transported into the lodge via Snowcoach for an additional fee. This is due to safety, weather, timing of meal service, and staff responsibilities.

→ **2 PM** Deadline for gear to be in the gear shed. If there is a sign stating that gear has already been shuttled, you are responsible for moving your gear. No refunds for missed gear shuttles.

→ **2 PM** Meeting time for those reserved for the Snowcoach to go into Lyford or Gorman Lodges. Please be dressed in full winter gear. No street clothes. It is a cold ride and will take 35-50 minutes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to expect at the Trail Head</th>
<th>Links to Driving Directions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The AMC Winter Parking Lot is a remote, plowed area, dead end section of the KI Road. This is where you will leave your car while you ski into Gorman or Lyford Lodges. This is also where you will leave your car if you are skiing lodge to lodge from north to south (Medawisla Lodge to Lyford or Gorman lodges). You can expect to find the following:</td>
<td><strong>Medawisla Lodge</strong> - Accessible by car in winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>◊ Porta Potty</td>
<td><strong>Winter Parking Lot</strong> - From here, ski into Gorman or Lyford Lodges, or Moose Point Cabin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>◊ Gear Sheds: Label your gear with your name, and place in the applicable labeled shed by 2PM sharp. Follow instructions to ensure you gears gets to the correct lodge.</td>
<td><strong>Road Conditions</strong> - Morning report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◊ Gear Limit: Each guest is allowed 1 medium-large duffle bag (max 54” of L+H+W) and 1 pair of skis OR snowshoes. Excessive gear or size will result in additional charges.</td>
<td>Links to Winter Trail Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◊ Posted Trail Conditions &amp; Maps: There are complimentary paper trail maps available.</td>
<td><strong>Medawisla Winter Trails Map</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◊ Hiker/Skier Register: Please sign! Note number of people, name on the reservation, trail choice and time you depart.</td>
<td><strong>Lyford &amp; Gorman &amp; Moose Point Winter Trails Map</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Winter Trail Conditions &amp; Grooming Updates</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>🔴 Lake, pond and river travel over ice should not be attempted without explicit authorization from AMC Maine Woods Management. This is due to inconsistent ice conditions, weather and existence of springs which make ice thin in unexpected areas.</td>
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Frequently Asked Questions

How do I shuttle my car when I am skiing Lodge to Lodge?

AMC works with a local outfitter to shuttle you to the trailhead which allows you to leave your car at the end of your lodge to lodge trip. Reservations are required and should be made through the AMC Contact Service Center at least 2 weeks prior to arrival. Meeting location to start car shuttle is always in town at this location.

Do I ski Lodge to Lodge from south to north, or north to south?

We offer a shuttle that allows you to ski either direction. The car shuttle is always on your arrival day. If you want to leave your car at Medawisla Lodge or at West Branch Pond Camps, you will meet the shuttle van in Greenville at 9:45AM. Alternatively, you can ski north to south and leave your car at the AMC Winter Parking Lot (meet the van shuttle in Greenville at 11:45 AM. All car shuttles start here.

Need Ski or Snowshoe Rentals?

Northwoods Outfitters, in Greenville, Maine, offers excellent quality Nordic touring skis, boots, poles, and snowshoes for rent and sale. Their café offers delightful refreshments and the store has high quality clothing, gear and advice. Reserve equipment by calling 1-866-223-1380.

Fuel up/Charge up your car and last-minute Items?

Indian Hill Trading Post, Greenville, Maine. This is your last opportunity to top off your gas tank, charge your EV, purchase food, last minute items from gloves & toothbrushes, to handwarmers & ski wax. They have everything.

Long travel day on arrival or departure?

Medawisla is accessible by car year-round eliminating need to ski into or out of a lodge.

Going from Medawisla to West Branch Pond Camps?

Please let us know so that we can plan to shuttle your gear. Gear will not be shuttled if it is not reserved in advance.

Skiing from West Branch Pond Camps to Medawisla or Lyford Lodge?

West Branch will shuttle your gear with advance reservations.

How do you shuttle my gear?

Snowmobiles with special sleds are used to transport food, supplies, and guests’ gear into, out of and between lodges. The trip is 8 miles one way and takes approximately 30 minutes. Gear can get wet and snow-covered. A roundtrip gear run from Lyford to Medawisla takes over 2 hours.

Which shed do I place my gear in to be shuttled?

There are clearly displayed instructions. Correctly labeled and placed gear will get to your destination. Tags and pencils are provided.

www.outdoors.org
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Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

Will my car be safe at the AMC Winter Parking Lot?

Generally, cars are safe at the trailhead. There have been a few break-ins over the many years, but they are rare. There is no surveillance, no lighting, and it is remote. Standard suggestions apply: do not leave valuables in the car, and do not leave items of interest visible, always lock your car.

What kind of skis should I bring?

The ideal ski is a Nordic touring ski with an above the ankle, insulated boot, and an NNN type binding. Waxable or waxless skis are equally fine. Skate skis are fun when conditions are firm and fast, but are too thin when the conditions are soft. Alpine touring & telemark skis are heavy, slow and there is no places to use them as intended. Here is an excellent article on the different types of skis: https://www.backcountry.com/explore/how-to-choose-cross-country-skis.

What kind of skiing is possible?

Classic Nordic skiing (kick and glide) is most suitable for the trails at the AMC Lodges and for skiing lodge to lodge. For those who enjoy skate skiing, when conditions are ideal for it, the trails around Medawisla are wider and more suited to this type of skiing.

What are the trails like?

Trails are well marked and are groomed. When conditions make it possible, single track is laid on the East Side Trail and some trails around Medawisla. The main trails into and out of the lodges are groomed most often. Visit TrailHub.com for up-to-date conditions.

What are driving conditions like?

Variable. It is best to stay on the main roads. Once you depart Greenville for the lodges, four-wheel drive or a vehicle with studded winter tires and excellent clearance is highly recommended. Lodge access roads are remote with few cars and can be snow covered and may have little sand. Be prepared with full tank of gas/charge, snow shovel, jumper cables. After nights away, the parking area will be plowed, however, you may have to shovel your car out of 2’ of snow!

Does GPS work to get to the trailhead?

No. It is recommended that you download and print driving directions and use your odometer. Turning from a white, snow-covered road onto a white, snow-covered snowmobile trail can result in a costly, time-consuming tow.

Are the cabins warm?

Cabins have woodstoves and wall mounted propane lights (electric at Medawisla). A fire will be going when you arrive. Guests are responsible for loading their woodstove. There is plenty of dry wood is to keep you comfortable. Guidance is always available. Loading the stove once during the night makes for a more comfortable morning.
Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

What if I am going to get a late start on the trail?

If you are not leaving Greenville by 12:00, you must please call the Lodge Manager and inform them of your timeline. The manager will determine if you will be required to be snowmobiled into the lodge (additional expense to you) or spend the night in town. This decision will be based on multiple factors including conditions, weather, temperature, abilities, equipment and experience. Safety is a major concern. With limited staff, communication and resources in this remote area, we need to be proactive at ensuring guests get to the lodges during daylight hours. Always carry a headlamp.

Can my gear be shuttled at a custom time?

With advance planning, custom gear or people shuttles may be possible. There are extra fees and reservations are required.

Can I bring my dog?

Yes. Reservations are required for your 4 footed friend and you must be reserved for a dog friendly cabin. Rates are per dog, per night with a maximum of 2 dogs per cabin. Be prepared to clear paths and trails of your dog’s poo, and dogs should be always under immediate voice command or be leashed. A single short chase of moose or deer by a pet can exhaust and harm an already stressed animal. It is also illegal. Thin ice is not a place for anyone. Be sure that your dog can handle the mileage required in a variety of conditions.

What should I know about bringing my dog?

They should be up to date on their rabies vaccinations, be friendly with other people and other dogs and have experience with longs days of winter travel. Please bring your own collapsible water bowl. A ziplock bag can work as a food bowl. Booties are highly recommended to protect against icing, cold and abrasion. If they are not accustomed to long days outside in deep snow and cold temps, please do them a favor, keep them safe, leave them at home.

For Reservations, Changes & Questions

AMC Contact Service Center 207-358-5187
Option 1 when calling Mon.– Fri. 10-5. Use extension 0 after hours.

For Emergencies Only

Gorman Chairback & Little Lyford Lodges 207-717-0270
Medawisla Lodge  207-349-0437
Moose Point Cabin – call Gorman Lodge

www.outdoors.org