From the City to the Wilderness
Relais plein air du parc de la Gatineau to Pink Lake

Technical Information

Start: P2 parking lot, Relais plein air du parc de la Gatineau, 397 Cité-des-Jeunes Boulevard, Gatineau

Total Distance: 11.2 km

Level of Difficulty: Easy to Intermediate

Technique: Classic

Route: Trails 29, 5, 15 and 35 to Pink Lake; return via the Gatineau Parkway, and trails 26 and 29 to Relais plein air du parc de la Gatineau

Note: The first half of this loop is a gradual uphill, which includes several steep climbs. The return includes a long, but easy, downhill section on the Gatineau Parkway from Pink Lake.

- The Relais plein air du parc de la Gatineau is a great place to start and finish a day of skiing. The building, operated by a not-for-profit organization, offers warm shelter, washroom facilities, rental equipment, refreshments and a waxing room.

- This loop features a variety of scenery and terrain, including open fields and a gently rolling trail that winds through mature forests. The route also covers sections of trail that are used for the Keskinada Loppet, Canada’s largest cross-country ski event.

- The end of trail 35 provides a view of beautiful Pink Lake. This exceptional lake is classified as meromictic, which means that, because of its sheltered position and bowl-like shape, the water layers of the lake do not mix. The result is that the deepest 7 metres of the lake contain no oxygen.

- The approach to trail 26 during the return along Gatineau Parkway provides a unique view of the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau.