

MERRY *Kananaskis*

Official Winter Season & Holiday Guide

Where Winter Magic Meets Mountain Adventure

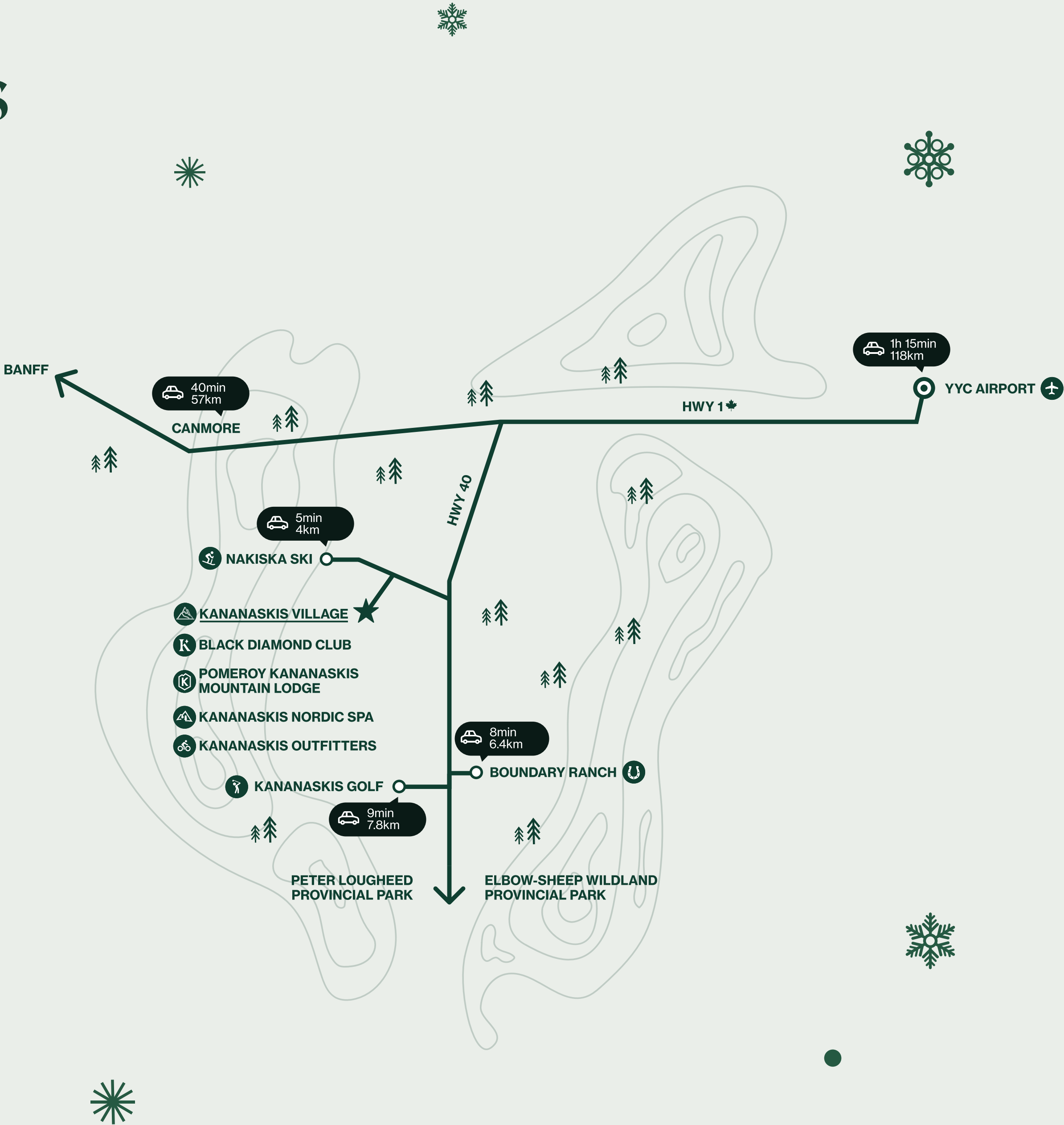
Find your holiday spirit in Kananaskis. Here, the magic of the season meets the wild beauty of the Rockies, with snow-covered forests, cozy fires, mountain adventures and plenty of ways to slow down and enjoy the season.

From festive experiences in Kananaskis Village and horse-drawn sleigh rides to skiing, skating, snowshoeing and winter adventures in the backcountry, there's something for every kind of winter explorer.

And when the sun goes down, the mountains take on a little extra magic. Keep your eyes on the sky. If you're lucky, the northern lights may even dance across Kananaskis, if you're even luckier you may see Santa practicing with his team of reindeer over the peaks of Mt Kidd.

Getting Here Is Half the Adventure

Kananaskis might feel like a remote mountain escape, but it's surprisingly easy to reach. Flying in? Calgary International Airport (YYC) is just over an hour from Kananaskis Village by car. With direct flights from across Canada, the U.S., and major international cities, it's the closest gateway to your mountain getaway. Most visitors access Kananaskis via the Trans-Canada Highway (HWY 1), turning off at Highway 40 (Kananaskis Trail). From here, it's about 20 minutes to the Village, winding through forested valleys and mountain views that only get better as you go. Banff is also just over an hour west, making it easy to pair both destinations in a single trip.



Kananaskis

- A** KANANASKIS VILLAGE
- B** NAKISKA SKI AREA
- C** BOUNDARY RANCH
- D** FORTRESS MOUNTAIN RESORT
- E** HI KANANASKIS WILDERNESS HOSTEL
- F** SUNDANCE BY BASECAMP
- G** SKYRIDGE GLAMPING

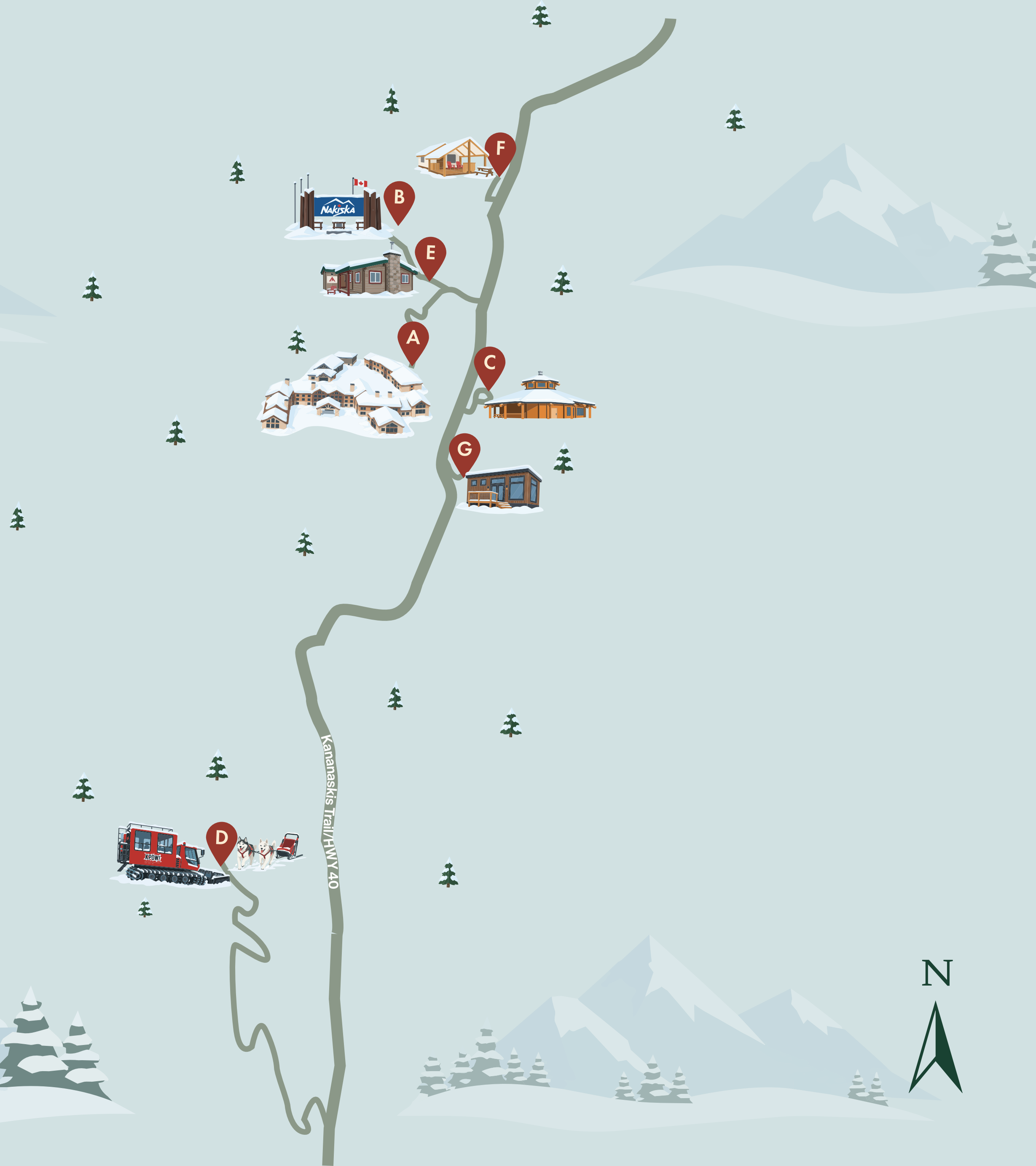
Explore More. Drive Less.

Discover more of Kananaskis with the free Explore Kananaskis bus! Enjoy convenient transportation between select destinations throughout the region, including Kananaskis Village.

Bus routes and schedules vary seasonally. Scan the QR code to view current stops, schedules, and service information before planning your trip.



**SCAN TO EXPLORE
BUS ROUTES**
OR
VIEW BUS ROUTES ONLINE



Kananaskis Village

- 1 POMEROY KANANASKIS MOUNTAIN LODGE
- 2 BLACK DIAMOND CLUB
- 3 KANANASKIS NORDIC SPA
- 4 KANANASKIS OUTFITTERS
- 5 VILLAGE POND SKATING RINK
- 6 VILLAGE HOCKEY RINK
- 7 MOOSE FAMILY KITCHEN
- 8 CEDAR ROOM
- 9 BLACKTAIL BAR
- 10 FORTE
- 11 WOODY'S PUB & PATIO
- 12 GINGERBREAD VILLAGE
- 13 KANANASKIS EXPRESS TRAIN
- 14 SANTA'S REINDEER
- 15 NYE FIREWORKS DISPLAY



Get Into the Holiday Spirit

Explore the Gingerbread Village (12):

Bring the kids for a walk through a whimsical gingerbread village in Kananaskis Village. The festive displays are made for wandering, photos and holiday memories, and the village takes on an extra bit of magic when the lights come on at night. It's an easy, family-friendly activity that can be enjoyed alongside the other holiday experiences in the Village.

Meet Santa at Santa’s Grotto (1):

Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge is home to Santa's Grotto, where children can share their holiday wishes with Santa, receive a sweet treat and take home a photo from their visit. It's a fun, immersive holiday experience designed especially for families with young children.

Ride the Kananaskis Express Train (13):

All aboard! The Kananaskis Express Train departs from the main lodge in the centre of Kananaskis Village for a festive ride through the holiday season. Children must be accompanied by an adult, making this an easy activity for families looking to add a little extra magic to their day.

Meet Santa’s Reindeer (14):

Head to Rockies’ Patio in Kananaskis Village for a chance to meet Santa's reindeer up close. Learn about these magnificent animals, take some photos and enjoy a memorable holiday encounter. It's a great stop for families and animal-loving visitors of all ages.

Taste the Holiday Spirit (7, 8, 9, 10 & 11):

Warm up with a festive meal in Kananaskis Village. Seasonal dining options at the Village's restaurants offer everything from family-friendly dinners to special holiday prix fixe menus, making it easy to turn a day in the mountains into a full holiday outing.

Hear the Sleigh Bells Ring at Boundary Ranch (C):

Boundary Ranch offers old-fashioned horse-drawn sleigh rides through snow-covered forests, with blankets, hot chocolate and Rocky Mountain scenery along the way. Rides include a stop at the buffalo viewing paddock, with an optional marshmallow or s'more roast around the fire afterward. It's a cozy choice for families, couples and anyone looking for a slower-paced winter experience.

Celebrate New Year’s Eve in Kananaskis (15):

Ring in the New Year surrounded by the Rockies with public fireworks at the base of Mount Kidd (15). There will be two fireworks displays, making it possible for families and night owls alike to celebrate. An earlier show will give little ones a chance to enjoy the magic before bedtime, followed by a second display at midnight to officially welcome the New Year.

Make a Day of Winter in Kananaskis

Cross-Country Skiing (4):

Kananaskis Outfitters offers cross-country ski rentals, including skis, boots and poles, as well as cross-country ski coaching and lessons. It's a great way for beginners to learn the basics before heading out independently, while more experienced skiers can simply grab their gear and explore the winter trails.

Snowshoeing (4):

Rent snowshoes and winter boots from Kananaskis Outfitters and explore the snowy landscape at your own pace. Snowshoeing is an accessible way to experience Kananaskis in winter and works well for families, first-time winter adventurers and anyone who wants to get into the forest without needing specialized skiing skills.

Fat Biking (4):

Kananaskis Outfitters offers fat bike rentals for adults and children, giving you another way to explore winter trails and snowy landscapes. Fat biking is a fun option for active visitors who want to cover more ground than they would on foot, with bikes suited to riding on snow and packed winter trails.

Winter Hiking (4):

Winter changes the landscape, but the mountains are still there to explore. Kananaskis Outfitters offers rentals including microspikes, which can provide additional traction for appropriate winter hikes. Winter hikers should be prepared for rapidly changing mountain conditions, shorter daylight hours and limited cell service in many areas of Kananaskis.

Skating and Shinny (4, 5 & 6):

Kananaskis Outfitters (4) offers skate rentals along with hockey sticks and pucks, making it easy to get outside for some classic Canadian winter fun. It's a great option for families and groups looking for a casual activity, whether you're practicing your skating or getting together for a game. Kananaskis Village hosts two scenic skate spots. The Village Pond (5) is nestled in the middle of the Village between the Gingerbread Village and Kananaskis Outfitters. The Village Hockey Rink (6) is tucked beneath the trees at the base of Mount Kidd. Maintained with regular flooding and boards built for hockey tournaments, and fully lit with surrounding firepits, it's the perfect spot for night scrimmages for spectators and players alike.



Hit the Slopes

Ski and Snowboard at Nakiska Ski Area (B):

Nakiska makes it easy to spend a winter day on the slopes, with ski and snowboard lessons for all ages and ability levels. Whether it's a child clipping into skis for the first time or an adult looking to build confidence, lessons offer a great introduction to winter sports. When you're ready for a break from the slopes, tubing adds another family-friendly way to enjoy the snow.

Dogsledding with Mad Dogs & Englishmen at Fortress Mountain (D):

Experience Kananaskis by dogsled with Mad Dogs & Englishmen Expeditions. Guided experiences travel through snowy landscapes around Fortress Mountain and Spray Lakes, ranging from scenic rides to hands-on experiences where guests can learn what it takes to mush a team. Dogsledding is a memorable choice for families, couples and adventurous visitors looking for a distinctly Canadian winter experience.

KPOW Cat Skiing at Fortress Mountain (D):

For strong intermediate to advanced skiers and snowboarders, KPOW Cat Skiing offers access to powder-filled backcountry terrain at Fortress Mountain. Groups of up to 14 guests ride a snowcat between runs, with experienced ski leaders choosing terrain based on the group and conditions. A typical day includes 10–12 runs, plus lunch, snacks, beverages and avalanche safety equipment. KPOW is for confident riders comfortable in ungroomed and challenging terrain.

Warm Up and Slow Down

Kananaskis Nordic Spa (3):

After a day outside, settle into the warmth of Kananaskis Nordic Spa. Surrounded by mountain scenery, the spa's thermal experience offers a chance to alternate between hot and cold, unwind and spend a slower winter afternoon or evening. It's an ideal addition to a ski day, winter adventure or cozy getaway, especially when the goal is to leave feeling refreshed rather than rushed.

Take a Dip at Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge Heated Outdoor Pool (1):

For Lodge guests, after a day in the snow, warm up with a swim in the heated outdoor pool at Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge. The pool and hot tub facilities are available to lodge guests, making it easy to spend a little more time outside even when temperatures drop. Pair an afternoon swim with dinner, drinks or an evening by the fire for a slower-paced winter night in the mountains.

Savour the Holiday Season

Make a meal part of the experience at Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge, where multiple dining options offer something different for every kind of winter evening. Seasonal holiday menus add a festive touch throughout the season.

Moose Family Kitchen (7):

A family-friendly order to-go spot offering comforting ramen and convenient bites.

Cedar Room (8):

For an elevated mountain dinner, Cedar Room is a contemporary steak house focused on premium Canadian beef, fresh seafood and seasonal ingredients. Its warm, polished setting makes it a natural choice for a special holiday meal or date night.

Blacktail Bar (9):

Blacktail is a cozy mountain lounge centred around handcrafted cocktails, regional beers, hearty dishes and shareable plates. Settle in by the fireplace for après-adventure drinks, a casual dinner or a nightcap without having to leave the lodge.

Forte (10):

Forte brings a more casual Italian feel to the Village, with handmade pizzas from two wood-fire ovens alongside pasta, roasted meats, seafood and salads. It's an easy choice for families, groups and anyone craving a comforting meal after a day outdoors. For guests staying at the lodge, kids 6 and under eat free!

Woody's Pub & Patio (11):

Woody's a distinctly Canadian après pub with pub fare, Alberta craft beer and plenty of room to relax after a day on the slopes or trails. It's a natural gathering place for groups, families and anyone looking for a casual night out. Check out Woody's on Saturdays for their après session with food and drink deals and live dj sets.



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Where to Stay

Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge (1):

Set in the heart of Kananaskis Village, Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge puts winter adventures, dining, the heated pool and Kananaskis Nordic Spa within easy reach. Stay here for a full-service mountain getaway where you can spend the day outside and come back to a warm room, a good meal and plenty of ways to unwind.

Black Diamond Club (2):

For a more elevated stay, Black Diamond Club offers a its own exclusive experience, a private building at Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge with a private lounge offering complimentary daily breakfast, après-adventure snacks, and an adventure concierge, along with enhanced room amenities and a quieter place to unwind between mountain adventures.

HI Kananaskis Wilderness Hostel (E):

For a more rustic and budget-friendly winter escape, HI Kananaskis Wilderness Hostel offers private and shared rooms surrounded by forest, mountain peaks and trails. With indoor plumbing, electricity, a shared kitchen, lounge, fireplace and snowshoes available, it's a comfortable base for snowshoeing, skiing and exploring Kananaskis without needing a traditional hotel stay.

Sundance by Basecamp (F):

For a stay that feels a little closer to the wilderness, Sundance by Basecamp offers rustic accommodations among the trees overlooking the Kananaskis River, including canvas tents and cabins. Seasonal availability varies, so check current winter operations before planning a stay.

Skyridge Glamping (G):

Skyridge offers modern SkyBox and SkyGlass cabins surrounded by Kananaskis scenery. Each accommodation combines the feeling of being in the mountains with comforts like a private kitchen, heated interiors, spa-inspired bathrooms and mountain views, making it a cozy option for couples or a special winter getaway.

Your Mountain Adventure Awaits

From snowy trails to cozy mountain stays, there's a little winter magic waiting around every corner.

Explore more at explorekananaskis.com.

Know Before You Go

Winter in the Rockies is beautiful, but it demands preparation. Mountain weather and trail conditions can change quickly, sometimes within minutes, and many areas of Kananaskis have limited or no cell reception.

- Check Alberta Parks Public Safety and Advisories for current closures, hazards and important regional updates.
- Check Avalanche Canada before entering avalanche terrain and understand the forecast for the area you plan to visit.
- Use AllTrails to help plan hikes and understand routes, but remember that an app should never replace your own assessment of conditions, navigation skills or preparation.
- Check Nordic Pulse for current cross-country ski trail grooming and conditions where available.
- Download maps before you go. Do not rely on cell service to navigate once you're in the mountains.
- Pack for changing conditions. Even a short winter hike can become significantly more challenging when temperatures drop, weather moves in or daylight fades.
- Know your limits. Choose an activity and route that matches your experience, equipment and the current conditions.

