

SNOWSHOEING



The beauty of snowshoeing is that you don't need a trail to enjoy a trek. Whether you leave right from your back door or jump in the car to get to your adventure starting point, snowshoes are one of the best ways to explore winter terrain.



PRO TIP:

MANY RECREATION AREAS ARE OUT OF CELL RANGE. DOWNLOAD MAPS, DIRECTIONS AND GUIDES BEFORE SETTING OUT ON YOUR ADVENTURE!

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Snowshoeing is ranked as one of the fastest growing winter sports worldwide. Not only is it easy to do, snowshoeing is a great supplement to a weekend itinerary full of other activities. Stay on a designated snowshoe trail or stick to wide open meadows to keep things relaxed. When you are ready to take it up a notch, just turn uphill! Higher elevations with steeper terrain and deeper snow offer up a challenging workout.

WHY TRY SNOWSHOEING

"This sport has a really low barrier to entry," says Katie Hearsom, contributing writer for *Snowshoe Magazine*. "It is ideal for families and kids or even a group of girlfriends who want to get outside but still have the breath to gab." All you really need is a pair of winter boots, snowshoes and trekking poles. Then just start walking!

Snowshoeing is also a great supplement to a weekend itinerary full of other activities. "There really is no downside to snowshoeing," says Hearsom. If you haven't tried snowshoeing yet, now is the time to get out there and start trekking!

GETTING STARTED WITH THE RIGHT GEAR

CLOTHING

As with any winter sport, the name of the game is layering! Start with socks and thermal underwear in a synthetic material to wick moisture (cotton is not your friend here). Softshell pants that are water resistant (if not waterproof) work great to keep you moving. Add a mid-layer top and pack a waterproof or insulating layer depending on the weather.

BOOTS

Stick to waterproof boots with some insulation. While just about any boot will do, a waterproof hiking boot is ideal. Snow boots can be a bit bulky in the snowshoe bindings, so be sure to check the compatibility of your boots with your snowshoes before setting out.

SNOWSHOES

Rent or purchase a pair of your own at one of our local retailers. Snowshoes come in all shapes and sizes to fit children and adults.

photo courtesy Idaho Tourism

ADD-ONS

Poles are popular, especially on a longer trek. Rent a pair with your snowshoes or use your ski poles if they are handy. You can also add in gators if you have an opportunity to use them - they help keep the snow out of your boots!

A light backpack with water and snacks is also an easy addition to your snowshoeing gear.

WHERE TO SNOWSHOE AROUND THE MCCALL AREA

While you can snowshoe just about anywhere, there are a few easy access points around McCall where you can go for a quick trek.

Ponderosa State Park, Bear Basin, Jug Mountain Ranch, the North Valley Rail Trail, and Tamarack Resort all offer snowshoe trails. Some have designated trails while others allow snowshoers on the side of groomed Nordic trails. Be sure to check with each areas for current grooming conditions and access.

FEATURE TRAIL GOOSE CREEK FALLS

The Goose Creek Falls trail is one of the most popular hikes during the summer months, but it is also a great trail to take in the winter! Strap on your snowshoes and meander through snow-covered Douglas fir and down Goose Creek Canyon along a clear mountain stream.

To access the trailhead, drive west on Highway 55 from downtown McCall then turn right on the paved Brundage Mountain / Goose Lake Road. The Gordon Titus parking lot is about 3.5 miles from the Highway on the left, about a half mile before you get to Brundage Mountain Resort. The trailhead is located at the northern end of the parking lot.

Follow the trail about 100 yards before coming to an open area and heading over the western ridge. From there, you will descend through Goose Creek Canyon until you come to the Goose Creek Bridge. Turn south over the bridge and follow the creek downstream to the falls, a stunning 60 foot drop.

The hike is about 2 miles out and back and rated as a "moderate" hike due to the 650 foot elevation gain. This is a great option for families looking for a quick winter adventure. Dogs welcome!

