

Ridgeline Yurts User Guide

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[NOAA Ridgeline Yurt Weather Forecast](#)

[5 Day Lost Trail Powder Mountain Snow Forecast by OPENSNOW](#)

[Missoula Avalanche Center](#)

Welcome to the Ridgeline Yurts! We hope you enjoy your stay. This document should contain all the information you will need to be prepared for your trip, but please feel free to reach out with any other questions or concerns.

Sections:

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Access and Preparation

Ridgeline Yurt Location:

45°41'52.7"N 113°58'32.8"W

45.697962, -113.975771

What to Bring

- Ski equipment
- Avalanche education
- Avalanche gear (transceiver, shovel, probe)
- Recent weather forecast
- Small repair kit for ski gear, clothing, backpacks
- Sleeping bag (Minimum 20 degree)
- Head lamp w/ spare batteries
- Map and compass
- Winter survival gear (Firestarter, extra layers)

- GPS
- Lighter
- Personal First Aid supplies
- GPS
- Cell phone and charging cord
- Food
- Drinks (Coffee, Tea, Alcohol, etc)
- Extra warm clothing
- Comfy yurt shoes and/or snow boots for #yurtlife
- Backpacks (some prefer two; a big pack and smaller ski/day pack)
- Money for skiing Lost Trail or a One Ride Lift Ticket
- Games/books
- [Current Missoula Avalanche Advisory](#)

Orientation: If no one in your group has visited the Ridgeline or Stateline Yurts before, a member of the team will meet you for an in person orientation at the yurt parking area. At the orientation, we will provide you with maps of the local terrain and how to find the yurts. Please communicate a meeting time beforehand with yurt staff. Feel free to reach out to Jonas Seiler (970) 846-9755 with any questions before your trip. We will be in touch before your trip to iron out any details as well.

Arrival Time: To avoid unnecessary contact between groups, please do not plan to arrive at the yurts before 2pm. However, we encourage you to arrive earlier at Lost Trail to ski the resort before your stay!

Parking: Yurt guest parking is located on the left side of the Lost Trail lot exit road, adjacent to the 'Y' where the road splits. Look for the yurt parking sign. If you are skiing at Lost Trail during the day before your yurt stay, please relocate your vehicle to this area before heading up to the yurts so that your vehicle is not in the way of Lost Trail's snow removal crew.

Lost Trail Lift Passes: If you do not plan to ski at Lost Trail (and do not have a full day pass), you can buy a single ride ticket at the Lost Trail ticket window to access the yurts. From the back end (North) of the Lost Trail parking lot, you can ski down 'Gunsmoke' to access the bottom of Chair 4. Please double check with Lost Trail or the yurt team to make sure Chair 4 is running. If Lost Trail is not open, it takes about one hour to skin from the parking area to the Ridgeline Yurts.

Riding the Chair with a Pack: Please be careful with your packs on the chair. Make sure all loose straps and buckles are tucked in with no loose ends, approach the lift with one strap off, and set the pack on the seat next to you (ride single with large packs). Let the Lift Operator at the bottom know if you would like the chair slowed down for you at the top. At the top, double check no straps or buckles are tangled in the chair. When you get off the lift, move away from the lift and do not try to help others.

Gear Haul and Snowcat Access: If you want to make things easier and/or have extra gear or food hauled to the yurts, we can arrange a gear haul by snowmobile. Another option is to take a snowcat right to the yurts with all your gear. The snowcat can haul eight people and gear in one trip. If two trips are required with the cat, the price is still the same. The cost of the snowcat ride is \$225 for the first run and \$100 for the second run. If you are considering the snowcat option, please let us know ahead of time so we can set it up with Lost Trail. Payment for the snowcat service is in the form of cash or check (made out to Lost Trail) and can be given directly to the snowcat driver.

Transfer Cleaning and Warming Service: Each group that visits the yurts is expected to clean thoroughly upon leaving (see the cleaning checklist). However, groups renting the yurts can request an additional cleaning service prior to their arrival for a \$35 fee, which includes:

- A yurt crew member visiting the yurts after the last group and before you arrive
- Open door between groups to allow plenty of air flow
- Wipe down sleeping pads and other frequently used surfaces
- Start a fire to have the yurts nice and warm for your arrival

Yurt Accommodations / What is provided

Sleeping: Bunks and cots with sleeping pads. For those that tend to get cold, spaces near the woodstove and the top bunks are warmer!

Heat: Each yurt is outfitted with a woodstove, wood, kindling, newspaper, and lighter fluid to keep you warm and toasty!

Lights: Each yurt has a solar light system and propane backup lanterns. (see below for more details)

Eating Area/Table: Each yurt has a center table to eat, hang out, and play games on.

Kitchen:

- Four burner propane stove with an assortment of pots, pans, and dutch ovens
- Basic cooking and eating utensils, bowls/cups, coffee press, and plates
- Limited assortment of spices and cooking oil (smart to bring your own, too!)
- Dish soap, sponges, paper towels, dish bins, ziplocs, dish drying rack
- Portable hand washing station with hand soap

Cleaning Supplies: Vital-Oxide disinfectant solution, soap, bleach, and sanitizer spray to clean the yurt following your stay

Toilet: An outhouse style toilet for solid waste and a 'Pee Tree.' TP is provided.

Other: Axes for splitting wood, snow shovels, a few games, chairs, ice chipper, snow melt pots, kitchen box with other miscellaneous items.

During Your Stay

Please treat the yurts as your own and leave them in the shape you found them, or maybe even better!

Snow Shoveling: During your stay, your group is responsible for clearing snow around the yurts. The yurt team visits between groups and will assist in clearing snow as often as possible. Please shovel snow before it gets walked on and compacted, especially around the doors. If ice has formed, use the ice chipper. Snow needs to be cleared in front of and between the yurts, on the path providing access to the restroom facilities and from the firewood area. Additionally, please clear snow from the yurt roofs (with a plastic shovel to avoid tearing fabric if possible). If you can help keep the paths to the outhouse and the pee tree clear and walkable, it is greatly appreciated by the yurt team and future groups!

Firewood: You should find the wood rack full of split wood, as well as a pile of newspaper, kindling, and lighter fluid. When you leave, please make sure the wood rack and kindling is stocked for the next group. The wood pile is located next to the outhouse under a tarp. Use one of the rounds to split on. Find and leave the axes inside the door.

Pee Tree and Outhouse: Please pee at the signed 'Pee Tree' or in the outhouse to keep the snow around the yurts clean. It may be cold at night, but please **do not pee off the deck!** For solid waste, use the outhouse. There should be TP, a burn can, matches, and sanitizer in the outhouse. Restock from the boxes inside if any are running low. Please burn your TP in the burn can. **Do not throw unburned TP in the hole - burn first!** Another option is to let the can fill up with TP, then use lighter fluid to burn it all at once.

Kitchen: Please keep the kitchen area clean and organized. To keep rodents away, please clean your dishes and cook area thoroughly. Close up and latch boxes when finished. If you are unsure as to where something goes, just make sure it is clean and do your best!

Food: During your stay, use the empty cooler to store your food.

Drinking Water: Fill provided stainless steel pots with snow and melt on the woodstove for drinking water, dish water, etc. Please do not put anything but snow in the melt pots to keep them clean. When you are finished with your stay, please dump all standing water before leaving. It can freeze and potentially break containers and takes much longer to re-melt for the next group! (Melt buckets, water dispenser, hand wash, etc)

Dishes/Dishwater/Toothpaste: Melt snow for dish water. Use the three white plastic tubs to do your dishes: one hot soapy, one hot rinse, and one cool rinse using bleach as a sanitizing agent (minimum one cap full), in that order. Dry your dishes in the hanging dish rack. Once you have finished your dishes, strain the dishwater into the pail bucket provided and pack the food bits out in the garbage. Toothpaste may be spit into the greywater as well. **Do not spit toothpaste off the deck!** Dispose of the greywater/toothpaste at the Pee Tree.

Propane and Cook Stove: Please close the propane tank after each use of the stove to avoid leaks. Extra propane is located under the deck of the yurt. Try to keep the stove clean to keep rodents away. Lighters are kept with the cooking utensils. Lighters sometimes struggle in the cold, so there are matches in the aluminum kitchen box. There is also a Weber grill at the yurts that is available during your stay. Please store the grill inside the yurts when you leave or when it is not in use.

Garbage and Leftover Food: Pack it in/Pack it out! It is your responsibility to pack out your trash. Extra trash bags are provided in the kitchen box. Please do not burn trash (except paper) at the yurts. Do not leave any food, leftovers, or trash at the yurts. Kindly dispose of your garbage at a location other than Lost Trail Ski Area.

Solar Lights/Charging: Each Yurt has solar lights. Locate the battery unit to find the switches on the light cords nearby. You may charge your phones/cameras/etc using the USB ports on the battery unit, but we only recommend charging devices on sunny days. On cloudy days, excessive device charging could draw batteries down and affect the length of time the lights will last. Use the propane lantern provided as backup.

Skiing Back to Your Vehicles: Lost Trail Ski Area does not open until 9:30 AM Thursday-Sunday (plus Holidays). Please do not enter the ski area until 9:30 and ski out on 'Oreo' to 'North Bowl' back to the parking area. Do not drop into Hollywood, as Ski Patrol may be doing avalanche work. If you plan to continue skiing, be sure to purchase a ticket at the Lost Trail ticket window. If the ski area is not open, please do not skin and ski on the runs within the ski area.

Resupply: If you noticed that anything is missing or running low at the yurts, please let us know so that we can bring it up.

Checking Out

Check out by 11am: To avoid overlap between hut rental groups and to provide time for potential cleaning and maintenance, outgoing groups will need to depart the hut completely, packs included, by 11am. Incoming groups should arrive no earlier than

2pm. If you want to ski more on your final day, please stash packs in the woods near the yurt, but not at the yurts themselves.

Cleaning Checklist

- Please DO NOT leave food at the yurt
- Outhouse TP is burned and disposed of
- Dump all standing water from melt pots, hand wash, etc
- Pump all water out of the hand wash system (take the intake hose out of the water, pump with your foot until no more water comes out)
- Close all kitchen boxes
- Use the broom to sweep the floor clean
- Wash all dishes
- Use 9:1 Vital-Oxide spray solution (provided) or a bleach solution to clean kitchen area and other high use surfaces in the yurts
 - Kitchen surfaces
 - Pots/Pans
 - Bunks and Pads
 - Eating and serving utensils (Lay out on a clean surface & spray)
 - Water dispenser button
 - Doorknob
 - Wood stove handle
 - Lantern
 - Solar light switches & battery
 - Outhouse
 - Lighters
- Propane tanks turned off
- Restock wood rack and kindling
- Turn off the lights
- Make sure snow is shoveled
- Close the door securely
- Do not ski through Lost Trail Ski Area before 9:30 or before they are open. Once open, ski down via 'Oreo' to 'North bowl' runs
- Note any cleaning or other supplies that are running low and notify yurt staff

Emergency Response

Yurt users are responsible for their own health and safety. When skiing in the backcountry, parties should be aware that organized rescue may not be readily available at all times. You are strongly encouraged to check the current avalanche advisory on the [Missoula Avalanche Center](#) website. Use the local avalanche forecast, as well as your own snow stability observations, to make a plan for daily objectives and potential alternatives. Discuss these objectives with all members of the group and make smart skiing decisions. Have fun and be safe!

Emergency Contact Information

In a life threatening situation call 911

Lemhi County Sheriff's Office

208.756.8980

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office

406.374.4060

Wilderness River Outfitters

208.756.3959

Seth Tonsmeire

406.579.8677

Lost Trail Ski Area

406.821.3211

Missoula Life Flight

800.991.7363

*Verizon cell phones work on some ridge tops and areas around the yurts