

Ridgeline Yurts User Guide

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Welcome to the Ridgeline Yurts! We hope you enjoy your stay. This document should contain all the information you'll need in preparation for and during your trip. There will also be a copy of the User Guide at the yurts for you to reference during your stay. Please feel free to reach out with any other questions or concerns.

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[NOAA Ridgeline Yurt Weather Forecast](#)

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

Missoula Avalanche Center:

[Missoulaavalanche.org](https://missoulaavalanche.org)



Yurt Location:

45°41'52.7"N 113°58'32.8"W
45.697962, -113.975771

Access and Preparation

What to Bring

- Ski equipment
- Avalanche education
- Avalanche gear (transceiver, shovel, probe)
- Skins or other means of hiking
- Recent weather forecast
- Small repair kit for ski gear, clothing, backpacks
- Sleeping bag (Minimum 20 degree)
- Head lamp w/ spare batteries
- Map/compass and GPS
- Winter survival gear (Firestarter, extra layers)
- Personal First Aid supplies
- 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 give you an orientation over the phone or will meet you for an in person orientation at the yurt parking area, depending on the group's experience. Please communicate a meeting time beforehand with yurt staff. Typically we meet at 2pm on the first day of your stay if meeting in person. 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.

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.



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!

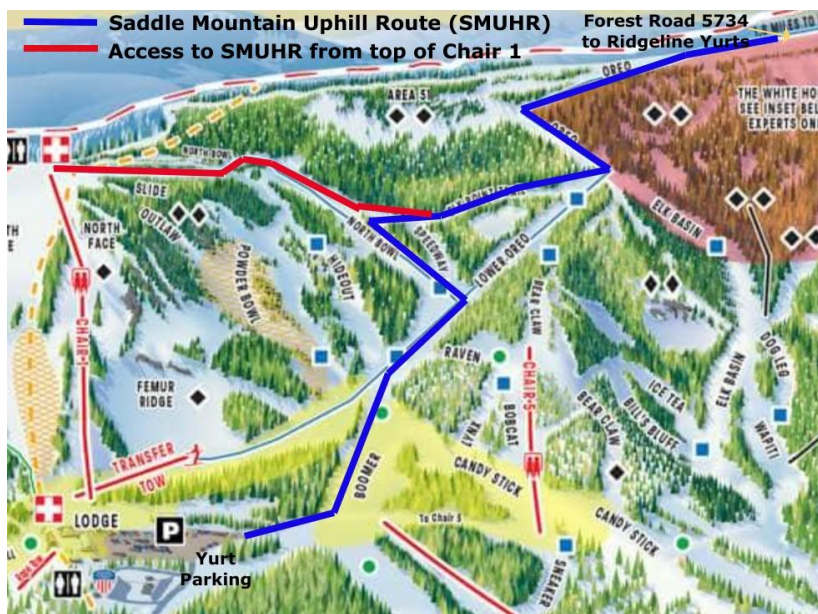
Lost Trail Lift Passes/Lift Access: If you do not plan to ski at Lost Trail (and do not have a full day pass), you must buy a single ride ticket at the Lost Trail ticket window to access the yurts. Lost Trail does not allow uphill travel between 3 am and 5 pm on days of operation. From the back end (North) 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 via the SMUHR (see below).

Riding the Chair with a Pack/Chair 4 Access: 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.

Chair Closure/Hiking

Access/Saddle Mountain Uphill

Route: Chair 4, which serves as our primary lift access to the yurts, periodically has wind/weather closures. Additionally, Lost Trail is closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Mondays in March. Please be prepared to skin or hike up the Saddle Mountain Uphill Route (SMUHR) to the yurts in case of lift closure. This typically takes 60 minutes to the Ridgeline. If Chair 1 is running, it is possible to shorten the hike. Uphill travel is not permitted at Lost Trail between 3AM and 5PM on operating days, unless you have permission specifically for yurt access when Chair 4 is closed. As a reminder, please do not skin and ski in bounds when Lost Trail is closed. Please bring your skins with you whenever you leave the yurts in case of chair closure!



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 for \$100. If two trips are required with the snowmobile, the price is still the same; please remember that you have to haul

your gear out! 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. 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!

NEW - Several bunks have adjustable bottom bunks to make couch/bed combos! Use the cam straps on each side to adjust.

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, garbage bags dish drying rack
- Hand Sanitizer

Cleaning Supplies: Bleach wipes, soap, bleach, and sponges to clean the yurt

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 often 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 and kindling. When you leave, please make sure the wood rack and kindling are 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.

Please store snow shovels, axes, chippers, and other tools inside the yurts! If left outside in a snowstorm, we may not see them until spring!

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 is TP, a burn can, matches, and sanitizer in the outhouse. Restock from the black and yellow tubs in the smaller yurt 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 using clean buckets 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! **Please be careful leaving plastic buckets near the stove, they will melt!**

Resupply: We try to keep the yurts well stocked. Resupply items are in the black and yellow tubs in the smaller yurt or in the metal kitchen box in the bigger yurt.

Condensation/Drips: If your water pot is left on the stove for long periods, the water gets hot and starts to evaporate and will condense inside the yurt and drip (some drippage is unavoidable). To avoid extra condensation and drips, we recommend removing the water pot from the stove once you have enough water melted for the night.

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 and put them back on the shelf once dry. 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. We keep a spare tank handy in case the active one runs out and there is always extra propane 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 matches are also provided. There is also a propane 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. Trash bags are provided. 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 (Yellow or Green) to find the switches on the light cords nearby. Make sure both the incoming chord (from the solar panels) and the outgoing cords (to the lights) are plugged in. 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/stormy days, the light can occasionally run out of battery if used for excessive charging or if the lights are left on for extended time. Turn the lights off when you don't need them to preserve battery. 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 and Checkout Checklist

- Please DO NOT leave food at the yurt
- Pack out all trash and leftover items
- Outhouse TP is burned and disposed of
- Dump all standing water from melt pots, hand wash, etc
- Close all kitchen boxes
- Use the broom to sweep the floor clean
- Wash all dishes/pots/kitchen items and utensils and put away
- Use a bleach solution to clean kitchen area and other high use surfaces in the yurts
- Pads are evenly distributed among bunks and cots
- Solar lights are turned off
- Yurt decks and trails to wood pile/outhouse are clear of snow
- Propane tanks turned off
- Wood rack and kindling are full
- Close the door securely
- Do not enter Lost Trail Ski Area before 9:30 if they are open
- Ski down via 'Oreo' to 'North bowl' runs
- Notify yurt staff if any supplies are running low or if maintenance is needed
- Text Jonas (970)846-9755 that you made it out

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

Jonas Seiler
970.846.9755

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