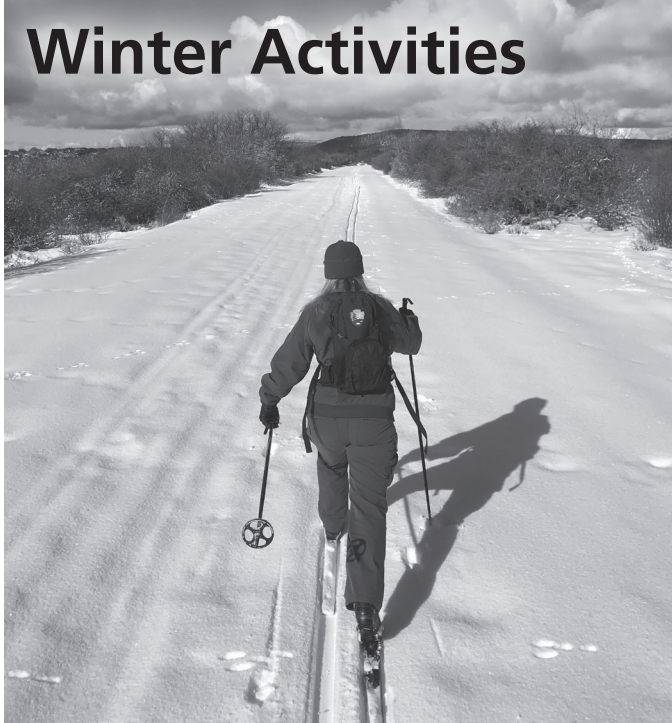




## Winter Activities



Black Canyon offers winter activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing, and camping. Proper preparation can make for a safe visit.

Black Canyon's roads, trails, and facilities lie at high elevation—mostly above 8,000 feet (2438 m)—where winter conditions affect seasonal operations. The following closures are in effect each winter, typically mid-November through mid-April:

- South Rim Road is closed to vehicles beyond the visitor center and not plowed. The closed portion of the road is open to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, biking and leashed pets (depending on snow conditions).
- East Portal Road is closed to vehicles at the junction with South Rim Road. Hikers and leashed pets are allowed on the closed road. This road is maintained by the Bureau of Reclamation.
- North Rim Road is closed to vehicles at the northern park boundary. It is open to hikers, skiers, and snowmobiles.
- Potable water is not available in the park during winter. You must supply your own water, food, and beverages.

### Ranger-led Programs

Are you curious about winter ecology? A snowshoe walk with a park ranger is the perfect way to introduce yourself to winter at Black Canyon. Rangers lead walks from the South Rim Visitor Center when snow permits, usually mid-January to early March.

Snowshoes are available for loan, free of charge, for the program. Check the park website for more details: [www.nps.gov/blca/planyourvisit/calendar](http://www.nps.gov/blca/planyourvisit/calendar), or call 970-641-2337, ext. 205.

### Plan Ahead and Prepare

Safety is your responsibility. You must rely on your own good judgement, proper preparation, and constant awareness. Take preventive measures to avoid the dangers of cold weather. Traveling alone can be especially dangerous; always give family or friends a detailed itinerary and stick to that plan. Permits are required for trips into the Wilderness of the park and can be obtained at the South Rim Visitor Center.

Winter camping is available in the South Rim Campground. There is no running water. Generators are not allowed. Quiet hours are observed from 10 pm to 6 am.

Observe the signs on the South Rim Ski and Snowshoe Trail. **When hiking, snowshoeing, or biking, do not travel on the groomed ski**

**tracks or in the center skating lane.**

Bicycles, including fat tire bikes or snow bikes, are permitted on the South Rim Ski and Snowshoe Trail as well as plowed roadways. Bikes are not permitted on trails or in off-trail areas. Avoid the groomed ski lanes.

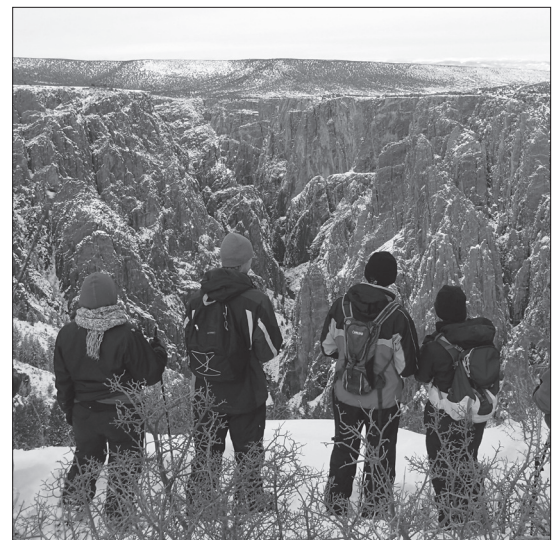
Pets are permitted only on the Rim Rock Trail, East Portal Road, at Gunnison Point and Tomichi Point, and on the South Rim Ski and Snowshoe Trail. Pets must be on a leash at all times. Pets are not permitted on any other trail or in off-trail areas. Please properly dispose of all pet waste.

Contact the visitor center for information about visiting the north rim of the canyon in the winter.

### What to Bring

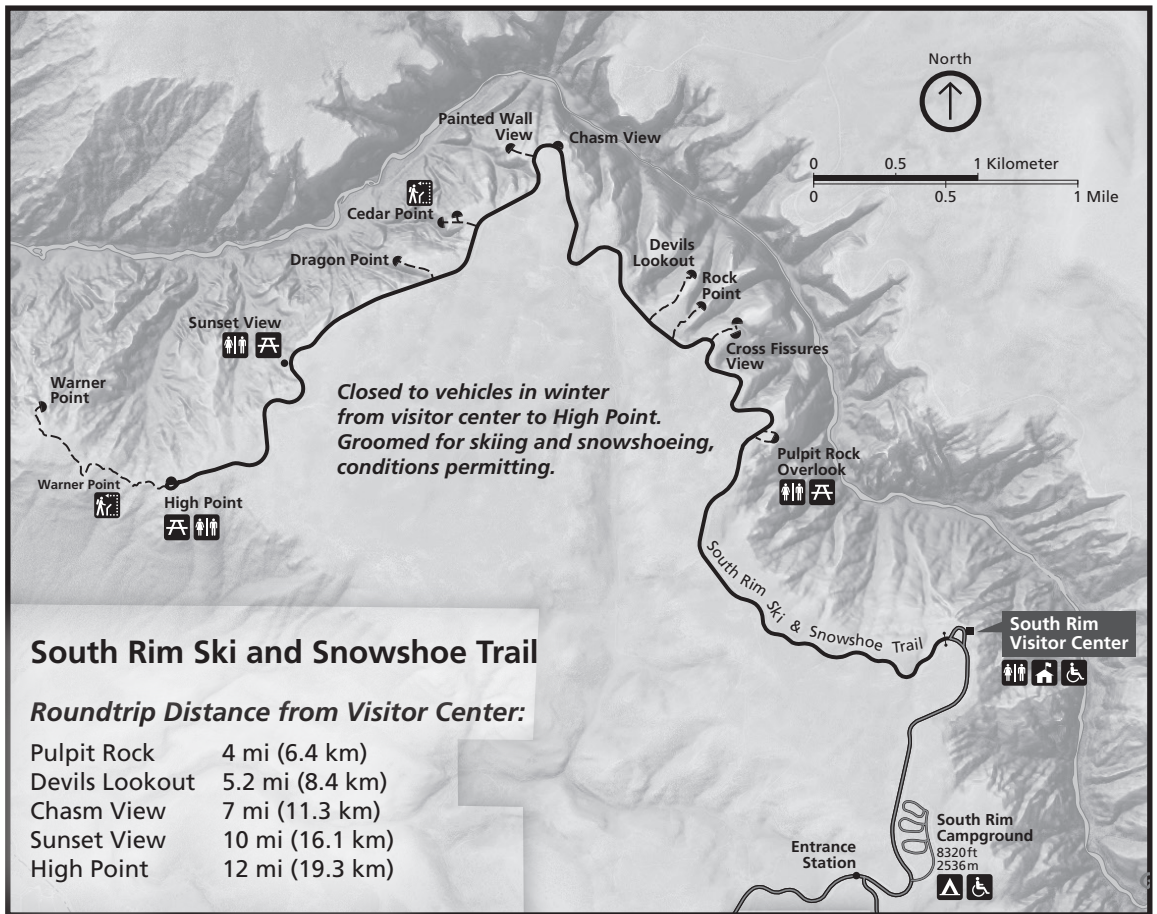
Winter visitors must plan ahead and bring the following items:

- Plenty of food and water. Water, beverages, or food are not available in the park during winter. Small snacks are for sale inside the visitor center during business hours.
- First aid kit, including a space blanket
- Extra clothing, hat, mittens or gloves
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Map and compass. Cellular service and GPS navigation are very limited within the park.
- Traction devices are recommended. Trails and overlooks are often icy and slippery, especially when snow is packed.



Snowshoers are rewarded with amazing canyon views.

# Winter Trails



## South Rim Ski and Snowshoe Trail

### Roundtrip Distance from Visitor Center:

Pulpit Rock	4 mi (6.4 km)
Devils Lookout	5.2 mi (8.4 km)
Chasm View	7 mi (11.3 km)
Sunset View	10 mi (16.1 km)
High Point	12 mi (19.3 km)

## South Rim Ski and Snowshoe Trail

- 12 miles (19.3 km) round-trip

The South Rim Drive, closed to vehicle traffic in winter from Gunnison Point to High Point, is open for snowshoeing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Park staff groom a ski trail when snow conditions allow. A trek from the visitor center to Pulpit Rock Overlook, a roundtrip of about 4 miles (6.4 km), travels on rolling terrain with views of the canyon and the Gunnison River. See the above map for estimated mileages to other overlooks.

## Oak Flat Trail

- 1.6-mile (2.5 km) loop

This loop drops 400 feet (122 m) below the rim, providing opportunities to explore the

woodlands along the canyon wall. Hiking poles may be helpful as this trail can become icy. Clockwise travel allows for climbing (rather than descending) the steepest sections.

## Rim Rock Trail

- 1.9 miles (3.0 km) round-trip

This moderate trail with excellent canyon views connects the visitor center and campground. Parking is available at both ends of the trail.

## Oak Flat, Rim Rock, and Uplands Trails

- 3.3-mile (5.3 km) loop

A larger loop can be made by combining these three trails. Park either at the visitor center or in the campground.

