Day 1: Track-Set Trails & Lake Ice

Winter Wonderland

Two days of Nordic skiing, ice fishing, and chinook-warmed snowmobile trails at Pierre Grey's Lakes.

Trip Snapshot

BEST FOR	Nordic skiers, ice anglers, snowmobilers
LENGTH	2 days, 1 night
SEASON	December - March (best January - February)
PACE	Moderate - Cold Weather Kit Required
HOME BASE	Grande Cache Hamlet

Day 1: Track-Set Trails & Lake Ice

Early morning — Start at the Interpretive Centre. Staff are your best single source for current ski-trail grooming, ice-thickness notes, chinook warnings - all of which change daily in winter.

Morning — Pierre Grey's Lakes by cross-country ski. 30 minutes south on Highway 40. The Smoky River Nordic Ski Club volunteers set approximately 15 km of classic tracked trails through forested loops. Beginner to advanced, with a warm-up shack in the McDonald camping area. No cell service - plan to arrive self-sufficient.

Afternoon — Ice fishing. Pack a flask of something warm. Pierre Grey's lakes are stocked with rainbow, brook, and bull trout, and the chain is especially photogenic in winter light. Know your species before you keep anything.

Evening — Stargazing. Dinner at Smoky River Grill or Dragon Palace. Then head to the edge of the hamlet (golf-course parking lot or Sulphur Gates road) for stargazing. Dark-sky tourism is an emerging draw in the Northern Rockies, and a cold, clear February night here will show you why. Bring a blanket, a red-filter headlamp, and a thermos.

Insider Tip: Grande Cache sits in Chinook country — winds can arrive quickly, and 20-degree temperature swings in an afternoon are not unusual. Avoid alpine terrain if a chinook is forecast.

Day 2: Snow Trails & Warm Rooms

Winter Wonderland

Two days of Nordic skiing, ice fishing, and chinook-warmed snowmobile trails at Pierre Grey's Lakes.

Trip Snapshot

BEST FOR	Nordic skiers, ice anglers, snowmobilers
LENGTH	2 days, 1 night
SEASON	December - March (best January - February)
PACE	Moderate - Cold Weather Kit Required
HOME BASE	Grande Cache Hamlet

Day 2: Snow Trails & Warm Rooms

Morning - Snowshoe the Griffiths Trail. The same trail network that's busy in summer is gloriously empty in winter. Most of it is suitable for snowshoeing or fat-biking, with the Sulphur Rim section a particular favourite for the canyon views.

Afternoon — The Recreation Centre. Warm up at the Grande Cache Recreation Centre — leisure pool with waves, a water slide, sauna, steam room, and hot tub. The Grotta climbing cave (climbing wall) is a hit with families. A perfect way to thaw out before the drive home.