

WINTER CAMPING PACKING GUIDE

How to prepare for a warm, comfortable winter stay. Winter camping in Kananaskis is a unique and beautiful experience — crisp air, snowy forests, and cozy evenings by the fire. Our heated canvas tents make it more comfortable than traditional winter camping, but conditions can still be cold, dark, and rustic. The right gear makes all the difference.

Below is everything you'll need to stay warm, dry, and comfortable throughout your stay.

What We Provide

We supply everything needed to make winter camping comfortable, but not “luxury.” Here's what you can count on:

- **Heated Canvas Tent**

- A propane heater or wood stove (depending on tent type)
- Heating takes time — expect gradual warmth rather than instant heat
- Not all tents include firewood, so ensure you purchase prior to your stay or at the Trading Post

- **Bed Setup**

- Mattress and bedding
- Add layers if you're someone who runs cold

- **Camp Infrastructure**

- Firepit and seating
- Outdoor cooking area
- Solar lighting (weather-dependent)

- **Access to Trading Post Amenities**

- Water access at the Trading Post
- Cooking Utensil Kit
- Flushing Heated Washrooms
- Hot Showers
- Additional Camping Rentals
- Basic Groceries

In winter, water and dishes can freeze, and cooking happens fully outside. Thinking of this as elevated winter camping.

If you dress like you're going skiing and pack like you're going winter camping, you'll be perfectly comfortable.

Our tents provide a warm place to sleep — the outdoors provide the adventure.

Clothing Essentials (What to Wear + Why It Matters)

Winter weather can drop below -15°C, and you'll spend time outdoors cooking, walking to the washrooms, or tending the fire. The key is layering.

- **Base Layers (Next to Skin)**

- Thermal leggings
- Long-sleeve thermal top
- Warm socks (wool recommended)
- Why: These trap heat and keep your core warm, even when you're outside after sunset.

- **Mid Layers (Insulating)**

- Fleece sweater or hoodie
- Insulated pants or thick joggers

Why: Adds warmth without bulk — essential when temps drop quickly after dark.

- **Outer Layer (Weatherproof)**

- Winter jacket (down or insulated)
- Snow pants
- Waterproof gloves (plus a backup pair)
- Toque / warm hat
- Scarf or neck warmer

Why: You'll be walking between the tent, washrooms, and firepit — a proper outer layer keeps wind and cold out.

- **Footwear**

- Insulated winter boots
- Extra warm socks

Why: You'll be on packed snow and walking to the trading post/washroom/outhouse — warm, dry feet are everything.

Gear for Comfort & Warmth

Even with a heater or wood stove, tents take time to warm up — especially in very cold weather.

Bring:

- Extra blanket or small throw
- Hand warmers / toe warmers
- Slippers or warm indoor shoes for inside the tent
- Portable heater

Nights are long and temperatures can dip suddenly — these small items make a huge difference in comfort.

Lighting Essentials

Winter sunsets are early, and solar lighting can be unreliable after cloudy days.

Bring:

- Headlamp
- Small battery-powered lantern
- Flashlight

The area gets very dark by early evening — having your own light makes cooking, moving around, and settling in much easier.

Water & Food Considerations

You'll be cooking and eating outdoors. While we provide cookware basics:

Bring:

- Water bottles or a large insulated jug
- Easy-to-prepare meals (the cold slows everything down)
- Snacks and warm drinks

Water can freeze if left outside, and simple meals make winter cooking far more enjoyable.