

Valemount Winter 2020/21



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Winter in Valemount, B.C.

Winter in Valemount

Valemount offers the real winter experience. Valemount is the base for supreme alpine snowmobiling. Open areas, deep powder, and great views will energize you and bring out the best of every snowmobiler. Groomed trails provide access to the most spectacular alpine riding areas in Clemina, Allan Creek and Chappell Creek.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find here good cross-country skiing, and some of the finest snowcat-skiing and backcountry skiing. Valemount is home to Crystal Ridge, the only snowmobile assisted ski/snowboard facility in the world.

Of course, the Valemount area also offers world-renowned heli-skiing options in the Cariboo Mountains. One can even venture deep into the heart of the Rockies behind a team of friendly sled dogs. You will experience snow capped forests, frozen waterfalls, and icy rivers in a magnificent mountain setting. You can even go ice fishing and afterwards “chill” with your friends for a drink and dinner in a cozy restaurant.

Valemount provides excellent service in spite of its small population—more than 500 rooms in hotels, motels, and B&Bs.

If you want to experience winter at its best, just go for a walk or a skate on the frozen channels of Cranberry Marsh.

To get started go to VisitValemount.ca, book your room, pack your gear, and Let the mountains move you to Valemount for some extraordinary winter adventure.

Winter Cover: Boosted Imagery.

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Safety and Etiquette

A snowmobile is as safe as the person operating it. Safe operation includes knowledge of the machine, awareness of backcountry hazards, emergency preparedness and common courtesy.

Leave a trip itinerary with someone and report upon your return. This should include where you are riding for the day and time of expected return, make/model of your vehicle, number of group members, what safety and communication equipment you carry, including radio channel.

- Travel in pairs (the “buddy system”) and never ride alone
- Always carry a form of communication (two-way radios, GPS locator device, satellite phone) if you don’t, when you need it, you will wish you did
- Respect other user groups and help them when in need
- Alcohol and snowmobiles don’t mix, save it for back at the hotel
- Please demonstrate good manners by using common sense and respecting the interests of others
- Know and obey all riding area restrictions and boundaries
- There are downloadable files on the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) website to help with this RideValemount.com
- GARBAGE SUCKS. Pack out what you pack in!




Support your local riding area by purchasing a membership of the local club. This is much more important than you may think.



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Sledding in Valemount

If you are looking for the ultimate ride, then you'll want to include Valemount in your winter vacation plans this year. The quiet, picturesque Village of Valemount is the hub of the Cariboo, Monashee, and Rocky Mountains, and is the best base you can have for your snowmobiling adventure. Valemount is known throughout North America as one of the world's best environments for mountain snowmobiling and wilderness backcountry adventure(s). Valemount boasts world-class alpine snowmobiling and offers challenges for the biggest and best snowmobiles and the most experienced riders. Winter in Valemount typically begins in mid-November and ends in April. Spring riding, however, may continue into May and early June. December through March offers the best mountain conditions and usually provides fresh deep-powder snow for everyone to enjoy.

Valemount has four managed snowmobile areas where trail passes are required, with groomed trails that access the incredible alpine snowmobiling terrain. It also boasts many other riding area opportunities for the more hardcore adventure seekers.

The area's vast backcountry offers some of the most scenic riding areas in the interior mountain ranges of central British Columbia. Riding through deep powder snow above the tree line in beautiful, rugged mountain terrain is the most exhilarating sledding adventure one can enjoy.

While offering challenges for even the most experienced riders, the many groomed trails and logging roads give novice riders the chance to experience the same spectacular scenery and alpine riding. There are also family trails that offer a little something for all levels of riders. For first-time mountain riders, a guided tour is

an option that will allow you to get to know the area safely.

The Valemount area has received many awards and accolades for being B.C.'s favourite snowmobiling area, and the Village of Valemount is a full-service community that goes out of its way to cater to sledders. If you want to ride some great mountains and feel at home when visiting, Valemount is the hot spot to plan your next winter vacation.

Valemount has become a very popular snowmobiling destination for many reasons. First for its sunny weather, second for its abundance of deep, powdery snow, and third for its varying terrain. That's why sledders are eager to return each year. Whether you are a beginner hoping to see some of the magnificent scenery Valemount has to offer or a thrill-seeker looking to climb high into the alpine, Valemount should be on the top of your list for places to visit.

For more information contact the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) at 250.566.4817 or visit RideValemount.com. The website also provides downloadable GPS boundary files of the more popular riding areas.

For more information on snowmobile tours, rentals and guide services

contact Alpine Country Rentals at 250.566.9774 or visit AlpineCountryRentals.com.

Contact Frozen Pirate Snow Services for professional and licensed Guide Services and Avalanche Skills Training courses:

FrozenPirate.com

Email curtis@frozenpirate.com or phone 250.566.9950.



Clemina and West Ridge

Clemina

BASE ELEVATION: 1,676 M (5,500 FT)

TOP ELEVATION: 2,438 M (8,000 FT)

CABIN GPS LOCATION: LAT. 52.530007 LON. -118.924382

Base A favourite of many visitors to the area, Clemina—with its spectacular scenery and diverse terrain—has something for everyone and is highly recommended to the first-timer to Valemount. A large parking lot is located 30 km south of Valemount on the east side of Highway 5. A beautiful 24-km groomed trail will take you to a subalpine warming shelter. After riding another kilometer down the groomed trail, you will reach the Goat Ridge Bowl alpine areas, which offer spectacular scenery. This is a VARDA managed area with a regularly groomed trail, maintained cabin and outhouse facility. Clemina is an excellent family area where beginners can travel via a groomed trail to alpine terrain. Riders of all skill levels can find suitable play areas. A \$25/day trail fee is required and can be purchased at the trail head (cash only). This area does have a closure in the Dixon Glacier. Please respect and obey all posted signs and refrain from riding in the plantations.



an open parking area at the beginning of the Westridge Forest Service Road.

A main family loop will bring you back to the parking lot and will pass a little warming cabin, roughly half way through the loop. Follow the FSR for approximately 10 km until you see a directional sign that guides you off of the main FSR. Follow this road for another few km before it ends and puts you back onto the old snowmobile trail again. Once on the trail again, it will take you through the trees, passing the little warm-up shelter and back to the valley bottom. That is the main "Family Loop" but over the recent years, the area has been heavily logged, and this has created some great low-level terrain to play in on bad weather days. At times, this area can be closed due to logging activities so please check the website prior to planning any trips.

Check out the VARDA website to download a GPS file of the trail. There are many trails to explore; however, this area is rarely groomed. The Lower Westridge is ideal for beginner riding. There is intermittent cell phone service available on the trail.

The area known as Upper Westridge holds some amazing alpine riding, but access is more for

the intermediate rider. This area is accessed via the same staging area as the Family Loop. You follow the powerline over the CMH road and follow for 6 km, then you will turn right onto a steep single track trail. This will lead you to an alpine play area with a series of alpine bowls and spectacular scenery.

Please visit RideValemount.com for more information.

Upper Westridge and Lower Family Loop

CABIN GPS LOCATION: LAT. 52.825161 LON. -119.347285

The Lower Family loop area is great for socked-in days or for a relaxed, casual and enjoyable ride or family outing. The area is accessed by turning right off of the highway at the first intersection just south of town (3.5 km); then follow the road until you reach



Allan Creek and Chappell Creek

Allan Creek

BASE ELEVATION: 1,676 M (5,500 FT)

TOP ELEVATION: 2,286 M (7,500 FT)

CABIN GPS LOCATION: LAT. 52.576729 LON. -119.160577

CELL SERVICE AVAILABLE AT MT MILTON GPS COORDINATES: LAT. 52.577228 LON. -119.160908

Allan Creek is one of the largest riding areas located near Valemount and is usually the first area to open each year. There is gentle family riding area at the end of the groomed trail system as soon as you enter the alpine. The far-off terrain will certainly please every level of rider. At the end of the 9-km long groomed trail, you will find our newest emergency shelter built during the summers of 2018 and 2019.

Venturing beyond the meadows and play areas near the end of the groomed trail, riders will be introduced to an endless system of bowls, meadows and amazing alpine terrain. The varying terrain of Allan Creek makes it a favorite for riders of all experience levels.

The trail head parking lot to Allan Creek is located 36 km south of Valemount on the west side of Highway 5. There is a 9-km long, regularly groomed trail with fast elevation gain to the alpine. This is a VARDA managed trail, with an alpine shelter and outhouse facility. A \$25/day trail fee is required and can be purchased at the trail head (cash only).

Allan Creek is a caribou sensitive area. Please follow area boundaries, encourage other riders to do the same and report any witnessed infractions to the drop box in the parking area. A GPS file

of the area boundaries can be downloaded from VARDA's website RideValemount.com.

Allan Creek Shelter WebCam: RideValemount.com/webcam

Chappell Creek

BASE ELEVATION: 1,828 M (6,000 FT)

TOP ELEVATION: 2,438 M (8,000 FT)

Valemount's prize jewel, Chappell Creek can boast some of the best snow levels in the valley. There is a large parking area and trail-head 58 km south of Valemount on the west side of Highway 5. Chappell's alpine area—with its gentle meadows and bowls—is a powder snow lover's dream. Chappell Creek is a great location to take newer riders as it is primarily made up of gentle low angle terrain that can be enjoyed by all skill levels



The area is the smallest of the VARDA managed areas but never ceases to please and produces some amazing snow levels. The groomed scenic access trail is 26 km long with a fast elevation gain in the last 3 km. While this is a VARDA managed area, there is no warming hut or outhouse in the alpine riding area. A \$25/day trail fee is required and can be purchased at the trail head.

Chappell Creek is a caribou sensitive area. Please follow area boundaries,

encourage other riders to do the same, and report any witnessed infractions to the drop box in the parking area. A GPS file of the area boundaries can be downloaded from VARDA's website RideValemount.com.



Avalanche Safety

Keyhole

BASE ELEVATION: 1,676 M (5,500 FT)

TOP ELEVATION: 2,438 M (8,000 FT)

A smaller area with skate park-like terrain, Keyhole is accessed from the Clemina parking area 30 km south of Valemount on the east side of Highway 5. Please ask at the booth for directions from the parking area if you are unsure of where to go. There is a 9-km long groomed trail leading up to the alpine from the Clemina parking area. The trail in can be easily ridden by beginner riders, although the last kilometer is a single track trail through the trees that can be a bit tricky at times. There is no cabin or outhouse in the alpine area. A \$25/day trail fee is required and can be purchased at the trail head (cash only).

Avalanche Safety

The safety of backcountry users is extremely important to the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) and the Valemount community. The managed snowmobile area trailheads hold BCA Transceiver Checkers to promote proper use of avalanche transceivers.

A Transceiver Training Station is located next to the cabin in Clemina Creek throughout the winter where visitors can hone their searching skills.

The Allan and Clemina Creek Warming Cabins now hold SPOT LOCATOR Beacons that can be taken and used in the event of a serious medical emergency to request help and alert the proper agencies of the incident location. These extremely unique safety items are supplied for you by Whisper Creek Log Homes and VARDA.

SOME QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE HEADING INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY:

- Did I check the avalanche bulletin this morning?
- What were the major messages?
- Given the current conditions, am I comfortable with the area I chose to ride in today?

- Am I comfortable with my trip companions?
- Are they trained?
- Have they practiced?
- Do my companions have the skill and training to use their equipment in the event of an emergency?
- Have we completed an equipment and transceiver check before heading up the trail?

10 COMMANDMENTS FOR MOUNTAIN SNOWMOBILERS

- Know the current avalanche forecast for the area of your trip.
- Have a plan for your trip, and choose terrain based on the avalanche forecast. The higher the avalanche danger, the simpler the terrain should be.
- Have a 'Plan B' for simpler terrain if avalanche conditions are at all questionable. If in doubt, always choose simpler terrain.
- Ensure everyone in your group has a properly working avalanche transceiver, shovel, and probe on their person, and knows how to use it.
- Only allow one person on the hill at a time.
- Watch or gather in safe areas only, never in avalanche run out zones or terrain traps.
- Always pay attention to snow conditions and the terrain above you as you move through areas.
- If crossing an avalanche path, expose only one person at a time.
- Gather frequently in safe areas, and discuss your route and observations.
- If you see others in unsafe situations, speak up.

[Info courtesy of Avalanche Canada: Avalanche.ca]



General Manager's Message

After a much earlier than anticipated ending to our 2020 winter season, we must look ahead to new beginnings, but we must also not forget the amazing work that VARDA has accomplished over its lifetime.

VARDA is an association led by a group of local volunteers, who have protected and enhanced Valemount's public winter recreation opportunities since 2004 and long before that, as the Timberline Snowgoers snowmobile club.

As our original mission statement (created back in 2004) predicts, we have built on the success of the winter recreation and are working to develop opportunities to bring Valemount towards a sought after, year-round recreation destination. I believe that trails are going to be a big part of Valemount's future.

Snowmobiling, and outdoor recreation in general, is crucial to Valemount's economy and is also a big part of the history of Valemount. To continue to be successful, we need to be professional, responsible, vigilant, cooperative, hardworking and resourceful. When I look at the people around me that help guide this association, these are the traits I see in those at the table and for that I am grateful.

It's not just those on the ground that make VARDA what it is. It takes a lot of resources to do what we do, and it would not be possible without the support we receive from our sponsors, advocates and friends. In times like this, it is even more important to take a few moments to read about the great people that help support your favorite pastimes. We need support be as active as we are, and we need to show love back to our sponsoring businesses

whenever possible and make it clear why you choose them. Cooperation and long-term partnerships are our keys to success as we are all in this together.

VARDA staff are always here to help and are just a phone call or email away. If you have any questions regarding Valemount and the surrounding area, we would love to hear from you. Get outside, take only memories and leave only tracks!

Curtis Pawliuk, General Manager, VARDA

Educate yourself
visit Avalanche.ca

Get Trained with Frozen Pirate Snow Services
Frozenpirate.com

Snowmobile Gear and Parts

Alpine Country Rentals: 250.566.9774
Travis Automotive: 250.566.8403

Want to show your support?
Stay informed?

Become a VARDA member

Supporting the club in your favourite riding area is more important than ever before. Be proud to be a club member and a club supporter. There is power in numbers and membership is more important than you may think.

A VARDA membership includes:

- A membership to the British Columbia Snowmobile Federation, which can also provide great insurance rates for yourself and your machines.
- Inclusion on our email list to receive important area updates, events and promotions.
- A variety of great discounts offered at participating VARDA sponsoring businesses.
- Voting privileges at our Annual General Meetings.
- A general good feeling of supporting your favourite club.

Become a VARDA member and be proud to support your local riding area.

Membership forms and a list of offered incentives are available for download on the VARDA website RideValemount.com.

For more information call our office at 250.566.4817 or email info@ridevalemount.com.

"Pack It In - Pack It Out"

Garbage SUCKS. If you can carry it in, you can carry it out. Be a good human and pack out your stuff. The backcountry motto remains the same as in the summer.



Jackman Flats

Enjoy the peace and beauty of Jackman Flats Provincial Park, a desert-like ecological area, located approximately 10 km north of Valemount on Highway 5. The provincial park offers a good variety of classic cross-country trails ranging from 1.4 to 6.2 km and a short stretch of skate track. Both offer magnificent views of the Cariboo and Rocky Mountains. Look for a map at the trailhead.

Camp Creek

Enjoy a fun day of skiing at Camp Creek. This area offers a good variety of skiing options spread over 10 km of tracks. It is generally the first area to have sufficient snow due to its location at the northerly base of Canoe Mountain. This area also offers a picnic shelter, pit toilet and a little north of the shelter you will find a warming cabin. The 2.5 km road is plowed on a low priority basis. Camp Creek is located 11 km south of Valemount on the east side off Highway 5 (look for the Camp Creek Road indicator on top of the stop sign).

5-Mile Community Ski Hill

Bring your skis, snowboards, snowshoes or toboggans and try out our 5-Mile Community Ski Hill. In the summer the 5-Mile Road is the access for the Bike Park and in the winter it is access for several winter activities. Get a friend to give you a ride up on a snowmobile, or get a work out in and skin or snowshoe up the road. YORA grooms 5-Mile on a semi-regular basis. There is an outhouse, fire pit, picnic table and parking at the staging area.

Back-Country Cabins

Headwaters Outfitting and Hermit Thrush have backcountry cabins for rent in the winter.

Headwaters Outfitting has two sites composed of three cabins cradled among subalpine meadows and lakes on the boundary of Mount Robson Provincial Park. Winter access is by helicopter to either Dave Henry Lodge or Swift Creek Cabins. The lodge is a two-storey log building which can accommodate up to 10 people. The sleeping area is upstairs in a large semi-divided room; one side with two double beds and the other with a long sleeping

platform and another double bed. The route between Swift Creek Cabins and Dave Henry lodge is approximately a 15 km ski. Swift Creek Cabins has two cabins – one for cooking and dining, and the other for sleeping. This will accommodate 6 people comfortably. There are wood heaters, propane lamps and cookstoves at both sites. All guests bring their own sleeping bags. Both facilities have a wood-heated sauna. For more information or to book a cabin, call 250.566.4718 or go to DaveHenry.com.

The Hermit Thrush Cabin is located in the subalpine. The trail up to the cabin is 5.8 km, with an elevation gain of 853 m (2,800 ft). It sleeps up to four people and they provide linens, propane stove/oven, plates/utensils, pots and pans, cooler and outhouse with toilet paper. For more information or to book a cabin, call 250.566.4628 or go to Hermitthrushcabin.com





Winter Adventures

Cat Skiing

The Cariboo Mountains are world-renowned for their incredible snow conditions, and the varied terrain with tree skiing and wide open bowls amidst spectacular panoramic views makes for a perfect skiing or snowboarding experience. A heated snow-cat takes you high up into the mountains for some of the finest powder skiing, snowboarding and sightseeing anywhere.

Cariboo Snowcat Skiing tours are customized to suit the ability of your group and are suitable for anyone from the first-time powder skier to the most experienced. Guided sightseeing tours are available for non-skiers wishing for a more relaxed experience, all within the comfort of a heated snow-cat cab. At the top of the mountain, step outside for a walk and take in all the panoramic views of the surrounding peaks. Be sure to bring your camera!

All trips are led by professionally licensed guides with many years of wilderness experience and an extensive knowledge of the local area.

For more information call 250.566.9809 or visit CaribooCatSkiing.com.

Heli Sight Seeing

Winter in the Canadian Rockies is truly breathtaking. The world-famous Mount Robson is the highest point in the Canadian Rocky Mountains and can be uniquely viewed from the air in a helicopter. From

Valemount, Robson Helimagic can take visitors on a sightseeing tour of the valley and surrounding peaks.

For more information call 877.454.4700 or visit RobsonHelimagic.com.

Canoe Valley Recreation Centre

Drop by the Canoe Valley Recreation Cen-



Dog Sledding

A unique winter experience awaits those with a sense of adventure! Experience the thrill of dogsledding in the Rocky Mountains with Cold Fire Creek Dogsledding!

Let your team of 6-8 Alaskan Huskies lead you through a snowy winter wonderland past frozen waterfalls, snow laden timbers and breathtaking panoramic views.

Your adventure doesn't end there. Depending on how long of an excursion you decide to embark on, you may be invited to warm your hands over a crackling fire and share your tales of adventure over a hot drink and a campfire lunch. The trail meanders alongside a freezing river and takes you up and down approximately 1,000 vertical feet of elevation along a 100-year-old trap line. Drive your own team of sled dogs or simply snuggle in the sled and soak up the incredible scenery.

Tours range from one hour to an overnight excursion. For more information call 877.295.8505 or visit CfcDogSledding.com.

Snowshoeing

You can snowshoe on various summer trails. Please check with the Valemount Visitor Information Centre for current trail conditions.

Note: If snowshoeing in the cross-country ski areas, please respect the groomed trails by refraining from using the set ski-tracks.

tre for pond hockey, skating or a workout at the gym. Open 7 days a week, 6:00 am–9:00 pm; open statutory holidays (reduced hours).

For more information call 250.566.4740.



Crystal Ridge: Sled Assisted Skiing

Sled Assisted Skiing

Valemount is home to the only snowmobile assisted ski/board area in the world.

Powerboarding or sled assisted skiing has been growing rapidly over the last few years and is becoming a popular activity for the backcountry boarder or skier. The Powerboarders, a local group of volunteers, had the idea for the sled assisted ski/board area project a few years ago. The Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) has worked with this group to see this dream come to reality. Crystal Ridge consists of 6 runs, each boasting a vertical drop of approx. 670 m (2,200 ft).

The area is accessed from the Westridge staging area, which is located approximately 3.5 km south of the Valemount Visitor Information Centre (take your first right off the highway after the Best Western and follow the main road for approximately 1.5 km until you reach the staging area on your right).

A 13-km long access trail leads to a junction point where the 4-km long up-track begins. There are no mandatory user fees in affect at this time although we ask users to please use the donation box located on the main sign in the staging area to help fund the grooming program. The up-track will

take you to the designated drop off points for each of the runs. The closest relative to this type of activity would be downhill mountain-biking where riders take turns shuttling each other up the mountain.

VARDA is proud to have created a one of a kind recreation area right on Valemount's door step. Crystal Ridge provides new recreational winter opportunities for locals and visitors alike. For more information on this unique facility, please visit VARDA's website RideValemount.com.

Crystal Ridge Sled Skiing



Crystal Ridge Sled Skiing

- 1 Powerboarders Choice
- 2 Dawn Run
- 3 Crazy Chicken
- 4 Magic School Bus
- 5 No Princesses
- 6 Boomstik



Riding Areas McBride & Blue River

Not only does Valemount offer amazing snowmobiling opportunities right on its doorstep, but it can also be used as a central location to access multiple sledding areas in communities nearby.

Both McBride—90 km north-west of Valemount—and Blue River—90 km south of Valemount—offer fantastic mountain sledding opportunities and are within an hour's drive of Valemount.

For more detailed information on McBride, please contact the McBride Big Country Snowmobile Club 250.569.4333 or visit VisitMcBride.ca or email sledmcbride@outlook.com Check out their Facebook page, McBride Big Country Snowmobile Association, for current riding conditions and updates.

For more detailed information on Blue River, please contact Powder Packers info@sledblueriver.com or visit SledBlueriver.com. Check out their Facebook page, Sled Blue River BC, for current riding conditions and updates.



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