The Ski Hill Trail climbs to the top of the old ski hill with the opportunity to descend at a gradual rate along the Backwoods and Pointe Trails. There are a variety of alternate return routes and detours to satisfy all levels of hikers.

**Access to Trail**  
Start from the base of the Ski Hill or alternatively from the designated parking area above the Tree Top Cottage.

**Trail Links**  
The trail links up with the Ascension Trail which provides a return route along the west side of Buck Lake or down the Kalonga Wetland Trail to Lake Solitaire.

**Distance**  
4.2 km

**Number of Steps**  
5,250

**Difficulty**  
Easy

**Trail Description**  
The trail is wider than the lake trails to facilitate mechanical grooming for winter cross country skiing. The Backwoods Trail winds largely through deciduous forests, far removed from water.

This trail passes by a wide selection of tree species and the original ski tow facilities, which are still in existence after operating from the 1930s to the late 1980s.
A grass trail is cut each year up one of the original ski runs for those wishing to hike to the peak from the base of the hill.

The Ski Hill Trail can also be accessed from the designated parking area above the Tree Tops Cottage or from the Buck Lake Lookout parking area.

After crossing the road from the Tree Top parking area you can walk through the woods to join the ski slope half way up the hill.

A short distance from the top of the hill you turn to the right to head south down the Backwoods Trail. Prior to doing so you may wish to visit the Buck Lake Lookout by continuing in a westerly direction past the old ski tow to the cliff top overlooking Buck Lake, and then return down the Lookout Trail.

The Backwoods Trail, given its gentle decline, provides excellent conditions for cross country skiing. The high elevation generally ensures excellent cross country skiing conditions from December until April. There is an opportunity for a more adventurous descent to Buck Lake by skiing down the much steeper Ascension Trail.

At the Ascension Trail Juncture the Backwoods Trail meets the Pointe Trail which continues in a southerly direction descending at a gradual rate.

The Pointe Trail ends at Pointe Road. From there either descend to Lake Solitaire via the Waters Edge Cottage path or head north up the road to join the Contour Path which exits 200 metres south of the Tree Tops parking area.

A key feature of the Ski Hill Trail is its linkage with other trails. This enables users to vary the distance and the difficulty of their hikes at various points along the way.
Safety is the Highest Priority

Points of Interest

Trail Start
Tree Tops Designated Parking Area
Bottom of Ski Hill
Path from Tree Tops at the point it joins the Ski Hill
Top of Ski Hill
Entrance to Backwoods Trail
Ascension Junction with Backwoods and Pointe Trails
Exit from Pointe Trail on Pointe Road
Beginning of Contour Trail on Pointe Road
Exit from Contour Trail on Pointe Road
Return to Tree Tops Designated Parking Area

GPS Co-ordinates
N45° 23.668 W79° 00.092
N45° 24.708 W78° 59.917
N45° 23.604 W78° 59.925
N45° 23.535 W78° 59.925
N45° 23.558 W78° 59.925
N45° 23.548 W78° 59.965
N45° 23.437 W79° 00.360
N45° 23.579 W79° 00.152
N45° 23.584 W79° 00.141
N45° 23.668 W79° 00.092

Trail Sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Section</th>
<th>KM</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tree Tops Designated Parking Area to Top of Ski Hill</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backwoods Trail to Ascension Junction</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascension Trail to Pointe Trail exit</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pointe Trail exit to Contour Path entrance</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Contour Path exit on Pointe Road</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return to Tree Tops Designated Parking Area</td>
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<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 20% = slight grade, 30% = 20° grade, 50% = 20°+ grade