



Traditional Navigation Information Package

Introduction

This course is based in Nelson, BC, and is a half-day in-person classroom session followed by a half-day field session. You will learn how to use traditional tools like a map and compass to plan trips and navigate in the backcountry.

We meet together indoors to introduce you to concepts, teach you map and compass lessons, and how to use maps to plan a trip. Then we move outdoors to put your new knowledge to work.

COVID-19 Plan

Our day will begin meeting indoors with a classroom session for the first half of the day. As per the Provincial Government COVID-19 Mandate and our [COVID-19 Policy](#), we will require that all participants and staff wear a mask while indoors.

All participants of Kootenay Backcountry Guides Indoor classrooms and lodge trips must be fully vaccinated. Please send a copy of your QR Code or Vaccine Passport to info@kootenaybackcountryguides.com. We will also be checking this on the day of the course.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn how to read a map (basics to advanced)
- Where to find good quality maps, both online and offline.
- Learn how to read UTM (grid) and Latitude and Longitude positions and when to use them.
- Learn how to communicate your position on a map to outside resources in the event of an emergency.
- Learn how to find yourself on a map using triangulation
- Learn how to plan a route using a map and compass (at home)
- Learn how to use a map and compass to follow your route plan (in the field)
- Additional tools you can use to support your navigation. (Phone, GPS, Altimeter)

Course Material

In-Class Materials: (please bring)

- Mask
- Backcountry Skiing Canada Map for Whitewater
- Compass (found at Roam or Valhalla Pure)
- 1-meter long string.
- Notebook and pencil
- *Optional* Phone with GPS mapping software (Avenza, Gaia, or Cal Topo)
- *Optional* External GPS
- *Optional* Altimeter

Field Session:

- Map
- Compass
- Notebook and pencil
- Phone, altimeter, or GPS device. Or all three. (optional)
- Snacks and water, enough for 3 hours in the field
- Outdoor clothing for fall/early winter weather
 - Good hiking boots or snow boots (depending on snow)
 - Gortex Shell.
 - Puffy (Down or Thinsulate)
 - Gaiters (optional)
 - Warm hat (toque)
 - Sun hat
 - Gloves
 - Sunglasses
 - Hiking Poles (optional)

**Feel free to bring any other maps of areas you are interested in exploring. I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.

Meeting Times & Locations

Location: [198 Baker St, Nelson BC V1L 4H2 \(Savoy Hotel\)](#)

Schedule: Meet at **8:00 am**. We should be back down to Nelson between 4 and 5 pm.
