



Ross Island Trail System

McMurdo Station & Scott Base, Antarctica

Ross Island Trail System Recreational Routes

Please visit the McMurdo Intranet eFoot Plan site for further route information

CRL Castle Rock Loop Trail & **CRS** Castle Rock Summit Trail
(9.65 mi / 15.53 km) (0.1 mi / 0.17 km)
This trip leads to the prominent landmark called Castle Rock, named for its butters-like shape. The Castle Rock routes are the most ambitious hikes, ski or runs in the McMurdo area. As you traverse across the snow and ice field, you see the prominent landform of Castle Rock ahead, spectacular views to the north, and the Transantarctic Mountains to the east. The route is also a large loop that extends to Castle Rock and ends at Scott Base. More adventurous hikers may want to attempt the Castle Rock Summit route. This route entails scrambling, exposed rock faces and the use of a fixed line as a handhold and should never be attempted without an experienced person in your group. The Castle Rock Summit is only open at certain periods due to safety concerns.

HPR Hut Point Ridge Loop Trail
(2.63 mi / 4.24 km)
The Hut Point Ridge Loop Trail is one of the newest additions to recreation opportunities in the Ross Island area. Dedicated in December of 2004, it provides new terrain to explore and provides a different perspective of McMurdo Station and expansive views to the Transantarctic Mountains and across the sea ice to the north. Although many trails have been formed over the years, you must remain on the marked route throughout the entire trail. Limiting contact to a single trail reduces the visible impacts to our sensitive environment. This is especially important when in the vicinity of the Arrival Heights ASPA (Antarctic Specially Protected Area) No. 122. This area is set aside to provide a quiet, undisturbed area for sensitive science experiments and USAP members are not allowed to enter without permission.

CAL Cape Armitage Loop Trail
(5.25 mi / 8.44 km)
Cape Armitage forms the south end of Hut Peninsula and the southernmost point on Ross Island. The Cape was discovered by the BrNAE (British National Antarctic Expedition) 1901-04, under Robert F. Scott and named by him for Lt. (later Captain) Albert B. Armitage, second in command and navigator on the Discovery. Solitude, detachment from the hustle and bustle of McMurdo and large vistas of the Transantarctic Mountains, White Islands, Black Island, and the backside of Observation Hill await. The route, on the sea ice, is well flagged but use caution to not veer off route because many routes leading to fish traps cross this trail. Winds can be strong on the sea ice and over the pass between McMurdo and Scott Base. Snow conditions for cross-country skiing can vary from hard and firm to very soft.

OHL Ob Hill Loop Trail & **OHS** Ob Hill Summit Trail
(2.84 mi / 4.56 km) (0.39 mi / 0.63 km)
The Ob Hill Loop trail extends to Cape Armitage and around the back side of Observation (Ob) Hill via a land route. Peace and solitude are experienced as you approach Cape Armitage from either direction. Ob Hill has an elevation of 750 feet, so bring a camera! Expect amazing views of McMurdo Station and the surrounding area. This is a great vantage point to orient McMurdo Station to many surrounding landmarks including Black Island, White Island, and Mount Erebus. The effort required to make it to the summit are well worth the scenic and historical aspects. At the summit, visit the Memorial Cross, erected in 1913 by the remaining members of the BrNAE (British National Antarctic Expedition), in memory of Captain Robert F. Scott's party, who perished on the return journey from the South Pole in March of 1912.

HT Hillary Track
(0.42 mi / 0.68 km)
The Hillary Track, named for Sir Edmund Hillary, an accomplished New Zealand mountaineer having been the first to reach the summit of Mt. Everest and traverse to the South Pole overland by vehicle, provides a short off-road route to Scott Base via a track that branches off the Scott Base Road just before the road starts its descent to Scott Base. Sir Edmund Hillary established the New Zealand Station at Scott Base in 1957 at Pram Point. The track provides a pleasant alternative to walking along the road to reach Scott Base from McMurdo Station.

LDB LDB (Long Duration Balloon) Road
(6.93 mi / 11.15 km one way)
The LDB Road begins at the Scott Base transition and ends at the Long Duration Balloon scientific facilities. This road provides an opportunity to reach the Castle Rock Loop Trail and affords a flat but vista-rich opportunity to walk, ski and run to the end point at LDB. The Long Duration Balloon facility launches several large balloons each season carrying payloads of various experiments that are conducted as the balloons circle the continent in the upper atmosphere. The snow road is constructed on the permanent ice shelf that is gradually moving north to the Ross Sea.

IR Ice Runway Road
(2.04 mi / 3.28 km one way)
The Ice Runway Road is located on annual sea ice covering McMurdo Sound. The road and airfield location are established annually during WINFLY to provide a landing surface for wheeled aircraft. Preparation includes clearing and flagging the runway for the arrival of the New York Air National Guard (NYANG) LC-130 aircraft from Stratton ANGB, Schenectady, NY, and the Kenn Borek Air, Inc. Twin Otter and Basler DC-3 aircraft from Canada via South America and South Pole. This road is only open during the early part of the summer season and closes once temperatures begin to rise. The road becomes operational in mid-October and shuttles begin regular service upon the arrival of the first LC-130.

CAL Seasonal Trail (route marked with trail signs)
markers in miles (e.g. 1.22 (1.96))

IR Access Road (shared with vehicles)

--- Restricted Road (no recreational travel)

✓ Check-in/Check-out (Building 182 Firehouse)

✚ First Aid

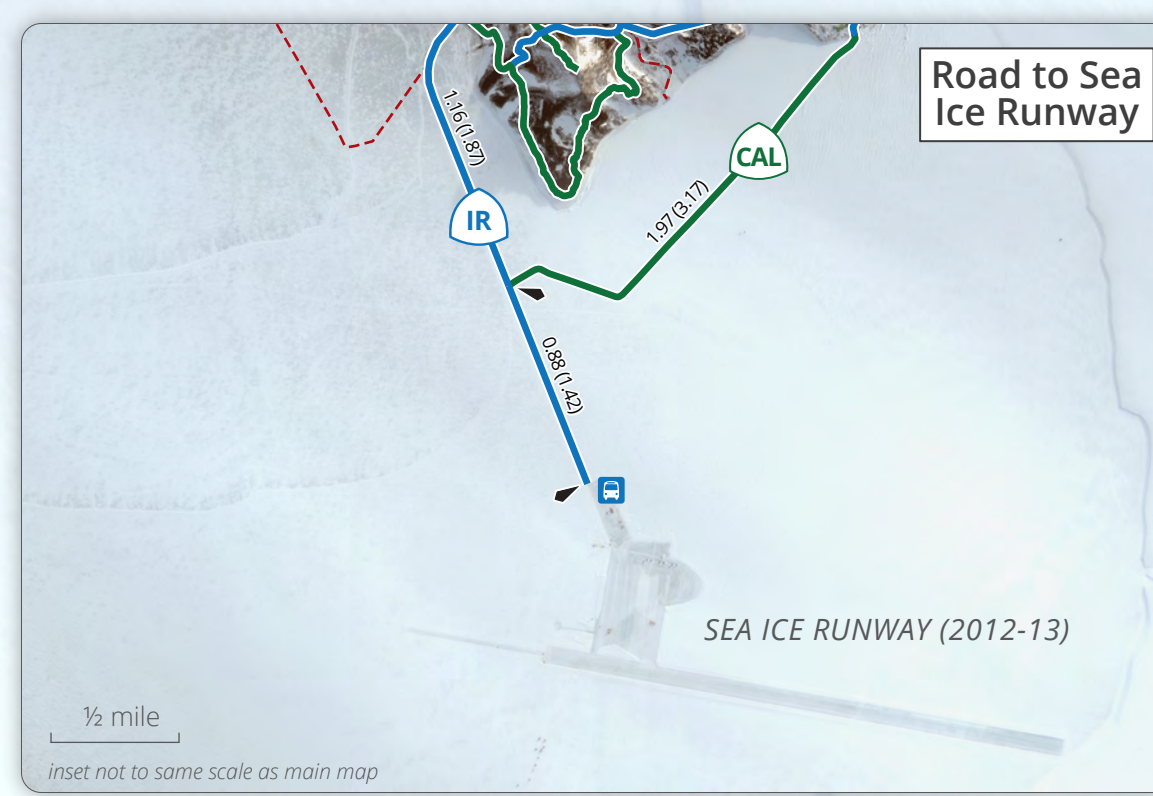
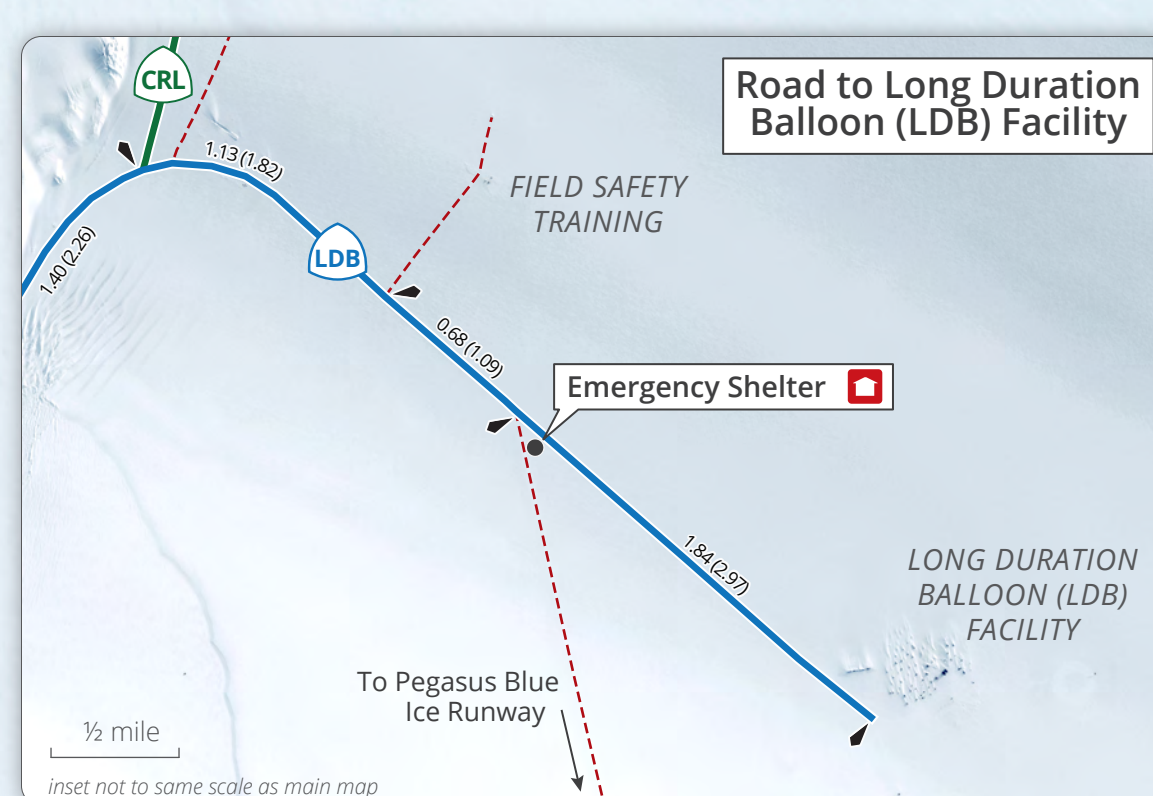
🏠 Emergency Shelter

☎ Emergency Phone

🚌 Shuttle Stop

Miles 1/4 1/2
Kilometers 1/2 1

TRUE NORTH



Ross Island Trail System Map

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version 1.0 - updated November 15, 2012

Data Sources:
2.0 meter resolution WorldView-2 satellite imagery background ©DigitalGlobe, Inc.
Imagery terrain-corrected but not ground-truthed
Imagery date September 26, 2012

Trails, roads, photos and point-of-interest locations from USAP, PGC

Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) boundaries from Environmental Research & Assessment, 2012

Placenames derived from SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica

Map Information:
WGS84 Antarctic Polar Stereographic Projection
Central Meridian at 166°45'

PGC Ross Island Map Series
PGC Reference ID: ANT-REF-MS2011-003
Digital copy available on McMurdo Station Intranet

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See inset at right for continuation of Ice Runway Road

See inset below for continuation of LDB Road