



## VISITOR INFORMATION GUIDE

### **Traveling To SNOLAB Surface Building - From Sudbury:**

- Long Lake road - exit right at the South West Bypass/HWY 17 exit
- Follow the Southwest Bypass (Hwy 17 East) toward Sault Ste. Marie
- Exit at Hwy 55 North - Lively (at the overpass)
- Go through first set of lights
- Turn right onto Regional Road 24 - Lively
- You will travel through Walden and Lively
- Turn right on the ramp at the Creighton Mine sign (McNaughton St.)
- Follow the road ~ 3km
- Stop at main Vale/Creighton gate, proceed to SNOLAB building

Obey all speed limits and road signs while on Vale property. Please note that you will pass by an entrance to a large parking lot, this is designated for Vale/Creighton employees. Please do not park there unless specifically advised to do so by SNOLAB.

To get to SNOLAB, follow the road until you reach the security gate. When you reach the gate, wait for the gate to open. If access time is not reasonable, you may use the phone located directly to the right of the gate and dial x2292 to speak to security. Identify yourself as a SNOLAB and follow their instructions.

After the gate is opened, proceed straight ahead to the SNOLAB surface building making sure to stop at the STOP signs. Be aware of transports in this area and yield to them. Park in the SNOLAB parking lot. You will meet your tour guide at the SNOLAB building upon arrival.

### **What to Wear**

The underground environment is warm and humid. It is suggested that you have a t-shirt and shorts to have on underneath your mine gear. It is also suggested that you wear comfortable, thick socks. If you have long hair, it must be tied into a ponytail and tucked into your coveralls or under your hardhat.

### **What to Bring**

Lockers are available in the surface change rooms. Do not bring any valuables with when entering the SNOLAB surface building. If you have special dietary considerations or require medications (Epinephrine Pens) please make sure that your Tour Guide is aware but you are responsible for carrying these items with you. Items that need to come into the clean lab with you must be tied and double-wrapped in plastic bags provided - your Tour Guide can help you with this process. You will be provided clothing for visiting the underground clean lab.

### **Mine Gear**

SNOLAB will provide all the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for your visit. Boots are available in size 4 -12; coveralls in size 38 – 64; and belts in size 28 – 56 inches. If you require PPE outside of this range, please contact your Tour Guide at least one week in advance to accommodate your needs.

PPE is mandatory to enter the mine. Vale/Creighton reserves the right to limit your access underground if you do not have the proper equipment.

Immediately upon entering SNOLAB underground lab, you will be asked to remove your light, belt, hardhat and boots. Please ensure you remember where you hung your mine equipment and also the rest of your clothing which will be removed in the shower area. This will ensure you leave with your own clothing/equipment.

### **Physical Fitness**

Visitors shall be physically fit enough to handle the complete tour. This includes a 1.4 kilometre walk in and out of the mine drift on uneven terrain; AND ability to scale a 50 foot ladder in case of evacuation. Visitors with casts or dressings on significant wounds are not permitted underground. **If Tour Guide or Vale representative does not feel you meet these requirements, you will not be permitted underground.**

### **Cameras and Radio Frequency Emitting Devices (Computers)**

Cameras are permitted in the SNOLAB surface building and in the underground laboratory. Pictures are NOT to be taken while on Vale property, this includes the Vale building, cap lamp room and while on the cage. Your Tour Guide will let you know when you can take pictures while underground.

Any computer equipment with a wireless network card must be pre-approved by the IT Division prior to taking underground.

### **Cell Phones & Computers**

Cell phones and/or wireless communication devices such as BlackBerry's are not permitted underground, even if they are to be used as cameras only.

### **Medical Conditions**

If you have a medical condition or not feeling well on the tour day that will or could affect you while on the tour, please let your Tour Guide know in advance. If you require medications or other supplies, you are required to carry these with you while on the tour but you must inform your Tour Guide before the tour.

### **Cleanliness**

SNOLAB experiments require high levels of cleanliness to reduce environmental radiological backgrounds to levels necessary for very sensitive measurements. SNOLAB achieves this goal by being located 2 km underground and by having the entire laboratory constructed as a single large clean room. The staff and scientists work very hard to maintain this level of cleanliness; as a result there are very stringent rules for bringing materials into the underground laboratories. Your SNOLAB Tour Guide will assist you through the cleanliness procedures, particularly the shower and change of clothing process required to maintain lab cleanliness.

### **Showers**

When you reach the underground laboratory, each visitor is required to go through the SNOLAB multi-step cleaning process. This requires everyone to remove their mine gear and clothing that was worn underneath and must have a shower that includes washing your hair.

The change rooms (male and female) are arranged in a similar fashion to a gym change room; the showers are enclosed however, the room is open. The change rooms are divided – a ‘clean’ and a ‘dirty’ side. After the shower, you are considered clean and cannot pass back onto the dirty side without having another shower.

The clothing that you wore under your mine gear must stay on the ‘dirty’ side. You may take your undergarments to the clean side to wear underneath your clean room clothing which will be provided as soon as you exit the shower (T-shirt, clean room coveralls, socks, boots, hairnet and clean safety glasses)

SNOLAB Tour Guides will do their best to make sure everyone is comfortable in this situation; however, cleanliness protocols cannot be compromised. If you feel that you will not be comfortable in this situation or require further clarification of the process, please contact your Tour Guide or SNOLAB in advance. **The shower protocol cannot be bypassed for any reason.**

### **Pressurization**

Traveling underground puts about 25-30 percent (%) more pressure on your body and will result in you feeling fatigued.

Changes in air pressure can cause ear-drum pain and perforation, vertigo, and hearing loss. If you experience these symptoms while flying, please let your Tour Guide know before getting on the cage.

### **Safety Practices:**

*In the Drift:* The ground is uneven. Watch your footing. Walk on the left side in single-file if possible. Avoid walking through puddles if possible, due to unseen hazards beneath the water surface.

*Eyewear:* Contact lenses are not permitted. If you require your personal corrective eyeglasses and they are not safety rated c/w side shields, you must wear a pair of approved safety glasses over your own.

*Ladders:* Never start ascent or descent of a ladder until it is clear to do so i.e. no one else can be on the same ladder. You must always have three (3) points of contact, and cannot carry hand-held items while on the ladder.

*Open Hole:* Never approach an unguarded open hole before checking safety requirements with your guide, the shift foreman, or other competent SNOLAB person.

### **More Information**

SNOLAB website: [www.snolab.ca](http://www.snolab.ca)  
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Google Map: Directions to SNOLAB

