# Perfect Winter Day at Sutton Nest

## Round Top Adventure with Spa & Fondue

**Season**: Winter (December - March)
**Duration**: Full day
**Difficulty**: Moderate (winter hiking experience recommended)
**Perfect for**: Couples, friends, active families with older kids (10+)

## Overview

Experience the best of Sutton's winter magic in one unforgettable day. Start with a hearty breakfast, tackle the stunning Round Top hike through snow-covered forests, warm up with local craft beer and comfort food, pick up exceptional local wine, and end your day relaxing in the spa while enjoying homemade fondue. This itinerary combines outdoor adventure with Québec's finest culinary and wellness experiences.

## Morning

**Coffee & Breakfast**

**Option 1: At Sutton Nest** *(Recommended for early start)*

The kitchen is fully equipped for cooking.

**Option 2: Café Yamabiko**

**Location: 6a Rue Principale Sud St, Sutton**
**Hours:** 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
**Website:** yamabikocoffeeroasters.com

A cozy local café in downtown Sutton serving exceptional coffee and fresh pastries.

## Mid-Morning to Afternoon

**Epic Hike: Round Top via Lac Spruce**

**Location: Parc d'environnement naturel de Sutton (PENS)**
**Website:** www.parcsutton.com
**Hours:** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
**Cost:** ~$9/person (purchase online in advance recommended)

**Trail Details**:

- **Distance**: 7.5 km (4.7 miles) roundtrip
- **Elevation gain**: 380 meters (1,247 feet)
- **Duration**: 3.5 - 4.5 hours total
- **Difficulty**: Moderate to challenging in winter

**The Experience**:

This is Sutton's crown jewel winter hike. The trail winds through pristine snow-covered forest alongside the frozen Lac Spruce before climbing to Round Top's exposed summit with breathtaking views of the surrounding peaks and valleys.

**Route**:

1. Start at the main PENS parking area
2. Follow signs toward Lac Spruce
3. Walk alongside the frozen lake (stunning photo opportunity!)
4. Continue on Round Top trail as it climbs through mixed forest
5. Final push to exposed rocky summit
6. Return by closing the loop to the parking area

**Winter Highlights**:

- Ice formations
- Snow-laden evergreens
- Potential wildlife tracks (deer, fox, snowshoe hare)
- Summit views over snow-covered mountains
- Peaceful winter solitude (depending on the day of the week)

**Essential Winter Hiking Gear**

**Required**:

- **Microspikes or crampons** (absolutely essential for icy trail sections)
- **Snowshoes** (if deep snow; check recent conditions)
- Insulated waterproof hiking boots
- Warm gloves (bring warmers for the extra comfort)
- Toque/beanie and neck warmer or balaclava
- Layered clothing (base layer, insulating layer, waterproof shell)
- Backpack with water (insulated bottle or thermos)
- High-energy snacks (bars, nuts, chocolate)
- Fully charged phone
- Offline trail map
- Sunglasses (snow glare)

**Rental Options**:

If you don't have crampons or snowshoes, you can **rent them at the PENS reception desk** at the park entrance.

**Pro Tips**:

- Start early (9:30-10:00 AM) for best light and to avoid afternoon crowds
- Check weather forecast — avoid hiking in storms or extreme cold
- Dress in layers; you'll warm up quickly on the climb
- Bring trekking poles for stability on icy descents
- Pack out all trash (Leave No Trace principles)
- Tell someone your hiking plan and expected return time
- Check trail conditions on PENS website or recent hiker reports

## Afternoon

**Late Lunch at Sutton Brouërie**

**Location: 27 Rue Principale Sud St, Sutton**
**Website:** aubergesuttonbrouerie.com
**Hours:** 11:30 AM - 9:00 PM (check hours seasonally)

**The Vibe**:

After hours in the cold, you've earned this. Sutton Brouërie is a beloved local brewpub in a beautifully restored heritage building. Warm, rustic atmosphere with friendly service and seriously good food.

**From PENS**: 8 minutes by car
**From Sutton Nest**: 5 minutes by car

## Late Afternoon

**Wine Stop: Vignoble Domaine Bresee**

**Location: 303 Chem. Draper, Sutton, QC**
**Website:** vignobledomainebresee.com
**Hours:** December: Friday & Saturday, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM *(verify current hours online)*

**The Experience**:

This family-run vineyard produces exceptional cool-climate wines in the heart of Sutton. Stop by their charming tasting room to pick up a bottle (or two!) to enjoy with dinner back at the chalet.

**Pro Tips**:

- Arrive before 5:00 PM (they close promptly)
- Ask staff for pairing suggestions with cheese fondue
- Chat with the owners if they're around—great local insights!

**Note**: December hours are limited (Friday/Saturday only). **Check their website before you go** to confirm they're open. If they're closed, grab a bottle at a local SAQ in Sutton.

**From Sutton Brouërie**: 10 minutes by car
**From Sutton Nest**: 10 minutes by car

## Evening

**Spa Relaxation & Fondue at Sutton Nest**

You've hiked, eaten, and explored. Now it's time for the best part of the day: pure relaxation.

**Step 1: Prep Your Fondue**

**Classic Cheese Fondue Recipe** *(serves 2-3)*

**Ingredients** (pick up in Sutton or bring with you):

- 400g good-quality cheese (mix of Gruyère and Emmental, or local Québec cheese)
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 cup dry white wine (or use the wine you bought!)
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- Fresh bread cubes (baguette is perfect)
- Optional dippers: cherry tomatoes, broccoli, apple slices, cured meats

**Prep Steps**:

1. Grate the cheese
2. Cut bread into cubes
3. Prep vegetables and other dippers
4. Mix cornstarch with a little wine
5. Set everything aside (you'll cook it later)

**Alternative**: Pick up **pre-made fondue** at IGA in Sutton to save time.

**Step 2: Spa Time**

**Setting the Scene**:

- Adjust the temperature of the spa 30 minutes before use (if not already done)
- Outdoor lights will be turned on automatically after sunset
- Put on relaxing music (Amazon Music is available)

**Spa Instructions**:

Full spa operating instructions are in the house manual at Sutton Nest. Here's the quick version:

1. **Check temperature**: Should be around 98-100°F
2. **Remove cover**: Fold back carefully
3. **Turn on jets**: Control panel on the side
4. **Soak and relax**: 15-20 minute sessions with breaks
5. **Stay hydrated**: Bring water bottles

**Pro Tips**: - Take the shower before and after using the spa - Alternate between hot spa and cool-down breaks - Watch the stars (winter skies in Sutton are spectacular!) - Don't stay in too long — take breaks every 15-20 minutes - Close the cover between sessions to maintain heat

**Step 3: Fondue Dinner**

**Cooking the Fondue**:

1. Rub the inside of the fondue pot with garlic
2. Pour in wine and heat on stove until simmering
3. Gradually add cheese, stirring constantly
4. Add cornstarch mixture and lemon juice
5. Transfer to fondue stand with flame

## Additional Tips & Notes

**Weather & Safety**

- **Temperature**: Winter temps range from -20°C to 0°C (-4°F to 32°F)
- **Daylight**: Short days (sunset ~4:30 PM in December)—start hiking early!
- **Storm days**: If weather is severe, skip the hike and enjoy a spa day, wine tasting, or explore Sutton's shops and cafés

**Best Time for This Itinerary**

- **December-February**: Peak winter conditions, best for snow lovers
- **March**: Longer days, warmer temps, still snowy

## Share Your Adventure

If you found this itinerary useful we'd love to see your photos and hear how your day went!

- Tag us on Instagram: @sutton_nest
- Use hashtag: #SuttonNestAdventures
- Leave a review and share your experience on **Google Maps**

**Enjoy your perfect winter day in Sutton!**

*Last updated: December 2025*
*For questions or updates, contact: [sutton.nest@gmail.com]*