



## Frequently Asked Questions Cat Skiing Tours in Whistler BC

### **Q: How long is the trip?**

A: In order to use the whole day for skiing, we depart early in the morning and will return to the Village at about 5:00pm. The trip is approximately 8.5-9 hours round trip.

### **Q: How many runs can I do in one day?**

A: We try to get as many runs in as possible. Weather and snow conditions as well as the ability of the group all weigh in when factoring how many runs you will get. We guarantee 7,000 vertical feet of skiing. On an average day you can expect to do six to ten runs. The record is 15 runs in a day. We are just as happy as you are if you ski more than average.

### **Q: What is the price of a Cat Skiing Tour?**

A: Current season prices are available on our website  
<http://www.canadianoutback.com/whistler-cat-skiing.php>

### **Q: What are catskiing / catboarding?**

A: Snowcats (or "cats") are the machines you see grooming ski hills. Ours are specially modified versions with a heated passenger cabin containing seats to transport twelve guests, two guides and a photographer into the backcountry safely and comfortably. The snowcat will take you to some of the best untracked snow you will ever get the chance to enjoy. With a strictly controlled number of people per day you always get first tracks. The only people you see are your friends and the guides.

### **Q: Why would I want to go catskiing / catboarding?**

A: Using a snowcat is the most fun and social way to get your untracked snow fix. If you are nervous about flying in a helicopter or if you are tired of the crowded, rushed experience that ski resort powder has become, Catskiing is the powder experience you are looking for. No lift lines, no crowds, untracked powder all day. You're with a small group of 11 other guests in 4,300 acres of untracked snow with beautiful views of magnificent mountains all around. Catskiing has great atmosphere as it's just you and your friends, and the very best 'bang for your buck' when it comes to the amount of skiing you get for the money.

### **Q: What ages do you accept?**

A: It doesn't matter how old you are, as long as you want powder runs! The youngest we usually accept is 19 years, unless you book a private cat. Then as it's your cat, you can bring the kids and ski at the speed you want. Our average age is mid-20s to mid-40s. If you want to bring your kid or kids, please keep the rest of the group in mind when you judge their skiing or riding ability. If the kid cannot keep up with the group they will have to ride in the cat for the day with no refund. We love kids getting powder experience, but not to the detriment to other guests' experience.

### **Q: What type of Snowcats do you use?**

A: We use fully equipped Pisten Bully 300 Snowcats especially designed for catskiing. They have comfortable bucket seating for twelve, two guides and a photographer, as well as panoramic view windows for checking out the peaks and runs.

### **Q: What is your average vertical?**

A: Not less than 7,000 ft, but mostly 8,000ft to 10,000ft per day. You can expect six to ten runs, depending on the conditions and the group. The more you ski the happier we are. The record runs in a day is fifteen. Our runs range in vertical from 800ft to around 3,000ft. Most runs are in the 1200-2200 vertical foot size. Having runs of this size means you spend less time in the cat

between runs and more time skiing or riding. It also means you can charge down each run without getting worn out.

**Q: Is catskiing safe?**

A: Snowcat skiing is as safe as we can make backcountry skiing. Each cat has two highly trained and certified guides who are constantly monitoring snow and weather conditions so you can be as safe as possible in an uncontrolled backcountry environment. Every morning our guides have a safety meeting covering everything from A-Z to make sure your day with us is safe, fun and enjoyable. There is always an element of risk in any backcountry experience however, and you will need to read and sign our release of liability waiver.

**Q: What happens if I get hurt?**

A: Our guides are all trained with Red Cross Industrial First Aid. If you get hurt skiing or riding, the guide will assess the situation and take whatever steps are necessary.

**Q: What about the risk of avalanche?**

A: Your safety is our prime concern. Therefore, our guides constantly monitor snow and weather conditions throughout the day so you can be as safe as possible in the uncontrolled environment of the backcountry. Every guest wears a transceiver and is shown how to operate it. You're also given a safety orientation session for your general backcountry awareness.

**Q: What is a transceiver?**

A: A transceiver is an electronic beacon that you wear on your body whenever you are in the backcountry. It sends out a signal whenever it is turned on. If ever needed it will lead us right to you. All guests are provided with transceivers which must be worn.

**Q: What abilities do you accept?**

A: The great thing about our terrain is that there is an easier way down every one of our runs. We match groups to terrain so that falls are fun you'll always have a fun and safe day. One of the best things about catskiing is that people of different abilities can ride together because the cat can only get to the bottom of the run at a certain speed. This means you ski and ride at your own pace to the bottom. Depending on your pace you'll just get to the pick up a little before the cat or slightly after it. As the cat can only go a certain speed down the mountain there's no intimidation and no rush. You can ride at your own pace without the feeling that you are "holding up the group". With two guides per group, everyone gets safe guided powder skiing in the mountains, with more fun and more great times than you can imagine.

**Suggested Skier Ability:**

We suggest you should have intermediate skiing ability with experience in a variety of conditions including powder, trees and steeper terrain. Our more relaxed experience lets you concentrate on enjoying the day and learning to ski better. Our guides are all fully certified ski instructors who can help you with tips and pointers throughout the day to help you get comfortable in powder snow and ski better. Untracked snow is great for learning to ski in powder.

**Suggested Snowboarder Ability:**

There is no need to be intimidated about going catboarding if you can link turns with proficiency on a blue run. If you can do that you are ready to start catboarding. Riding powder on a snowboard, if you have never done it, is one of the easiest things to get the hang of. Our more relaxed experience lets you concentrate on enjoying the day and learning to ride better. Our guides who are fully certified instructors can help you with tips and pointers throughout the day so you'll quickly get comfortable in powder snow and ride better. You will learn so much about riding powder from them that you will be an expert in no time.

**Q: Do we have to hike at all?**

A: There are only a couple of our runs that are only accessible with a short hike. They are worth the hike. In general though there is no hiking involved: that's why we have the cat.

**Q: What is the terrain like?**

A: We have terrain for every ability and fetish. Tree skiing freak? There are awesome trees and glades. Love the high alpine open bowl skiing? Got you covered. With 5 peaks to choose from we have every kind of skiing you could want. The guides constantly monitor the weather and snow and we go to where the snow that is best that day.

**Q: Where does the catskiing operate?**

A: We operate in Tricouni Peak and Cypress Peak areas, 20 minutes south of Whistler.

**Q: How long is the cat ride up to do one run?**

A: The first ride up in the cat takes anywhere from 25 minutes to a hour minutes before we drop in for the first run, depending on which of the 5 peaks we are skiing that day. After that the runs come quickly. The average cat ride time is 10- 15 minutes for each run. Just enough time to recharge your energy, grab a snack or something to drink crack some jokes, make some friends. Sometimes it seems like you just got in the cat at the bottom of the run and then suddenly you are back at the top getting ready to drop in. It's amazing how much fun and how social catskiing is.

**Q: Is there a photographer available to take pictures?**

A: We have a professional photographer on the cat with every group. A digital photo CD can be purchased after your tour.

**Q: What if I don't have my own equipment?**

A: You can rent you all the ski or snowboard equipment you need at Summit Sport Rentals.

**Q: What should I wear?**

A: We recommend the same clothing as you would wear at a ski resort. As the snowcats are heated, there are plenty of opportunities to warm up between runs. Unlike a ski area where you have to carry everything with you, you can bring extra clothes as you can store them in the cat in case you need them. Dress in layers as we have a wide variety of weather conditions and you may need to add or subtract a layer. Also it is best to wear goggles or sunglasses.

**Q: Where and when do I have to check-in?**

A: Our guides meet you at a central location in Whistler Village at 7:45am, 15 minutes prior to the departure at 8am. We will send you check in details upon booking.

**Q: What is your refund policy?**

A: This tour is non refundable within 24 hours of departure and 2 weeks non-refundable for groups of 10 or more.

**Q: Do I sign a liability waiver?**

A: We reserve the right to alter daily itinerary or cancel any trip. A release of liability must be read, signed prior to activity.

**Q: Do I have to pre book/pay?**

A: yes, we take full payment via credit card at the time of booking. Pre booking is mandatory to ensure your space on the tour.

**Q: How far in advance do I have to book?**

A: We take bookings months in advance or even the day before. It is up to you how last minute you want to leave your booking. By leaving it to the last minute, you take the risk that there will not be any space left during the tour time which you desire.