



Frequently Asked Questions Heli Skiing in Whistler, BC

Q: How many runs are included and how long do they take to ski/ board?

A: We offer different trips with at least 3 runs and a maximum of 6 runs. The average run is roughly 2000 vertical feet (600m), but they vary from 1400 to 5000 vertical feet (400m to 1500m). The time it takes to complete each run depends on each individual's ability, with the average being around 45 minutes.

Q: Where do you ski?

A: We operate in the remote wilderness of the Pacific Coast Mountain Range, to the east, north, and west of Whistler Resort. This is a region of extensive glaciation and sub-alpine partially treed areas.

Q: How "good" do I have to be to go?

A: We recommend that you be of intermediate or better ability at your home ski area, although powder experience is not necessary. We can accommodate all levels of skiers from intermediate to expert.

Q: What kind of terrain do you ski and how steep is it?

A: When the weather permits, we ski on the many glacier runs in our areas. If the weather does not allow us to get to the glaciers, we ski in sub-alpine open tree runs. The guides try to select terrain suitable for each group's abilities, but always consider snow, weather, and avalanche conditions. If conditions and abilities allow, we frequently do some good steep runs.

Q: Do you mix skiers and boarders?

A: Yes, depending in the numbers of skiers and boarders, we often put skiers and boarders of the same ability level into the same group. This has rarely proven to be a problem. Both skiers and boarders like to go downhill at good speed in deep powder snow.

Q: Are kids allowed to go heli-skiing?

A: In British Columbia minors are defined as anyone under the age of 19 years. Whistler Heli-Skiing does allow minors to go heli-skiing provided:

- The person is a good skier or boarder (most minors that go heli-skiing have been in junior race or freestyle programs).
- The person is of mature character and is used to dealing with adults.
- The person has their waiver signed by a parent or guardian of legal age.

Whistler Heli-Skiing reserves the right to refuse any minor that we feel will not properly fit into the heli-ski day.

Q: What about avalanche danger?

A: There is always some level of avalanche danger in the mountains in winter. This danger level changes constantly with changing snow and weather conditions. The guides monitor snow and weather conditions on a daily basis. The current risk of avalanche is always considered by the guides when choosing the runs to ski.

Q: How many people go in each group?

A: Groups booked in the Bell 212 helicopters are from 7 – 10 participants, depending upon their weight, plus the guide. The Bell 407 helicopter carries 5 participants plus the guide.

Q: Can I bring a snowboard and skis and switch part way through the day?

A: Unfortunately not. There is not enough room in the helicopter basket to carry any extra skis or boards.

Q: Can I use my own transceiver?

A: No, we will provide all guests with a transceiver.

Q: When is the best time to go?

A: Traditionally the most popular months to heli-ski are February and March, when weather and snow conditions are generally the most reliable. The colder weather in January has often provided us with very good heli-skiing. In December the days are short and there are usually frequent snowstorms (we hope), but the heli-skiing can be very good. Late March and April offer longer days to accompany stellar spring skiing conditions.

Q: What should I wear for heliskiing?

A: Please dress the same way you would for the mountain.

Goggles are a must. Sunglasses (with retention straps) are best kept for springtime use. Sunscreen is important in the spring. Please bring a wool or fleece hat. Ball caps are not recommended. Skiers wishing to bring a shovel pack may do so if it is small and approved by the guide in the morning. Please remember that you will be expected to ski with it for the entire day as nothing may be left in the helicopter. Hydration backpacks are a great way to bring water along and are frequently carried by our veteran heliskiers.

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

A: Please check into the Whistler Heli-Skiing Store in the Carleton Lodge to confirm your arrival in Whistler. You must check in before 4:00 pm the day before you fly and preferably as soon as you arrive in Whistler.

Ski day:

8:15 am: Guests requiring rentals to check in at the Carleton store.

8:30 am: All other guests to check in at the Carleton store.

If your heli ski day is cancelled due to weather or snow conditions, you will be telephoned between 7:30 am and 8:15 am. If you do not have a phone call by 8:15 am, please report to the Heli Ski store at 8:30 or 8:45 as required.

Q: What is the price of Heli Skiing?

A: Current season prices are available on our website

<http://www.canadianoutback.com/whistler-heli-skiing.php>

Q: What is your refund policy?

A: If we do not fly, you will receive a full refund. You may cancel your reservation at any time up to 10:00 AM the day before your ski date, for a full refund. Your seat may be forfeited if you have not checked in by 6:00 PM on the day prior to your ski day. If you cancel after 10:00 AM the day before you fly, or on the morning of your intended flight, you will be charged \$200.00 plus HST cancellation fee.

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.