



2020 SNOWWATER PRE-TRIP PACKAGE

Thank you for booking with Snowwater Heli Skiing.

This pre-trip information package is intended to answer any questions you may have about your upcoming trip, and get you ready for some of the most unforgettable skiing and riding experiences of your life!

OUR LOCATION

Snowwater operates in a region known as the West Kootenays of British Columbia. We chose this area as the quality of snow is like few other places on earth. The unsurpassed consistency, quantity, and lightness of our 'white gold', is well known to powder connoisseurs the world over.

The lodge is located in the Bonnington Range of the Selkirk Mountains, roughly 24 km southwest of Nelson. Nestled in the trees below Snowwater Peak, the lodge sits at 'a mile high' (5400ft/1640m) and is approximately 45 minutes from our base office.

Our guests have exclusive use of the buildings and facilities at Snowwater, and enjoy the camaraderie of only twelve friends at a time. We aim to keep you well satiated in our mountain-chic oasis, while providing the privacy and peacefulness of a wilderness hideaway.

SNOWCAT BACK UP

One of the main features that keep our guests returning to Snowwater is our **guarantee** that you ski or ride every day no matter what the weather is doing. You've booked a ski vacation and come a long to do it. Sitting in the lodge isn't what we do here.

With over twenty years of snowcat skiing under our belt, the caliber of our backup tree skiing is second to none. Annual glading and road system development have now afforded us access to signature old growth tree skiing and open bowls right from our doorstep. If the weather changes while we're in the cat, we swap out and go back to the heli. It's our failsafe way to ensure you spend your well-deserved vacation time doing what you came to do: enjoying an unforgettable mountain experience.

REQUIRED BEFORE ARRIVAL FROM YOU

We now require all guests to pre-sign the liability **waiver ONLINE**, as well as the guest **confirmation form**. Please ensure that you have done both of these well in advance of arriving. This can be found at the bottom of every page on our website – www.snowwater.com

We are happy to accommodate **special food** requirements. But as a remote lodge with a set menu, we will need to know well before you arrive. This includes food that you **will not eat**, even if you not allergic to it.

We also need to know who you are **sharing a room** with on the trip, preferably well in advance of your trip dates.

WHERE TO MEET

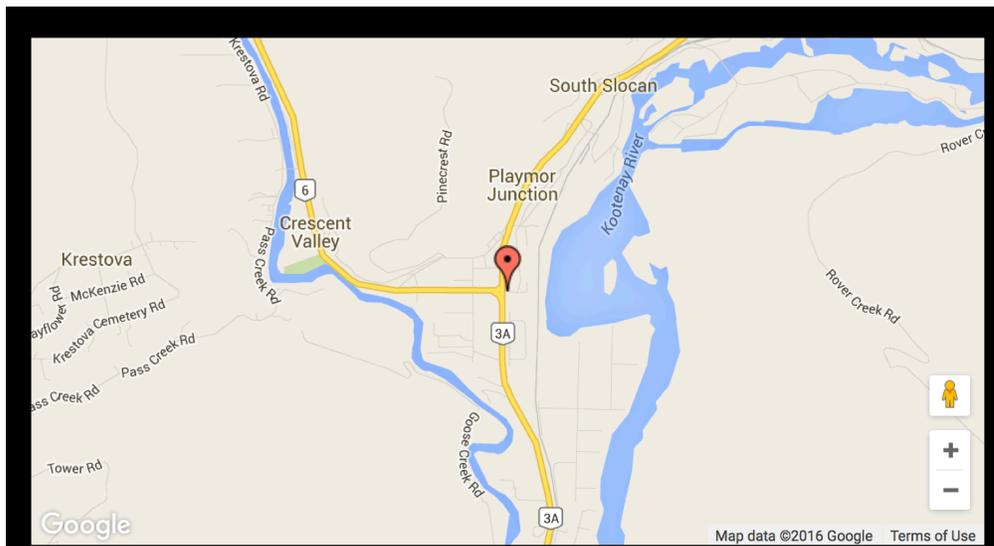
All trips begin at our Snowwater Clubhouse (in the Kootenay Smokehouse) where you will be welcomed with wood-fired pizza, cold beer or gourmet coffee.

Snowwater Clubhouse:

997 Dogwood Dr.
South Slokan, BC,
V0G 2G0.
T: 250- 359-7669



We are located at the junction of HWY 3A and HWY 6, between Castlegar and Nelson at the traffic lights.



WHEN TO MEET

NEW Arrival time: 5:00pm

All guests meet at our base office before making the trip to the lodge. The shuttle trucks leave at 5:30 pm sharp.

Due to the abundance of mountains in our region, getting here can pose its challenges; but it's worth it! We recommend you take an extra day and come early to avoid feeling pressured by the constraints of winter weather traveling.

LATE ARRIVALS

It is the responsibility of the guest to be on time. Please call our base office if you are running late so we can be aware of your situation. Guests who miss a scheduled departure will need a private shuttle to the lodge and will be subject to a late fee of **\$250 per truck (4 guests per)**. We do not bring in guests past 6:00 pm departure time from the base. If you are later than this, you may have to spend a night in Nelson and incur extra accommodation and food expenses.

GETTING HERE

You can fly directly to Castlegar, or fly to other airports that are relatively close and then drive.

Spokane International Airport, WA

Most Americans choose to fly to Spokane and either rent a car, or book a shuttle, and drive up to Canada.

Shuttlebus

If you prefer to get a shuttle please contact <https://www.kootenaygateway.com/>.

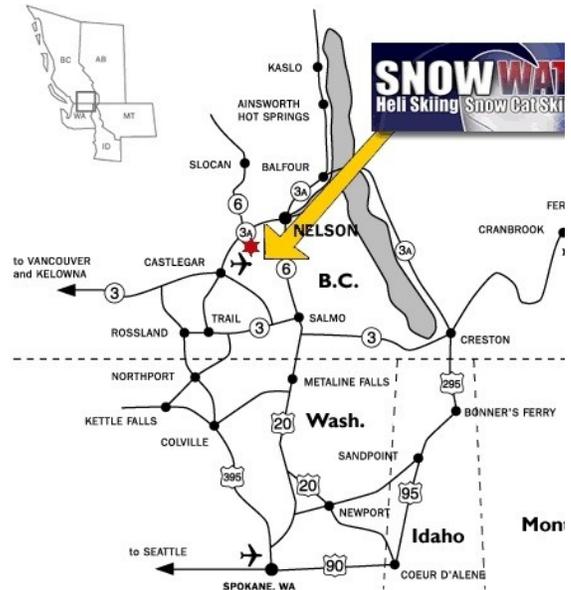
Drive times to our base office:

- ◆ From Spokane, Wa: 3 ½ hours north
- ◆ From Nelson: 20 minutes
- ◆ Rossland (Red Mountain): – 45 minutes
- ◆ Castlegar airport: 15 minutes

◆ Highway cams:

<http://images.drivebc.ca/bchighwaycam/pub/html/www/5.html>

- ◆ 24 hour road information for the Kootenays:
800-665- 8001



Border crossings:

The two main border crossings locally are:

- Northport/Patterson (closer to Rossland) – Open 24 hrs.
 - Nelway (closer to Nelson). This border is smaller and closes at midnight.
- ◆ A passport is always required to cross the Canadian border.
 - ◆ If you have a **DUI or criminal record** you will need to arrange for permission to enter Canada. DO NOT try to drive across the border without pre-arranging it in this case. Call us to learn more!



There is free parking available at our office while you are skiing or riding with us.

Castlegar Regional airport (YCG).

You can fly via Air Canada into our local regional airport, only a 15 minute drive to our base office. Please be warned, flights are **often cancelled** due to stormy weather so we recommend coming a day early.

A shuttle van or rental cars are available from this regional airport, but call ahead to reserve:
<http://www.kootenayshuttle.com/shuttle/shuttle.htm>

Private Aircraft

International or Domestic private jets can land in Castlegar (YCG). Please call for details.

Trail (YZZ), BC from Vancouver, South terminal.

This airport is 1 hour from our base, but the success rate is about 15% more reliable in the winter than Castlegar. The only carrier operating to this airport is Pacific Coastal, operating from the South Terminal at the Vancouver Airport. (www.pacific-coastal.com.)

Book your car rental ahead and practicar will pick you up from the airport and take you to their office, where you can pick up your rental vehicle:

<http://www.practicar.ca/StarLocationDetail.aspx?fid=249&loc=Trail-BC>

Kelowna International Airport

Many Canadians choose to fly here because it pretty much 100% successful in landing when it says it will. You would then have to book a car or a shuttle and make the 4 hour trek from there. Not ideal – but it is an option.

Cranbrook International Airport

This is another option with international landing capacity. It is serviced by Air Canada, and is a 3 hour drive to our base, via a mountain pass highway.

GENERAL ARRIVAL SCHEDULE

- Arrive at our base office by 5:00 pm, park vehicle and turn in your keys to the office.
- Please sign your **online** waiver BEFORE arriving for your trip. The waiver is found at the bottom of every page on our website: www.snowwater.com.
- Get your bags tagged with room names.
- By 5:30pm, you will be transferred by 4 x4 truck to our snowcat at 14km from a quick 5 minutes drive into your secluded paradise.
- Arrive and settle into your room with your luggage.
- After freshening up, come and meet the staff, enjoy a beverage, and join the orientation talk at 6:30pm.
- Organize your heli groups for day 1.
- Gourmet dinner at 7:00pm.

END OF TRIP

You should be back to reality at the Snowwater Clubhouse by 4:30pm on the last day of your trip. We plan for all guests to be back from skiing by 2:30, leaving to shower in the main lodge, have one last frosty beer and say goodbye. At the base you will finalize your lodge bill and have a chance to purchase any last minute gift items or memorabilia. Then you can relax with a complimentary beer and wood-fired pizza before you hit the road.

If you happen to be skiing the Valhallas on your last day, you will be driven directly to the office. Your luggage will be brought down for you to the base during the day, and a post ski shower will not be available in this case.

Finally, if you are flying via private aircraft, you will finalize your lodge bill at the lodge before being flown back to Castlegar airport for your connecting flight home. All heli shuttles are \$1000 per load, per direction, regardless of how many passengers are in the machine.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Purchasing insurance for your trip is a crucial piece of the heli-skiing puzzle. You have just invested in an expensive adventure and we HIGHLY recommend getting the appropriate coverage so that you are reimbursed should something go awry either before or during your trip. **Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance** reimburses travel costs if the travel plans are cancelled prior to departure, or if they are disrupted after the trip has begun.

All trips will now include EMERGENCY MEDICAL INSURANCE for acute, sudden and unexpected sickness or injury for visitors and Canadians. The coverage includes ambulance evacuation to a hospital as well as hospital and physician charges. Medical claims do require that you see and get signed off by a local physician. The insurance company will make direct billing arrangements with the hospital as quickly as possible, however hospitals in BC may require a credit card deposit upon admission. Further coverage details are available by contacting Lifestyle Financial directly at 1-877-542-8577 or travel@lifestylefinancial.ca.

WHAT TO BRING

- **Passport.** If you'll be crossing the border, don't forget your passport!
- **Luggage restrictions:** Guests are permitted to bring 2 soft-sided bags with a total of 50 lb's (we prefer one 50 lb duffel bag if possible). A small laptop bag or backpack may accompany you on board as well.
- **Ski boots or Snowboard boots.** ALWAYS bring your ski boots or snowboard boots as carry-on items on airplanes. Most regular combo touring/alpine boots are compatible with our bindings.
- **Warm, weather resistant ski/snowboard clothes.**
- **Swimwear** – we have two outdoor hot tubs.
- **Goggles:** extra goggles can be a very good idea as well in case yours get fogged with tons of powder snow (common!). We also sell some in our shop if you're in need.
- **Sunscreen.**
- **Casual wear** for the evening.
- **Laptop** – yes we have high-speed wireless Internet – but not for movies, netflix etc.
- **Cell phone.** We have reception at the lodge for Telus, Verizon and Bell cell phones.
- **Personal items – toothbrush, toothpaste, medication, advil etc.**
- **Spare parts** - If you are on telemark skis or a snowboard, you should carry any spare binding parts that have a potential to fail.
- **Collapsible poles** – a good thing for snowboarders to carry, but not mandatory, especially when we have deep conditions.

WHAT WE SUPPLY

- **Ski straps** - required for skis for heli packaging.
- **Fat skis or snowboard.** Rossignol fat skis are included in your package to ensure the best powder experience. If you want to bring your own skis or snowboard, please only bring one set of gear. We highly recommend that your skis should have a waist width of at least 80mm or greater for easy turning and endurance.
- **House wine and draft on tap!** Wines from the cellar, or cocktails are extra.
- **Guest airbag.** Each guest receives a BCA airbag backpack containing your personal Snowwater water bottle, shovel and probe.
- **Digital Tracker 2 avalanche beacon.** You will be trained on its use and are responsible for its intact return to your guide.
- **BCA 22 L Airbag** with shovel and probe.
- **Bath robes** – makes travel between hot tub and bedroom cozy and warm!
- Crocs for lodge life – or bring your slippers.
- **EO bath product: Natural, organic shampoo, conditioner, shower gel and hand cream.**
<http://www.eoproducts.com/>
- **Winter boots.**
- **Boot and glove dryers** in each guest lodge.
- **Burton snowboards, Rossignol fat skis and powder poles.**

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- **Alcohol** – We have a full bar at Snowwater and **do not permit** guests to bring their own alcohol. If you would like to bring some unique wine, we do allow 2 bottles max per person with a corkage fee of \$50 each. If you have any special requests, please let us know and we will be happy to make sure your expectations are met.
- **Airbag** – TSA will confiscate your canister if you try to bring it on a plane. At Snowwater an BCA 22 L airbag is included in your trip.

SAFETY

The backcountry is exciting and exhilarating, but can also be unpredictable. We strongly urge our guests to act responsibly and listen attentively to their guides and the pilot. Guests are expected to follow directions and act appropriately around the heli at all times.

Avalanches are part of skiing in the backcountry. These are a normal occurrence in the mountains as nature finds a way to stabilize the strong potential energy created during storms. Many western ski areas have avalanche control programs protecting their inbound terrain, but in an area as vast and untamed as ours, this task is virtually impossible. Our guides have years of experience in evaluating people, snow stability and assessing where it's safe...or not. While it is our goal to take you to the best available snow and terrain each day, safety is our main priority and it may dictate where and when we ski. Please listen to and follow your guide at all times.

****The use of drugs and alcohol are strictly prohibited before and during the ski day. Ipods** or other music listening devices are also not allowed during your ski day.

- Please note that cell phones must be in airplane mode when carried in the backcountry as they interfere with your beacon signal when turned on.
- Go-pros cannot be mounted to your chest.

DAY 1

- A buffet breakfast is served at 7:30am every morning. Eggs to order or a breakfast special is also available every morning, together with espresso or cappuccino!
- Fill out ski/snowboard rental waiver so we can set you up with your gear while you train. Please bring one boot to breakfast so that we can fit you with the right ski
- Get weighed for your heli group!
- 8:00am: Lead guide talk and introduction to your personal safety gear.
- 8:30am: Bring your assigned airbag, water bottle, beacon, probe and shovel to Guide Haus for training.
- Avalanche training is given by our professional guides to ensure you are ready and equipped to enter the backcountry. Our pilot will also brief you on the helicopter.
- Once you are trained you are ready to go skiing!

ROUTINE DAY

- At 8:30, three groups of 4 guests, each with a private guide, meet at the heli and get ready to start the powder extravaganza!
- Ride powder and enjoy the magnificent views all day long that the Kootenays offer.
- Eventually our heli will have to refuel during the day. This is when we eat lunch in the field, or occasionally return to the lodge for hot lunch if conditions permit.
- Homemade soup or après delights are served at 4:30 every day.
- We serve frosty beverages in the hot tubs, or enjoy our bar with foosball and darts.
- Massages start at 3:45pm. Pre-booking is recommended to ensure your spot (there are 4 spots per day). We can bring in another therapist if you pre-book and we know in time.
- A 4-course gourmet dinner is served at 7:00pm, accompanied by select house wine or beer on tap – all of which is included in your package!
- Wine from the Cellar, or specialty cocktails are available for an extra charge.

SNOWWATER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

It is always important to re-familiarize yourself with our terms and conditions, as you are expected to understand and be aware of them before coming on your trip. Please visit our website link to read them or download the pdf:

<https://www.snowwater.com/plan/2-deep-kootenay-powder/9-terms-and-conditions>

MASSAGE REQUESTS

After an enthusiastic day in the mountains giving it all you've got, there is not better way to sooth your muscles and get the most out of tour vacation by treating yourself to a massage. Our certified therapists have extensive sports therapy experience and are guaranteed to sooth the pain.

Due to the high demand for massage appointments, you can pre-book to ensure you get the massage you need. Treatments are available every evening. If there are enough pre-bookings, we will bring in another therapist.

Appointment times are:
3:45, 4:45, 5:45 and after dinner.

Be sure to sign up well in advance!

GRATUITIES

Gratuities have not been included in your trip.

Tips are a customary part of this industry, and are greatly appreciated by all. If you feel you received exceptional service and your trip made memorable by the efforts of those who work at the lodge, please be sure to leave a tip that will be split by the team at Snowwater.

THANK YOU

Thank you again for choosing to spend your holiday with us. Our clients continually tell us that the experience at Snowwater is beyond comparison and we strive every trip to keep this is our goal.

We look forward to seeing you in the mountains and we sincerely hope that you enjoy your stay with us.

Patric, Maria and the Snowwater Team