



Revelstoke Mountain Resort photo

## TRIP IDEAS

## SKIING BC'S POWDER HIGHWAY

The Powder Highway, in British Columbia's Kootenay Rockies region, links eight full-service mountain resorts, four mountain ranges, and takes skiers and snowboarders deep into the 1,218m/4,060ft of fresh powder that falls annually. Backcountry skiing, cat-skiing, heli-skiing, snowshoeing, dogsledding and cross-country skiing are also available.

For more great Trip Ideas visit [HelloBC.com](http://HelloBC.com)

### Fernie Alpine Resort

Make tracks through 1,013ha/2,504ac of deep powder, explore five alpine bowls and cruise down any of 113 runs at Fernie Alpine Resort. Expect generous snowfall (8.8m/29ft a year on average), long verticals and a high speed quad lift. Fernie boasts an historic town centre and loads of après fun. Don't miss the legendary Griz Bar; live music, a mountain-view deck and prime rib burgers have made it a top choice since 1962.

### Panorama Mountain Village

Snowboarders head for Panorama Mountain Village near Invermere, where the Showoff Terrain Park is among the biggest in the Canadian Rockies. Resident skiers like Taynton Bowl, a former heli-ski area now accessible from Summit Chairlift. Expert skier? Try Gun Barrel – a double black diamond run with trees, chutes and open spaces. Altogether, the 1,152ha/2,847ac ski area has everything from double black diamond runs to kids' play areas and Nordic tracks. Need refueling? Locals swear by Lusti's Cappuccino Bar and Wildfire Rustic Grill.

### Kicking Horse Mountain Resort

Ski Canada's third longest vertical (1,260m/4,143ft) and cut turns in the 1,113ha/2,750ac of chutes, bowls, glades and steeps at the powder-blessed Kicking Horse Mountain Resort near Golden. Ski right from the door at the intimate, 48-unit Palliser Lodge (book one with a private hot tub) and ride the Golden Eagle Express gondola to the Eagle's Eye Restaurant – the highest eatery in Canada. BC wines and wild salmon really do taste better at 2,350m/7,700ft.

### Kimberley Alpine Resort

Just 20 minutes from the Canadian Rockies International Airport, cute Kimberley Alpine Resort is a great choice for both families and experts, with long ski runs, night skiing and 26km/16mi of groomed Nordic trails. Lodgepole pine beams and river rock pillars create a ski-cabin vibe at Trickle Creek Lodge, which offers ski-in ski-out accommodation.

### Red Mountain Resort

The charming 19th century mining town of Rossland is just 3km/1.9mi from Red Mountain Resort, one of Canada's oldest ski resorts. Ranked by Forbes Traveler magazine as one of the continent's top ten ski destinations, Red is known for its

crowd-free runs, open glades and powder-filled bowls. For munchies, try Lost Boys Cafe, where burgers and brews meet alpine scenes at the top of the Timber Express Quad Chair.

### Whitewater Winter Resort

Powderhound? Whitewater Winter Resort, near the artsy town of Nelson, is blessed with an average of 14m/45ft of fluffy white snow every year. Fifty-two ski runs for all levels include open bowls, glades, chutes and tree skiing. This year, explore a whole new slice of backcountry thanks to the new Glory Ridge triple chair. In February, catch the Kootenay Coldsmoke Powder Fest, Whitewater's annual celebration of backcountry skiing.

### Revelstoke Mountain Resort

Revelstoke Mountain Resort – BC's newest ski resort – has North America's longest lift-serviced vertical (1,713m/5,620ft). Fifty-two ski runs, mostly intermediate and advanced, include a 15.2km/9.5mi cruiser called the Last Spike. For après, ski-in for an organic beef burger or kung pao chicken at the Rockford Wok|Bar|Grill and overnight at chic Nelsen Lodge.

### Fairmont Hot Springs Ski Area

Fairmont Hot Springs Ski Area is a family-friendly hidden gem with just 13 runs and a terrain park, plus great snow and a sunny southwest exposure (think spring skiing). After the hill, head to the spa or have a soak in Fairmont's natural mineral pools.

### Transportation

Driving? Resorts along the Powder Highway are a 3.5 to 4 hour drive from Calgary, or an 8 to 10 hour scenic drive from Vancouver. From Spokane, Washington, it's about 2.5 hours to Red Mountain and just under 5 hours to Fernie.

The Canadian Rockies International Airport in Cranbrook has direct flights of about 90 minutes from Vancouver, or 50 minutes from Calgary. The West Kootenay Regional Airport in Castlegar has regular flights from Calgary and Vancouver.

Revelstoke-bound skiers can fly into Kelowna International Airport, which has direct flights from Vancouver, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Seattle. The Revelstoke Connection Shuttle makes the 2-hour run from Kelowna Airport to Revelstoke hotels twice a day.