

THE WORLD'S TOP **5** BOUTIQUE HELI-SKIING OPERATIONS



WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING A HELI-SKIING DESTINATION INCLUDING GROUP SIZE, UNLIMITED VERTICAL AND TIME OF YEAR.





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The world loves to ski, proven by the thousands of ski resorts around the world. But did you know there are only about 40 dedicated heli-skiing operations, 17 of which are located in British Columbia, Canada? Despite accounting for less than half of all heli-skiing operations, BC boasts a whopping 90% of the world's heli-skiing days (about 90,000 days per year!). That's about 900 lucky skiers and snowboarders making fresh tracks every day during the relatively mild BC winter season. To put that into perspective, Whistler Blackcomb's chair lifts can accommodate 65,507 skiers per hour!

Heli-skiing was pioneered in the interior mountain ranges of BC, just south of Golden in the Bugaboos. At its outset, the traditional heli-skiing model included a large Bell 212 (Huey's) helicopter with 11 guests per group and 4 groups using the same helicopter. Many heli-skiing operations in BC

still use this model, given the ability to accommodate large groups with accommodation facilities to match.

Great Canadian Heli-Skiing came onto the scene in 1988 and established the first "boutique" heli-skiing experience by being the only operation to exclusively use AStar helicopters and restrict group sizes to just 3 groups of 4 guests (12 guests per helicopter compared to 44 guests with the traditional model).

INTRODUCTION

Since the mid-90s, a few other boutique heli-skiing operations have been founded that also believe that smaller groups are an essential part of the experience such as Last Frontier (lastfrontierheli.com) and Bella Coola Heli Sports (bellacoolaheliskiing.com).



HOW WE DEFINE 'BOUTIQUE' HELI-SKIING

We typically think of boutique as being small, specialty, one of a kind. When putting this together, we qualified boutique as being:

1. Group size:

5 or less guests per group using AStars or Bell 407 helicopters (compared to large groups of 10 or more on a Bell 205 or 212 with a maximum of 30-40 guests per day).

2. Destinations:

Companies that own and operate unique destination accommodations, specifically for heli-skiing guests.

3. Experience:

Focused on the entire experience including providing excellent accommodation options and gourmet meals as part of the package.

The companies included in this guide were chosen based on these factors, plus we considered years in business, location and commitment to providing outstanding customer service.



RUBY MOUNTAIN HELICOPTER EXPERIENCE

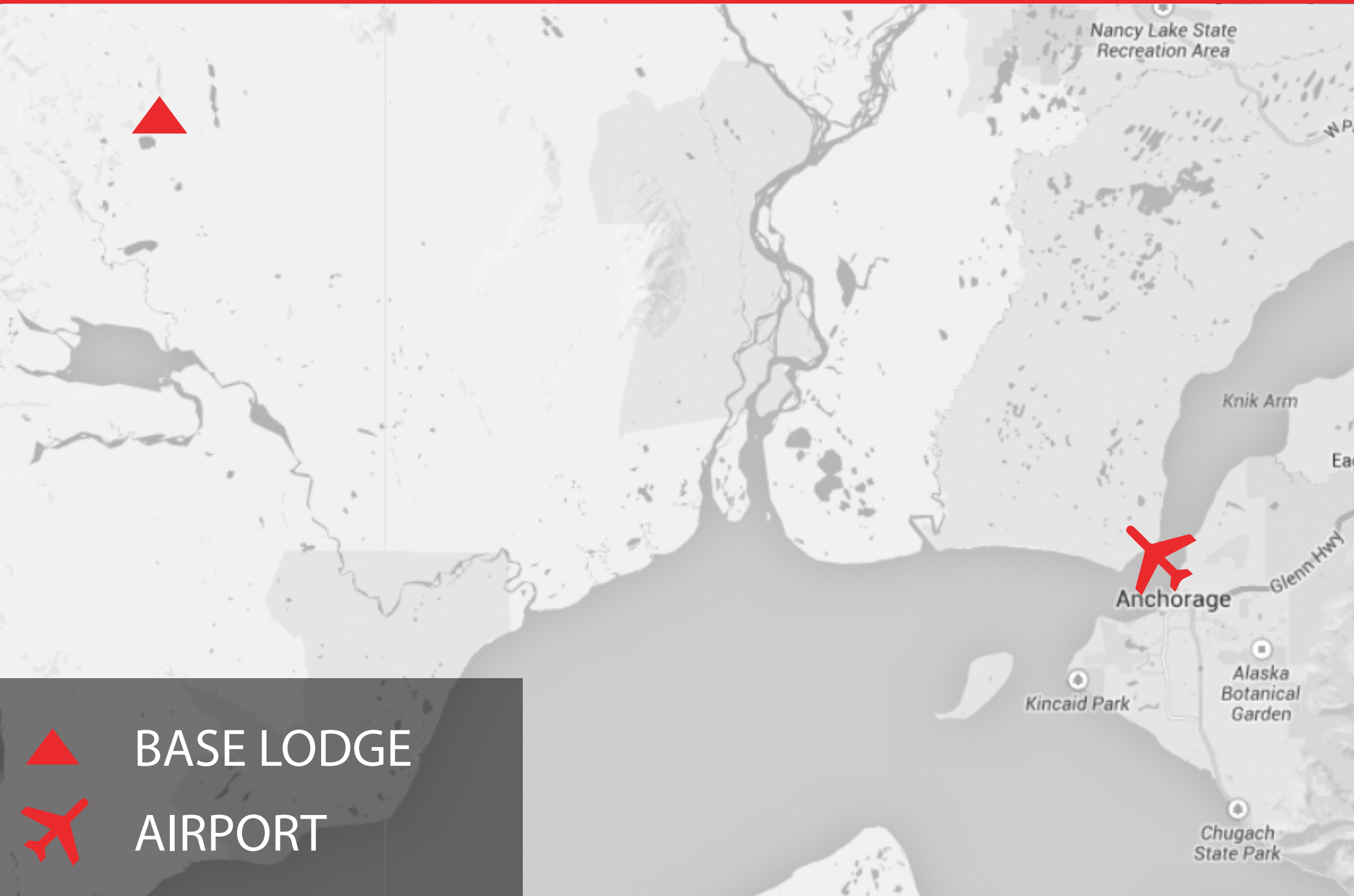


Website	helicopterskiing.com
Country	USA
Location	East of Elko, Nevada
Years in Operation	37 years
Mountain Range	Ruby Mountains
Accommodations	Reds Ranch
Accessibility	3.5 hour drive from Salt Lake City
Season	January - March
Trip Length Options	1 or 3 days
Trip Start Days	Set trip dates
Vertical Guarantee	39,000 vertical feet for a 3 day tour
Max Guests	16
Group Size	5

Founded by Utah ski patroller and adventure seeker Joe Royer in 1977, Ruby Mountain has earned the reputation as one of North America’s **ultimate secret powder stash**. Being one of the most accessible operations for Western American residents has kept guests coming back year after year for their heli-skiing fix. It’s not just the skiing either, the Ruby Mountain family has earned a reputation for excellent guest experience, dining and accommodations, and always going above and beyond expectations.

Although the terrain size is smaller than in the Great White North, Ruby Mountain offers a truly boutique heli-skiing experience with convenient access. What makes this family operation unforgettable is “the fact that no matter who you are or what your skill level-you will manage to not only connect with the mountains and the snow and the sunshine, but also the people you share it with.”

TORDRILLO MOUNTAIN LODGE



Website	tordrillomountainlodge.com
Country	USA
Location	45 min from Anchorage, Alaska
Years in Operation	7 years
Mountain Range	In the heart of the Alaska Range, within eye shot of two 11,000-foot volcanoes and Mt. McKinley
Accommodations	Tordrillo Mountain Lodge
Accessibility	45 min float plane ride from Anchorage
Season	February - April
Trip Length Options	7 days
Trip Start Days	Saturday/Sunday
Vertical Guarantee	5 hours of flying time
Extra Vertical Fee	\$4000 per heli-hour
Max Guests	12
Helicopter	A-Star B2 Helicopter
Group Size	4

“It started with 10 barrels of Jet fuel, eight long time ski buddies, and a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter with its nose pointed towards Tordrillo Lodge.”

You are in elite company here, with Olympic Medallist Tommy Moe as owner and guide, with his Alaskan heli-skiing pioneering partners Greg Harms and Mike Overcast.

Ready to take your skiing and boarding to the edge? Tordrillo Lodge is positioned in the heart of the Alaskan wilderness, ready for anyone that is looking for extreme adventure and adrenaline. The luxury accommodations, modern amenities and world-class customer service make Tordrillo the standalone aged single malt scotch, on a shelf full of moonshine.

As with all adventures into Alaska’s wilderness, plan for a few down days while waiting for the skies to clear for what will likely be one of your most challenging ski/boarding experiences of your life. **Time to get it on Alaskan style.**

ARCTIC HELI-SKIING



Website	arcticheliskiing.com
Country	Iceland
Location	Northwest of Akureyri
Years in Operation	7 years
Mountain Range	Troll Peninsula
Accommodations	Klængshóll Lodge in Skíðadalur valley, or Raven Hill Lodge in Ski Valley
Accessibility	45 min flight from Reykjavik to Akureyri
Season	March - June
Trip Length Options	4 or 6 days
Trip Start Days	Set trip dates
Vertical Guarantee	The average heli ski run is around 900m or 3000ft in vertical drop
Extra Vertical Fee	€2.200 - per hour divided by the number of skiers
Max Guests	16
Helicopter	A-Star B2 Helicopter

“Exploratory Heli Skiing in Iceland and Greenland” is their tag line. What better way to describe the adventure that awaits you as you stand on top of the world? Skiing from peak down to the ocean, or night skiing by the light of midnight sun are truly **heli-skiing experiences that you will not find anywhere else on this planet.**

If that wasn’t enough, Klængshóll Lodge (Raven Hill Lodge) is a unique experience all on its own. Located on an ancient sheep farm, which has been inhabited from the days of the Vikings, it includes amenities such as the Old Farm House (dining room), Washhouse (spa, sauna) and the Hay Barn (Equipment room). Just in case you forget where you are with all these comforts, the northern lights will remind you that **Arctic Heli-Skiing is a trip of a lifetime, for those who truly want to explore life.**

Of course there it is a bit of a journey to get to Arctic Heli-Skiing, however it is likely simpler than you think with many Canadian, USA and European cities having connections through Iceland. So go and explore, go heli-ski, go to the Arctic. **Bucket list Bounty.**

MICA HELI-SKIING



Website	micaheli.com
Country	Canada
Location	2 hours from Revelstoke, BC
Years in Operation	10 years
Mountain Range	Rocky Mountains
Accommodations	Mica Lodge and Chalet
Accessibility	7 hour drive from Calgary, AB or 4.5 hour drive from Kelowna, BC to Mica staging area north of Revelstoke, BC. Then a helicopter ride to lodge.
Season	December - April
Trip Length Options	3, 4, 5, 6, 7 days
Trip Start Days	Set trip dates
Vertical Guarantee	4500 vertical meters
Extra Vertical Fee	Yes (offer unlimited vertical in early season)
Max Guests	16
Helicopter	A-Star B2 helicopter & Bell 407
Group Size	4



Mica is a castle in the sky, with 5-star amenities in the backcountry of British Columbia, Canada. Truly a place to be discovered, Mica is located in the Rocky Mountains, but accessed by helicopter from their staging area two hours north of BC’s interior mountain ski town Revelstoke.

Mica is unlike any Rocky Mountain experience you’ve had - this specific zone receives all the snow of BC’s interior as a result of its own private snow producing lake effect. Once you make it there, one is awarded with **boutique backcountry skiing at its finest.**

GREAT CANADIAN HELI-SKIING



Website	canadianheli-skiing.com
Country	Canada
Location	Rogers Pass. Halfway between Golden and Revelstoke
Years in Operation	26 years
Mountain Range	Purcell and Selkirk Ranges of the Columbia Mountains
Accommodations	Heather Mountain Lodge
Accessibility	4 hour drive from Calgary, Alberta
Season	December - April
Trip Length Options	2-7 days
Trip Start Days	ANY day of the week
Vertical Guarantee	30,500m/100,000ft for a week long trip
Extra Vertical Fee	none
Max Guests	24
Helicopter	A-Star B2 Helicopter

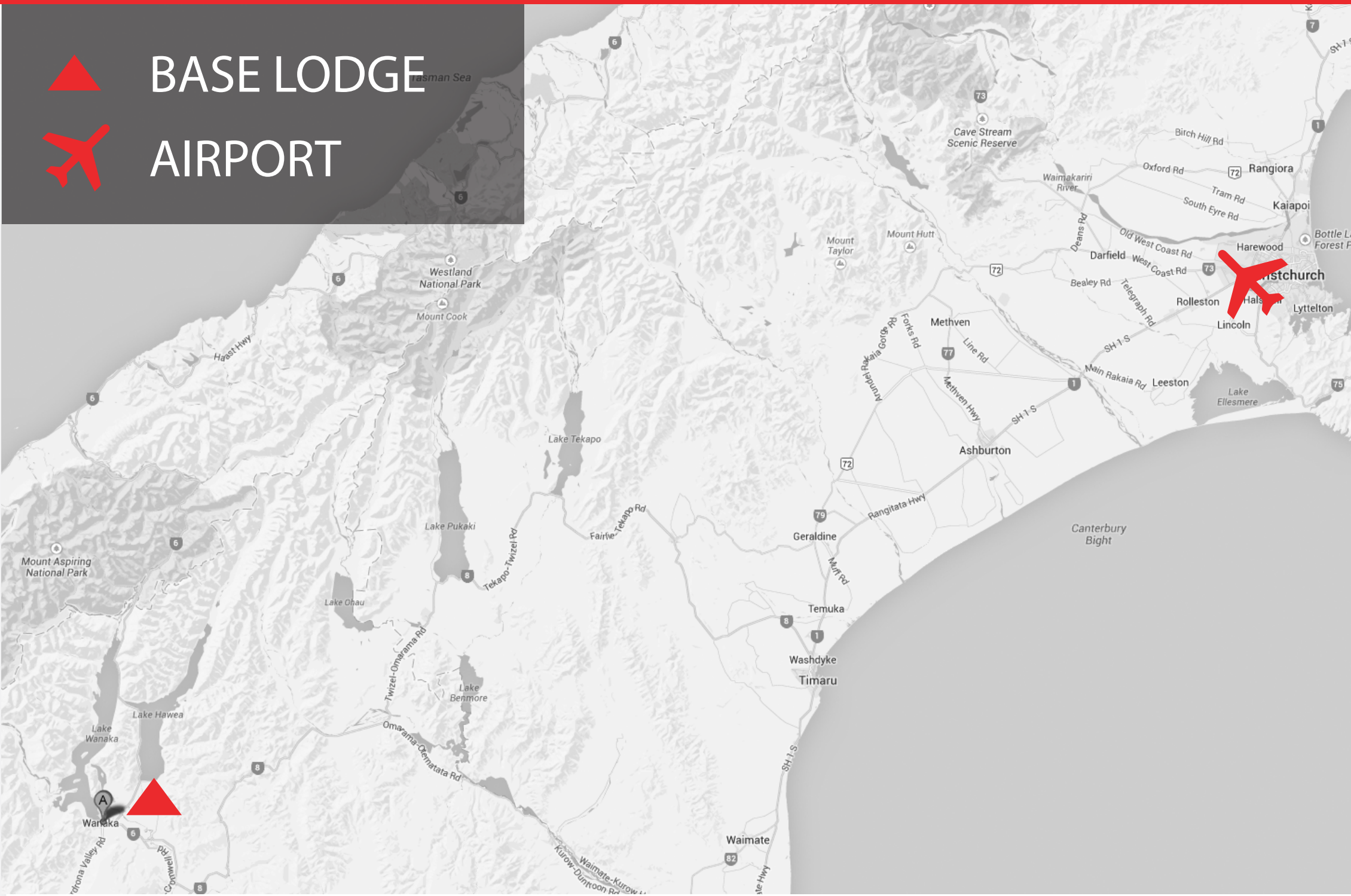
Group Size	4
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In 1988, in the interior mountains of British Columbia, the light champagne snow was filling the Columbia Mountains to its brim, and the large original helicopter companies were filling every seat in their large helicopters. Heli-Skiing was growing making it the perfect time to launch a small boutique heli-skiing company. This was the year that Great Canadian Heli-Skiing arrived.

Although, there are many great options that have replicated small group heli-skiing, Great Canadian still has claim to prime heli-skiing terrain located at the east gate of Glacier National Park, home to two of the snowiest weather stations in Canada. The classic timberframe lodge, toasty fireside dining room, outdoor cedar sauna, and new private cabins make for a stand out all around experience.

25 years later what truly has put Great Canadian Heli-Skiing as the leaders of boutique heli-skiing is no longer just the fact that we have the smallest groups in heli-skiing, but what we do with our small groups. Our guides personalize the experience as the relationship is built with each guest. **This is heli-skiing as a personal service, this is heli-skiing at its best.**

SOUTHERN LAKES HELI -SKI



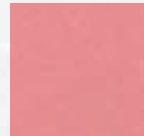
Website	heliskinz.com
Country	New Zealand
Location	Wanaka and Queenstown Lakes region
Years in Operation	27 years
Mountain Range	Queenstown and Wanaka, 11 different mountain ranges
Accommodations	Partnered with ENZ and Haka Tours to provide 7 different accomodation options
Accessibility	Queenstown, NZ
Season	July - September
Trip Length Options	7 days (or can book a 4 3-8 run day pacakge)
Trip Start Days	Start on Saturday
Vertical Guarantee	Guaranteed 36 runs of unlimited vertical per week
Extra Vertical Fee	\$2900 per hour
Helicopter	A-Star B2 and B3 Helicopters
Group Size	4

For over 27 year Southern Lakes Heli Ski has been providing With over 8500 sq km of vast terrain across 11 mountains with more than 600 potential runs, you'll make first tracks every time at Southern Lakes. Combine your epic heli-ski adventure with one of 7 unique accommodation options ranging from a luxury yacht to sophisticated lakeside lodges, each with their own individual charm and many located in the heart of Queenstown.

This is not your typical back country heli-skiing vacation where you are nestled in the mountains – since you're staying in town, you can round out your trip with bungee jumping, golfing, or taking in beautiful sights of the city.

WHEN TO GO?

Conditions vary from region to region – in January you could be skiing the deepest powder of your life in BC, but the season has not even started in Alaska. In May you could be skiing epic peak to ocean runs in Iceland, and the season is over in BC. To help you choose the right time of year, below we've outlined a seasonal chart by region to help you plan your trip. We suggest contacting your chosen operator to find the best time to book based on your terrain interest, your experience/ability level and of course availability.

 When to go

Region	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
BC	When to go	When to go	When to go	When to go	When to go	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions
USA	Good conditions	When to go	When to go	When to go	When to go	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions
Alaska	Good conditions	Good conditions	When to go	When to go	When to go	When to go	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions
Arctic	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	When to go	When to go	When to go	When to go	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions
NZ	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	Good conditions	When to go	When to go	When to go	When to go	Good conditions	Good conditions

Region	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
BC	High	High	High	High	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
USA	Low	High	High	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Alaska	Low	Low	High	High	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Arctic	Low	Low	Low	High	High	High	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
NZ	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High	High	High	Low	Low

WHEN IN DOUBT, CHOOSE BOUTIQUE

There are upwards of 40 heli-skiing operations in the world, but only a few can truly call themselves “boutique”. If you’re thinking about planning a heli-skiing trip, we encourage you to do your research to find the one that best suits your needs.

We truly believe for value and experience the best place to start is to determine whether the company you are looking at is a boutique heli-ski operator, as this will guarantee you the best heli-ski experience and value that money and time can buy. When comparing, in addition to price and location, check out trip lengths offered, vertical guarantees and average down days per week.



CONTACT

IF YOU'RE DREAMING OF
HELI-SKIING THIS WINTER,
WE'D LOVE TO HELP YOU PLAN
THE PERFECT TRIP.

CONTACT US TODAY TO CHECK
AVAILABILITY OR REQUEST
MORE INFORMATION.



GREAT CANADIAN
HELI-SKIING