

Ski Patrol Course 8 Weeks Fernie, Canada

Available in: Ski



COURSE OVERVIEW

Bio

A vocational program for advanced skiers, this course will equip you with the skills, qualifications and know-how to become a pro patroller and do one of the most rewarding jobs on the mountain. With intensive world-class training on the menu, the course features everything from avalanche control and rope rescue to emergency first aid and snowmobiling. Learn from leading pro patrollers in one of the world's most dynamic resorts with complex terrain and an extensive avalanche program.

Location

The course takes place in BC's Powder Highway resort of Fernie, a world-renowned freeride destination known for its soft powder and dynamic terrain, plus world-leading avalanche program and patrol techniques. Situated in a series of natural bowls above a friendly mountain town, Fernie boasts steep faces, epic trees and natural pillows. With an elite patrol team, 30ft of snow each season and a ski-loving culture, there is no better place to train.

Goal

The goal of this course is to equip you with essential patrol skills like rope rescue and toboggan handling, as well as important qualifications such as first aid and avalanche safety, giving you the confidence and expertise to pursue a career as a ski patroller. With expert training throughout, you'll refine your technical know-how, gain hands-on experience, and learn the intricacies of patrolling. You'll also explore the best of Fernie's legendary terrain, develop your all-mountain capabilities, and build lasting friendships with fellow riders.

Riders

This course is ideal for advanced skiers who are looking to forge a career within the patrol industry. If you're passionate about skiing, confident in navigating most slopes, and ready to immerse yourself in the mountains, this program is for you. Whether you're looking to gain certifications to accelerate your patrolling prospects, or simply want to learn a unique set of mountain skills, this course offers a chance to challenge yourself, meet like-minded individuals, and experience Canada's incredible terrain. Many solo travellers join, becoming part of a tight-knit Nonstop community.

Accommodation

You'll stay in a local house exclusively rented for Nonstop patrol participants. You'll have access to the Nonstop-owned Red Tree Lodge and its amenities such as a hot tub, cinema, bar and more.

You can choose between twin-share or private rooms.

Breakfasts and included evening meals are served in the lodge restaurant.

Dates + Prices

Refer to the website Course Page for upcoming dates and prices.

Inclusions

The course includes all your patrol training, first aid and avalanche certifications, with accommodation, a season pass, airport transfers, breakfasts, evening meals, hosting and more.

The main additional costs you need to factor in are travel, insurance and equipment.

Refer to the website Course Page for a full breakdown of inclusions.

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It was an amazing experience and surpassed all my expectations. Everyone who works at Nonstop always made me feel welcome. Kyler was an amazing coach, loved his approach to teaching.

– Georgia





RESORT

Fernie, British Columbia

Snowfall

30ft

Fernie is one of the best places to experience Canada's famous powder, with an average of 30ft of snowfall each year. And it's not just the quantity of snow that's so good, it's also the quality of it. A combination of local weather systems and Pacific fronts are to thank for Fernie's frequent dumps and feather-light flakes.

Alpine Bowls

5

The ski area consists of five interconnected alpine bowls: Cedar, Lizard, Currie, Timber and Siberia. Each bowl has unique character, with steep descents and tight chutes, smooth groomers, tree runs and powder fields. Fernie has more expert terrain than most other ski areas, with its rugged and ungroomed slopes providing some of the best conditions for advanced progression and pushing yourself further.

Skiable Acres

2,500+

One of the largest ski areas in the Canadian Rockies, Fernie boasts over 2,500 acres of varied terrain, including 1,800 acres of tree skiing guarded from the elements. Fernie has the biggest vertical in the Canadian Rockies, with a top elevation of 7,000ft at Polar Peak and spectacular views across the Lizard Range and Elk Valley.

Runs

142

With the most ski runs in the Rockies, riders have plenty of groomed and ungroomed terrain to choose from. There are 142 marked trails, with 75 rated as black or double black. From cruisy blue runs to steep blacks and gladed trees, Fernie has something for all levels of challenge. Falling Star in Siberia Bowl is the longest at 5km long.

Town

The town of Fernie is located in the valley, a short distance from the ski area, and promises a real taste of Canadian mountain life. A genuine mountain settlement rather than a tourist resort, historic downtown has a funky and laid-back vibe, with plenty of indie shops, bars, restaurants and coffee stores. Whether its late nights, live music or a fresh coffee, every vibe and venue is covered.



COACHING

Sessions

Patrol Skills

Our field-based training will equip you with essential patrol skills, ensuring you're prepared for life as a patroller. You'll learn critical techniques such as avalanche control, rope rescue, emergency first aid, lift evacuation, terrain management, toboggan handling, snowmobiling, ski touring, and more. These hands-on experiences will give you the confidence and decision-making skills necessary to excel as a patroller in challenging conditions.

First Aid

Non-Urban Emergency Care

One of the most relevant first aid qualifications for patrol work, this intensive course focuses on key outdoor first aid skills. You'll learn how to perform CPR, manage fractures, address injuries, and provide life-saving interventions in an outdoor environment. Practical scenarios will help you refine your skills and make quick decisions under pressure.

AST Level 1

Avalanche Canada

An introductory but essential certification that combines theory and fieldwork. You'll learn how to identify avalanche terrain and interpret avalanche forecasts, analyse the snowpack, and perform peer rescues. Through simulated rescue drills, you'll gain practical experience in handling avalanche situations using your transceiver, shovel and probe.

AvSAR Level 1

Canadian Avalanche Association

This course is the first stage of the Canadian Avalanche Association's Industry Training Program. It covers fundamental AvSAR concepts and techniques, critical for professional patrollers responding to avalanche incidents. This certification also serves as a prerequisite for those looking to pursue the CAA's Avalanche Operations Level 1 in the future.

Shadowing

Fernie Ski Patrol

Gain valuable experience by shadowing Fernie's patrol team. This volunteer opportunity allows you to apply your skills in a real-world setting, supporting daily operations such as emergency response and terrain management. You'll learn directly from seasoned patrollers, discovering what it truly takes to succeed in this dynamic role.



A TYPICAL DAY

This is a guideline only; each day may vary with different focuses, timings, and personal choices

07:30

Breakfast

Start your day with a hearty breakfast at the lodge. After fuelling up, gear up and hop on the Nonstop bus, ready to head to Fernie Alpine Resort for an action-packed day of patrol training.

09:00

Briefing + Morning Session

Meet your group and trainer for a briefing on the day's objectives. This could be a focus on anything from avalanche control to snow stability assessments and rope rescue. Your instructor will provide guidance and insight to refine your skills.

12:00

Lunch

Take a well-deserved break and refuel with lunch. Grab a classic Canadian poutine or enjoy a hearty bowl chilli. Connect with fellow riders, sharing insights from the morning's session and preparing for the afternoon's focus.

13:00

Afternoon Session

The afternoon is about diving deeper into patrol-specific techniques and scenarios, such as avalanche safety drills or practicing toboggan handling. Your trainer will continue to guide you, developing both the technical and practical skills needed for patrolling.

15:00

Après + Relax

After a full day of learning, head to local favourite Griz Bar for apres-ski drinks and conversation with your coursemates. If you prefer to chill, return to the group house for some downtime, or head to the lodge for a hot tub.

19:00

Dinner + Socials

Enjoy a delicious three-course dinner prepared by our in-house chefs. Afterward, join the evening social scene – watch the local ice hockey team in action, or head out to one of Fernie's local venues for jam night or live music. For a quieter night, relax and rest up for another day of training.

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WHY RIDE WITH NONSTOP

Coaching

Helping riders progress at sports they love in skiing and snowboarding is at the heart of what we do. With expert local coaches and guides, we create a supportive and social environment to ensure you're challenged, progressing, and riding the best zones on the mountain.

Authentic Travel

Run-of-the-mill is just not our thing. We focus on authentic destinations with the perfect blend of snow, terrain and culture, adding local twists and touches of adventure to create experiences you'll remember long after your time with us.

People

Designed for like-minded skiers and riders, you'll join a diverse group of people bound by a love of the mountains and shared desire to progress together. You're guaranteed a sociable trip, and everyone leaves with new friends.

All You Need

Just turn up and ride – we'll take care of the rest. Our packages include all your coaching and accommodation, with lift passes, airport transfers, meals, socials, hosting and more. Less hassle, more ride time.

Experience

When you travel with Nonstop you can have peace of mind that you are booking with a trusted and award-winning instructor training provider with over 20 years of expertise. We have a track record of delivering courses, with many alumni working in the industry around the world.

Responsible

We're a proud member of 1% for the Planet, dedicated to fostering positive environmental change. By donating 1% of all sales to environmental non-profits, including Protect Our Winters, we're committed to supporting meaningful initiatives that make a difference.

NEXT STEPS

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About Nonstop A collective of passionate skiers and snowboarders, Nonstop Snow runs a collection of ski and snowboard instructor, all-mountain and backcountry camps for people who dream of pushing their level.

Founded 2002