



Instructor Internship Season-Long Fernie, Canada

Available in: Ski

COURSE OVERVIEW

Bio

Exclusive to Nonstop, this season-long instructor internship is a gateway into the ski industry, featuring expert coaching, a guaranteed job as an instructor, and accommodation for the season. The program involves three weeks of intensive Nonstop training for your CSIA 1, before you join the Fernie Snow School as a certified instructor. Alongside a close-knit group of friends, you'll live, work and shred together, gaining real-world experience, freeriding on days off, and making life-long memories.

Location

The course takes place in Fernie, British Columbia, a world-renowned powder paradise boasting five natural bowls, the biggest vertical drop in the Rockies, and some of the best tree skiing on Earth. Known for its light snow and diverse terrain, Fernie offers something for every rider. The town's laid-back Canadian vibe and welcoming culture make it a perfect base for a season of skiing and snowboarding with a great crew.

Goal

The goal of this course is to prepare you to pass the CSIA 1 exam, while giving you the know-how and confidence to start working as an instructor. We'll focus on improving your personal skiing, as well as developing your teaching toolbox, ensuring you're ready for a successful season on the slopes. Along the way, you'll explore Fernie's best zones, forge lasting friendships, and share unforgettable experiences with like-minded riders.

Riders

This course is perfect for riders looking for a fast-track into the ski industry, where you'll qualify and work as an instructor, all in one season. For strong intermediate to expert skiers, it's perfect for both those taking a one-off winter and those looking to kickstart an instructor career. Many solo travellers join, becoming part of a tight-knit Nonstop community.

Application

To apply, you'll need a Canadian working holiday visa. Once secured, you must send in your CV detailing any relevant experience, ahead of an informal phone chat with Nonstop. This is followed by a video call with the Snow School Director.

Accommodation

Throughout the program you'll stay in a local house in downtown Fernie.

You can choose between twin-share or private rooms.

Dates + Prices

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

Inclusions

The program includes a three-week Nonstop training course, which covers all your coaching and exam fees, breakfasts and evening meals, hosting and more. The program also includes a season pass, airport transfers, a guaranteed job as an instructor, and season accommodation.

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.

“

An absolute blast, lovely people and a very welcoming environment. I've had so much fun getting to know all the staff, coaches and the ski school members. The setup has been fantastic. The coaching was excellent, which set us up for a successful season.

– Charlie





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 4/week

Each week features four full-day coaching sessions, led by a Nonstop instructor. With three weeks of intensive training, you'll focus on enhancing your skiing and teaching skills in preparation for the CSIA Level 1 exam. This will include refining your riding, perfecting your demo techniques, and learning about the CSIA framework, all while gaining experience in teaching beginner riders.

Coaches Level 3/4

You'll be coached by highly qualified instructor trainers, all passionate about skiing and dedicated to helping you grow. Each week you'll rotate between coaches, allowing you to benefit from different teaching styles and insights. They'll guide you through Fernie's hidden zones and provide valuable industry tips, giving you practical advice to accelerate your skill development.

Qualifications CSIA

You will be training for the CSIA Level 1 certification, which qualifies you to teach beginner skiers. The certification includes both skiing and teaching components – pass both, and you'll be ready to join the Snow School as a certified instructor. This entry-level certification ensures that you have a solid understanding of ski technique, and the ability to effectively communicate and demonstrate these skills to new skiers.

Training Opportunities Snow School Sessions

After your initial three weeks of coaching, the focus shifts to on-the-job experience. While there's no structured coaching once you start working, you'll have access to regular Snow School training sessions, allowing you to continue your development, hone your skiing and teaching, and work towards your Level 2 certification.



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. Fuel up for a day on the slopes, then grab your gear, hop on the bus to Fernie Alpine Resort, and get ready for a busy, rewarding day teaching and riding.

09:00

Briefing + Morning Session

Arrive at the resort and meet your fellow instructors for a team briefing on conditions and your lessons for the day. If your schedule allows, join a training session to continue your development. Then, it's time to teach – you might have a group or private lesson, be prepared and have fun.

12:00

Lunch

Take a well-deserved break and refuel with lunch. Grab a classic Canadian poutine or a bowl of chilli to recharge. Catch up with other instructors in the pro room and swap teaching tips, discuss the fun or challenging moments from the morning session, and prepare for the afternoon ahead.

13:00

Afternoon Session

If you're leading a class, you'll be focusing on refining techniques, providing feedback, and making sure your students have fun while improving. If you're working on your personal progression, you'll practice drills and strategies to hone your skills or teach more effectively.

16:00

Après + Relax

After a full day, relax with apres-ski drinks at the Griz Bar, or hit the gym for a quick workout to stay fit. Focus on strength or stretching to keep your body ready for the next day on the slopes. Alternatively, unwind with some downtime back at your house, or hit the hot tub at the lodge.

19:00

Dinner + Socials

Enjoy a home-cooked meal with your housemates, sharing stories and laughs from the day. Then, head out to catch the Ghostriders in a local ice hockey game – a seasonaire favourite. Afterward, dive into Fernie's nightlife, with live music and jam nights, or relax at the house with your crew.



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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If you have any questions, get in touch:

Email info@nonstopsnow.com
Phone UK +44(0)1225 632 165
CA +1 250 423 4622
AU +61 2 9191 6415
WhatsApp +44(0)7493 309160

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