

DEEPLY COMMITTED



**CMH  
HELI-SKIING**

The World's Greatest Skiing



# THE WORLD'S GREATEST SKIING

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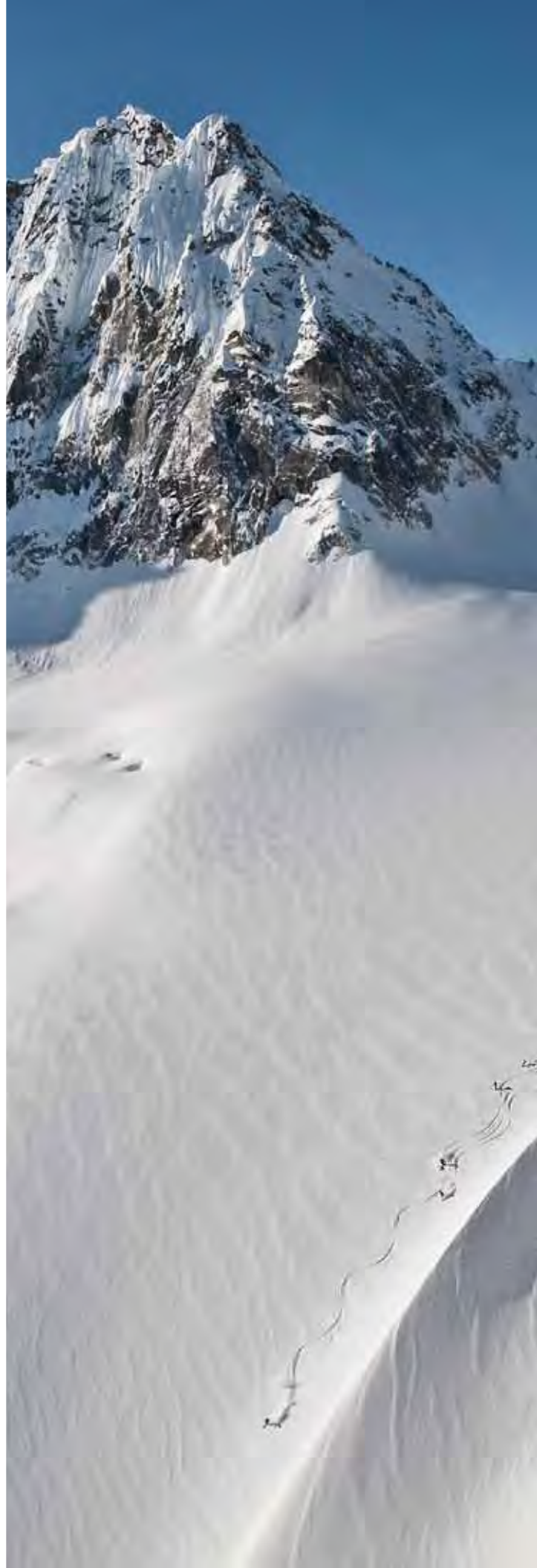
Back in the winter of 1965, Hans Gmoser, an Austrian emigrant to Western Canada, and one of the region's top skiing and climbing guides, decided to put a revolutionary idea to the test. It was an idea he'd been given a few years back by Art Patterson, a hard-charging geologist out of Calgary.

Hans and Art knew that every winter, up in the Columbia Range just west of the Rockies, an immense paradise of deep powder snow lay completely, tantalizingly unskied. They wondered if it might be possible to use helicopters to get up to those vast slopes for what would surely be great—possibly the world's greatest—skiing.

Hans took hold of the idea. And after a few false starts, he hit pay dirt. A couple of his friends, Brooks and Ann Dodge, convinced their New England ski club to head up to the wilds of British Columbia for a try at what soon became known as Heli-Skiing. Using an abandoned saw mill camp in the magnificent, deeply isolated Bugaboos as a base, and a three-seat Bell 47 to ferry skiers into the heights, Hans and his clients made their first exhilarating forays into the fabled White Room, and the science and art of skiing took a huge leap forward.

As Hans later said, "the word spread like wildfire." He had found his calling. And CMH, the little company he formed around helicopter skiing, quickly became and has ever since been the world's leading purveyor of what is unquestionably the world's greatest skiing.

"The helicopter, it turned out, opened a whole new, exhilarating world of possibilities that in fact promised to be ecologically feasible as well," Hans later said. "The helicopter permitted the age-old emptiness of the wilderness to stay intact, free from the commercial hardware and gingerbread that a network of lifts would have imposed on it."





## A MASSIVE SKI WILDERNESS

CMH's exclusive domain encompasses 15,765 square kilometres of the very best ski terrain, an area almost 40% as large as Switzerland, larger than 19% of the countries in the United Nations, bigger than all of the US's ski areas combined.

Vast expanses of endless champagne powder. Old growth forests with nicely spaced trees and snow untouched by wind and sun. No crowded lifts lines, no rutted slopes, no tinselly advertising—just incredible, aggressive, fast-track skiing.

One of our skiers summed it up: "We did several runs a day last trip, any one of which would have been the run of a lifetime for a 'normal' skier."

## 12 UNIQUE MOUNTAIN LODGES

CMH's lodges are situated in the heart of the world's finest Heli-Skiing terrain, Western Canada's beautiful, wild Columbia Mountains. Adamants, Galena, Kootenay, Bugaboos (our first lodge, now masterfully remodeled), Cariboos, Revelstoke, McBride, Monashees, Valemount, Silvertip, Bobbie Burns, and Gothics are world-class mountain hotels, each with a distinctive personality.

Our food is famously fresh and savoury (each lodge has its own pastry chef). All single and double rooms have their own bathrooms, each lodge has a sauna, whirlpool, and a resident massage expert. Our spacious living rooms, warmed by fireplaces, feature a well-stocked bar, games room and fully stocked shop.





And the guys at CMH... never in my 15+ years of snowboarding have I encountered such a *professionally run* Heli operation.

– Russell Shea, Document Snowboard Magazine, UK





# 100,000 GUARANTEED VERTICAL FEET OF SKIING

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Or, to put it another way: 3 ½ Mount Everest's-worth of steep and deep skiing on a week-long trip.

These guaranteed vertical feet are backed up by a key concept Hans Gmoser always championed—liberal use of the helicopter and by one of the travel industry's most generous refund policies, which includes:

- All meals, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages
- Full lodge accommodations, including saunas, whirlpools, game rooms, etc.
- Escorted transportation to and from Calgary International Airport
- Fully certified, professional guiding services
- Use of specially designed Heli-Skis
- Training and use of avalanche transceivers
- Taxes are not included in the trip price.







# THE RELENTLESS ON-GOING ATTENTION TO SAFETY

It's a given, but it's worth noting: Every other consideration pales before the issue of safety. It has always been our first priority. And over the past four decades we've created a state-of-the-art, multi-layer safety program.

## AVALANCHE AND SNOW SAFETY

CMH's comprehensive snow and avalanche management system includes exacting procedures for collecting weather and snow information; evaluating snowpack stability; assessing hazards in the terrain; and determining an appropriate skiing program tailored to on-the-ground conditions.

Each area has a snow safety guide who operates independently from the skiing program, and who makes additional observations to facilitate informed decisions by the guiding team. Observations are shared between all CMH areas on a daily radio exchange, and are relayed to the Canadian Avalanche Centre where they are compiled in a daily, industry-wide information exchange. We actively participate in avalanche research projects with the University of Calgary and the University of British Columbia.

## HELICOPTER SAFETY

Our brother company, Alpine Helicopters, has provided CMH with consistently excellent service for more than two decades. Alpine's pilots are highly capable, experienced, and specially trained in our mountain environment. As active participants in our safety network, they monitor our guests' compliance, and give a comprehensive safety talk around the helicopter just before the groups lift off for their first run.

In addition to careful site and aircraft monitoring, we equip each Heli-Skier with an avalanche transceiver, and instruct every group in its use before flying into the mountains.





# 70% OF OUR HELI-SKIERS ARE RETURNING GUESTS

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We're proud of our skiers' extraordinary loyalty.

Upwards of 3,500 guests from all over the world have skied with us nine or more times. And what can we say about the dozen stalwart folks who've been with us for more than 100 trips apiece? They aren't clients, they aren't even guests, they're no longer just Heli-Skiers. They're family.

There's no getting around the fact that Heli-Skiing has an addictive quality. It's "the motivational carrot in front of me all year long," one skier wrote, "and the calendar keeps up the adrenaline."

## COMMITTED, PASSIONATE STAFF

Next to our matchless skiing, we are most proud of the affection and respect our skiers have for our staff. Graciousness, professionalism, and maintaining a familial atmosphere are absolutely central to our self-concept as a company.

CMH's more than 500 staff members—guides, helicopter pilots, reservation specialists, massage therapists, shopkeepers, helicopter engineers (each of our 12 lodges has its own), lodge caretakers, and chefs—know that even the most fantastic skiing is a little hollow unless it's surrounded by good fellowship and hospitality. "It's about giving 130 percent service to the guests in mountain style," says Bobbie Burns area manager Bruce Howatt. "It's not a five-star overdone style, but like if you brought friends to your house."

Our guides average 12 ½ years of professional experience. All of CMH's 110 guides are fully certified by HeliCat Canada, the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides or the International Federation of Mountain Guides Association, a rigorous process that takes an average of 8 years.

They come from Canada, the US, Switzerland, Germany, Great Britain, France, Austria, Italy, Australia, and New Zealand, and they share a fierce commitment to safety, camaraderie, technical know-how, and a fiery love of skiing. "I get paid for all the other stuff," one Heli-Ski guide says, "the skiing I do for free."

That shared passion between guides and guests for the cold smoke and full-tilt, unabashed fun of deep powder skiing is a CMH hallmark. As one Heli-Skier wrote us: "I came for the skiing six seasons ago, but what has kept me coming back is the friendships I've formed with fellow skiers and your guides, friendships that haven't ended in the mountains, but have carried on in the lodge and in life."





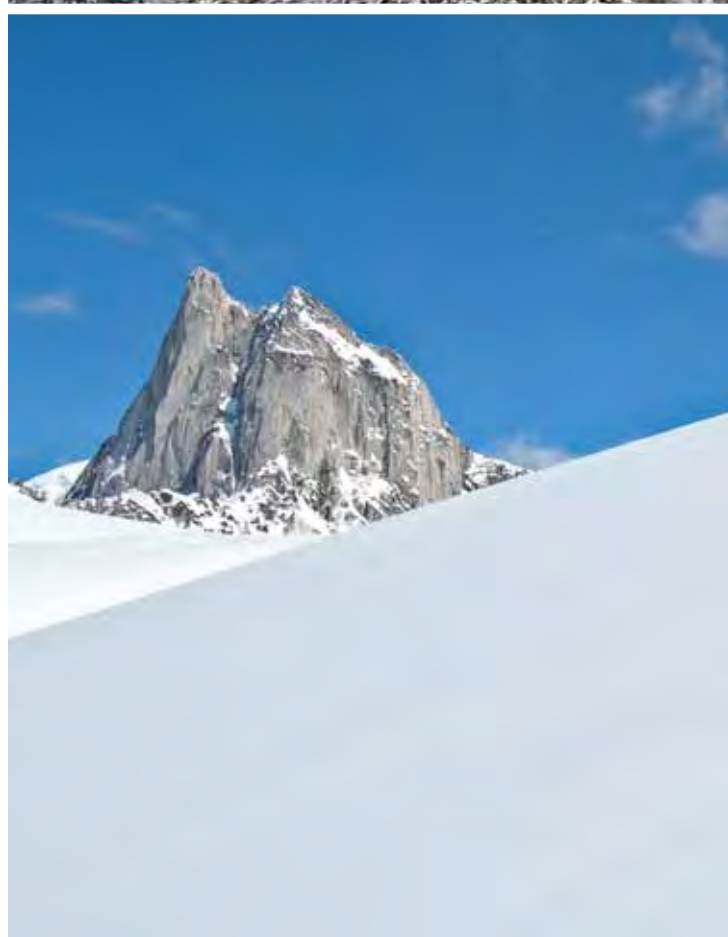
# ALMOST A THOUSAND HELI-SKIING OPTIONS

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We want to get you up in our mountains for a vacation that fits your schedule and your inclinations.

And so we offer 18 Powder Introduction Program and Powder Masters Program weeks for strong intermediate skiers who want to hone their deep snow and wilderness skiing skills and for Heli-Skiers looking to notch up their technique.

We have 18 trips for private Nomads groups, 38 trips for private groups of four, 52 trips for private groups of 10, and 225 trips for skiers in groups of five. And our 201 regular skiing weeks afford our guests with a choice of 3-, 4-, 5-, 7-, and 10-day trips. We also offer Helicopter Assisted Ski Touring throughout the season at many of our amazing lodges. So: almost a thousand different ways to get some "hemoglobin for the soul," as one Heli-Skier calls it. No other operator can come remotely close to our wealth of options. (And if those options don't fit your needs or schedule, give us a call and we'll hand-craft a trip that does.)





“CMH is one of those *rare* companies that blend professionalism with down-to-earth values. The vision of the company’s founder is clearly still in place in a world of impersonal business dealing.”

– Michael Broderick, Director of Sales and Marketing, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***Am I ready for Heli-Skiing?***

If you're a strong intermediate or advanced skier, and you've spent some serious time on the slopes recently, you're almost certainly ready. (Snowboarders should be very strong riders.) If you lack experience in deep powder, we suggest you sign up for our Powder Introduction Program to get up to speed.

### ***How fit should I be?***

In many cases, fitness is more important than technical expertise. Heli-Skiing is demanding, and you've got to be in good shape to enjoy it. If you're not already quite active physically, we recommend that you start a rigorous exercise program at least eight weeks before joining us.

### ***What's the best time to ski?***

We begin in late December, making as sure as possible that we have sufficient good snow. Since our winters last longer than winters in Europe and the US, we're able to ski in great conditions until early May, when skiing days are gloriously longer. Bottom line: five months of the world's greatest skiing.

### ***How much snow will there be?***

Our snowpack varies, from year to year and area to area. On average, snowfall in CMH's actual ski areas ranges from 1,200 centimetres (470 inches) to 2,000 centimetres (790 inches, or a hefty 66 feet), making for a settled snowpack of about two and a half metres (a little over eight feet)

to about five metres (16 feet). A safe statement: British Columbia's interior ranges get lots of dry powder.

### ***What's the weather like?***

These are big, weather-machine mountains, this is winter, and there can't be any guarantees. That being said, we are able to fly in all but the most extreme weather, and, if we can't ski above timberline (about 2,200 metres, or 7,200 feet), we ski in the trees at lower elevations, down sometimes to 600 metres, or 1,900 feet. When all is said and done, there are, on average, only five days out of a 20-week season when we can't ski at all.

### ***How safe are the helicopters?***

Very. Our twin-engine, 11-passenger Bell 212s (and Bell 407s, Bell 206L3s, and Bell 206Bs for smaller groups and special flights) make as many as 80 take offs and landings a day; since 1981 we have never lost more than a half a day to mechanical failure. Each lodge has a resident engineer.

### ***What should I bring?***

*We provide the most up-to-date skis and poles, so there's no need to bring your own (but we strongly recommend that you always carry your ski boots as hand luggage).*

Since we have to fly all luggage to most of the lodges—helicopter use accounts for the largest portion of the cost of a Heli-Ski trip—you should pack only essential items. There's no need to bring an extensive wardrobe, as the lodges are very casual. You should limit yourself to one carry-on bag and one suitcase weighing no more than 18 kilos (40 lbs). If you're planning a Heli-Ski trip in conjunction with other travel that requires you to pack more than one suitcase, Delta Calgary Airport Hotel provides our guests with long-



term storage facilities. Laundry facilities are available for your use at each lodge. Please be sure to bring exercise clothing to wear during the morning stretching sessions.

#### ***Which skis, bindings, and poles does CMH provide?***

CMH supplies all our skiers with skis and poles at no extra charge. Guests must bring their own ski boots, we recommend that you pack them as carry-on luggage. Please note we do not provide ski touring gear, you must bring your own equipment. CMH was one of the early pioneers of 'fat-skis'. Over the years ski technology has evolved to a very sophisticated level. These advancements allow us to work with manufacturers to develop the very best skis available for our conditions.

The Heli-Daddy from Atomic remains our main ski for powder skiing. It offers increased floatation and lighter swing weight (due to its foam-core construction) and initiates turns significantly easier. This excellent all-around ski—the number one choice among guides and guests—comes in 150, 160, 170, 180 and 190 cms lengths, and offers versatile performance in varying deep snow and terrain conditions for a wide cross section of skiers.

We will also have a small inventory of two additional skis:

The Atomic Heli-Pro: this is a new ski developed by Atomic in conjunction with CMH. It incorporates tip-rocker technology, and a slight waist increase (101 mm in a 176 cm) compared to the Heli-Daddy (99 mm /all lengths). It will be available in sizes 169, 176 and 183 cms. The Heli-Pro is available exclusively to CMH!

The K2 Coomback: basically K2's popular Coomba, but now with added tip rocker. It also has a progressive side cut while maintaining the 102 mm waist of the original providing

good predictability in changing snow conditions. Available in 167, 174, 181 cm, and in the Gotback in 160 and 170 cm.

Bindings: we use Salomon bindings exclusively as we've found them to be the most durable and best designed bindings for our needs.

Poles: we supply all our skiers with light and durable custom alloy poles from Scott.

#### ***What about snowboards?***

CMH has a limited number of Burton snowboards available: the Fish (in 150, 156 and 160 cm) and the Burton Malolo (in 162 and 166 cm). Snowboards must be reserved in advance of your trip; boots are not provided.

#### ***What do you do in the summer?***

Heli-Hiking has so many options...anything from leisurely strolls to world-class mountaineering—like European-style lodge-to-lodge hiking, family adventures, yoga workshops, private lodge rentals, our spectacular new Via Ferrata (an alpine route equipped with fixed cables, ladders, and bridges) in the Bobbie Burns. One of the delights of Heli-Hiking is that just about anybody can enjoy it. Our keywords are flexibility and fun. Visit our website: [cmhhike.com](http://cmhhike.com) to see the endless possibilities.

#### ***How do I get more information?***

Crank up our website: [www.cmhski.com](http://www.cmhski.com), for lots more information, or call us at 1-800-661-0252. We're eager to answer questions, book trips, and to send you our densely informational Heli-Ski Handbook.

www.cmhski.com

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