



## Itinerary 23: Northern BC Ski Safari

When to go: January, February & March

Northern British Columbia's ski resorts, with their thick falls of reliable powder; long, scenic, uncrowded runs; and friendly, low-key vibe, are among BC's best kept ski secrets. This winter, explore Northern BC's four unique ski hills, from Powder King in the Rockies to Shames Mountain in the Coast Range.

### Day 1: Vancouver to Prince George

Air Canada, Westjet and Central Mountain Air all make the one-hour flight from Vancouver International Airport to Prince George Airport, where you can pick up a rental car with Budget, Hertz or National. It's a 15-minute drive downtown from the airport.

Before heading out, check [Tran BC](#) for winter driving conditions and remember that passenger vehicles must have winter tires (not all-season tires) on most BC highways outside the Lower Mainland between October 1 and March 31.

Dining options abound in Prince George. Try Italian fare at [Cimo Mediterranean Grill](#), pizza at [Betulla Burning](#), or one of 60 beers from around the world at [Nancy O's. Crossroads Brewery](#) has a mini curling rink set up on their patio all winter long, It is free and open during regular business hours. If you want to try the real thing the Prince George Curling Club offers drop in adult beginner curling every Saturday night at 6:30pm. Accommodations in downtown Prince George include the Ramada Plaza, the Coast Prince George Hotel, the Courtyard by Marriott, and the Travelodge Goldcap. Other choices include the Prestige Treasure Cove Hotel and the Sandman Signature Hotel near the intersection of Highway 16 and 97. For more Prince George accommodation ideas, visit [Tourism Prince George's website](#).

### Day 2: Powder King Mountain Resort

High in the Canadian Rockies, [Powder King Mountain Resort](#) boasts 12 m/41 ft of snow annually and terrain ranging from bunny hills to black diamond runs, as well as a terrain park and snowmobiling.

Powder King is just off highway 97, 195 km (122 miles) north of Prince George. If you prefer not to drive, the PK Express Bus runs every day the hill is open from Prince George to the resort.

There's a café, dining room and lounge in the day lodge as well as accommodation on the mountain and nearby. Tip: Bring cash. Powder King's communications are satellite based, so card transaction can be slow.

## Day 3: Purden Mountain

Spend the day at [Purden Ski village](#) just 45 minutes from downtown Prince George. With 26 runs and three lifts. Over 1,100 vertical feet of skiing on dry powder snow, treed runs and uncrowded slopes make Purden Ski Village a skier's and snowboarder's paradise.

## Day 4: Prince George to Smithers

From Prince George, head west on Highway 16 through the Lakes District and into the Bulkley Valley to Smithers, an alpine-themed town at the base of Hudson Bay Mountain. Spend the afternoon browsing the shops: enjoy a coffee with your paperback at Mountain Eagle Books or Bugwood Bean or an afternoon beer at [Smithers Brewing Co.](#) or [Bulkley Valley Brewery](#). Dinner choices include Blue Water Sushi, Roadhouse, Trackside Cantina and the Alpenhorn Bistro & Bar. For overnight options, visit the [Tourism Smithers website](#).

## Day 5: Hudson Bay Mountain

Spend the day at [Hudson Bay Mountain Resort](#) just 20 minutes from Smithers.

With some of the driest powder conditions in the country and 1,750 ft /533 m of lift-accessed vertical, Hudson Bay offers big mountain skiing on a community hill. Four lifts, including a triple chair, serve 36 runs rated from novice to expert, including some great tree skiing, a terrain park and a tube park. At Panorama Day Lodge you can rent gear, book lessons, grab lunch at the Coyote Café and join the après ski action at Whiskey Jacks lounge.

More skiing? The Smithers-based [Skeena Cat Skiing](#), Northern BC's only dedicated cat skiing and boarding operator, can take you out to explore miles of untouched terrain. They also operate the only backcountry cat skiing camp in Canada.

Settle into your hotel in Terrace (try the Holiday Inn Express, the Best Western Terrace Inn, or the Bear Country Inn) and stop by the tasting room at [Sherwood Mountain Brewhouse](#) before enjoying dinner in town. Dining options include Ninja Japanese & Korean Cuisine, Don Diego's and Hot House. Visit [Kermodei Tourism](#) for more details.



## Day 6: Shames Mountain

Home to 1,600 vertical feet of powder, [Shames Mountain](http://www.mymountaincoop.ca/visiting/ski-and-stay) is 35 km/22 mi west of Terrace in the Coast Mountains. Established in the early 1990s as Canada's first non-profit community ski co-operative, Shames Mountain has 28 runs from beginner to expert levels and an abundance of natural glades. This family- friendly mountain is surrounded by more than 7,800 acres of back country. Grab lunch at the Panhandler Café and enjoy après ski at Galloway's Mountain Bar. Although there's no accommodation on Shames Mountain, several nearby inns are popular with skiers. Visit <http://www.mymountaincoop.ca/visiting/ski-and-stay> for details.

## Day 7: Fly Terrace to Vancouver

Air Canada, Westjet and Central Mountain Air fly back to Vancouver from Terrace's Northwest Regional Airport. You can also return your car rental from Prince George here.