

Whistler 2024 SKIBACS Trip Report

By Seth Whittington (Trip Leader)

As the 2023/2024 ski season drew to a close, a brave crew of 13 chose to descend upon Whistler Village for a late March ski trip (24th-29th). Of those 13, we were one man down before even setting sail; this is a good reminder for next year to ensure your passport is valid when signing up for an international ski trip.

Day 1 (Sunday): We traveled North towards our Artic neighbors and with a generous bribe of maple syrup, were allowed passage onto the Sea to Sky Highway. Arriving in the village around noon afforded several hours of afternoon spring skiing before checking into the hotel. Large areas of icy snow conditions persisted despite being late afternoon. After being kicked off the mountain around 4 pm, we cleaned up at the hotel and went for dinner at The Brickworks.

Day 2 (Monday): The conditions on day 2 were crusty with low to moderate visibility. Groomers were the move for the day. Given the conditions, and to protect previous injuries, another participant chose to abandon the trip. What started as a fellowship of 13 was now down to 11 but the casualties would end here. We rounded out the apres with drinks at Longhorns followed by hot tubbing at the hotel and then a group dinner at El Furniture Warehouse. This is the cheapest restaurant I know of in the village, and the food is solid! An Ahi Tuna Poke Bowl goes for roughly \$10 CAD at this joint, I think they generally make their money on drinks.

Day 3 (Tuesday): The snow conditions were mildly improved with reasonable visibility. The ice was gone and we remained optimistic with fresh snow in the forecast for the next 2.5 days, which did materialize. The conditions continued to improve throughout the day and the second half of the day yielded fresh powder. After skiing from bell-to-bell we retired for a hot tub session and explored the village. Hopped up on a blend of caffeine and Canadian courage, we headed to the Crystal Lounge for some karaoke. Pro-tip: these guys have dirt cheap cocktails for the village and very reasonably priced wings. Even on a Tuesday night, you'll find this bar packed out with lifties and locals vying for their chance at fame on the karaoke mic. We met a group of Australian imports whom we hung out with for the evening and had a great time!

Day 4 (Wednesday): The snow conditions drastically improved overnight with several inches of fresh powder. The skiing today was excellent with good visibility and a couple of us chose to demo skis from a local outfitter. Apres vibes were found at Longhorns where the DJ was pumping house music and the drinks are overpriced. For those that haven't been, you'll always find a strong apres party here from about 2-6 pm, but at around 4 pm the seismic waves are strong enough to spill the most stable of maple syrup jars. We then went axe throwing at Forged Axe. The group was split into two competing teams and ended up being a pretty close battle!

Day 5 (Thursday): The snow conditions continued to improve deeper into the trip, as several more inches accumulated overnight. Many of us met for breakfast on the mountain at Crystal Hut - note this is different than the Crystal Lodge which is located down in the Village. Crystal hut serves magic waffles, which are topped with berries, chocolate shavings, bacon, and whipped cream; it was genuinely the best waffle I've ever had in my entire life. The magic waffles provided most of the fuel needed to bang out one last day of smashing the mountain into submission. The rest came from crushing another 150 mg of

caffeine and cranking the Spotify helmet tunes up to 10. The mountain was surprisingly uncrowded which provided for relatively untouched powder in the Symphony bowl for most of the day, though there was limited visibility near the top of the chair. After cleaning up at the hotel, we went for dinner at a classy joint known as 21 Steps. These guys are a little more on the expensive side, but the food was excellent and the cocktails were a delight. As our last night together, we went around the table sharing stories from the trip and recalling our favorite moments.

Day 6 (Friday): We woke up to a blue bird day, packed up, and headed home around 9 am. It was an uneventful drive with the exception of a long lineup at the border to get back into the states.

Lessons learned:

- Ensure your passport is valid when signing up for an international ski trip.
- Filling out the original 40-person ski bus was difficult given the weekday ski trip, requiring 5 days of PTO. As a result, we had to cut down the trip size. I recommend shortening the trip overall and taking advantage of a weekend to reduce the PTO burden. I believe this would increase participation.
- There were some people who seemed suspect of signing up for a ski trip at Whistler in late March (snow condition concerns). We might see greater participation if the trip was scheduled earlier in the season.
- In Late March, many ski shops in the village offer incredible deals on new skis and gear, especially when considering the USD -> CAD conversion rate. I was able to pick up a new pair of skis for a very reasonable price. Furthermore, they deducted my 2 days of demo from the cost.

[Official Trip Video](#)







