

1. Welcome to the Resort

Awe at every turn, is a story worth telling.

Welcome to the Lake Louise Ski Resort. This is where the grand purity of nature, rich Canadian Rocky Mountain culture, and diverse communities of skiers, boarders, outdoor thrill-seekers, athletes, and wild residents, combine to create a mountain experience to take note of. This is a place where not only elevation, but adrenalin take your breath away. Here, spectacular and simplicity dominate; the elegant wilds of Lake Louise.

We've been a must-visit destination for generations, bringing together a first-class, picture-perfect mountain resort with our close-knit family feel and undying love for this place. Over the years, we have become ingrained into the local life of this raw, mountainous landscape. We take our intimate familiarity of this place – grown over decades – to modestly spearhead the just protection of this cherished place, now and into the future.

We're at one with Canada's natural beat.
Find yourself here, in Canada's protected playground.

2. Signature Events: From World Cup Action, to Family Feasts and Freeriding!

The perfect mix of wonder and wild, our line-up of signature events was designed to be as awe-inspiring as the towering peaks that surround. By bringing people from around the world to experience this rugged and raw landscape we cherish so deeply, we can in turn educate, inspire, and evoke a sense of shared responsibility to keep this space wild for generations to come.

FIS WORLD CUP

The only event of its kind in Canada, the Lake Louise Audi FIS World Cup brings spectators from across the globe to the heart of Banff National Park to experience world-class athleticism among a natural wonderland, where the backdrop is just as likely to take their breath away as the high-speed action. Being globally broadcast, the event reaches almost 200 million viewers – bringing the vast peaks and valleys of Lake Louise right to the comfort of their homes.

Fast and exciting, the Lake Louise FIS World Cup is the first Downhill and Super G races of the World Cup circuit. It's also one of the select few locations to host both men's and women's races, seeing the fastest ski racers in the world compete against the mountain, the clock, and themselves in a bid to land on the podium.

In downhill races, athletes descend 800 vertical meters at speeds up to 130km/h, precisely carving through a 3km course in around a minute and a half. Just as action-packed, Super G requires skiers to navigate a course of gates, while taking every risk to keep their skis against the snow and post the fastest time.

<https://lakelouiseworldcup.com/en/home/>

FREERIDE WORLD QUALIFIER

Designed with the development of up-and-coming athletes in mind, the Freeride World Qualification circuit helps skiers and boarders hone their skills while accumulating points via 60 events held at different venues around the globe.

The Lake Louise leg of the circuit is a sanctioned three-star event, open to men's and women's skiing and snowboarding. Over the course of two days, athletes (ages 18+) compete in different venues, all while backed by impressive peaks and pristine wilderness. Skiers and riders are judged and accumulate points based on line, control, fluidity, technique, and style. Cash prizes of \$500 are awarded to first place in each category.

JUNIOR BIG MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

For nearly a decade and a half, the North Face Junior Big Mountain Challenge has returned to the spectacular terrain of Lake Louise, giving young athletes a chance to earn valuable points as part of the North American Freeride Junior Tour. The next generation of free riders compete over the course of two days in age categories spanning from 7 to 18 years old. These impressive young riders and skiers are judged on line, control, fluidity, technique, and style.

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS FEAST

The whole family is invited to indulge in the warmth of Christmas Spirit with an evening as magical as the mountain setting. Located in the Lodge of Ten Peaks, the Lake Louise Christmas Feast is a full turkey dinner affair, complete with hot chocolate for the young ones and a cash bar for the

young at heart. Following the feast, guests of all ages are encouraged to bundle back up and make the most of the winter eve with nighttime snow tubing, crackling fire pits, and delicious snacks.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NYE

Make the last evening of the year one to truly remember with the Rocky Mountain New Year's Eve; an event the whole family can join in celebrating. Enjoy a spectacular buffet supper, cash bar, night snow tubing, and dance party. A midnight champagne toast, party favours, and complimentary shuttles are all included.

ICE MAGIC TORCHLIGHT SKI & DINNER

Enjoy a piece of the Ice Magic Festival by torchlight. This after-hours experience at the mid-mountain Whitehorn Bistro offers drinks, appetizers, and live ice carving demo. Then, take to the slopes by torchlight and enjoy first tracks down a groomed run, led by professional staff. After, a buffet dinner with cash bar awaits at the Sitzmark Lounge, complete with live music and dance floor to top off the night. Optional bus service back to Lake Louise and Banff hotels is also available.

THE GULLY BANKED SLALOM

The Gully Baked Slalom is where speed and sunny spring conditions collide at Lake Louise. Snowboarders of all ages, in categories ranging from 8 & under to 40 +, compete in a test of speed and agility around gates in Jerry's Jungle. Each competitor has two runs, with the fastest times earning a spot on the podium, prizes, and overall bragging rights.

MOUNT SLUSHMORE

What better way to celebrate one of the longest ski seasons in North America than with one final fix of spring skiing – complete with pond skimming, rail jamming, and an after party not to be missed? Mount Slushmore is the ultimate end of season party, with après ski on Banded Peak Base Camp deck and competitions that are just as entertaining to watch as they are to compete in. And it wouldn't be Mount Slushmore without 'Bikinis for Breast Cancer', where the on-mountain attire is swimsuits worn with ski pants (which really puts the fun in fundraising). An after-party, sunset concert at the Lodge of Ten Peaks follows, ending the day with the ultimate in Canadian Rocky Mountain après.

3. Resort Highlights

Simple, spectacular, and perfectly prime for spirited exploration, Lake Louise is your home-base for wild mountain discovery. Whether you are strapping on a pair of skis or a snowboard, slipping into hiking boots, you can feel at one with Nature's beat. Located in the heart of Banff National Park, Lake Louise is a designated UNESCO heritage site where you can embrace the rhythm of mountain life in one of the most naturally wondrous settings in the world.

WINTER

With one of the longest ski seasons in North America – spanning from early November to mid-May – prepare to embrace the wonder of winter with open arms and child-like smiles, that only fresh powder can bring.

Although incredibly vast, the skiable terrain of Lake Louise remains easily accessible for all experience levels, with beginner, intermediate, and expert runs from every chair. Spanning four mountain faces and 4200 acres, and with endless options of gentle groomers, serious steeps, long cruisers, chutes, gullies, bowls, moguls and secret powder stashes, there's a little something for everyone to get (figuratively) lost in.

Lake Louise's Tube Park also offers an alternate fast-paced, downhill thrill with breathtaking views – no prior experience necessary. It's all the joy of a day well spent on the mountain, without the learning curve. You just hop on an inflatable tube and enjoy the ride as you spin and slide your way down the mountain.

SUMMER

Elevate and enrich your summer, naturally, with a ride on the sightseeing gondola. From the end of May to early Fall, soar to 2101m any day of the week. This is where you can escape the crowds and feel immediately at one with the pure wild that surrounds. The gondola is your ticket to an alpine oasis where grizzlies roam free, and panoramic views are framed by lush carpets of wildflowers and crystal-clear springs.

Located at the top of the Summer Gondola, the Wildlife Interpretive Centre is the perfect place to fuel your sense of discovery. Learn what makes Banff National Park uniquely spectacular through interactive stations, ongoing short films and presentations in the viewing theatre, and short themed hikes around the centre.

For a truly immersive experience, book a guided half-day or full-day hike in Banff and Yoho National Parks. Connect to your surroundings and get wonderfully close to nature while learning about the flora, fauna, and deeply rooted history of the Rocky Mountains.

4. A Mountain of Experiences

Lake Louise is your starting point to spectacular views and immersive activities, with the offerings changing with the seasons to allow awe-inspiring adventure all year round. From gentle to extreme, skier or not, family fun to solo travels, there's something new for every guest to explore, discover, and marvel in.

WINTER

FAMILY: It's the winter getaway you've always dreamed of – a trip to Canada's Natural Playground with the whole family. You're ready to explore the snowy terrain, take photos that you'll cherish for a lifetime, and fully embrace mountain culture at its purest. You're ready for Lake Louise. Your day begins at the North Face Bistro where the whole crew can fuel up for the day at the buffet-style breakfast bar. Then, it's off to the Sunny Tube Park for a downhill thrill where you'll spin, slide, and race one another down the mountain on inflatable tubes – no experience required. And what about those family members under the age of three who are not yet old enough to tube? They'll be in good hands at the Lake Louise Childcare Centre, where big fun for little mountain enthusiasts is never in short supply. When that post-tubing appetite kicks in, gather the gang and head to the Lodge of Ten Peaks Café for a simple yet satisfying hot-off the grill lunch break. When it's time to head back to Banff, take the scenic route along the 1A / Bow Valley Parkway for even more awe-inspiring mountain views to cap off the day.

SOLO TRAVELLER: You've marvelled over photos of the Canadian Rockies for years, and now the time has finally come where you can view the impressive, towering peaks with your very own eyes. Although you're new to the world of snow sports, you're keen to learn and see what all the hype is about. Your day starts with a bus ride on one of the many free shuttles from downtown Banff – the ride itself a picturesque journey between mountains and alongside the winding Bow River. Once at Lake Louise, you enroll in a private Snow School lesson. With equipment rentals, expert instruction, and jaw-dropping panoramic views as a backdrop, it's never been easier (or more picturesque) to hone your snow skills and gain confidence on the mountain. After a morning of learning and conquering the Magic Carpet, and maybe even your first chairlift, you've earned the right to kick up

your boots and enjoy a little après-ski at the Banded Peak Base Camp where you can pair your slope side views with tasty smoked BBQ bites and a refreshing beverage. When you've had your fill both on and off the mountain terrain, another free ride on the Lake Louise shuttle bus will bring you back to Banff, leaving you full of pride for trying something new and excitedly planning the next move to meet your full potential on the mountains.

BUDDIES: You and your friends have been watching the forecast all week, and you're excited to see it's been falling in your favour. You gather the troops and head out bright and early to Lake Louise, eager to get on the first chair and chase those fresh, powdery tracks. You're confident on any terrain, and Lake Louise is your endless playground of chutes, gullies, bowls, and powder stashes. When lunch time hits, the whole gang makes their way over to the backside for a mid-day après at Sawyer's Nook in Temple Lodge. You warm up, refuel, and share stories of stoke over famous house made Sawyer's burgers before heading out in search of more pristine powder. After covering as much ground as the day will allow, you all retire for a well-earned beverage at the Powder Keg Lounge where you start planning to do it all over again the very next day.

COUPLE: You want an experience as special as the person you're sharing it with, so you've booked a romantic getaway at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, with mountain exploration just minutes away. Being so close to the action, you enjoy a slow morning before bundling up and hopping on the free eight-minute shuttle to the Ski Resort for an outing you won't soon forget. Like all the best days, this one starts with a stop at the base area Slope Side Coffee for an extra caffeine kick to get you mountain ready. Then, you and your partner fully immerse yourself in the winter wonderland of Lake Louise with a full day, all mountain snowshoe tour. By the power of your own two feet, you explore some of the most breathtaking vantage points in the Canadian Rockies. The friendly guides and easy to use snowshoes make accessing panoramic winter views a literal walk in the park. With an appetite that only a day in the snow can produce, you head back to the mountain base for a not-so-typical resort dinner at Kuma Yama, the in-lodge sushi & ramen bar. You indulge in a menu of international style tapas with Japanese flavour and just a touch of Canadian influence. With happy hearts, tired legs, and full bellies, you hop back on the shuttle for a free and safe return back to the Chateau.

SUMMER

SOLO: You've just arrived in Banff National Park for the first time and although the terrain is fresh and new, you're no stranger to spending hours in the backcountry marvelling at the wonders of nature. You're here because the mountains are calling, and the answer is a full-day guided hike at Lake Louise. You start the day with a meet 'n' greet with your experienced and certified guide.

You've chosen the Sentinel Pass & Moraine Lake hike – an advanced, 6 – 7-hour round trip journey [snacks included] that begins at the magnificent Moraine Lake. And no need to worry about beating the crowds to the lakeshore, as your Lake Louise Ski Resort guide has priority access. From there, the trail climbs through the beautiful Larch Valley and continues along to Sentinel Pass, where you see the towering spires that lend the trail its name. After a full day of taking in the awe-inspiring views, your legs can take a well-earned rest as you head back to Banff on another shuttle.

FAMILY: The whole family is ready for a day of summer adventure, and with plenty of free parking for both cars and RVs at the Lake Louise Summer Gondola, it's an easy choice. After you rise and shine, you gather the troops to ride and dine with the Gondola and buffet breakfast package – saving you both money and the hassle of figuring out a meal to start the day. The Whiskey Jack Lodge is your first stopping point where everyone fuels up at the delicious breakfast buffet. Then, it's off to the Sightseeing Gondola where you soar through the air up to 2101m. The 14-minute ride is an adventure itself, presenting incredible views of the majestic Rock Mountains and unbeatable opportunities to see Grizzly bears meandering below. At the top of the gondola, the kids let their imagination run wild in the Wildlife Interpretation Centre and discover what makes life in Banff National Park uniquely spectacular. Geared with new knowledge of the surroundings, you choose a picturesque 1.7km round trip hike that suits everyone in the family.

5. Mountain Stats + Facts

Winter season length: November – May

Highest elevation: 2637 m/8652 ft

Skiable terrain: 4275 acres over four mountain faces

Number of runs: 164 marked + back bowls

Longest run: 8 km / 5 miles

Over 30 ft of annual snowfall

Vertical drop of 3250 ft

Terrain: 25% beginner, 45% intermediate, 30% advanced

Beginner, intermediate, and advanced runs from every chair

Cumulative length of runs: over 100km / 62 miles

Over 12 food and drink outlets

Canadian Rockies average over 300 days of sunshine per year

1 high speed 6 passenger gondola

1 high speed 6 passenger chairlift

5 quad chairlifts
1 triple chairlift
3 carpets
454 cm (179 in) average snowfall

6. Wild Adventure

We share these mountains with an impressive roster of wildlife including Grizzly bears, elk, deer, Bighorn sheep, cougars, wolverines, lynx, and wolves, meaning it's very likely that no matter the path you take at Lake Louise, it has seen many wild visitors before you. The safe-keeping and best interests of all animals is a fundamental pillar of the Lake Louise identity, because we're passionate about this place and all those who call it home.

WHITEHORN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR: The lower half of Whitehorn Mountain is a well-used wildlife corridor officially established by Parks Canada. The corridor not only provides critical passage for an abundance of species, but ultimately allows these animal communities to remain connected so they can mate, access food resources, and move freely across the mountain. In the summer, this area is closed to the public to help reduce human interaction – no hiking, no mountain biking, just the opportunity to view Lake Louise's wild residents from the Lake Louise Summer Gondola.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS: Our interpretive programs are aimed at educating visitors with the information they need to respect, admire, and safely enjoy the wildlife that surrounds. We're committed to providing a protected environment for these animals so they can continue to call Banff National Park home for many generations to come.

GRIZZLY BEARS: With grassy slopes, rich vegetation, and terrain where berries flourish, it's no wonder Lake Louise is one of the best places to view Grizzly bears in their natural habitat. The gondola allows a safe viewing experience for both bear and visitors, with sightings of Grizzlies roaming the slopes below reported almost daily during the summer months.

7. Lake Louise, On the World Stage

We're not ones to brag, but when we're voted Canada's best ski resort by the World Ski Awards (and more than once, may we add...), we know we're onto something good. We've also, over the years, become a firm favourite with some of the most renowned pros of the ski industry; as a stop-off on the World Cup circuit, we're proud to have become a place that's special to one of the US

greats, Lindsay Vonn (fans have even been known to refer to us as Lake Lindsay, in light of her connection with the resort, and Lake Louise Ski Resort has even renamed a run in her honour, “Lake Lindsay Way”).

It’s true that Lindsay’s had some of her most significant career moments in Lake Louise, netting 18 career World Cup wins right here. A ski race powerhouse, this fast female has dominated on the Lake Louise track, and we couldn’t be any prouder of how at home Lindsay feels on these slopes.

The resort plays host to the Lake Louise Audi FIS Ski World Cup every November / December, seeing the fastest competitive ski racers in the world gather – with a title in their sights. Pushing their ability to the extreme, these dedicated racers take on the mountain (descending 800 vertical metres downhill in 90 seconds, reaching speeds of up to 120 km/h – all on a three km track); they compete against the clock for a chance at a podium spot. With the dependability of early season snow in the Canadian Rockies, the World Cup brings the world’s best athletes to the hamlet of Lake Louise – and puts Lake Louise Ski Resort firmly on the world stage.

The only event of its kind in Canada, race fans get a front row seat to all of the World Cup at the resort during race time, invited to spectate as these racers test their limits. It’s fast, and furious, and the race atmosphere is addictive.

Homegrown ski race hero, Kelly Vanderbeek, made her World Cup debut in 2002 and later went on to become the first Canadian female to reach the podium on home turf, finishing third in the 2006 World Cup Lake Louise stop. Vanderbeek, originally from Ontario but now residing in nearby Canmore, is another athlete that has a strong connection to Lake Louise, considering this her home mountain.

[standout quote]

“I call Lake Louise my ski home. As a Canadian, I think we connect deeply to two things: our Arctic, and our Rocky Mountains. To have competed here, to have engaged with these mountains in so many different ways, it is truly an honour; it makes me so proud as a Canadian to show that off to the world, and the World Cup, every year, is our chance to do just that.

And as an athlete, I was always happy to go race Lake Louise; it was always the start of the season, and all the race teams stay in the same hotel, the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise – which isn’t typical on the circuit. It becomes something to look forward to, to kick off the race season.

And I wasn't the only one: I know US, and European skiers adored heading to Lake Louise; the mountain, the ambience, everything about it is iconic ski racing to a tee.

The sheer size of the audience that the World Cup draws, is second only to F1. On a world scale, it truly is immense; it's significant. And to be the first Canadian woman up on the podium there, makes me feel like have a little mark in not only Lake Louise's World Cup history, but in Canadian ski racing too. That's special to me."

– Kelly Vanderbeek

Media interviews are available with the Lake Louise Audi FIS Ski World Cup team, and with select athletes – current and retired racers – on request, as well as editorial-ready images. Please contact the Lake Louise Ski Resort Media Dept.

8. The Future Vision

There's no place quite like Lake Louise. And when you are part of a place this special, of such epic natural significance, it needs to be admired, appreciated, and protected – generation after generation. A ski resort operating within a National Park? You bet we're devoted defenders of this landscape. We're awed by these peaks every day and appreciate all the reasons why the resort attracts skiers, riders, adventurers, sightseers, and mountain enthusiasts every year. We're Lake Louise residents, and advocates. We're committed to keeping "the Lake's" wild side, wild.

As we're deeply rooted in this place, we're never ones to rest on our laurels; we have a big vision for the future enjoyment and preservation of Lake Louise's open mountain terrain. Within our boundaries, we'll be undertaking a multi-year plan that ensures generations to come can experience the majestic wonder of Lake Louise; to be awed by Rocky Mountain summits from the ease of riding an open chair or taking a gondola ride; to get an authentic story of the deep cultural layers of the region, a sense of Indigenous relevance and pioneering mountaineers of yesteryear; to become Lake Louise advocates, and appreciate to the core just how special this place is.

For everyone that passes to enjoy and love this place as we do, we'll be using our local expertise and know-how of this region to share our perspectives of this protected land with all our visitors. We'll be passing on the messages of conservation, and respectful use of this naturally spectacular place – marvelled the world over.

Recently approved by Parks Canada, after detailed analysis and consideration, the new plan will focus on elevating the quality of accessible mountain terrain, facilities, services, and experiences across the whole resort – summer and winter. Working closely with environmental experts, we'll be able to protect the vulnerable areas of the area, as well as its wild residents.

Our Long-Range Plan will be passionately and carefully implemented across the next 10 to 15 years. Our plan will see almost half of the current Lake Louise Ski Resort leasehold given back to Parks Canada, leaving the resort with a smaller footprint, and allowing wildlife and native fauna to thrive freely. Making this smaller resort footprint count, the plan also documents the resort ownership's plans to invest in the visitor experience by adding and improving chairlifts across the resort, adding new day lodges, and improving parking capacity and traffic flow, essentially looking at all aspects of the experiences, and impact, of the resort for its visitors.

For further information on the Long-Range Plan, please contact the resort's Media Relations Dept.

9. What's New

Lake Louise Opens Up 480 Acres of "Side-Country" Terrain for 2020-21 Season Introducing "West Bowl", the first new inbound ski terrain seen in Banff National Park for a quarter of a century

Those familiar with skiing in the protected playground of Banff National Park, will know that the introduction of new inbound terrain doesn't open up often, in fact, nearly never happens; the thrill of skiing in the wilderness of a National Park comes with being surrounded by all of nature's bests – but also means ski areas are set and boundaries fixed, maintaining the wild integrity of the Park.

But for the 2020-21 season, Lake Louise Ski Resort marked a new chapter in its award-winning history, by introducing "West Bowl", 480 acres (equivalent to 240 Canadian football fields) of not-before-skied, inbound terrain to its existing map of diverse runs, bowls, glades and gullies.

The opening up of West Bowl comes as part of the evolution of the resort, and its Long-Range Plan – working in close collaboration, and consultation, with Parks Canada. This is the first announcement to many exciting future additions, adaptations, and exciting introductions to come, as the Long-Range Plan unfolds.

So, what can skiers and boarders expect from West Bowl, which is being described by the resort as perfect side-country ski terrain? The answer is a vast, open range of powder bowls, laps of endless gladed ski areas, steep trees, and tasty powder pockets, perfect for advanced-intermediate – expert skiers to explore freely.

Overlooked by the bold, breathtaking Whitehorn Mountain, on the front face of the resort, the West Bowl region of the resort offer incredible, signature Canadian Rockies views, and will join Lake Louise Ski Resort's already-impressive offering of back bowls, only on the front side.

"This is wilderness skiing at its best, with the safety and reassurance that comes from being inbounds", says Kim Locke, spokesperson for the resort.

Locke continues: "We're all very excited about the opening of West Bowl this season, as we think skiers and boarders will revel in the thrill of charting their own course and freely exploring this newly-gladed, raw terrain. It's wild, and has the feeling of being backcountry, but as it's in-bounds, our expert snow patrol and avalanche safety crews will be continually maintaining the area*.

To have a completely new, expansive region of the mountain to venture into, is going to mark our 2020-21 season as one for the Lake Louise history books. West Bowl is such a fantastic addition to our resort offering, we can't wait to open it up and see our skiers and boarders experience it."

Preparing for the launch of West Bowl

To facilitate this notable opening, a two-kilometre-long ski-out has been constructed from the bottom of the various chutes, gullies and bowls comprising West Bowl, to the junction of Men's Downhill and Juniper Jungle.

In addition, Lake Louise Ski Resort is introducing a new quad chairlift, the Summit Chair, which starts from the saddle below the top station of the Top of the World chairlift. In just four minutes, the new Summit Chair will whisk skiers and riders up the ridge of Whitehorn Mountain, giving easy access to the new West Bowl terrain as well as the back bowls, and the existing runs previously accessed by the Summit Platter.

*Skiers and boarders are advised to carry avalanche safety gear and know how to use it.

Lake Louise Opens new high speed quad chair Juniper Express for 2021–22 Season

Introducing “Juniper Area”, 4 new runs of progression–style terrain

*Piece added by Leigha Stankewich, 2022

This new chairlift will be an important addition to the ski resort’s out-of-base capacity and will service the new beginner terrain. Those looking to progress from the Learning Area will feel a little more at-ease as the Juniper Express Chair will take them to short green and blue runs to get their legs beneath them and a taste for more. Freestyle enthusiasts will also enjoy the 6-minute trip to Boulevard Terrain Park making quick park laps a breeze. Experts will enjoy cruisey warm-up laps before tackling the rest of the mountain. The bigger picture? A second Juniper chairlift will be installed as part of the Long Range Plan, which will act as a third choice in getting to the backside or accessing West Bowl terrain. Line ups each morning from the base area will be mitigated and everyone will benefit by getting on the slopes faster!

10. LLSR Story Ideas (Winter + Summer)

Go Deeper; Get an Expert Insight into the Heritage, Geology & Wild Neighbours of Lake Louise.

Step beyond the scenery, and whether on summer or winter days, get a deeper understanding of this majestic Rocky Mountain region we call home. The resort offers guided hikes and snowshoe tours from the base, adding a layer of Park experience, interpretation, and regional scientific know-how to adventuring in Lake Louise. Follow the footsteps of our expert guides and wander into an experience that pairs storytelling and interpretation with the remember-for-a-lifetime views, knowing you’re in the safest hands. Want a more casual drop-in, self-guided journey of Canadian Rockies’ wildlife, and interesting facts ‘n’ stats about the Park? Lake Louise Ski Resort’s Wildlife Interpretative Centre is a free, interactive presentation for all ages. Learn about the Rockies’ diverse wildlife community, and our endangered species, with guided hikes, short films and info-filled displays.

It’s Never Too Late to Learn the Love of Skiing & Snowboarding: Lake Louise Adult Programs.

As a grown-up, learning to ski or board can be challenging to say the least. But Lake Louise’s Snow School programs invite adults of all ages to find their inner child and discover their love for ski (and their skill for it), all at their own pace. Whether opting for a private, group, or the ‘first tracks’ lesson for two at the start of the day (giving you access to the mountain trails and groomed runs thirty minutes before opening). Our expert ski and snowboard guides will make you feel at ease, and ready to take on the mountain at any level. Can ski or ride, but want to take it to the next

level? No problem! Our multi-day adult coaching programs, such as the Freeride Program, will have you navigating bumps, carving through trees, and showing your stuff on the mountain like a pro.

A Basecamp for Spectacular Hiking; Must-Experience Trails from Lake Louise Ski Resort. Find yourself in an alpine oasis where grizzlies freely roam, and unobstructed panoramic views prevail. Lake Louise is a hiking mecca, a must-do for alpinists. And the beauty of hiking here? The views can be as easy, or not, to achieve. One option: leave the crowds behind and soar to 2101m (6893 ft) any day of the week on our sightseeing gondola – your ticket to an array of mountain top activities. Embrace the stunning scenery – grand glaciers, lush carpets of wildflowers, crystal-clear springs – and observe wildlife in their natural element on your way to the top. From there, choose your own adventure whether that be immersing yourself in a complimentary interpretive program. Another option: Take full advantage of our guiding team's expert knowledge, and head out on a half, or full day adventure – with all the info you'll ever need about the park and its wildlife, right on the trail with you. And it's not just in and around the resort you can hike (although that is awesome); join a guide and head into the must-visit Moraine Lake, or the 11km trek to Banff National Park's backcountry gem, Skoki Lodge.

Elevating the Idea of a Ski Lunch; From Sushi to Lodge-made Fine Dining. Get a fresh taste of cuisine creations at a ski resort, with a seat at the many eateries of Lake Louise Ski Resort. From carefully sourced regional ingredients and Albertan-reared game and meats – served with a five-star view – at Whitehorn Bistro or indulging in a taste of Japanese-Albertan fusion at Kuma Yama (meaning Bear on Mountain), our sushi and ramen casual diner, this is anything but a standard menu of burgers and fries (although we do that pretty well too). Taste your way around the resort, and meet with our Executive Chef, to see how we put the appetite + après into a great ski day.

After Dark; Snowshoe Under the Stars. You may have experienced snowshoeing, but have you done it in the dark? After the lifts stop running, and the crowds disappear, get an exclusive front row seat to the wide starlit skies of Lake Louise. Strap on the snowshoes and follow your guide on a journey through the darkness, it's silence and serenity on the mountain, and guaranteed to be nothing short of memorable.

Skiing (and Having Fun) For Good; Charity Events at Lake Louise Ski Resort. Whether it's the 'Iron Legs for Charity' annual get-together, where strong-legged skiers and riders go leg-to-leg to raise funds in support of the Canadian Mental Health Association, or the always-popular 'Bikinis for Breast Cancer' event in April, which sees skiers and riders don swimwear and hit the slopes – all in the name of raising money for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, get a place at one of the many charitable or community events held at Lake Louise each and every winter season.

11. Sustainability

Yes, it's not just some of our runs that are green.

When you're a ski resort nestled in the heart of a National Park, your responsibility goes far beyond just the safety and enjoyment of guests, you have to have a year-round, season-to-season integrity for the place you're in too; one that runs deep. Your consideration for the nature around you needs to be rock solid. We take our footprint on the environment seriously, from local preservation and respect of our natural surroundings, to ensuring our operations are as sustainable and in harmony with the planet as possible.

Lake Louise Ski Resort has a dedicated environmental team, in fact, we were the first ski area in the Canadian Rockies to introduce an expert Environmental Management Department. This team is committed to all eco-related projects and looks after all things green at the resort. This includes cutting-edge water conservation, waste management, and energy-saving efforts. Not only that, but this team is also spearheading eco-upgrades to our snowmaking practices, looking at the best ways to conserve energy and water in all of our day lodges (including the use of low flow toilets in washrooms), ensuring the resort has eco-efficient lighting and heating, instilling good recycling behavior across the resort, arranging community clean-ups and following a robust CSR program.

Our green dept. also keep themselves busy with initiatives that you might not expect a ski resort operational team to be involved in; these include: the '**Reclamation and Revegetation project**', a program that includes the safekeeping, and seeding of native plants in the area, for native flora and fauna to flourish, and keeping a healthy balance of Rocky Mountain vegetation for the habitat quality of wildlife; the '**Safe Fuel Handling and Spill Response Program**', an across-resort project that guides all employees on best practices, appropriate handling, and safe storage, when working with fuels; wildlife reporting and monitoring activity in alignment with Parks Canada (using the 38 wildlife cameras installed across the resort, to capture wildlife activity without any intrusion).

Looking forward, enhanced waste management programs will be put in place by the green team, moving away from recycling just cardboard, paper, metal, can and bottles, paints, electronics, batteries, and light bulbs, to recycling all waste from the resort. This will also include food composting across the resort's restaurants, lights-out periods, public transit commute days for employees, and reducing single-use plastics. The team is also developing plans to further improve public transit accessibility to and from the resort, installing lower-emission chairlifts, and ways to further improve energy consumption across the entire resort.

Want to do your part? Join us for our annual Summer Litter Pick each July as we hike in other areas of the mountain to help clean up waste.

12. Faces of the Resort

Came in search of big mountain thrills; found so much more.

Meet Kevin Eaton, Lake Louise's Director of Snow School.

Ask Kevin how he ended up here in Lake Louise, and he'll tell you it was the draw of big mountain skiing; the lure of The Rockies was loudly calling the name of this Nova Scotian native. That was over twenty years ago.

"There's not much bigger and better than skiing Lake Louise; it was the pinnacle for me, I wanted to get a taste of that world-class terrain."

And a taste he had; Kevin quickly got used to the West's reliable, deep powdery snow, jaw-dropping scenery at every turn, and the alluring charm of this little mountain town. Very quickly, Lake Louise became home for this enthusiastic, young snowboarder looking to live his best snowboarder life.

With a diploma in Recreational Management for the Nova Scotia Teachers' College in his back pocket, a love for being on his board, and a thirst for taking on the renowned peaks of Banff National Park, Kevin landed his first job with Lake Louise Ski Resort – as snowboard instructor. It was the winter of 1998.

Quickly rising through the ranks, Kevin proved himself season after season; he became Supervisor, Acting Director, and then Director, the role he holds today.

Typically starting his days with an 8:25am meet with the team, before the instructors head out on the mountain with the eager, first school participants of the day, a large part of Kevin's role as Director of the school is matching all ages and levels of skiers and boarders to the just-right lesson, or program.

And being Director of a seven-day-a-week, multi-program snow school in the heart of the Canadian Rockies – at a globally recognized, award-winning ski resort no less – with 100+ instructors under your leadership, doesn't come without its fair share of proud moments.

“I always look forward to the start of every season,” Kevin says.

“I ride the summit chair to the top, stop, and look out over our resort, and I just take a reassuring breath knowing that all our instructors are going to have a season to remember for life. It's always a proud moment for me, of what we offer, and what we're all part of.”

And those snow school instructors are selected from applicants from around the world.

“Our instructor team is always first-class,” Kevin explains.

“Many of our instructors go on to be part of the Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance, Canadian Snowboarders Association, and lead ski school programming at resorts across the country – and that's from what they've learned here with us. Lake Louise truly is a leading training facility; I love to see that, because it's great for skiing, and encouraging a passion for ski, across Canada.”

But being an instructor with Lake Louise Ski Resort, is about so much more than technical ability, creds, or years of mountain experience.

“We keep it personal, and approachable here. Our instructors are there to develop your skill level and encourage you to take your skiing to the next level, yes, but more than that: we're here to make everyone we take out on the mountain feel 100% comfortable at the resort.

We are your guides to all the experiences that make up your day with us; we'll show you how to navigate runs to your experience and confidence level, how to get around, where to eat or warm up with hot cocoa, the shortcuts. We want every person that heads out with us to feel completely at home here. That's most important.”

The perfect role for someone with a serious “ski problem”.

Meet Dave Petch, Lake Louise's Senior Avalanche Forecaster.

Having notched up 18 seasons at Lake Louise, and still counting, Dave Petch – known for his upbeat energy and fun sense of humour – could not be more serious about safety.

As the Senior Avalanche Forecaster, part of Lake Louise Ski Resort's dedicated avalanche safety dept., Dave holds the equivalent of a Masters' Degree (his words) in avalanche awareness, prevention and management.

And with a self-professed skiing problem, Dave always knew that he wanted to work outside – despite successfully completing a teaching degree. Dave decided to switch the idea of being in a classroom every day, for a different kind of office – out on the mountain.

As part of Lake Louise's avalanche team of fellow forecasters and technicians, Dave's daily work gives an extra level of specialism to the resort's ski patrol dept., which is actually where Dave started his career with Lake Louise Ski Resort, and first discovered his passion for avalanche prevention.

It was as a young ski patroller with the resort, when Dave realized his calling for avalanche safety specifically. Knowing this, he enrolled in a specialist course offered by the Canadian Avalanche Association (completing level 1, over eight days). Not wanting to stop there, Dave went on to complete level 2, and then a 3-week intensive course (this was level 3 training, the highest you can achieve).

"This is the highest level of job satisfaction," says Dave.

"To know you are part of a team that's securing the safety of the mountain, and navigating any risk of avalanche, is pretty incredible. We're watching the conditions on-mountain by the minute and ensure the resort's skiable terrain is always safe to enter."

And this meaningful work for Dave, comes with no two days ever being the same.

"There's zero room for complacency in our work," Dave explains.

"The weather conditions are constantly changing, so as a team of eight we're heavily reliant on each other – and our combined experience and expertise – to monitor this meticulously, and immediately respond. It's a challenging role, but man, is it rewarding."

And perhaps that teaching degree isn't completely wasted for Dave, who actively takes part in a winter training program with Bow Valley high school students, 'winter travel 15', an initiative between Lake Louise Ski Resort and Canadian Rockies Public Schools that equips Grade 10s and 11s with important mountain safety skills.

When Dave's not on patrol in his role as Senior Avalanche Forecaster, there is a good chance that you will still see him on-mountain in Lake Louise, skiing with his two children.

The Scientists Behind the Ski Resort; Meet Veronica, the Eco Expert Leading All Things Environmental.

You might not expect to find experienced science grads, ecologists, and PHD researchers working behind the scenes at a ski resort, but at Lake Louise, we have a whole department of them; all dedicated to spearheading our environmental stewardship policies and practices – and ensuring our resort is at one with our natural surroundings in all we do.

Because of course, being a ski destination at the heart of a National Park comes with some serious responsibility – and careful research, monitoring, and precise planning (the perfect job for a lab-trained scientist).

And heading up our environmental team, is Veronica, who in her role as Environment & Approvals Manager, combines her passion for all-things ecology with her love of skiing – in what is quite the unique position to undertake at a ski resort.

“I would say we're one of the front-runners of Canada's ski industry, in terms of our eco procedures, and how focused we are on keeping the resort's day-to-day operations balanced with its wild environment.” Veronica says.

“There's a whole team of us scientists here!” she continues.

“We have been growing our Environmental department since I joined the resort in early 2017; we now have a Reclamation Lead, an Environment Supervisor – who takes care of the mapping of the resort's wild fauna, soils, and seeds, as well as monitoring wildlife movements on camera at various points of the resort – and more recently, a PHD science researcher has joined our on-the-ground eco support team. And if we need specific expertise, we bring in further support from fellow scientists, such as an aquatics biologist,” Veronica explains.

So, what does a typical day look like for a department that brings the science to the ski resort?

“You might not think it, but we really are the team that touches almost every area of the resort,” Veronica adds.

“Environmental understanding and protection of the land we inhabit is especially important when you’re based within the Park, so our dept. is tasked with bringing that eco-scientific perspective to everything we do here.

From being out in the field monitoring and analyzing a certain area’s seeds, to planning green initiatives and finding sustainable solutions for each and every resort department or checking all the boxes on compliance when adding any new piece of equipment or infrastructure, we’re there making sure we’re being kind and respectful to our natural surroundings – across all of our operations.”

And for this environmental team, the devil is in the detail. And a large part of Veronica’s role is overseeing the complex details of permitting as part of the resort’s ongoing partnership with Parks Canada.

“It’s wonderful to be working in such close collaboration with the Parks Canada team; we go out in the field with their specialists and we’re able to share our research and data insights with them directly. They trust us to meticulously gather and summarize the ecology samples we need across all of our projects, so as fellow scientists and ecologists, I guess you could say we speak the same language,” Veronica adds with a smile.

And one of those projects taking a large focus of the team’s current planning and day-to-day duties, is the resort’s multi-year, future ‘Long Range Plan’ – a master plan for the evolution of the resort, to enhance the skiable terrain, facilities, and year-round services while reducing the current lease area; an elevated resort experience while lowering the resort’s footprint on the Park.

The Long Range Plan was approved this year, following in-depth consultation with Parks Canada.

“What an opportunity,” says Veronica, speaking of her integral part in the execution of the Long Range Plan, working on-the-ground from the resort.

“Changes this extensive within the Park are a rarity. To be involved in overseeing all the projects from an eco-perspective and get us to the grand vision of the future of Lake Louise Ski Resort, is incredibly exciting. To be contributing mine and the team’s experience to ensure that the natural considerations – right down to the tiniest details – are not only covered off but be a central part in how we undertake everything, is proving to be a true career highlight.”

Veronica and her team have also initiated an internal education program, for all employees at the resort, regardless of department, to garner the dept's eco know-how and appreciate the resort's place within a National Park.

So how does a ski-loving scientist get into this area of work?

Well for Veronica, she started with a Horticulture Diploma, followed by an undergrad in Landscape Design, and then a Masters of Science & Environmental Practice from Royal Roads University in Victoria, B.C., before going to specialise in vegetation research and surveying for a company in Calgary.

Originally from Kamloops, Veronica grew up in South America, living in both Peru and Columbia, before her passion for ski called her to the Canadian Rockies. It was here she met her also ski-loving husband (they actually met on skis), and through her role at the resort, skiing and science have become the perfect equation.

13. The LLSR Food Story

A No-Bounds Food Scene; The Perfect Pairing for An Iconic Canadian Ski Resort. How Lake Louise's Chef Team Is Carving Out Fresh Culinary Terrain in The Rockies

There's something stirring in Lake Louise. And we're not referring to the wildlife that call this charming town set deep in the Canadian Rockies, home. It's a burgeoning food scene of innovation, experimentation, creativity, and top-quality chef talent; a somewhat unexpected, vibrant culinary movement taking place alongside iconic mountain peaks, within the parameters of a ski village – and it's one to rival any city's downtown top restaurants list, and please the most discerning foodie.

Shaking up the traditional idea of ski après, rethinking the typical mountainside 'fuel-up', and boldly reinventing the ski resort dining experience, is the creative force of Lake Louise Ski Resort's skilful chef brigade. And with a 'no-bounds' attitude to all-things culinary, they're pushing the world-renowned ski resort's food profile to brand new heights.

Perhaps somewhat of a cliché for a mountain resort sitting at an elevation of 8650ft, but this is a truly *elevated* taste of ski lodge dining. It's reimagining the resort experience with a restaurateur filter; it's the adventurous discovery of fresh eatery concepts; it's the modernization of menus while maintaining a sense of ski tradition and sense of comfort that comes from a fulfilling dish after a day spent on-mountain.

With an unmistakably passionate, imaginative, and masterful Food & Beverage Director at the helm, Sebastien Tessier, the team have been carving out a reputation for the resort, as being a food destination in its own right. Carefully balancing the hearty dishes craved by skiers and snowboarders with standalone culinary concepts with a fine dining flair, Sebastien and his team of up to 200 (at the height of the ski season) work tirelessly to put a stamp of 100% satisfaction across the resort's 200 menu items.

A strong philosophy for fresh and lodge-made runs throughout each of the resort's lodge-base and on-mountain food establishments. And in the kitchens, is a passion for thoughtfully-prepared dishes that leave an impression and ingredients sourced regionally; something that comes right from the top, with Sebastien steering the resort's culinary direction to embody an authentic taste of Alberta, and of the Canadian Rockies.

Over recent years, the culinary team have introduced a series of new restaurant concepts, each with its own philosophy, signature style, and unique personality, have added some playfulness to the notion of how après looks – and feels – in the modern age, explored with globally-inspired flavours, and brought a fierce loyalty to regional producers and farmers across the resort's 13 establishments.

Last season, the team were awarded with USA Today's 'best on-mountain restaurant' accolade, for its answer to Albertan fine dining: 'Whitehorn Bistro' – a concept that was introduced to the resort's portfolio of food establishments eight years ago.

Executive Chef David Acero had just joined the resort's food & beverage team when Whitehorn Bistro was at concept-stage and was soon charged with leading the menu development for this mid-mountain restaurant.

It was to be a standout dining experience, open across both the winter and summer seasons; a must-visit restaurant that felt indulgent and was ready to welcome diners with an appetite for an authentic taste of the Rockies – and David rose to the challenge.

David set out to redefine everything an on-mountain restaurant could be. He wanted the quality of fresh produce, and its careful preparation, to shine through. With his love of wholesome, real food starting in his homeland of Colombia – watching his mama preparing dishes in the family kitchen as a young boy – David focused on the authenticity of the bistro's offering, with a hyper-attention to the integrity of raw ingredients.

Using his experience of working in highly-regarded restaurants in his native Bogota, throughout Australia – which was also the base of his chef training, with David graduating from Le Cordon Bleu culinary institute, Sydney – and then in Canada, David was able to bring a masterful, from-scratch approach to the restaurant’s brand new, state-of-the-art kitchen.

“I wanted to stay honest to my culinary training and the experience I’d built in restaurants around the world,” says David. I wanted Whitehorn Bistro to look, feel, and act like a true fine dining eatery, with everything prepared fresh from locally-sourced ingredients.”

Reflecting back on the opening of the bistro in December 2013, David credits his entire chef team for their dedication to successfully pull off a mid-mountain bistro experience, including working around the logistical challenges that come from opening a restaurant that’s only accessible by ski or snowboard.

“We had to get creative!”, he says with a smile.

“We had challenged ourselves to provide this restaurant-quality experience on the mountain, and just getting our ingredients to the location had to be thought through in great detail; there aren’t many bistros that will use a snowcat to deliver fresh produce to the kitchen,” he laughs.

To this day, Whitehorn Bistro creates all of its sauces, dressings, and condiments for its more than 30 dishes, all in-house. The bistro’s chefs pick fresh herbs, grown on the restaurant’s expansive sun deck – which, with its wide open, peak-to-peak views, is the ultimate sweetener for any dish enjoyed al fresco.

The bistro’s menu spotlights seasonal flavours and the freshest, seasonal ingredients including meats sourced from the province’s most prestigious farmers, such as ethically-raised pork from Bear and the Flower and game from Sungold Farms. Diners can satisfy their tastebuds with carefully-prepared, hearty dishes such as: Alberta Lamb Shank with rosemary gnocchi, Seafood & Wild Mushroom Pasta including Salt Spring mussels, or a Ploughman’s Platter and Artisan Cheese Plate showcasing Bison Tartar, Confit Duck Wings and Roasted Bone Marrow Gratin, just as a taste.

“The bistro stands for elevating the tried-and-tested favourites of signature Albertan fare. We add a dash of creativity and take inspiration from culinary styles across the world, to finish with a series of dishes that feel both signature Albertan and international in flavour; wholesome, with a chef flair; familiar yet interesting.”

And it's not only for the Whitehorn Bistro that the resort's culinary team are focusing on quality local meats and produce curated from Alberta's finest farms and ranches. Introduced for the current ski season, is a huge meat smoker that sits centre stage on the patio deck of the 'Banded Peak Base Camp', the resort's popular après destination with a sharp focus on serving locally-crafted brews and ales.

"We added the smoker to take our outside barbeque experience to the next level; it's a real feature on the patio, releasing all of these wonderful, fragrant, campfire cooking scents into the mountain air. I think we've taken the much-loved BBQ concept and put our own twist on it; enhancing it, but keeping the simplicity and social aspect of it," says David.

Giving a rich, signature depth of barbeque taste to the meat that's marinated and cooked slowly in the smoker, David's chef team are experimenting with their smoked meat flavour combinations, using cuts of brisket, whole sides of pork, fish, chicken – even making their own smoked salmon – to satisfy guests with a carnivorous appetite.

"We've also been working with various woods, to smoke with", David explains.

"For our pulled pork, we use a fruity wood, something like a cheery or maple to complement the flavours; for beef, a hickory wood, which is great for a stronger, marinated taste.

Nothing says Alberta like a beautifully smoked piece of meat," says David.

But it's not just culinary creations of the meat variety that the team are focusing on. What you might not expect from a resort that sits in the beef ranch and game farm capital of the world, is a traditional-style sushi and ramen bar – but at Lake Louise Ski Resort, you'll find just that.

Bringing the freshest tastes of Japan to Banff National Park, is Kuma Yama (translates from Japanese to 'Bear on the Mountain'), the resort's in-lodge sushi bar. Diners can expect international style tapas with a Japanese flavour – infused with some Canadian influence, to achieve that signature Albertan stamp that the food & beverage team strive for across the entire resort. Think ramen bowls, AAA Alberta beef tataki, nigiri, sashimi and custom Maki rolls.

And keeping with the commitment to food authenticity, is the collaborating with trained sushi chefs; David recently enlisting the expertise of a sushi specialist from Japan, for consultation – and to guarantee a taste that's true to the preparation styles, kitchen techniques, and sushi culture, found in Japan.

We source sustainable shrimp from farms in Alberta such as Rocky Mountain Farm in Strathmore, and our fish supplier delivers fresh seafood to our kitchens within 24 hours of being caught. We seek out local trout, salmon, and Canadian mussels to use in our sushi rolls and ramen bowls; we look to the local to offer a taste of the international. And we think this approach keeps our food offering fresh – literally – and allows us to serve up something that’s Albertan, while being authentically influenced from elsewhere. It’s looking at every corner of the globe for inspiration, and then bringing it home.”

And while looking to the world for food inspiration, the culinary team aren’t overlooking the ski day staples that have populated Canadian Rocky Mountain lodge menus for decades, and with good reason. The ever-popular hamburger is a high-profile favourite across the resort, but even this simple go-to hasn’t escaped the Lake Louise creative treatment, with each eatery offering a unique take on the trusty hamburger & fries crowd-pleaser.

At Whitehorn Bistro, you can expect your burger to be made up of a generous helping of chuck brisket and prime rib, while at Sawyer’s Nook – a French Alps’ style mountain bistro serving European-style, hearty stews and fondues –it’s a hand-ground brisket speciality. Yes, it’s safe to say that Lake Louise Ski Resort have the mighty hamburger – in all its various styles across the resort – covered, and during the ski season, the resort will prepare and serve about 35,000 of them – with each one made completely from scratch, by hand, in the resort’s kitchens.

So, where does this innovative chef team, with a taste for exploration and continually pushing boundaries, take the resort’s culinary identity from here?

“We’re always thinking, and working to conjure up the next concept, add something different, or look at the next food trend; how we can cook up something new, that keeps our guests interested and returning for more,” says David.

He continues: “I’d really love to shake up the traditional Albertan charcuterie board somehow or offer an in-resort butchery element to one of our kitchens, to take that spotlight on Alberta beef and pork to a new, exciting place.”

14. Lake Louise in the Community

We’re entirely at home here; embedded into mountain life, and the wild landscape. We’re at one with Lake Louise, stepping to the beat of this natural playground. We’re sustainably focused and conscientious. We’re sensitive to the world around us; protectors and advocates of our Rocky

Mountain region. And this means being active, considerate, passionate, and kind residents of this place.

Our community connections run deep. We are an active player in local life, and part of us showing our gratitude for where we live, work, and play is rolling our sleeves up and giving back to our community roots – whether that’s supporting educational initiatives, sponsoring promising local talent, raising funds for our hardworking first response teams, getting involved with mountain arts programs, or hosting events that protect or enrich the local wildlife, mountain culture, and surrounding Canadian Rocky Mountain communities.

We’re an avid supporter of the Canadian Rocky Public Schools’ active outdoor programs for kids, and an annual corporate sponsor of the world-renowned Banff Mountain Film & Book Festival, which returns to Banff Centre each November.

We also take great pride in our own charity or community events calendar, getting creative to add a diverse, fun, now signature series of Lake Louise fundraisers to our winter season. These include the ‘Iron Legs for Charity’ – where strong-legged contenders battle it out all in the name of a good cause, our annual ski-in-your-swimwear breast cancer fundraiser ‘Bikinis for Breast Cancer’, and an Australia Day event to raise money for the Australia wildfires. For a full list of the resort’s events, [see here](#).

15. Partners + Accolades

An award-winning terrain park, top 3 in the World winner in 2017, 2018, and 2019

#1 Ski Resort in Canada [World Ski Awards] 2013 – 2015 + 2017–2019, 2021

Been named one of the top three freestyle resorts in the world

2019 Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence

2018 World’s Best Family Ski Resort [Ski + Snowboard with Kids]

First launched in 2013, the World Ski Awards are the only global initiative to recognize, reward, and celebrate excellence in ski tourism. Often referred to as the ‘Oscars’ of the ski industry, votes are cast by both professionals working within the ski industry and by the ski tourism consumers from around the world. Lake Louise has been honored to hold the title of #1 Ski Resort in Canada for seven years, including the most recent award for 2021.

16. The Family Behind the Resort

Think of Lake Louise and think of The Lockes; it's a name that's become synonymous with skiing here. This is a year-round resort that attracts visitors from across the globe each year yet run like a small family business; we call it dedication, a hands-on approach, a love of the mountains, and a whole lot of heart.

The Locke connection to Lake Louise begins with Charlie, who as a young backcountry mountaineer, first made tracks in this untamed terrain in the 1960s. From those days, Locke was wonderstruck; a feeling that can only come from the power of Lake Louise's natural wilds. From there, the story of the Lockes in Lake Louise began, with Charlie and his family (also fervent skiers and boarders) leading the charge today.

Lake Louise has been a haven for skiers for over a century, with the Temple Lodge (that still exists today) first built in 1938, as a welcomed warm-up for die-hard winter enthusiasts exploring the backcountry on skis. The first mechanized lift was installed in 1953, the first humble addition and signifying a move closer to becoming the ski destination that exists today. Closely after, in 1959, came the gondola, on the front side of Whitehorn Mountain.

Charlie Locke would take over as chief of the resort in the 1970s, just as the local resorts of the (now) Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel and Chateau Lake Louise were hosting skiers on a trial basis.

Then, in the 80s, Charlie purchased the entire ski resort of Lake Louise; the Locke's mark on Lake Louise was to start. First, it was the construction of the Paradise Chair, introducing an extensive snowmaking system and adding new runs. Shortly after, in 1989, the Friendly Giant and Top of the World detachable quad chairlifts were added, and a new fixed grip quad at Ptarmigan was introduced in 1992. The resort was enhancing and offering more within the resort's skiable boundaries; the experience was being elevated decade by decade.

Improvements continued, with Charlie spearheading the resort forward. The Lodge of Ten Peaks was finished, standing beside Whiskey Jack Lodge, in 1998, and new high-speed quad chairs continued to arrive throughout the 90s and into the early 00s. A state-of-the-art six-person gondola made its debut in 2004, taking skiers and riders from the base to the top of Ptarmigan Chutes in minutes. In 2003, Charlie stepped away from the resort, with an ambition of entering into an adventure-filled, traveling retirement from the business. This wouldn't last long however, as the draw of Lake Louise pulled Charlie back home, seeing the Locke name return to Lake Louise in the year 2008.

Charlie is still heavily involved in the resort day-to-day, with his inspiration for Lake Louise, and the place of the resort within it, as strong as ever. A true family affair, Charlie is joined at the helm by his wife Louise, and the second generation of Lockes – Robin and Kimberley – to take the resort, and Lake Louise's skiing legacy, into its next chapter.

Inspired and forever touched by this place, the Locke's deep love for this land holds strong as the core of what we do, and how we do it – each and every day. To the Locke family, Lake Louise Ski Resort is personal. They look boldly into the future and embrace modern concepts of what a resort should offer, as they preserve the family traditions of years gone by – all the time protecting the wilds of Lake Louise.

17. Check into Backcountry Charm: Skoki Lodge

Step into the alluring purity of backcountry ski days gone by; an authentic taste of the rustic lifestyle forged by the pioneers of the Canadian Rockies, and all those that have followed in their ski tracks ever since.

This is the ever-charming Skoki Lodge. Established in 1930, it's log cabin luxury at its finest; it's a remote haven removed from it all, with stars, candles and kerosene lamps as night lights. It's a relaxing respite after a day of exploring this remote Rockies region, by hiking boot or by xc ski. It's the comforting aroma of a crackling wood-burning fireplace and a lodge-cooked, hearty dinner waiting to be served. It's the warmth of a heavy blanket after a day of exploration, and the happiness that comes from lodge essentials of wool socks, a glass of full-bodied wine, and a good book. It's the joy of simplicity, soaked in traditional cabin character.

Skoki Lodge – a National Historic Site – was Canada's original overnight ski chalet, with its coordinates mapped out from the expertise of Swiss Guides. With the growing popularity of glacier skiing and ski mountaineering in the 30s, it became the ideal stop-off for tourers embarking on a backcountry adventure; at that time, its kitchen supplies arriving by dogsled every three – four days. Notable visitors of those early days include English aristocrat, Sir Norman Watson, who ventured into Skoki, fell head over heels, and purchased a lifetime membership for just \$25.00.

Always intimate, with never more than twenty-two guests in-house, Skoki is steeped in the romance of where ski touring culture began in Banff National Park, where Royals and humble alpinists have

stayed under the same cedar roof. Welcoming guests in the summer and the winter, this charismatic hideaway is found at the end of an 11-kilometre trail from Lake Louise.

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