

Heli Boarding Adventures in British Columbia for an Unforgettable Backcountry Snowboarding Experience – Last Frontier Heliskiing

Last Frontier Heliskiing offers an exciting [heli boarding](#) experience for snowboarders who want to leave traditional ski resorts behind and explore the deep powder and remote mountain terrain of Northern British Columbia. Heli boarding combines helicopter access with backcountry snowboarding, allowing riders to reach untouched terrain that cannot be accessed by conventional lifts. With 10,100 square kilometres of exclusive heli skiing terrain, Last Frontier provides a huge environment for snowboarders to explore.



Unlike resort snowboarding, heli boarding is built around natural mountain terrain, fresh snow, and guided descents. Last Frontier specifically welcomes

snowboarders, and several of its guides are snowboarders themselves or are experienced in guiding both skiing and snowboarding. This helps the guides understand the terrain features that matter to riders, including traverses, runouts, transition zones, trees, and natural features.

1. What Is Heli Boarding?

Heli boarding is a form of backcountry snowboarding where a helicopter transports riders to remote mountain locations. Instead of taking chairlifts or gondolas to reach the top of a run, snowboarders fly directly into the wilderness and descend through natural terrain.

The concept gives riders access to powder fields, glaciers, alpine bowls, tree runs, and other areas far away from conventional ski resorts. Last Frontier describes its terrain as including high alpine areas, massive glaciers, extensive tree skiing, and natural features suitable for freeriding and snowboarding.

For experienced snowboarders, this creates an opportunity to ride long mountain lines without the crowds and lift infrastructure associated with traditional resorts.

2. Why Choose Heli Boarding in Northern British Columbia?

Northern British Columbia is home to a vast mountain wilderness with significant snowfall and diverse terrain. Last Frontier's operation covers the Coast and Skeena Mountain ranges and provides access to approximately 10,100 square kilometres of terrain.

The company reports more than 1,000 named runs, with some descents exceeding 2,000 vertical metres. Its terrain includes wide alpine areas, glaciers, natural glades, old-growth forests, and playful features such as rolls, drops, and pillows.

For snowboarders, this variety means a heli boarding trip does not have to be limited to one type of terrain. Guides can select areas according to the weather, snow conditions, and the group's riding ability.

3. Terrain Designed for Snowboarders

Snowboarding in deep powder requires different terrain considerations from skiing. Long flat sections and extended traverses can be particularly challenging for snowboarders because maintaining momentum is important.

Last Frontier's guides understand these requirements. The company specifically notes that snowboarders do not want unnecessary traverses or long runouts, and its guides look for terrain features that work well for riders. Several guides snowboard themselves, giving them firsthand experience with the demands of heli boarding.

The terrain can include open powder fields, tree runs, bowls, glades, and natural features. This allows riders to experience different styles of backcountry snowboarding during the same trip.

4. Powder Snowboarding Experience

One of the main attractions of heli boarding is the opportunity to ride powder away from crowded resort slopes.

Last Frontier's northern location receives substantial snowfall, and the company reports an annual snowfall range of approximately 15 to 25 metres across its terrain. The large tenure also provides guides with flexibility when choosing where to ride.

A powder-specific snowboard can help riders stay on top of deep snow. Last Frontier recommends boards with a longer nose and slightly tapered tail for powder because the design can provide additional flotation.

5. Choosing the Right Snowboard

The right board can make a significant difference during a heli boarding trip. Powder conditions require a board that can float efficiently while remaining maneuverable.

Last Frontier explains that tapered boards provide greater surface area toward the nose while allowing the tail to sink slightly into the snow. This helps keep the rider level and can reduce the effort required from the back leg.

However, bigger does not necessarily mean better. A board that is too long can be difficult to maneuver in tight terrain and variable snow. A directional powder board with appropriate taper and rocker can offer a useful combination of flotation and control.

Last Frontier also maintains a limited snowboard fleet for guests. Availability should be confirmed with the company before traveling, and guests need to bring their own snowboard boots.

6. Transition Zones and Mountain Awareness

Transition zones are an important consideration for heli boarders. These areas occur when steep terrain flattens before becoming steep again, creating sections where snowboarders need enough speed to maintain momentum.

Last Frontier advises snowboarders to anticipate these changes and follow their guide's instructions. In some situations, snowboarders may wait for skiers to establish a track through a transition area.

This highlights why heli boarding is not simply about riding untouched snow. Riders also need to understand mountain terrain, follow their guides, and make controlled decisions in changing backcountry conditions.

7. Small Groups and Professional Guides

Last Frontier organizes its regular heli skiing program around small groups of four guests and one guide. This approach allows guides to spend more time working with the group and selecting terrain appropriate for the conditions.

Professional guides are an important part of the experience. Last Frontier's regular tours include guide services from professionals certified through organizations including ACMG, UIAGM, or CSGA. Safety equipment such as avalanche transceivers, ABS airbags, radios, probes, and shovels is also included.

For snowboarders, experienced guides can also help identify terrain where the shape of the mountain works well with a board.

8. Heli Boarding Across Different Terrain

The size of Last Frontier's tenure provides opportunities to experience different mountain environments.

Depending on conditions, snowboarders can encounter:

- Wide-open alpine terrain
- Deep powder bowls
- Glaciers

- Tree skiing and riding
- Natural glades
- Rolls and drops
- Pillow features
- Long mountain descents

The company describes its terrain as spanning everything from high alpine peaks and massive glaciers to sprawling tree runs. Its current terrain information also highlights natural features that can appeal to freeriders and snowboarders.

This variety makes it possible to experience different styles of snowboarding during a multi-day trip.

9. Heli Boarding With Skiers

Heli boarding does not necessarily mean riding only with other snowboarders. Last Frontier welcomes mixed groups of skiers and snowboarders.

The company has specifically discussed how guides can manage mixed groups in the backcountry while accounting for the different needs of each discipline. In particular, transition zones may require additional awareness from snowboarders because of their limited rearward visibility.

With professional guiding and suitable terrain selection, skiers and snowboarders can share the same mountain environment while enjoying their preferred equipment and riding style.

10. Private Heli Boarding Options

For groups seeking a more exclusive experience, Last Frontier offers private heli skiing tours that can accommodate skiing or snowboarding. Private tours include a dedicated helicopter and guide, with unlimited vertical under the company's private-tour structure.

A private trip can provide additional flexibility for groups that want to establish their own pace and spend more time exploring terrain suited to their riding preferences.

11. Getting Ready for a Heli Boarding Adventure

Preparation is important before traveling into remote mountain terrain. Riders should be comfortable with powder snowboarding and capable of managing changing conditions.

Before a trip, snowboarders should consider:

- Bringing suitable snowboard boots.
- Choosing a powder-oriented board.
- Preparing appropriate winter clothing.
- Following all guide instructions.
- Learning how to use the provided safety equipment.
- Being prepared for long days in the mountains.
- Checking equipment availability before arrival.

Last Frontier provides avalanche safety equipment and training as part of its regular program, helping guests become familiar with the equipment used during the trip.

12. Why Experience Heli Boarding With Last Frontier?

Last Frontier Heliskiing has been operating in Northern British Columbia since 1996 and has developed its heli skiing and heli boarding programs around remote terrain, small groups, professional guides, and helicopter access.

Its combination of extensive terrain, significant snowfall, dedicated lodges, snowboard-friendly guiding, and varied mountain features makes heli boarding a central part of the overall experience.

For snowboarders who enjoy powder and want to experience mountain terrain beyond traditional resort boundaries, Last Frontier offers an opportunity to explore Northern BC from a different perspective.

Conclusion

Heli boarding offers snowboarders a unique way to experience deep powder, remote mountains, and natural backcountry terrain. Instead of following lift-served runs, riders can travel by helicopter into Northern British Columbia and descend through glaciers, alpine bowls, forests, glades, and other natural features.

Last Frontier Heliskiing combines this experience with a vast 10,100-square-kilometre terrain area, small guided groups, professional mountain guides, safety equipment, and snowboard-friendly terrain selection.

For riders looking to take their snowboarding beyond the resort and experience the freedom of the Canadian backcountry, heli boarding provides an unforgettable mountain adventure. For more visit us!