



SNOWCAT TOUR FAQs

The Homewood Snowcat Adventure is an all-day adventure taking Homewood's Snowcat to the top of Ellis Peak. The Snowcat will provide skiers and riders a chance to experience the Lake Tahoe backcountry in a whole new way with phenomenal views. There is over 1000 acres of backcountry terrain adding over 750 vertical feet to our resort. One run from the top of Ellis Peak to the bottom of Old Homewood Express is over 1800 vertical feet.

- **How much does the Cat skiing cost?**

A Private Buyout Snowcat Tour costs \$3,500 for up to 9 skiers/riders. This includes a full mountain lift ticket, complimentary VIP Parking spot, backcountry backpack with shovel beacon and probe, lunch, and all day guided tour weather and conditions permitting. Deposits in the full amount are due to hold reservations. All participants must purchase a lift ticket for \$99 or use their season pass in order to access the lifts.

- **Are there any age restrictions?**

Yes, you must be 18 years or older.

- **Are there guides that ski with us?**

Yes, there are highly trained guides that lead the cat skiing experience. Each tour will have a lead and tail guide.

- **What is a day on the cat like? Will we get to take breaks? What if I get tired and can't ski the whole day?**

We suggest you arrive at the West Shore Cafe no later than 8AM, allowing time to boot up and get demos if needed. You will check-in with your guide at 8:30 AM who will go through safety procedures and introduce you to your backcountry equipment. As soon as the lifts open at 9 AM you will head up to do a brief ability assessment then meet the cat at the top of the Old Homewood Express. Typically groups will get in 4-8 runs depending on the length of run and pace of the group. Some groups will opt to eat their lunch on the cat ride, or take a break to go down to Big Blue View Bar. The tour guides will go over the plan with your group. You may sit out a lap and meet back up with the group any time or if you get tired you are more than welcome to drop out early, however there are no refunds for doing so. The tour will wrap up around 4 PM.

- **What level skier or rider do I have to be to go on a tour? Do I have to have backcountry experience?**

Generally we recommend this tour only to more advanced skiers and riders. Private group tours for intermediate-level skiers/riders can be arranged. No previous backcountry experience is required. There are some technical traverses and some challenging terrain and the guides want to ensure the safety and pacing of the group. An ability assessment will be done at the beginning of the day and the guide will ultimately make the decision if they feel you meet the required ability level for the safety of you and the group. If not, you can take a lesson to improve your skills or use the lift ticket that is included to ski at the resort for the day.

- **Can skiers and boarders go together?**

Yes! Since it is a private buyout we allow our groups to be of mixed disciplines.



- **What kind of terrain does the snowcat access?**

There is a variety of terrain: the majority of Ellis Peak area consists of intermediate graded pitches mixed with some nice steeper areas, open faces, and bowls. Optional short hikes and some traverses will allow for longer runs and make more terrain variety available, but if you prefer not to do this please inform your guide.

- **Is there a cancellation policy?**

Yes, there is a \$1000 cancellation policy. All cancellations must be made 2 weeks in advance. Any cancellations made within 2 weeks of your reservation will be charged in full. There are no partial refunds for buyouts.

- **What if the snow or weather conditions are poor?**

Homewood Ski Patrol will assess the conditions and the weather forecasts daily. *Please keep in mind this call may not be made until the morning of the tour, we cannot guarantee advance notice.* Safety is our number one concern. If conditions are not safe or skiable we will make that call and make necessary adjustments to the schedule. We encourage you to book for a different date, but if this can't be facilitated we will issue a full refund.

- **What time do we have to be there in the morning? What if I'm late? Do I forfeit my spot?**

Please be at the West Shore Cafe & Inn by 8 AM. You are required to complete the safety training and riding assessment with one of the guides or ski patrol prior to joining in. There will be no discount for any missed time/laps.

- **What if I get hurt? Does ski patrol patrol Ellis Peak?**

Yes, ski patrol is on site at Homewood all day. We have snowmobiles and highly trained patrollers who are on call daily. Response time to anywhere on Ellis is very fast, guides are equipped with radios to contact patrol at all times.

- **Do I get to keep the backpack?**

No, use of the equipment is part of the experience however you do not get to keep the equipment. The professional grade snow safety kit and other backcountry accessories are available at Homewood Mountain Sports.

- **Do you have demo skis or board and do we receive any discounts?**

Yes, we have a great selection of ski demos available at a discount to cat tours. More details available when booking.

- **Is a helmet required?**

A helmet is not required but it is highly encouraged.

- **Can I bring alcohol or cannabis products in the cat or on the tour?**

No, however beer and alcohol can be purchased at any of the Homewood bars or through buyout upgrade packages.

- **How do I go about booking my reservation?**

Please contact the Guest Services office by calling 530-584-6800 or preferably by email at guestservices@skihomewood.com

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