

first tracks

CMH *first tracks*

Are first tracks the same for guys and girls?

With a scientifically blanced survey of one him and one her from a recent week with **CMH The Gothics** we found out.

Rachael Oakes-Ash she says ..

You're kidding yourself if you think only fit rich bastards heli ski, though you may want to save your pennies and get on the treadmill. James Bond fantasies aside, yes, you have to be rich but you won't be jumping from any chopper with skis strapped to your feet, leave that to the experts.

Canadian Mountain Holidays are the founders of commercial heli skiing and have been flying cashed up powder seekers to remote lodges since the late sixties.

Helicopters are the ultimate big boys toy and I expect a lodge full of males looking for boasting rights when I arrive at CMH's The Gothics lodge in British Columbia. I'm not disappointed.

It's the ultimate boys trip, seven days of fresh untracked powder only accessible by chopper, four meals a day and a bar open all night.

Ski males have a tendency to overtalk their prowess. Heli skiing sorts the men from the boys and if you can't take a dunking in powder then don't come because you will be dunked. Hell, you may even be overtaken on the run down by a woman.

But if you're looking for a wife, go to Miami. Women are well outnumbered in these parts, which is good for single chicks like me but not those with the Y chromosome.

What you will get is the best week of your life, new friends from around the globe for life and an inability to return to resort skiing ever again. Trust me, I'm a woman.

Patrick Vernon he says:

Forget three-hour hikes to get to the good stuff, just jump into CMH's jet-powered Bell 212 chopper and fly to the top. If you have the cash, and you will need it, seven days of heli hedonism at The Gothics is the way to spend it.

Don't worry about the x to y ratio; sex will be the last thing on your mind. If off-piste skiing is your thing then this trip's your ultimate fantasy. The sensual feeling achieved by consuming virgin snow saturated my brain with endorphins and my fellow heli hounds literally screamed out in pleasure whilst they tore down an untracked hill. No girls needed for that.

Heli skiing puts you in a time warp, a whole world away from the office. Out of the grasp of blackberry signals a chalet filled with corporate types seemed to care more for the quality of the overnight snowfall than the fate of Bear Stearns.

From early morning group stretching and ducking down to avoid being bowled over by the intense blowback of the chopper, eating an express lunch out on the hill to boasting your vertical feet in the hot tub and drinking fine wine over dinner with your new found friends, just don't expect a dull moment to your day.

And this excludes the obvious. As soon as one mountain became tracked, we simply flew to another. The CMH experience is unique, exclusive and envy inducing and I want more. The motto here is - if you can, then do.

Saving my pennies for next year, donations welcome. ♡

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