



**SWS Mountain Guides**  
110 Alpine St. Mt. Shasta, CA 96067  
[info@swsmountainguides.com](mailto:info@swsmountainguides.com)  
Phone: 888.797.6867  
**Diamond Lake Resort**  
350 Resort Dr. Diamond Lake, OR 97731  
Reservations: 541-793-3333

[catskimtbailey.com](http://catskimtbailey.com) / [swsmountainguides.com](http://swsmountainguides.com)

## Mt Bailey Cat Skiing FAQ

### **Preparation:**

#### **How to make a Reservation?**

Contact Diamond Lake Resort / Bailey Cat Skiing – Call (541) 793-3333 or inquire online at: [Cat Ski Mt Bailey](#)

#### **Where are you located?**

Diamond Lake Resort 350 Resort Dr, Diamond Lake, OR, 97731– just north of Crater Lake at the base of Mt Bailey. [Map Link:](#)

#### **What is the skiing & riding terrain like?**

Our varied terrain allows us to pick and choose runs to satisfy everyone's desires. Current snow conditions will dictate a lot of where we ski. We have what we consider to be the perfect cat skiing terrain. We have a variety of aspects that allow us to ski fresh powder for days after the last storm. A lot of our terrain is above treeline, offering big, open faces to cruise and a good selection of widely spaced pine forests that keep snow shaded and soft for days and even weeks on end. Snow conditions will dictate where we can ski on a day-to-day basis. This is actual backcountry skiing, and we are at the will of nature. Typically, after a big storm, we stick to safer aspects (slightly lower angle faces, shorter steeps, and tree lines). This is also typically when powder skiing is the best. After the snow has a chance to settle for a few days, we can start working our way into steeper, bigger lines.

#### **Am I ready for backcountry snowcat skiing?**

We ask that all guests be able to ski or ride at an advanced-intermediate level to expert level depending on your group or terrain availability. Our vast terrain offers an array of experiences allowing our knowledgeable staff to choose terrain that fits each group's preferences. If you are concerned about your ability, please call us to ask any specific questions you may have.

#### **Are snowboarders welcome?**

Absolutely! Please be sure to bring a powder or all mountain board.

#### **Do you have steeps, cliffs, or big bowls?**

Yes! However, avalanche conditions dictate where we can ski on any given day. We play it safe and only push into the steeper stuff when the conditions allow. Even on less stable days, we find plenty of



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fun terrain that even the most ardent chargers will enjoy. If you want to ski the steep and the deep, we recommend contacting us about a trip later in spring season when we can get into more vertical terrain.

### **Are there any age restrictions?**

Yes and no. If you are planning on coming by you or your group without a legal guarding, you must be 18 years old. If you are accompanying your child under the age of 18 and are confident in their abilities as an advanced intermediate skier that has experience in skiing deep powder snow, then we have no age restrictions. We've had kids who grew up skiing and are absolute rippers that had no problem skiing our terrain. Please use your parental judgement and call us if you have any questions or concerns.

### **What if I have a special diet for medical needs?**

Lunch is prepared by the Diamond Lake Resort so we can make it to order and can accommodate most allergies or intolerances on the hill. If you have any concerns or special dietary needs, please contact us before your trip.

### **Snowcat Skiing Day:**

#### **What Time do we need to be there?**

We ask our guests to please be at our Diamond Lake Resort Lodge by no later than 7:00 am. Diamond Lake Resort will be open for breakfast while we will do our safety briefing. A short drive (8 miles) to the trailhead and load the snowcat be on our way up the mountain by 9:00 am.

#### **What if there is storm the day of the trip?**

Hopefully you're excited about it! We live for fresh snow! We will be skiing! You are still expected to be there at 7 am, so please plan accordingly please see our [Cat Ski Mt Bailey](#)

#### **How many runs can I expect for the day?**

You can normally expect 4-5 runs in a day, each run is between 1,500 and 2,000 vertical feet, expect 7,000 to 12,000 vertical feet per day. Depending on the conditions and your groups abilities. Once we leave our trailhead parking lot in the cat, we are skiing our first run within 45-60 minutes.



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### **What should I bring for a day of Powder Skiing?**

You will need to bring proper clothing, dress warm, (see equipment list) along with your own ski or snowboard equipment. We highly recommend fat powder skis (90mm+ and rockered) or powder / all mountain snowboards. Ski poles with large powder baskets are helpful. We will provide you with an avalanche beacon, shovel and probe but feel free to bring your own avalanche gear including avalanche airbags. Ski Helmets are always required. Space inside our snowcats is limited, so we ask that you please limit what you bring to one small sized day pack. Please bring your own sunscreen, a bottle of water and some snacks. We provide a full lunch.

### **How should I dress for my day of Snowcat skiing?**

Our terrain is mostly at 6,000 to 8,000 feet. It can get cold. Dress as you would for a full day of skiing on a cold day at a ski resort. Wearing several layers of insulating garments underneath a shell allows you to adjust your clothes to changing weather conditions. During the cat ride, our snowcats keep you out of the elements when moving to and from each pickup to drop off. For those who want to bring a pack to store your layers or other gear, we ask you to pack small and light. Our cats have room to stash items, but space is limited.

### **Do I need fat skis?**

YES! Fat powder skis are HIGHLY recommended as it makes your day that much more enjoyable. We recommend skis that are 90mm in the waist or larger. Rocker designs are also highly encouraged. For snowboards, please bring the appropriate length backcountry, powder or larger all mountain board and mount your bindings as far back as you feel comfortable with. Recommend for Rentals: [Berg's Ski & Snowboard Shop in Eugene](#) or your local ski shop

### **What is the weather typically like?**

Southern Oregon is known for lots of storm cycles followed by blue skies, but it isn't always that way, especially at 8,000 ft. Mt Bailey does get some of the best and deepest snows in Oregon. We do have tons of bluebird days, but conditions can change at any time. Weather can change quickly and without notice so please be prepared and bring ample layers. A spare set of gloves and goggles is never a bad idea.

### **How is the drive from Medford, Bend or Eugene?**

During storms it can be difficult. Roads do sometimes close in Southern Oregon, with dry road conditions, the drive takes approximately 2 hours. Bad weather can easily add another hour, give us a call if you are having issues. Please see our [Links page](#) for recommendations on accommodations.



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### **What about Road Closures? \*\*\***

We are at the mercy of Nature and ODOT, and occasionally highways do close we recommend staying in Diamond Lake Resort the night before your trip if there has been significant snowfall the week prior. **YOU ARE STILL EXPECTED TO BE THERE AT 7AM!** If all roads are closed, we won't be running trips that day and will issue you a refund or rebook your trip at no cost. Please see [Cat Ski Mt Bailey](http://catskimtbailey.com) for more info

### **Are there Restroom facilities?**

No. We do have a Porta-John at our base area, but once we're up on the hill, we're out in the backcountry. For the guests, privacy can always be created with the proper respect & trees. For more dire emergencies, we carry self-contained human waste (WAG) bags.

### **How can I have someone contact me while I am skiing or riding?**

Telephone, cellular and 3/4G service is very spotty at both our base area and on the mountain. In the event of an emergency, Call: Diamond Lake Resort and we will try our best to get in contact with you as quickly as possible.

## **General Information:**

### **Why Mt Bailey Snowcats?**

As the oldest snowcat skiing operation in the country, we can't say enough about our terrain at Mt Bailey Snowcats. With amazing views and a variety of aspects, we're sure to have something for everyone, intermediate to expert. High elevations (8,000ft+) keep the snow cold and light, and a variety of aspects allow us to find quality snow, many days after a good storm. Our diverse group of SWS professional guides is one of our biggest assets with over 40 years of backcountry experience our knowledge and dedication to fantastic backcountry skiing and boarding ensure a safe and adventurous experience for you and your group. If you're looking for the real tour of unfamiliar and awesome terrain, by local and friendly guides, then the Mt Bailey Snowcat experience is for you.

### **Does Mt Bailey Snowcats have a minimum guest policy?**

NO, all our snowcat skiing / riding are private, we will run a snowcat trip on Mt Bailey with 1-10 guests and 2 guides plus our snowcat driver.



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### **What is your payment policy?**

We require 100% payment in full at the time of booking. To split payment on separate cards for full cat reservations, please call Diamond Lake Resort @ 541-794-3333

### **What is your cancellation and refund policy?**

We recommend purchasing trip insurance for your trip through [Global Rescue & Signature Travel Insurance](#) or any number of places that sell it though (even Costco sells travel insurance). Keep in mind that some insurance policies may require you to purchase coverage within a limited number of days from making your reservation. Travel insurance can range in pricing based on what you want covered, and for what reasons. If we are unable to ski for factors beyond our control or due to safety considerations, we will re-schedule or an in-house credit will be issued. For a complete refund and cancellation policy contact: [Cat Ski Mt Bailey](#)

### **Do provide ski or snowboard rentals?**

No, we require you to bring your own ski or snowboard gear. Recommend for Rentals: [Berg's Ski & Snowboard Shop in Eugene](#) or your local ski shop.

### **How big can the group be?**

You will be skiing in groups of 1 to 10 guests with 2 on-snow guides per trip (plus a cat operator driver)

### **What is the best time to come snowcat skiing?**

Most seasons, prime conditions start in early January and go all the way through March. Some years we can run trips well into April. While skiing during or directly after a storm often offers the deepest snow conditions, it also increases the avalanche hazard and limits the steepness of the terrain we can ski. As the snow settles, a day to a week or so after a big storm, snow conditions begin to stabilize, and we start working our way into our steeper aspects. We are at the mercy of nature, so please check our current snow report or give us a call to inquire about current conditions.