

What does 'ski-in, ski-out' really mean?

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By Henry Schlee

When you are booking a vacation rental property in a ski resort there is an indisputable magic to the phrase 'ski-in, ski-out'. It conjures up images of a loving restored log cabin on the edge of an immaculately groomed piste, of watching fellow skiers carve elegant turns from your living room window, with the occasional spray of snow against the window pane. It suggests stepping out of your front door, clicking on your skis and gliding down the slopes to the lift. You may anticipate avoiding the crush of people waiting for a lukewarm and soggy pizza in the mountain restaurant by using your own chalet as ... a mountain restaurant. And, perhaps best of all, you may look forward to skiing back to your own front door at the end of the afternoon and forgetting about trudging along paths and the indignity of crowded shuttle buses.

The reality may be very different. Knowing the power of the term 'ski-in, ski-out', vacation rental providers are quick to use it to cover a myriad of different arrangements and a range of proximity to the slopes. Here are a few things to watch out for:

The 'ski-in ski-out' home that is really 'hiking distance' to the slopes. The economics of housing development on mountainsides mean that when an area is developed next to the slopes, only some of it is actually next to the slopes. There is almost certain to be a hinterland of properties that have access to the slopes...via pathways, steps, roadways etc. The pathways may be short, or they may not. Make sure you ask exactly how far a particular property is from the actual ski slope, and what the path is actually like: is it a level walkway or a series of dozens of icy steps? The ski-in, ski-out home that is reached via an ungroomed trail through the woods. When these homes were originally built the developers cut a trail to them so that they could be sold as 'ski-in, ski-out'. However these trails are very often too narrow for a snow-cat to use; furthermore, they are very likely private property and the lift company which grooms the slopes may have no responsibility for them. Only if the owners of properties served by that trail get together and make private arrangements for grooming will you find the trail in good enough condition for safe usage. The ski-in, ski-out home that offers good ski-in, ski-out access...if you've chosen one of the 2 weeks of the year when the snow is down to that level. Many resorts that offer ski accommodation are down in the valley, and global warming has led to a raising of the snow line and a decline in the number of weeks that snow is on the ground at given elevations. Finally, there is the nirvana: a ski-in, ski-out home that is what it says it is: situated right on

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slopes which are snow-covered throughout the season and groomed by the lift company's snowcats daily. This is what is often now referred to as 'true ski-in, ski-out'. However, you may find that because this real estate is so scarce it is also very pricey, or alternatively it is developed with rather high-density and charmless accommodation. The Aspens in Whistler is a good example of this. The situation is perfect, right on the slopes, but the accommodation is mostly fairly spartan.

The lesson here is simple. When you are booking ski-in, ski-out accommodation, make sure that you know exactly what you are getting. If you are booking a resort such as Whistler, where there are many gradations of ski-in, ski-out accommodation, consult one of the local property management companies like Holiday Whistler, and question them very closely on its exact location before you book your Whistler ski accommodation.

Henry Schlee is the owner of

Holiday Whistler

and can offer expert advice on ski-in, ski-out and other

types of rental property in Whistler.

Getting Your Used Jet Ski Ready For Sale

By Low Jeremy

Whether you want your used jet ski to be auctioned on Ebay or special jet ski selling sites, be listed on the yellow pages or newspapers, or be posted somewhere else, there is one common thing you should do: get it ready for the next owner.

Since selling a used jet ski is like selling a used car, knowing how to make your jet ski look flashy on the outside and perform superbly on waters is your task. So to better give you the idea on how to get your used jet ski ready for sale, here are the things you can do:

·Remove all the dents and scratches

There are a number of commercially available compounds that will effectively remove all the impurities of the exterior of your jet ski. These can be purchased on hardware store or over the internet. A couple of bucks to spend on these items will certainly increase the value of your used jet ski at the same time, would attract more potential buyers. The idea is this: buyers would want to buy used jet ski that looks brand new. So give them what they want.

·Remove rusts and any sign of corrosion

After solving the exterior, move on the more delicate and major problem to solve: you must now clear your jet ski from rusts and any sign of corrosion. Again, there are several commercially available rust removal compounds that can be purchased on hardware stores and the internet. It should be noted

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that most jet skis are made from rustproof material but just a preventive measure, make sure you check and remove all these.

- Research on the actual price of your jet ski

There are sites that provide information on the actual market value of your jet ski. But if you cannot find one, you can check out the site that sell used jet ski. You can base your price from them.

- Have the papers ready.

If you happen to have some receipts for your purchase of you jet ski still kept, you can use them and present to them to the buyer. In this way, your buyer will get informed in the different modifications, repairs, and replacements made on the jet ski.

Finally, you should remember that keeping your jet ski in its perfect shape from day one would lessen the trouble of having it fixed during when the time comes when you have to sell it.

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