SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTOR COURSE

The ultimate winter season experience in one of Canada’s liveliest ski towns; combining structured instructor training with personal development to take your snowboarding to the very highest level.
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Length  11 weeks
Location  Banff, Alberta, Canada
Dates  10 Jan 2015 – 28 Mar 2015
       9 Jan 2016 – 27 Apr 2016
Prices  From £6,995 GBP / $11,890 CAD

WHAT?
The ultimate snowboard season experience in one of Canada’s liveliest ski towns; combining structured instructor training with personal development to take your snowboarding to the very highest level.

WHY?
Our 11 week snowboard instructor course is the only one in Banff that provides training in all of the “Big 3” resorts – Sunshine Village, Lake Louise & Norquay! An unbeatable package, excellent accommodation and a massive crew of fellow Nonstoppers will make this the season of a lifetime.

There’s so many things that make this course special and set us apart from the rest, here’s a couple of the main ones:

- Being out in Banff for 11 weeks give you the chance to get a real taste of authentic Canadian mountain life – and our MORE program will help you make the most of it! With 25 credits included in the course price, you will have the opportunity to build your own custom program of mountain activities, weekend trips to other resorts, and once in a lifetime experiences.

- We recognise that not everyone wants to become an instructor, and it is with this in mind that we have developed our All Mountain Pro program, which you can choose to take after your Level 1 qualification. This is the perfect way to focus on all of the fun parts of snowboarding and make the most of the incredible terrain, all whilst improving your technique. Alternatively, you can choose to do your Level 2 Instructor qualification, which will see you have the opportunity to be qualified to teach across the world. Either way, you will come out the other side with hugely improved ability and sky-high confidence!

"Unbelievable, unforgettable, have made so many friends that will never be forgotten and memories that will be with me forever."

Matt Marsden, 11 Week Banff Course
WHO’S IT FOR?

This course is primarily aimed at people on a gap year looking to spend the ultimate season in the mountains – Alberta’s drinking age is 18 which tends to influence some people’s decisions but we always have 25 – 35 yr olds join us on the course that are simply drawn to Banff for it’s awesome all-round reputation.

People come from all over the world to take part so it tends to be a fun mix of nationalities and backgrounds. Most participants are travelling alone and enjoy the readymade social group of likeminded skiers and snowboarders looking to have a good time.

“The most fun, bad*ss, and overall successful times I’ve ever had. Learned everything from the best instructors while still having a blast. An unreal experience. It can only be described as Non-stop because it truly doesn’t stop amazing you.”

Kash Irons, 11 Week Banff Course

THE RESORT

Banff is arguably Canada’s most famous destination; set in a National Park it is a truly spectacular place to visit both in the winter and the summer. It’s a common misconception that Banff itself is a resort but it’s actually a bustling mountain town in the Bow Valley that has access to 3 different resorts in the Canadian Rockies; Mt Norquay, Sunshine Village and Lake Louise. When you combine these resorts together you get the largest skiable terrain in North America – in other words it is massive!

We are the only company that is able to train our instructors at all 3 of the resorts Banff has to offer so we give you the full experience. Each of them offers something very different so we feel it’s essential you get to experience all 3.

“Great experience. Met loads of people from all around the world! Would recommend the course to anyone and the snow is amazing in Canada. Much better snow than most people can say they’ve ridden. And not to forget the nightlife!”

Ben Openshaw, 11 Week Banff Course

Mt Norquay overlooks Banff and is the smallest of the three resorts but is known as a local’s favourite on powder days as there are never any crowds there. Norquay boasts some super steep terrain as well as perfect groomers for working on instructor techniques, which is why one of your CASI exams will be held here. Another awesome thing about this mountain is the night riding – you can ride the park here every Friday night which is always fun! Lots of past Nonstoppers work as instructors here so there are loads of friendly faces!
Sunshine Village is a twenty minute bus drive from Banff and made up of three separate mountains so you can follow the sun round all day... hence the name! As well as often getting heaps of sunshine, the majority of storms in this area pass through here so it gets a phenomenal amount of light fluffy powder... good times! As well as having heaps of wide open groomers, Sunshine Village has some of the most challenging terrain in Canada and is home to the notorious 'Delirium Dive', an intimidating huge bowl with obscenely steep faces... not one for the feint hearted!

Lake Louise is a 45 minute bus ride from Banff so perhaps not something you’d want to do everyday – but the resort itself is our personal favourite of the three so it’s worth the wait! The back bowls here are absolutely incredible; wide open steeps that are perfect to work your newfound ability and confidence, and there is some epic tree riding too. A great all rounder!

One thing all three resorts have in common is they all have amazing terrain parks, so if freestyle is your thing or you want it to be... Banff is an ideal destination.

Moving away from the snow & the mountains, Banff has earned itself a reputation as THE party town in Canada; there are numerous bars to get the night started as well as several clubs where you can keep the night going until the early hours. Due to the fact the drinking age is only 18 in Alberta, Banff is a super popular choice for anyone on a gap year - not that alcohol should be a deciding factor but it’s always nice to enjoy a beer after a day on the slopes!

COACHING

We will have arranged the snowboard groups according to the information you’ve provided us in a pre-trip survey about your previous snowboard experience and general attitude. You’ll be introduced to your first week’s instructor who will quickly start analysing your technique and start helping you to achieve your goals.

THE NONSTOP PROS

We are fortunate to have some of the most experienced local snowboard instructors work with us from day one – they have been instrumental in designing our course so that you get the most out of your time with them and feel ready for the level 1 exam. Our lead snowboard pro, Marc Tanquay, was actually responsible for designing the CASI level 4 exam... you simply can’t get more experience! All of instructors have a minimum of their CASI level 3 but many actually have reached the ultimate goals of their level 4; beyond their technical knowhow we have handpicked them for their charisma and teaching skills. We constantly get feedback from our clients that our instructors were the best thing about the course.

“Amazing. 100% easily the best thing I have ever done. An unbelievable experience snowboarding wise, best snow I have ever ridden and the instructors were some of the most awesome people I have ever met. Banff is a pretty sweet town to live in. ”

Dan Boardman, 11 Week Banff Course
Whether or not you’re looking to become an instructor, we’ll take your snowboarding ability to the highest level with over 220 hours of high level instruction, with 4 full days of instruction each week. This split of 4 days on/3 days off gives you the chance to spend the weekend participating in our program of extra activities. Our pros are exclusively dedicated to Nonstop’s program and are a joy to be around! As well as fully preparing you for your level 1 and 2 instructor exams, they’ll take you to the very best parts of the mountain every day so that you can build your technique and enthusiasm for the sport you love!

Each week you will have the opportunity to enjoy the experience of a different instructor. In our experience, we have found that people benefit highly from the insight of more than just one instructor. For those people who are planning on forging an instructor career for themselves, this also provides exposure to a number of different instruction styles that will help you develop your own personal style.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

On the 11 Week Course, everyone will work towards their Level 1 CASI qualification. After this, participants have the opportunity to continue with their instructor training and go for their Level 2 qualification.

The CASI qualification is recognised all over the world. With level 1 it is only really accepted to teach in Canada, this does not mean that people don’t get jobs elsewhere but it is difficult. The Level 2 is more widely accepted and we have had many clients teach in different parts of the southern hemisphere over our summer periods and work in different resorts in Europe, e.g. Spain, Austria, Italy etc.

As well as the CASI Level 1 and 2 qualifications, it is also possible to boost your CV with a number of additional qualifications during the course, including:

- CSCF Entry Level Race Coach
- Snow Park Certification Level 1
- Avalanche Safety Training Level 1

**VISAS**

It is only necessary to arrange a working visa if you intend to work outside of your country/territory of origin.

You *do not* need to arrange a visa if:

- You are taking part in an instructor course but don’t intend to work that season
- You have a British or European passport and intend to work in Europe

If you do intend to work in a foreign country, you need to arrange a work visa with that country before you make your travel plans.
SUPPORT

As part of this course we offer a careers seminar. These are hosted by the Technical Director in your resort and often the local Ski School Director, plus past Nonstop clients come along to give their advice on how they got their jobs.

You’ll get a first hand and realistic view of working as an instructor and you’ll learn how to apply for an instructor job and get yourself known. You’ll also get advice on visa applications, especially for those over 30, who need to be sponsored by a ski school.

At the end of the 11 Week Course you’ll receive an extremely helpful manual that is a great introduction and will help you to get started in the ski or snowboard industry. It includes:

- Where to work | Where your qualifications are recognised
- Your dream job | Advice on applying for instructor positions
- Visas, costs & pay | Advice on securing visas, securing work and rates of pay
- Case studies | Ex-seasonnaires give advice on working as an instructor
- Winter sports schools | Contact details of over 60 ski schools in 8 different countries
- Sample C.V. | Preparing an effective resume

WEEKENDS

Living in the mountains is an amazing experience and, with a little guidance, snowboarding is only the beginning! As part of your package you’ll get access to More - a program packed with over 15 extra training courses and weekend activities. You’ll have the opportunity to experience once in a lifetime activities

Here are a few that you can choose from:

- Avalanche Safety Training - AST level 1 (18 credits approx.)
- Cat-Skiing/Snowboarding, including professional photos (43 credits approx.)
- Revelstoke weekend trip, including lift pass, accommodation & transport (30 credits approx.)
- Kicking Horse weekend trip (10 credits approx.)
- Snowmobiling (28 credits approx.)
- Johnston Canyon ice walk (7 credits.)
- Dog sledding (16 credits approx.)
- NHL hockey night (12 credits approx.)
- Canmore hockey night (2 credits approx.)
- Norquay night skiing/riding (free with season pass)
- Ride Park and Pipe at Calgary Olympic Park (12 credits approx.)
• A seasons yoga classes (8 credits approx.)
• Climbing at Sally Borden (3 credits approx.)
• Tubing at Norquay (2 credits approx.)

NB All activities are based on last winter’s prices; they may change if our suppliers change their prices.

Check out these activities in the downloadable More Brochure.

Plus our local course host will organise plenty of social activities, like trips to watch ice-hockey, playing street hockey, quiz nights, night snowboarding and even try curling.

“One of the best things I have ever done and I couldn’t have asked for better instructors. I’ve had some real adventures and ridden slopes I didn’t know were possible. It’s opened my eyes to so many possibilities for the future and given me so much more skill than I had imagined.”

James Armstrong, 11 Week Banff Course

ACCOMMODATION

We have a few different accommodation options for this course, staying at Irwin’s Mountain Inn or the nearby Red Carpet Inn. You have the choice of either a twin or a single room in Irwin’s; both options have queen-sized beds and an en-suite – or if your budget is a little tighter, you can go for the triple room option at the Red Carpet Inn. The vast majority of people opt for a twin room – we pair likeminded people together based on responses to some simple questionnaires. It’s a basic system but it works really well!

Both Irwin’s and the Red Carpet are on Banff Avenue, the main street in Banff, and are under a ten minute walk from all the action of downtown Banff.
MEALS

All meals are served at El Toro’s which is attached to Irwin’s Mountain Inn – we include 5 breakfasts and 4 evening meals per week. The dinners coincide with the days that you’ll be training with our pros, and on your days off you are free to sample the many amazing restaurants around town.
ITINERARY

The first five weeks of the course are spent focusing on improving your personal snowboarding and developing your teaching skills so that you are ready for the Level 1 assessment which is held in Week 5. At this time, each participant enjoys a private lesson with a Nonstop coach, which is an ideal opportunity to discuss your aims for the remainder of the course and receive advice on the most suitable route to take.

WEEK 1  Shopping & Exploring! - Settle in, recover from jet lag and get your equipment sorted. We arrange a boot fitting seminar as well as offer professional advice on buying equipment. The program outline is explained and everyone’s goals are assessed. We take it slow for the first few lessons and let people find their snow legs before starting with some snowboard improvement coaching.

WEEK 2  Exploring your new mountain, working on ironing our bad habits, and adjusting your stance. Developing an understanding of instructor techniques and preparing for the level 1 course.

WEEK 3  Level 1 prep continues and all of the course options are explained. Including the level 2 instructor’s certificate, entry level coach’s course, snow park course, and AMP program. Private lessons held for half the group.

WEEK 4  Tackling off-piste conditions and learning more teaching techniques and lots of practise teaching each other in simulated lessons – it’s all in aid of level 1! Private lessons held for rest of the group.

WEEK 5  Level 1 CASI Exam (3 days). Hopefully followed by celebrations!

Participants can then either continue to focus on their instructor qualifications, in which case they will do the Level 2 training and assessment, which takes place at the end of the course. Or, alternatively they can focus on their own personal improvement and decide to take the All Mountain Pro course.

**Instructor Training:** Each week participants will expand on their teaching and skills development from their level 1. The level 2 standard has more emphasis on teaching skills so more on-snow time is spent developing practical teaching strategies.

**AMP:** ‘All Mountain Pro’ develops all-mountain riding and each week a portion of the AMP criteria will be emphasised. There is no emphasis on developing teaching skills - AMP is all about making the most of the conditions and exploring the whole mountain well.
**WEEK 6**  
**Instructor training:** On-going development in level 2 specific teaching, plus dynamic riding and carving skills.  
**AMP:** Controlled speed and carving skills

**WEEK 7**  
**Instructor Training:** Level 2 specific teaching, off piste, moguls and short radius turns  
**AMP:** Off piste, moguls and short radius

**WEEK 8**  
**Instructor training:** Level 2 specific teaching and all mountain skills.  
**AMP:** All mountain skills and basic freestyle moves.

**WEEK 9**  
**Instructor training:** Level 2 specific teaching and demonstration technique.  
**AMP:** Trees and drop offs.  
Private lessons for half the group.

**WEEK 10**  
**Instructor Training:** Level 2 condensed course week  
**AMP:** ‘Getting air’ and tight lines.  
Private lessons for half the group.

**WEEK 11**  
**AMP:** Evaluation  
**Instructor training:** Level 2 CASI Exam (4/5 days).

**POST COURSE**  
As so many of our participants choose to stay on after the course we now also offer the chance to take the level 2 exam after the course has finished. This option enables our clients to use the full 11 weeks for preparation, and then take the level 2 course outside of the course meaning that they don't have to forfeit a week of Nonstop coaching that they’ve already paid for.

Alternatively, many people just stay on to enjoy the sun, the spring snowboarding, and hang out with their friends after the course. (Your season pass is valid until the resort closes).
WHAT’S INCLUDED?

As you can probably tell, there's an awful lot involved in your 11 Week Course, and it can be pretty tricky to keep track of what is and isn’t included when doing your research. With that in mind, we’ve put together a handy list of what to expect as part of the 11 Week Course package:

COACHING
• Full season lift pass (for Lake Louise, Sunshine Village & Norquay!)
• 11 consecutive weeks of training (with no breaks)
• 1-to-1 private coaching sessions
• Level 1 CASI examination fees
• Training for CASI Level 2 Instructor Certification
• Opportunity to take AMP (All Mountain Pro)
• Video analysis
• Weekly technical sessions
• Work experience in local ski school
• Instructor career advice
• Lift queue priority during lessons

EVENINGS & WEEKENDS
• Access to the ‘More’ Program (see our ‘Extra Activities’ page)
• Weekly social events
• Farewell party

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS
• Accommodation
• Course centre
• Dinners
• Continental breakfast
• Nonstop hoodie
• Staffing & Transport
• Airport transfers (if coinciding with group flights)
• Season bus pass
• 24 hour staffing from knowledgeable local hosts
• Discounts
• 10% Discount on Snowboard Equipment

OPTIONAL EXTRAS
• Flights
• Additional ‘More’ Credits
• Cat-skiing
• Evening classes

NOT INCLUDED
• Travel insurance
• Snowboard equipment
• Lunches and weekend meals
• Spending money
• Additional instructor level exam fees
If you need to buy new equipment for your course we recommend that you purchase it in resort. You’ll get the best advice - specific to local conditions, you’ll be covered by the local warranty if anything breaks, you’ll make friends with the locals, and lastly, you won’t have to travel with it on your outbound trip. Additionally, in many of the shops, Nonstoppers will receive a discount of usually around 10-15%.

“This place has, without a shadow of a doubt, changed me. I’m so much happier now then when I came here, thank you Nonstop!”

Andrew White, 11 Week Banff Course

PRICES

The most current dates and price options for this course are on our website. The exact price of your place is determined by the season, date chosen and type of room or accommodation you choose. On the course page (http://www.nonstopsnow.com/courses/11-week-snowboard-instructor-course-banff/) you’ll see a ‘DATES & PRICES’ box under the yellow bar that you used to download this Fact File. Here you can view our course dates, accommodation options and package prices.

WHEN AND HOW TO BOOK

Our experience and expertise means our courses are the most popular on the market and fill up every year, so be sure not to leave it too late to get in touch! Typically, by the time the Northern Hemisphere ski shows come around in October this course is down to the very last few spaces; and if you’re particularly interested in our single or quad room options, these start to become really limited towards the end of August.

Our resort suppliers provide us with preferable rates for lift tickets that we book early so the earlier you put your deposit down the cheaper the course price will be.

We take bookings in Canadian dollars and British pounds. To book your place a deposit of $550 / £350 is required along with a completed booking form. The remaining balance can be paid in two equal instalments four months and two months before your trip.

We accept internet transfers (account details available on request), debit cards (0% charge), and credit cards (2% surcharge).
QUESTIONS

Please contact us for any further information you need. We love Banff, and love talking about it, so please get in touch!

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