



WINTER CLASSIC

Fernie, B.C., is known for its legendary powder. But you don't have to be a seasoned skier to enjoy all that this Rockies town has to offer.

DAY 1

Pick up a rental car at Cranbrook's international airport. From there, it's easy highway driving through big-mountain country to Fernie. After checking in to your hotel, head to **Cirque Restaurant & Bar (1)** at **Lizard Creek Lodge** to soak up the après-ski atmosphere beside the grand river-rock fireplace. Stay for the Canadian-meets-European cuisine—try the bison carpaccio or elk-meatball tagliatelle—then slip on a thick jacket to step inside the on-site



Ice Bar, kept at -10°C, and taste a vodka flight in a bar made entirely of ice.

DAY 2

Stop for breakfast at **Big Bang Bagels**, a local institution, before driving to **Fernie Alpine Resort (6)**, about eight minutes from town, for a morning on the slopes. Not to worry if you're a newbie; the resort has excellent instructors for private or group lessons.

In the afternoon, explore Fernie's **historical downtown (3)**. You'll find specialty shops like **Beanpod**, a bean-to-bar chocolatier, and plenty of history involving prospecting, mining and bootlegging amid the charming red-brick architecture and easily walkable streets. Take a break at **Fernie Distillers (10)**

GET
PACKING

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DIP INTO THE
SKI RESORT'S
FIVE ALPINE
BOWLS



to sample small-batch Prospector Gin and No 9 Mine Vodka in the custom tasting room. Then walk around the corner to **Nevados (8)**, a 110-year-old theatre turned cocktail destination, for Latin American tapas, margaritas and music.

DAY 3

Start the day with a cappuccino at **The Valley Social (5)** before driving to the **Island Lake Lodge (9)** parking lot near Mount Fernie Provincial Park, where you can arrange a pickup by snowcat. Enjoy the ride as you look for moose in the old-growth forest. While this backcountry hotel

is known for **catskiing (2)**, where you're taken to unspoiled slopes by snowcat, it also offers a winter snowcat-and-lunch program that includes time to snowshoe or cross-country ski (or go to the spa), followed by a gourmet lunch at the lodge's **Tamarack Dining Room (4)**.

Back at the parking lot, drive to Fernie Alpine Resort, rent a **fat bike (7)** (like a mountain bike, but with wide tires for snow) and work up an appetite on more than 10 kilometres of groomed, tree-lined trails. Wrap up with a burger and craft beer at **Legends Mountain Eatery**. ■



WHEN TO GO Fernie is a year-round destination, but if it's powder you seek, the winter season typically lasts from December to mid-April. **WHERE TO STAY** Best Western Plus Fernie Mountain Lodge offers a cozy atmosphere and special rates for CAA Members, and it's walking distance to downtown.