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**Backcountry Skiing and Snowboarding Booms in North Lake Tahoe**

**NORTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif./Nev. (Winter 2015-16) —** North Lake Tahoe is part of a region that boasts the largest concentration of ski resorts in North America. But outside of the ski resort boundaries some of the most incredible ski terrain in the nation beckons with jaw-dropping views, wilderness solitude and perfect powder.

Backcountry skiing and snowboarding is booming in North Lake Tahoe as improved gear and a sense of adventure lures skiers into the many majestic North Tahoe peaks where chairlifts do not reach. Backcountry skiers and snowboarders ascend mountains on specialized touring set-ups — alpine touring gear for skiers and splitboards for snowboarders. Skins attached to the bottom of skis or splitboards grip the snow on the uphill climb, and are removed at the summit before descending.

Backcountry skiers and snowboarders are advised to carry avalanche equipment — a beacon, shovel and probe — and know how to use them. Backcountry travelers are also advised to understand avalanche conditions and how to travel safely in avalanche terrain.

For those equipped and knowledgeable enough, backcountry skiing and snowboarding offers an athletic challenge and a chance to explore a lifetime of peaks around North Tahoe. Prime backcountry spots include West Shore destinations like Jakes Peak, Hidden Peak and Rubicon Peak; Donner Summit destinations like Mt. Judah, Donner Peak and Castle Peak; and high-elevation terrain around Mt. Rose.

Many North Tahoe ski resorts also offer open boundary policies were skiers and snowboarders can venture into the backcountry from the top of a chairlift at a ski resort. Sugar Bowl Resort’s open boundary policy gives access to massive backcountry terrain on Donner Summit. Alpine Meadows has challenging backcountry terrain on multiple sides of its boundaries, and Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe offers open boundaries.

North Tahoe is also a hub of backcountry skiing shops, guiding services and education resources. Shops like Alpenglow Sports, Tahoe Sports Hub, Tahoe Mountain Sports, The Backcountry and Start Haus offer the full range of backcountry equipment. Guiding services like Alpine Skills International offer guided backcountry tours and avalanche educations classes. And resources like the Sierra Avalanche Center offer daily avalanche advisories, check their website for updates: <http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org>.

A complete events schedule and map of locations can be found online at <http://www.gotahoenorth.com/events>.

**About North Lake Tahoe:**

Lake Tahoe is a crown jewel of the Sierra. Formed approximately two million years ago, it is the largest alpine lake in North America and the second deepest in the United States. North Lake Tahoe spans two states and boasts two dozen beaches, twelve ski resorts, hundreds of miles of biking trails, half a dozen communities, and a growing number of nationally recognized human-powered events, races and festivals. North Lake Tahoe is a 45-minute drive from the Reno Tahoe International Airport, two hours from Sacramento International Airport and just over three hours from San Francisco International Airport. Visitor information centers are located at 100 North Lake Boulevard in Tahoe City and 969 Tahoe Boulevard in Incline Village. For the latest deals, check out the [Deals](http://Deals) tab on [www.gotahoenorth.com](http://www.gotahoenorth.com/" \t "_blank).