

TRAVEL WEEKLY

On the slopes, everybody can get in on the action



By [Felicity Long](#) / November 12, 2015



Much has been written about the trend on the part of big-name winter sports resorts to expand their recreational offerings to visitors who either don't ski or snowboard or who just want a little variety to their vacation activities.

Certainly, offering easier-to-learn options like snowtubing and dog-sledding casts a wider net when looking to lure new markets to the slopes.

One sport not often mentioned is snowbiking, also known as skibiking, and while it probably technically falls under the category of easy-to-learn, it's not without its challenges.

I experienced the sport some years ago in Aspen, where I was skiing with my then 13-year-old son, and I admit I was more nervous about this than anything else on the itinerary — far more than the paraskiing that also appeared on our itinerary, for example.

Given that at the time I'd never even heard of snowbiking, much less attempted it, I couldn't imagine how it would work. How do we get up the mountain? Are we seriously going to bike down a slippery slope?

But, as any parent will understand, I was unable to resist the big-eyed look my son gave me when I even hinted that I might want to sit this one out.

<http://www.travelweekly.com/Ski/On-the-slopes-everybody-can-get-in-on-the-action>

My anxiety wasn't diminished by the look of the bikes themselves. They were, essentially, bikes with parallel skis, one in front of the other, instead of wheels. I didn't see any brakes anywhere. No problem, our guide told us. You just use your feet, a la Fred Flintstone.

As to how to ascend the mountain, again no problem. Just get in line with the skiers, holding your bike, then hop on with the bike beside you on the seat and jump off at the top.

What?

As you might expect, mounting and dismounting the lift was easier said than done, but in fact, once we assembled at the top of the run for instruction (zigzag down, remember to steer), the bikes turned out to be easy to manipulate, and the ride down was just plain fun.

Winter sports enthusiasts who want to give it a try can do so at several ski areas around the country.

Snowbiking is available at [Vail's Adventure Ridge](#), for example, as well as a number of other areas, many serviced by [Rocky Mountain Snowbike](#) rental company.

If all this sounds a little too ambitious, the Hotel Telluride is unveiling a Snow Bike and Brew package this coming season that uses actual fat-tire bicycles on flat, snowy terrain at the foot of the valley.

The way it works is that participants ride with a guide from the 59-room hotel to the Telluride Brewing Company and the Telluride Distilling Company for tastings of locally crafted beers and spirits.

The three-night package includes accommodations, the snowbike tour via local outdoor retailer Telluride Bootdoctors, a five-course wine pairing dinner at the hotel's chef's table and daily breakfast for two.

The package starts at \$1,550, double.