

Everything you need to know to enjoy ski and snowboard at the Hockley Valley Resort near Toronto

When we spend a weekend at the [Hockley Valley Resort](#) in January of this year – see [here](#) - we were unlucky (or should I say lucky after this weekend?) to have caught a rainy weekend and the ski mountain was closed. We had set up a snowboard class for Thomas and he and my husband would enjoy the mountain. But due to rain and cold the conditions were dangerous and we rescheduled our ski and snowboard experience for this weekend. And it couldn't have been better: it was hot (9 degrees positive) with a beautiful blue sky. The experience we all had was incredible and today I am going to give details not only about the class Thomas took, but everything we did and how it was worth going (again) to [Hockley Valley Resort](#).

Spending the day, not the night

First of all, I want to say that you can go to the place and just spend the day - and that's what we did this time. Of course, the experience is much more complete (and less tiring) when you have a hotel room and can go back and forth without having to carry coats, bags and children. But I know that staying in the hotel is not always possible, so I want to start by saying that this should not be a problem for you to enjoy the place and have this incredible experience. In summary if you are not staying at the hotel you can still enjoy the mountain (by buying the lift) and eat at one of the amazing restaurants in the place (I list them all [here](#)).

The Hockley Valley Resort ski and snowboard experience

The mountain at the [Hockley Valley Resort](#) is not that high - it is more like a hill with a height of 430 meters - but it is worth the experience, especially if you want to learn or improve the sport. There are 2 chair lifts, 2 lifts for beginners (including a magic carpet) and 16 tracks with varying levels (green to double black diamond). The opening hours of the tracks on weekdays are from 9am to 4pm and on weekends it is up to 4:30 pm, but the cool thing is that it also works at night on some days of the week, from 5pm to 9pm.

To enjoy the ski part of the resort you must buy a lift ticket, which entitles you to practice the sport on the ramps and around the mountain. Without this ticket you cannot practice the sport on site. The ticket value varies by person, level and the time you will be on the mountain. Below is the table of values for 2020 (click [here](#) and see updated values if you are seeing this post in other years).

[table of types of tickets and values: available at the HVR website]

Some important information:

- The all-day ticket refers to the period between opening hours until late afternoon. For the person to be able to ski at night they will have to buy the night ticket.
- The half-day ticket starts from 12:30 pm and runs until late afternoon.

- The beginner ticket entitles you to use only the magic carpet lanes.
- If you plan to go, it is often worth buying season passes, which are passes that give you the right to use the mountain throughout the season. The Hockley Valley Resort also has a mini pass that entitles you to use the mountain for 5 consecutive days on special dates for \$ 99. The next date will be March Break (16 to 20 March 2020).

Rentals

The [Hockley Valley Resort](#) has equipment for rent. I always recommend that you rent the equipment the first few times you are going to do the sport to make sure you will like it, because these equipments are very expensive. Rentals works in the same way as lifts: all day, half-day (from 12:30 pm) and night. All rentals include a \$2 insurance fee. It is worth mentioning that the resort staff will arrange all the equipment for you and make sure everything is right for you to enjoy this experience. Our rental experience was great, fast and we found the equipment to be of great quality and in great condition.

[table of rentals values: available at the HVR website]

It is also important to mention that if you have your snowboard and ski equipment and want to wax and sharpen they do this sharpen & wax and hot wax work for a fee. Just look at their website to see values and how it works.

Private and group lessons

Certainly one of the highlights of the Hockley Valley Resort is the ski and snowboard classes. That's because they have different types of classes and for the little ones these classes are private. This is essential for your child to have the necessary attention to really learn the sport. It was fundamental for Thomas and after a single class he was already going down ramps, jumping and balancing himself on the snowboard. It is worth mentioning here that snowboarding is VERY difficult (much more than skiing)and we did not expect that in one class only he would go out doing everything we saw him do. But we noticed that the instructor was very attentive and that he made Thomas feel confident and comfortable: he made ALL the difference.

Below I put the values of the lessons of 1 hour, which can be both ski and snowboard. Children under the age of 7 years old cannot take group classes - they should opt for private lessons. The class Thomas took was Riglet Snowboard. The amount below entitled the equipment + helmet + ticket to access Riglet Park, which is the training area. "Riglet" is the name of the string that is attached to the snowboard and allows the student to be pulled and controlled by the instructor. It certainly makes learning SO much easier.

[table of private and group lessons values: available at the HVR website]

What to do while you wait

Our whole family went to the [Hockley Valley Resort](#), although Ian and I didn't play the sport. And, you know what, we enjoyed it a lot. The base of the mountain is great and has several benches and areas for people to watch the skiers and snowboarders in safety. In addition, the place has a cafeteria with several tables and chairs, as well as a TV, where you can relax and eat. And, as I said on my previous blog post, the hotel has several incredible restaurants, a spa and a super comfortable lobby. Oh, and it has free wifi for all visitors.

A must-have lunch

Finally, I could not fail to give the tip to have lunch in one of the restaurants of the HVR. We chose Cabin because we just LOVED the place and it became one of the best restaurants we have ever been in Toronto. The atmosphere is beautiful, the food is very well made and with selected ingredients and the attendants are super calm and understanding with those who have children. We saw many families taking lunch or eating at the mountain cafeteria. I understand many people do not want to waste time sitting in a restaurant and want to make the most of the day at the mountain. But we like to eat and our experience is much more interesting when it involves a good meal. So, we made the most of the mountain and when we were hungry we went up and had lunch at the Cabin. And then we went back to the mountain to enjoy some more. It was perfect and I recommend it.

Our lunch was as follows: my husband and I ordered hamburgers and the boys had soup, pasta and chicken. It is worth mentioning that almost everything is made on site, from the sandwich bread to the soup noodles. Everything delicious. And with an incredible environment!

I hope you enjoyed the tip and if you can, be sure to visit the [Hockley Valley Resort](#) this winter. The hotel is open all year round but the ski / snowboard mountain is incredible and worth visiting - and enjoying - in the cold. Finally, I thank the hotel for having welcomed us once again and for having provided an incredible Sunday for all members of our family.

Written by gabynocanada.com