

## **Snowshoeing This Season's New Black**

*By Soulfree Adventures (Aust) Pty Ltd*

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*Amongst all the activities on offer at the snowfields this winter, snowshoeing is rapidly gaining in popularity and is quickly becoming the "in" thing for resort guests to do .*

At Mount Hotham, Soulfree Adventures commenced running snowshoe tours in 2008. Soulfree's owner and snowshoe guide, Andy Reynolds, says snowshoeing opens people's eyes to the beauty of the backcountry. "Many of our guests are skiers", says Mr Reynolds, "and though they've been coming here for years, they've never left the resort. They're constantly amazed by what a different world it is out there."

Mount Hotham is certainly well placed for guests to go snowshoeing. A spectacular knife like ridgeline connects Mt Hotham with Mt Feathertop, Victoria's second highest and Australia's most spectacular alpine peak. This provides ready access for snowshoers to head out and explore the gullies, ridges and saddles off this stunning ridgeline, which becomes heavily corniced as the snowpack deepens. And if the weather has closed in at Hotham, there's usually a sheltered snow plain to be found towards Dinner Plain. "We have it all at Hotham," says Mr Reynolds. "From the stunning Mt Feathertop, to beautiful snow gums, hidden glades, remote snow plains, and we even have an abandoned gold mine to explore."

"Snowshoeing is such an easy activity for people to get into," says Mr Reynolds. "Basically, if you can walk, you can snowshoe. We provide our clients with poles to assist in balance, and while there a few tricks to learn, it's pretty much strap them on and you're off! There aren't a lot of skills to learn, as with skiing. If you want to be active at the snow, but don't want to risk life and limb on the ski slopes, then snowshoeing could be for you."

Soulfree Adventures are offering a range of tours, from Introductory 2 hour tours, to full day adventures along the Razorback to Mount Feathertop. There's even a champagne sunset tour and Soulfree even have miniature snowshoes for the little ones. Alternatively, Soulfree can customise a tour especially for you. All tours include a snowshoe guide, transport and state of the art snowshoes and adjustable ski poles.

For more information, contact Andy at Soulfree Hotham using the following:

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Full details available on Soulfree's website: <http://www.soulfreeadventures.com.au>

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