

NO WHEELS? NO PROBLEM.



Thumbs up. ANDREW STRAIN PHOTO.

Online carpooling means riders make it to the slopes while drivers reduce their costs — and everyone gets to the pow

By Tiffany Saibil

Vehicle-less while visiting my parents in Vancouver, but jonesing for some coastal pow turns, I found hitchwhistler.com, an easy to use website and mobile app. I signed up and immediately found a guy named Morgan from Coquitlam who had posted a call-out for Mount Baker, Washington — powder day planned!

The site is not quite as easy as ordering pizza; I did need to be at a convenient pick up point en route for the driver, so I enlisted my father (who thought the days of dropping me to go play with boys were long in the past). Seeing the Dodge truck with sled deck and two young snowboarders, he figured all was fit for purpose and off we went.

After the obligatory donut stop we hit the border, but rather than the usual security questions, we got “how do you know each other?” (Tip: the terms “hitchhiking” and “self-employed” both raise flags). Tired of hassling us, the officer waved us through to an awesome 50-centimetre powder day that would not have been possible for me without access to a car.

The growth of a ‘sharing economy’ is revolutionizing the way we can get to the ski hill (or city, or island, or anywhere). Supporting sustainability, sites like Hitchwhistler are also based on the spirit of community and trust. However, for those a little less adventurous, or for drivers unsure about allowing strangers into their oasis of a vehicle, Hitchwhistler has a

user verification process and a feedback system to rate your car mates, including if people are: late/on-time, no-show, or bailed. The site also makes it easy to see if there is space for gear, which saves time messaging back and forth or last minute problems.

We all want to make the most of our season and the “first world problem” of not having your own vehicle is also an opportunity for adventure and a chance to make new friends as you scramble to the mountains together. It’s all about a shared passion and a good ride. 🏔️

Check out more of Tiffany’s car-less adventures at lifewithoutacar.com

“I am always doing that which i cannot do, in order that i may learn how to do it.” —Pablo Picasso