



NEW YORK

## The Whiteface Slides

Timing: It's the only thing that'll put you on top of the Whiteface Slides—1,250 vertical feet of ice flows, logs, bedrock, and mandatory airs that are open only during periods of copious coverage. Whether you've ridden the Summit chair or skinned up the Toll Road (and it's bad juju to do the latter when the Slides are closed), you're in for some intense turns. Here's how to maximize your time. —ADAM HOWARD

### 1 SLIDE 1

Shimmy through the main access gate at the top of the Summit quad and you're a few hundred feet below Slide 1. If the cover's good, bang a quick right off the traverse and dive in. But watch out for the ice flows, which range from totally exposed to barely covered at best.

### 2 SLIDE 2

A lower-angle option than 1, Slide 2 is usually more filled in. Ski the top, and then merge back with 1 just above the main ice flow. Approach with caution: The point at which the two slides meet is the crux.

### 3 SLIDE 3

During the winter of 2000–2001, the Slides were open several dozen days. High traffic made the traverse to Slide 3 a gut-wrenching ride. Watch for whoop-de-dos: Negotiating them can be as tough as the mandatory airs and bony escape back out to Slide 1.

### 4 SLIDE 4

Crank a few turns at the top and then

tighten 'em up in the spruce-filled choke. This line is harder than it looks. Depending on conditions, you'll have at least three mandatory airs of six to 10 feet.

### 5 SLIDES 5 AND 6

What am I doing here? That's what you'll be asking yourself if you've bushwhacked beyond the traverse to Slide 4. No, those trees don't open back up below. If you really are desperate to hit 5 or 6, the best, but least legal, way is a hike up Slide Out, where all slides merge and return to Whiteface proper. Not recommended.

### 6 THE BACK SLIDE (NOT VISIBLE)

Popular with the local backcountry lunch bunch, Whiteface West (or the Lake Placid Slide) is accessed via the Toll Road. If you're hitting this from the lift, you're breaking the New York state law regulating out-of-bounds skiing. Most locals will lap a few on the Toll Road Slide—which intersects the road in one spot—en route to the longer Slide West.

DREW HASS