

Big White, January 2024

A Once in a Generation Trip

Friday Jan 27 – Friday Feb 3

Saturday Jan 28 – Saturday Feb 4

Trip Signup Starts August 28

Base Trip Price is \$2,060

Trip Leader: Tom Piette

Assistant Trip Leader: Heidi Janowski



Purpose: The purpose of this is to provide the information you need to sign up for the trip to Big White. This will be the first trip to Big White by either of our clubs in more than 20 years. You must be a member of Gelandesprung or Sly Fox to go on the trip.

This document includes:

- Section 1: Information About Big White Ski Area & Lodging & Services
- Section 2: The Signup process, including the link that will connect you directly to Skigroup's signup system and provides the phone numbers you can call to sign up by talking to a person. Most of us will not have a problem using the system If you are not comfortable or not able to use the link to sign up for the trip, call Skigroup. They will sign you up. Details are below.
- Section 3: Includes information regarding travel.
- Section 4: Details of trip costs and the information that you need as you sign-up (i.e., 6-day lift ticket).
- Section 5: Information regarding trip insurance.
- Section 6: Q&A

If you are not comfortable or not able to use the link to sign up for the trip, call Skigroup. They will sign you up. Details are below.

You must be a member of Gelandesprung Ski Club or Sly Fox Ski Club for the trip.

<https://www.gelandesprung.org/resources/Documents/2023membership.pdf>

Section 1:

About Big White Ski Area & Lodging & Services:

- We will have **true ski-in ski-out accommodations**. There will be **no need to board a bus** while at Big White except for a possible optional trip to Silver Star.
- The hotel and the condominium are a short walk from one another.
- Big White is located in British Columbia's picturesque Okanagan Valley, Big White is uniquely blessed with sunny weather, champagne powder and mild temperatures. **Sun Peaks and Silver Star are in the same region.**

- 118 designated runs across 2,835 acres of terrain.
- 18% Beginner, 54% Intermediate, 22% Expert, 6% extreme
- The base elevation is 5757 feet; The summit is 7606 feet.
- Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, and other activities are available at the resort
- Information regarding Silver Star will be provided in October or November.

Lodging:

- The Inn at Big White Hotel (base package) provides a comfortable room and other amenities. Each room has a refrigerator. Breakfast is not included. The outdoor appearance is not nearly as nice as the appearance of the rooms online. Other features include:
 - Outdoor pool and hot tub
 - Laundry
 - Ski lockers
 - Restaurant, lounge & more.
- The Stonebridge Lodge condominium lodging (+\$349 pp.) provides upscale lodging. It is intended for four people. The second bedroom has two beds.
- Two 2-bedroom condos are reserved at this time.
 - Options for a 3-bedroom, 2-bath condos for six people (+\$289 pp.) are available but not reserved, as a special order.
 - Amenities in Stonebridge Condos include:
 - Laundry in each unit
 - Private hot tubs on the balcony,
 - Fine dining restaurants and other amenities.
- Both locations are true ski-in/ski-out. It is a short walk from one to the other.
- Check out the lodging online to make your choice by googling “The Inn at Big White” or “Stonebridge Lodge, Big White”.
- With 20 on-mountain restaurants, cafes, delis, pubs and nightclubs, there is no shortage of places to replenish your energy level when it's time for a break.
- A Grocery store and delivery service is available in the village.

Section 2:

Sign Up Process:

Please review sections 3, 4, and 5 before initiating your signup.

There are two parts to sign up for the trip:

1. **The online sign-up including all your choices for transportation, lodging, skiing, etc. will begin August 28.** The system is easy to understand the first time you use it. During the period from August 28 to September 1, the date that you input your signup information will not affect your position in the queue for the choices you make (i.e., condo vs hotel).

- a. Please use the link below to sign up if you are able to do so.
- b. You may also sign up by calling Skigroup; Crystal at (970)313-4217, or Kelly at (970)313-4218

2. **The link to sign up for the trip is <https://go.tripstorm.app/#!/24GELBIGWHITE>.**

- a. The system is not ready to be used yet. Any information you would enter now will be erased. **Do not enter any information until August 28.**
- b. Enter the selection system by clicking on the "Purchase Now" button.
- c. On large screens (**computers and most tablets**) **You will notice "file tabs" to click** at the top of your computer screen. The categories are Air, Lodging, Lift Ticket, My Info, Terms, & payment. Credit card payment will be disabled for this trip. On **phones and smaller tablets, you will use a "Next" button to navigate** selections.
- d. The choices for the Base Trip will be checked. Click on your choice to change it.

3. The second part of the sign-up is to send your check for the deposit to Gelandesprung Ski Club, PO Box 10422, Green Bay, WI 54307, **no sooner than September 1** as directed by the signup system. The postmark on the envelope with your check will determine your spot in the queue for choices. The Board and committee members that need information will have access to sign-up information to see your choices, contact information, etc.

- a. Someone could have a problem with the signup system, we planned the 4-day gap to solve the problem without affecting your opportunity to have your choices.
- b. The \$1000 deposit will be used to eliminate currency risk.
- c. The remainder of your trip cost is due December 1.

Section 3:

Travel Information:

- The airlines limited our seats to 32 people per day. This is to help the luggage fit on the plane.
- **There will be a bus for the Saturday trip** for 32 people and this flight will need to be filled.
- **We also expect a bus for the Friday trip.** We will need about 20 people to make the bus economical. If we do not have enough people for a bus, the Friday group would drive to O'Hare and the cost of bussing (\$122 pp.) will not be charged. Options for a stay & fly hotel would be identified, just as we did for Sun Peaks in 2018.
- The bus is part of the travel package. People flying with us must pay for the bus unless their bus is cancelled, or you do not live in the area served by the bus.

- People making their own travel arrangements may ride the bus with us from Kelowna if you are ready to go with the group at about 2:00 PM either day. Other options may be available at a higher cost. Refunds will depend on our ability to recover the cost.

Section 4:

Trip Prices and Information for Sign up:

- \$2,060 The Base Trip includes:
 - Round trip bus to O’Hare from Green Bay, The Woods; Appleton, The Bar; Richfield Pioneer Travel Plaza at I-41 exit 60.
 - Round trip flight to Kelowna (AS 2517 arriving Kelowna at 1:12 PM), ground transportation to hotel, portorage and taxes. Friday and Saturday have the same flight number and schedule.
 - Dual occupancy lodging at the Inn at Big White
 - And a 5-day lift ticket.
 - Making different selections will change your cost.
- Options:
 - Transportation Options:
 - Choose Saturday to Saturday (27 Jan to 3 Feb) round trip bus to O’Hare & flight \$0
 - Choose Friday to Friday (26 Jan to 2 Feb) round trip bus to O’Hare & flight \$0
 - Provide your own transportation to Kelowna --Deduct \$755
 - Lodging Options:
 - Choose Inn at Big White – included in base trip
 - Choose Stonebridge Lodge (Condo, 4 people) -- Add \$349
 - You may be able to reserve a 3- bedroom, 2-bath Stonebridge condo by special arrangement. With 6-people it would add \$269 to the base price of lodging.
 - Indicate your preferred room, or condo mates.
 - Lift Tickets
 - Decline lift tickets -- Deduct \$435
 - Choose 4-day lift ticket – Deduct \$83
 - Choose 6-day lift ticket – Add \$87
 - Choose 4-day Senior ticket (≥65) -- Deduct \$119
 - Choose 5-day Senior ticket (≥65) – Deduct \$45
 - Choose 6-day Senior ticket (≥65) – Add \$33
- Other Information you will need:
 - Your name exactly as it appears on your passport (i.e., Thomas Edward Piette)
 - Your passport expiration date (must be after August 4, 2024).
 - Your emergency contacts name and phone number (primary & secondary)
 - Are you a member of Gelandesprung or Sly Fox
 - Your pick-up location The Woods, Green Bay; The Bar, Appleton; or Pioneer Travel Plaza
 - If you want to purchase trip insurance and the type.

Section 5:

Insurance:

- Insurance is a good idea for foreign travel. First, check with your provider to be sure you have medical coverage while in a foreign country. Medicare does not cover you. Your Medicare supplemental plan or advantage plan might cover you. You want to verify your coverage for medical treatment regardless of your health insurance.
 - As an example, my supplemental plan includes a \$250 foreign deductible and a 20% copay. My cost domestically is \$0 for each.
- Skigroup will have a link to purchase travel insurance. They link to plans provided by VacationGuard (866)314-9480 or service@vacationguard.com. As I understand it, the plans offered include medical coverage and trip cancellation.

- Gelandesprung has typically contacted Myra Altschuler, Travel Protectors, LLC. Plan information is below.
 - Email myra@travelprotectors.com or call Myra at 703-443-9055 for information.
 - She offers two plans.
 - The Medical plan covers health care, medical evacuation coverage, lost luggage and trip delay. The cost is modest at \$52.
 - A more complete plan that also includes trip cancellation is \$191. This coverage must be purchased within 21 days of your first trip deposit.
- For details regarding insurance from either company, call the insurance companies to be sure you understand what you are purchasing.

Section 6:

Q&A:

Q: Why are we signing up so early?

A: First, Ski trip costs to another country involve the risk of costs rising based upon a change in the exchange rate. A favorable exchange rate is the reason that we have a very low trip cost. Although the exchange rate is excellent today, the risk is that the exchange rate could change if we wait until October.

Q: Why do we have only on-line sign up for this trip?

A: Planning and executing the trips takes a lot of time recording and tracking information accurately. On-line signup provides a lot of advantages in accuracy and it saves a ton of time. We also have accommodations for anyone that is not using the online system.

Q: What's up with the possible trip to Silver Star?

A: Silver Star will have people available to help us plan a day trip by October. They are not available now. We are hoping to have a day trip but we do not have information to share at this time.

Q: If we go to Silver Star, I want a 5-day lift pass at Big White. If there isn't a trip, I want a 6-day pass. What should I do?

A: Buy the 6-day pass at Big White now. You can change it to a 5-day pass by calling Skigroup if you go to Silver Star. In fact, you can change your lift pass for any reason until shortly before the trip.

Q: We don't usually have to pay for the bus if we choose to not take it. Why is this year different?

A: Buses are included as a part of the travel cost for the group. We often have more people on a flight than can fit on the bus. Consequently, we usually do not charge if you do not choose to use the bus. In this case our flights only allow for 32 people, the bus will be only ~60% of capacity. Each person that chooses to not take the bus would cost other members their share of the cost (which is much more than in the past).

Q: The bus is impractical for me because the bus does not travel near where I live. Do I still need to pay?

A: This is a special condition. We will make an exception for you if the bus is not practical. Explain your situation to the trip leader.

Q: What type of beds are included in the lodging?

A: Hotels will typically have more rooms with two beds. The Stonebridge condos include two beds in the second bedroom.

Finally, visit Gelandesprung.org and the Facebook page for more information during August.

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