

## STEAMBOAT HAS NON-STOP FLIGHTS from 16 AIRPORTS and ANOTHER BASE GONDOLA

STEAMBOAT, CO – Winter travel to Steamboat Springs has never been easier. The Yampa Valley Regional Airport (HDN) sits 25 miles from Steamboat Ski Resort and welcomes guests from six major carriers.

This winter, Steamboat welcomes nonstop flights from 16 airports across six airlines nationwide, quenching that thirst for convenient go-when-you-please travel we have all been craving.

Daily nonstop flights are arriving from Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Houston and Los Angeles. Additional hubs, such as Boston, Dallas Love Field, Fort Lauderdale, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Nashville, Newark, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington D.C. Dulles are offering select weekend and weekday flights, setting you up for an extended weekend or quiet weekday stay.

United Airlines, Delta, Southwest, JetBlue, American and Alaska Airlines are on board and ready to deliver you, your family and your gear to the slopes of Steamboat. The addition of Southwest flights from Nashville (new in 2022) and connecting flights from hundreds more make getting to Steamboat a snap.

Nonstop access from 16 major airports across the U.S. makes Steamboat one of the most easily accessed resorts in the Rocky Mountains. Flights are available for purchase on respective airline websites and packages are available at Steamboat.com/flights or by calling Steamboat Central Reservations® at 1-800-922-2722.

Once you land, the welcoming Yampa Valley Regional Airport is very simple to navigate. It takes only a few short minutes to walk through the terminal to your shuttle. Book a ride with GO Alpine Airport Shuttle for service from Hayden to Steamboat Ski Resort. Storm Mountain Express also provides service from the airport to Steamboat.

To book a shuttle to or from Yampa Valley Regional Airport/Hayden and schedule a pick up time, call Steamboat Central Reservations at 1-877-783-2628 (toll free). Reservations must be made 48 hours in advance prior to departure. Rental cars are also available with Hertz, Avis and Budget.

Full Steam Ahead on Base Area Remodel

An additional gondola named Wild Blue will run this ski season from the Steamboat base area to Greenhorn Ranch. The new ski school headquarters is now located in the previous Bashor Basin area. This is part of Steamboat's massive

base area and mountain upgrades which began in the spring of 2022. Ultimately, once complete with both the upper and lower sections in the 2023-24 season, Wild Blue will transport skiers and riders from the Steamboat base area to the top of Sunshine Peak at an impressive speed, taking only 12 and a half minutes. Scenic, fast, efficient and smooth, the Wild Blue gondola is an exciting addition to Steamboat Resort.

The lower section of the Wild Blue gondola will have 58 cabins to take skiers and riders from the base area to Greenhorn Ranch as part of the ski school. For this ski season, this will be the only section running, mostly transporting ski school guests. Section two is slated to be ready for next ski season and will be running with an additional 113 cabins to transport guests to the top of Sunshine Peak. Overall, Wild Blue will have 171 cabins, each with a capacity of 10 people per cabin. Ski racks will be on the exterior just like the Steamboat Gondola that will still be in place and running from the base area to the top of Thunderhead.

The Wild Blue gondola features the biggest direct drive in the world with state-of-the-art technology. By installing a direct drive, which is a mechanical concept that came from the wind-mill industry, a traditional gearbox is not necessary, making the operational side more efficient and simpler. Section one will feature a 2-ring direct drive and section two will feature a 5-ring direct drive. These two sections will be able to run independent of one another, or together, making it highly functional and adaptable. By eliminating the gearbox all together, the direct drive will provide skiers and riders with a smooth, fast and highly efficient ride, which is especially exciting when Champagne Powder® is falling.

With so many improvements happening as part of Full Steam Ahead at Steamboat Resort, the addition of the Wild Blue gondola is certainly one of the most visible and most exciting.

Steamboat Ski Resort is earning bragging rights for the great changes to their base area and more. They have a skating rink, food court and much more planned and already happening.

Listen to Steamboat episodes on the new podcast series: [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com)

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## VACATION RENTALS to FIT EVERY BUDGET at MOUNTAIN RESORTS in STEAMBOAT

STEAMBOAT, CO – Mountain Resorts is one of the largest and oldest property management companies in Steamboat Springs. They are Steamboat's Lodging Expert, with hundreds of condominiums to offer. Their goal is to help make your Steamboat vacation a truly memorable experience by exceeding your expectations in accommodation and service. The condominiums range in size from cozy, economical studios to luxurious four-bedroom with four-bath residences, all located at or near the ski area base.

Ease of Booking

Mountain Resorts, Steamboat's Lodging Expert, has an informative, easy to navigate website that allows you to view, compare and choose your precise condominium or townhome. With their website, you can effortlessly select from hundreds of units with a wide range of rates and amenities.

Should you have questions or need a recommendation, all their reservation staff live in the Steamboat area and know the details of their properties. Their vacation specialists are available every day of the week to help you select the best lodging choice for your particular needs and can assist you with arranging your equipment rentals and discounted lift tickets.

Wide Variety of Choices

Mountain Resorts' variety includes Steamboat's favorite collection of slopeside properties, Storm Meadows at Steamboat ([www.Storm-Meadows.com](http://www.Storm-Meadows.com)). Choices range from the lavishness of The Trails and Spa at Storm Meadows, the spectacular views of Storm Meadows Club Condominiums to the very popular and economical Storm Meadows at Christie Base, and the direct ski access of Storm Meadows East Slopeside.

Another popular slopeside property, the Bronze Tree, offers spectacular views and one of Steamboat's only indoor swimming pools. The two- and three-bedroom condos at Bronze Tree have many amenities and moderate pricing. A distinctive design allows every condo to offer panoramic vistas. Bronze Tree combines awe-inspiring scenery and a ski-in/ walk-out location with easy access to both the slopes and mountain village. With both indoor and outdoor hot tubs, along with a sauna, sun deck, and fitness center, Bronze Tree caters to all guests' needs.

Enjoy the ultimate convenience of ski-in/ski-out accommodations at Chateau Chamonix. This property sits directly on the slopes of Steamboat's beautiful Mt Werner. You can start your day with complimentary hot coffee, cocoa and pastries in the lobby as the personal, on-slope ski valet has your skis ready and waiting for you on the snow.

The Chateau Chamonix features great amenities. You will enjoy an indoor/outdoor heated pool as well as outdoor hot tubs, a community sauna, and an exercise room. Convenient access to Steamboat Village and town is provided via the complimentary winter shuttle service.

If true luxury is your desire, you will love Highmark Steamboat Springs. Discover the breathtaking height of luxury and sophistication in Steamboat Springs. Nestled at the base of the Steamboat Ski Area, adjacent to the Gondola, this six-story Bavarian-style tower offers luxury condominium vacation rentals of incomparable design.

Consistently rated among the highest in Steamboat on TripAdvisor, the highly personalized service is a true difference maker that has created a loyal following of vacationers who expect the best. Mountain All Resorts reservation sales agents call Steamboat home and are very familiar with the area. Whatever the reason for your travel to Steamboat, Mountain Resorts has many options. To learn more, call their friendly staff for the current specials at 1-800-995-5974.

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### THE MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

## TUNING FOR A PERFORMANCE EDGE

By TONY CRESPI, SKIER NEWS' TECHNICAL EDITOR

Tuned edges are not indestructible. Ski a few hours on hard machine manufactured Eastern ice and even swapping left and right skis will not eliminate the desire for a fresh tune. While I tuned little as a 20-year-old skier wintering in a small high alpine mountain town in Colorado, needs changed a few years later life working weekends as a ski instructor and coach in the Northeast.

"Tuning is critical," emphasizes Jed Duke, Director of Product Development for Blizzard Skis and a former Race Room Director. "You lose control without a proper tune."

Whether you buy an all-mountain or race ski, it is nicer to have it function as designed. Tuning helps. A few years ago, a friend used my wife's skis and gasped with delight thinking it extraordinary. In truth the only real key was the tune. Edges were sharp and smooth, and the base waxed to turn easily.

For any skier or rider, a tune can help maximize skills and enjoyment. Tuned edges maximize grip and ease turn entry. In addition, waxing allows a ski to glide more easily and turn with less effort.

"I'm amazed how many skiers buy expensive skis, and then don't keep them up to tune," reflects long-time skier Dave Hibbert. In his case, with multiple skiers in the family, shop tuning was expensive. The Edgetune System, which he invented, uses a Dremel Drill to bring ceramic stone grinding to home tuning.

"The results of a fresh, quality, tune are clearly evident. Tuned to factory standards, and with proper ongoing maintenance, you can maximize your investment," reflects former World Cup Tuner Mike DeSantis, the owner of Ski MD, an elite tuning shop outside Boston.

What should you know to maintain your skis?

Welcome to our Tuning Clinic

The Skier's Guide to Home Tuning

1) Wipe your skis after use

Elite skaters wipe edges regularly. Similarly, wiping your skis after use minimizes corrosion and helps remove harmful chemicals and pollutants which can damage the edge and base. Wipe the skis at the end of the day.

2) Inspect the bases

Ski bases perform best when free of major gouges. Check your bases. Either fill or have the shop fill any gouges.

3) Keep side edges smooth and sharp

To start, purchase a "file guide" and diamond stone. Tools can include a simple plastic or metal file holder. Ask the shop for the side edge setting on your ski. Mike DeSantis suggests that most skiers use a 1-degree base bevel and a 3-degree side bevel.

"Don't mess with the base edge," suggests Blizzard's Jed Duke. "You might use a fine stone to smooth burrs, but you do not want to change that bevel." Base edges are filed and polished much less frequently and can typically be addressed by a shop annually. Overly filing base edges can change performance dramatically.

Use a diamond stone, (a blue stone is a nice medium grit) to eliminate and smooth burrs and marks on the side edge. Use a file guide to keep the stone flat and even against the ski. Gently move the stone on the side edge until burrs are removed and the edge is smooth. We suggest you use thick rubber bands to hold ski brakes up while working.

Mark the edges with black magic marker and work tip to tail.

Gradually remove the magic marker "This makes sense," notes Duke.

If edges are quite dull, a file in the guide holder can quickly restore sharpness. Ski-specific files are tailored for the hardness of a ski edge.

Use a diamond stone to polish.

4) Wax

Waxing protects the base and allows a ski to glide and turn more easily. Unfortunately, poor use of an iron can damage a ski. Consider a "rub on" paste wax or consider the SkiMD Pro Glide which "melts" wax into the base using friction.

The skier rubs wax on the base using a bar of wax and polishes the base with this round tool creating the friction to melt the wax into the base. This can protect the ski and enhance glide.

Maintenance Notes

Wipe your skis and prepare side edges.

Use a diamond stone to remove burrs. DMT, Swix, and Moonflex work.

Use a file to resharpen the edge. Use a ski-specific file.

Use a diamond stone to polish. Blue is a nice overall grit.

Wax, the SkiMD Pro-Glide works easily and safely.

Tuning Tools

Home tuning to maintain an edge is not complicated. Still, it requires tools. For those interested in tuning tools are available through both mountain shops and on-line distributors.

To start, a guide will be necessary to maintain the factory edge angle. These can vary from a basic plastic guide with a variable side edge setting such as the FK Variable Sharpener to the SKS Racing Combo, which includes small wheels to avoid filings from impacting the base. Manufacturers are varied from FK/SKS Tools to Sun Valley Tools to Swix. All sell side edge guides. All vary slightly in design.

Finally, in contrast to these hand held tools, several electric tuners are also available including the Swix Evo Pro Edger and the Edge Tune Pro II. These use ceramic stones in electric sharpeners to maintain edges.

Sharp Thoughts

With minimal effort, a cloth to wipe skis, side edge holder, a diamond stone and file, and wax you can maintain a ski and maximize performance. In fact, with these few tools it is relatively easy to maintain edges. Remember that not just racers can enjoy a tuned ski. Any skier or rider can enjoy the benefits of a ski which turns easily, glides smoothly and holds smoothly and strongly on hardpack. My tools travel in a small camera bag.

Stay tuned. From that first run to your last run.

Contributing Writer Tony Crespi has served as both a Ski School Supervisor and Development Team Coach, and a frequent contributor to publications throughout snow country.