

STEAMBOAT HAS NON-STOP FLIGHTS from 16 AIRPORTS, ANOTHER BASE GONDOLA and GREAT SNOW for 2023

Note: At press time in early January, Steamboat was in the midst of a big storm that added to their snow totals of almost 200 inches with a 60 inch base.

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 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.

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

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. 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 mostly transporting ski school guests. Section two is slated to be ready for 2023-24 and with an additional 113 cabins to transport guests to the top of Sunshine Peak. 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 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 windmill 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. Without the gearbox, the direct drive provides skiers with a smooth, fast and highly efficient ride, especially exciting when the 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.

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For flight info and details, please directly log on to: www.steamboat.com/flights

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For all things Steamboat please visit: www.steamboat.com

A BIG SEASON for WHITEFISH – NEW SIX-PACK and 75th ANNIVERSARY

WHITEFISH, MT – Northwest Montana's Whitefish Mountain Resort started the 2022-23 ski season the right way; with tons of snow, lots of open terrain and chairlifts, and plenty of stoked skiers and riders. The resort has celebrated its 75th anniversary by installing its first six-pack chairlift, dubbed the Snow Ghost Express.

Founded in 1947, the resort has grown into a popular destination for guests from all over the country. Ranked No. 1 in Value by SKI Magazine, it offers a world-class skiing experience as well as comfortable on-mountain lodging, gear rentals and lessons for all ages and skill levels, all at prices that will have you breathing a sigh of relief.

Seasoned powder hounds and newcomers to snow sports will find plenty to love at Whitefish Mountain Resort. The place is known for its uncrowded slopes and short lift lines, with 113 named trails spanning 3,000 acres of varied terrain. Also, there are plenty of fresh tracks to be found off-piste as locals enjoy skiing and riding through the resort's gladed areas. You can always do more by checking out their night skiing on weekends after the holidays.

The ski touring community has also made a home at Whitefish with two designated routes to skin up to the summit. There is also the Whitefish Whiteout, a big competition that attracts skimo (ski mountaineering) racers every February.

There are 11 chairlifts, plus a T-bar to access slopes on the north side of the mountain and a conveyor carpet in the beginner area. With a summit elevation of 6,817 feet, the mountain gets nearly 300 inches of snowfall each year.

As mentioned, the resort installed another lift. This is a \$10 million investment that provides quick trips to the upper elevations of the mountain from the base area.

The new lift, the Snow Ghost Express, shuttles guests in less than eight minutes from the Base Lodge area to the top of Inspiration Ridge, about 2,200 vertical feet. From the top, you can traverse to a cliffy expert area known as the East Rim or carve up some groomed frontside trails, including runs that historically have been underutilized.

The goal of this project is to disperse skiers and improve traffic flow across the whole mountain. Until now, guests who started their day in the base area have needed to ride two lifts to get to the summit.

The Snow Ghost Express alleviates traffic on those other lifts and provides access to the upper terrain in a fraction of the time, while also reducing the number of faster, more advanced skiers and riders traveling through the lower beginner areas.

Whitefish is an increasingly easy place to visit. The resort is only 19 miles from Glacier Park International Airport and direct flights are available from 15 major cities. And the resort offers

a variety of on-mountain lodging that is perfect for weekend getaways, big family ski trips and everything in between. Some units even have convenient ski-in/ski-out access.

If you go, break for lunch at the Summit House. At the end of the day, grab après pints at the iconic Bierstube in the resort's village area.

In the evenings, head down the mountain to enjoy dinner and live music in downtown Whitefish. You will also find plenty of shopping, coffee shops and art galleries, as well as nearby trails that are perfect for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Whitefish Mountain Resort has plenty of ways to stay in touch and learn up-to-date information. Visitors can find and book vacation units at book.skiwhitefish.com.

Terrain and conditions updates are posted daily at skiwhitefish.com/snowreport. A full lineup of on-mountain events, including holiday fireworks and torchlight parades, can be found at skiwhitefish.com/events. The resort is on Facebook and Instagram at [@skiwhitefish.com](https://www.facebook.com/skiwhitefish).

If you have never been to Whitefish Mountain Resort, this winter is an especially great time to check it out. Begin your journey to Whitefish Mountain at skiwhitefish.com

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THE MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

MASTERING the MOUNTAIN through RACING

By TONY CRESPI, SKIER NEWS' TECHNICAL EDITOR

In ancient tales, knights dressed in suits of armor. Ski racing is not necessarily that different. Each weekend racers don helmets, knee armor, shielded gloves, and shoulder pads. While perhaps not as glamorous as ancient legends, these knights and ladies of skiing face a challenging foe, the mountain, and sometimes the courses are icy.

"It's an adrenaline rush," reflects one veteran racer. "It's not all about winning. It's also about friendships."

For a weekend casual skier racing is a marriage of technique and tactics.

Feel the thrill.

For many skiers, racing offers an opportunity to test their skills against the mountain. Unfortunately, not everyone knows how or where to start. Fortunately, from master's races to casual, recreational, NASTAR courses, there are opportunities for every level of skier.

Forget age. Here the fastest time wins.

"I love the friendships. I have made friendships that lasted a lifetime," notes veteran NASTAR racer and Southern New England skier Robert Dexter. "I love the thrill."

Have you a taste for speed? Have you explored adult race camps? Look on-line. Look at NASTAR. Talk to the Ski School Desk. Talk to the Director of Racing. Do not be shy. Do not jump into a racecourse without permission; that can be disastrous. Remember that everyone has to start somewhere. Start by asking about weekend race camps, and explore local ski clubs who may sponsor race programs. Join the fun. Feel the thrill.

INSTRUCTIONAL POINTERS

All skiers, virtually without question, strive to ski more powerfully. To many, ski racers embody world-class skiing.

To refine your skills, consider the following tips.

Ski Pointer #1: Ski the Fast Line

Skiing a proper line has changed. Shaped skis want to arc. As the ski begins to arc it accelerates. By giving yourself room above the gate, you go faster. Try starting a turn above the gate.

"Set up your turn and then turn high enough above the gate so that you have most of your turn completed by the time you pass the gate," adds two-time Olympian and three-time World Cup Downhill Champion Holly Flanders.

Do not ski straight at the gate.

As a course gets steeper, you need to have the turn almost completed as you ski underneath the gate. Let the arc build. Be patient. Do not start the new turn too quickly. Do not rush that arc. Learn to refine your line.

Ski Pointer #2: Keep Your Hands Forward

"Keep your hands forward," emphasizes Flanders. "Keep your hands up and forward. This is an aggressive position. If your hands get back, it brings your weight back and you cannot start to turn well with your weight back. However, when your hands are in front, you are ready to handle the bumps as well as any situation.

Keep your hands up and forward.

Be ready for the mountain.

Ski Pointer #3: Look ahead.

"Your body," reflects Flanders, "will follow where your eyes are looking. You need to look ahead. It is amazing how many people watch their ski tips when they ski. You have to look well ahead of your ski tips. When I'm racing I glance two gates ahead."

Look ahead like the racers.

Ski the proper line. Keep your hands forward. Look ahead.

Try it, and judge for yourself.

Ski Pointer #4: Do not Ski Closed Courses.

Safety is important. Too often skiers enter courses without permission, and that can be disastrous. Years ago, actually, a skier entered a course at a juniors race in which I was a forerunner and crashed into me. The result? My rotator cuff in my shoulder was broken.

Do not ski closed courses. Just as no one would think of driving a car on a NASCAR course without permission, so ski courses should not be entered with idle abandon. Sure, courses take slope space and that is irritating. But it does not warrant possible injury.

Ask about recreational racing options.

Be Aware - Ski with Care - Ski with a Friend

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.

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