

# Silverstar & Big White, BC

by Bob Suravage

If you like to ski the West and have ever thought about skiing in that vast part of Canada between Banff and Whistler, then this could be an opportunity you won't want to miss. Ten years ago, I had the opportunity to go on my first fam trip to a part of Canada I had never been. What I discovered was Silverstar and Big White, and I've always wanted Fall Line to offer a trip here. Why? British Columbia is a vast, mountainous province, framed by the Canadian Rockies and the Coastal Range. In between lies the Thompson Okanagan, a region of highlands that are home to the ski resorts of Silverstar and Big White. Pleasant winter weather and light, dry powder prevails. Mountain summits are a comfortable 7600 feet. The skiing terrain, snow quality, great lift systems, slopeside villages and gracious locals all made for a terrific ski experience. The three Thompson Okanagan resorts (Sun Peaks being the other) were awarded "Best Weather in the West" from Ski Canada magazine (2007), and up to 7m (23ft) of snow can fall on the slopes in a single season. With access via Air Canada through Toronto to Kelowna, British Columbia's second largest city, both full-service resorts are only one hour from the airport and two hours from one another.

A Fall Line first, this nine-day trip begins at Silverstar Resort, where we'll ski three full days. With over 3000 acres, from groomed cruisers to steeps and glades (including in-bounds backcountry), Silverstar offers skiing for all levels. There are 10 lifts, including a six-pack and four quads, serving 115 marked trails. Silver Star's ski-in, ski-out, mid-mountain village is reminiscent of a typical 19th century British Columbian mining town with Victorian architecture. Boarded sidewalks and brightly colored shop fronts add a unique western flavor. We'll be staying four nights in the Vance Creek Hotel, part of the Silverstar Club Resort complex. featuring one bedroom suites with two queens beds, a living area, full bathroom, and a fully equipped kitchen. The complex has several rooftop hot tubs, two restaurants, and The Saloon- the biggest bar on the mountain serving great pub fare. Overall, Silverstar Resort offers 12 varied places to eat plus a market. A full hot and cold breakfast buffet is included everyday.

Wednesday is our transfer day. After breakfast and check out, we'll visit Kelowna's cultural district, which features shops, galleries, restaurants, bars, and a casino, for a lunch stop. Then it's a one-hour transfer to Big White Resort.

We'll be staying four nights at the Inn at Big White, located in the heart of Big White's slope-side, full service village. There are 18 places for foodservice, including 7 full-service restaurants, cafes, deli's, pubs, nightclubs and a market. The hotel-style Inn contains a restaurant, lounge with outdoor terrace, an indoor/outdoor pool, outdoor hot tub, exercise room and ski storage. Each room has two queen beds (one regular and one murphy) and a galley kitchen equipped with microwave, mini fridge, coffee maker and toaster. Big White is a massive ski resort, covering nearly 7400 acres, of which 2,765 acres are patrolled terrain on 118 marked runs. There is skiing for everybody: groomers, five alpine bowls, and endless glades served by 16 lifts, including an 8-person gondola, high-speed 6-pack and 4 quads. Again, we'll ski three full days. Still have energy after

skiing? There's an outdoor skating rink, tube park, snowmobiling, dog sledding, nordic trails, and sleigh rides.

One of the key factors that makes this trip doable is Air Canada's one-stop air service through Toronto to Kelowna. Given the size of Air Canada's regional jets, there are 20 'skier' seats from Philadelphia and 12 from Newark, that will meet up in Toronto for the same flight to Kelowna. I will assist with any and all requests for carpooling to either departing airport.

So, in summary, this trip includes:

- ❖ Round-trip air transportation between **Philadelphia (20 seats)** or **Newark (12 seats)** and Kelowna, BC via Air Canada
- ❖ Ground transfers between Kelowna airport, Silverstar Resort and Big White Resort
- ❖ **8 nights lodging**: 4 nights at Silverstar Resort and 4 nights at Big White Resort
- ❖ Full breakfast buffet each day
- ❖ **6 of 7 day lift ticket** (3 days Silverstar and 3 days Big White)
- ❖ Group party

all for a terrific price of \$1599 early sign-up (August 4 and 18), then \$1649 afterwards. Come join me for an unforgettable, extended skiing adventure in stunningly beautiful British Columbia! Please contact me at [bobsuravage@verizon.net](mailto:bobsuravage@verizon.net) or at 609-654-5521 for more information.