



Ski touring week

April 20-27, 2019

\$2500/person CAD including tax

Trip is FULLY BOOKED for 2019

Intro

Thanks so much for deciding to visit Sorcerer Lodge this winter. The following information should help you to plan your backcountry lodge trip and get organized. If we miss anything or you have some questions, please contact us.

We ask that our backcountry skiers, snowboarders and ski mountaineers arrive in Golden BC Saturday night prior to your trip. In the winter, highways into Golden are often closed due to avalanche hazard, road conditions and accidents. All that powder snow can cause havoc on the roads! As we meet very early Sunday morning, planning to arrive the day of your trip is extremely risky. Golden just isn't close to anywhere, so you'd be on the road very, very early... in the dark, in the winter – on HWY #1. Although we certainly CAN get you up to the lodge at a later time if you miss your helicopter flight, it will be an additional expense for you and you will most likely miss at least one day of skiing. We plan a Saturday night meeting place (at the

Kicking Horse River Lodge at 8:00 pm) to clear up any questions about the timing or the trip and it helps flight day to go smoothly if people make it to the meeting. Please feel free to call as well.

Saturday night:

Kicking Horse River Lodge is a great place to stay. They can handle a group with room rates that start from around \$40/night. Sorcerer customers get a discount but in order to get that you must phone them directly. They cannot offer this if you book through an agency such as booking.com. It's a nice timber frame building on the Kicking Horse River. We meet here Saturday night and breakfast is here Sunday morning so it is convenient. If you choose to stay here please book early. It fills quickly. <http://www.khrl.com/aw> 1-250-439-1112

We will meet the group Saturday night at Kicking Horse River Lodge 8pm sharp to sign waivers, go over the last minute details and discuss the next day's flight plans. Remember that we are on Mountain Standard Time! That's Alberta time to some people, despite the fact that we really are in B.C. (you will become very aware of that when you pay for your gas and alcohol). The time change almost always catches someone by surprise if they are coming from the west.

Sunday Morning:

Breakfast will be available at 6:30 am at the Kicking Horse River Lodge. A shuttle service is provided for transportation from there to staging. It leaves from the River Lodge around 7:15 am

Our staging area is located at **Heather Mountain Lodge**, a 45 min drive (55km) West of Golden.

Upon arrival at Heather Mountain Lodge we will need to quickly and efficiently unload our gear at the Helipad and park any vehicles. The Heli safety talk is at 8:30 am, and flying starts immediately following the Heli talk.

Packing & Misc.:

We do not provide any alcoholic beverages, however you are welcome to bring some along with you. Bring beer in cans (sorry – but if you need recommendations, there ARE some good ones out there). Small kegs are fine – no giants. We do suggest you bring your alcohol with you to Golden, as it's a tad expensive here in small town BC. Pack your "stuff" directly into your daypack and a small – medium duffle bag, 60 litres max. Please avoid using the large duffle bags/packs and anything with wheels or hard sides, as they are awkward to handle and difficult to load into the helicopter.

We supply all linen and quilts so you don't need a sleeping bag. (BRING TOWELS) Skis are best left loose (not in bags).

Shovels should be loose outside your pack if they don't completely fit inside with the hard edges all covered. Ice axes are left loose and will go in the ski basket for transport. Please don't attach them to your pack. They can punch holes in the thin skin of the helicopter's cargo areas. People

are advised to dress for skiing when they get on the helicopter so you should have your ski boots on and all other footwear packed safely in your bags. It's too easy to lose a single boot in all the powder that will be blowing around and you want to start out with dry feet. Feel free to call or email us any time if you need more information. I'm happy to give snow reports etc... Check in on our website for daily weather and snowpack updates.

Lodge and terrain

[Here is a PDF map of the terrain around Sorcerer Lodge](#)

Sorcerer Lodge sits high on a rocky perch at treeline above a small lake, at 6660 feet, (2030 meters) between two heavily glaciated valleys in the Selkirk Mountains. It is a magical, rugged area that will take your breath away. The backcountry skiing, mountaineering and snowboarding are challenging. We don't recommend it as a ski touring destination for beginners.

Our guests have access to several glaciated areas including the massive north facing Nordic Glacier that gathers the snow early and holds it till late spring (and throughout most of the summer too). Across Ventego Creek, Cheap Scotch basin provides south and southeast facing terrain with open bowls and some steep tree lines. Extensive tree skiing near the lodge ensures that you'll get out even on the worst weather days.

Mt Iconoclast at 10,666 feet (3251 meters) dominates this area and is a ski mountaineering prize. There is also a selection of accessible peaks within shorter day tours of the lodge.

Payment, Booking Conditions

Fee for the week is \$2380.95 CAD + 5% GST = \$2500.00 all in. A 50% deposit (\$1250.00 CAD) to secure your place is due upon booking. Balance of payment (\$1250.00) is due 20 February, 2019. You will be invoiced for your payments after you have confirmed your interest in the trip. Please note that deposits are **absolutely non-refundable**, and final payments (the remainder) are non-refundable after the final payment date (3 months in advance of the trip start date).

Payment for this trip will be made to Joel McBurney, Big Country Guides, Nelson.

Insurance

All fees paid are 100% non-refundable. We cannot be held liable for cancellations of any kind. Therefore we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation and evacuation insurance to protect you in the event that you need to cancel or there is an emergency during your trip. For the first time, we are offering trip cancellation and evacuation insurance coverage ourselves for a fee of \$250+GST per person. Third party insurance is available via [Lifestyle Financial](#), and while we do highly recommend them you still need to ensure that the plan suits your specific needs. Finally, you may find that your credit card offers satisfactory insurance coverage, and so paying with a credit card might be in your best interest. We charge a 3.5% fee for credit card payments, but otherwise this might be the best way to square your bill and cover yourself at the

same time -- caveat being that you should contact your credit card company to verify they offer insurance for this kind of trip.

Waiver

There will be a waiver of liability and medical form that you will need to sign in order to participate in the ski trip. We will have these ready for you to sign when you arrive. You can view the waiver here: [English Waiver](#). [Sorcerer Lodge also has its own waiver found here](#). If you have any questions about the waiver please talk to your lawyer or let us know prior to arrival so that we can either answer your questions or put you in touch with someone who can answer them. You will notice there is also a Medical Information Form for emergency contact and medical information. If you wish you can print the Medical portion of the form and fill it out prior to arrival. The waiver will have to be filled out and signed upon arrival.

Legally, you need to be provided with an opportunity to read through it ahead of time so that if you disagree or have difficulty with its contents, you can cancel your ski touring trip prior to traveling. You must read the waiver, understand the waiver, and have any questions you might have about this waiver answered BEFORE showing up for the trip. Warning -- we'll quiz you to make sure!

Staff

Tom Wolfe (Mountain Guide ACMG/IFMGA) has been guiding since moving to Canmore in 1995, the place he calls home with wife, son and daughter. He guides year around, with winters being a mix of ski guiding at lodges, heli-ski operations, and remote backcountry destinations throughout western Canada. Email: twolfe@sawback.com, Cell: (403) 707-9996

Joel McBurney (Ski Guide ACMG) - Residing in Nelson, BC with his wife and two boys, Joel spends the winter as a Lead Guide for Baldface Lodge in addition to Big Country Guiding trips. With over twenty years of backcountry experience, including a decade of guiding, he never tires of grabbing his skis or board and heading out for a day in the mountains. Email: joelmcburney@gmail.com, Cell: +12505091223, Home: 354-4507

Michelle Heerschop, owner of Touch of Love Catering, will be our chef for the week. Michelle's business is aptly named -- expect great food and great service from this force of nature.

Our goal is to provide you with the best skiing possible in the comfort and ease of a fully catered backcountry chalet.

Getting to Golden

If you are flying from out of town the most convenient international airport is Calgary, about 3 hours east Golden.

Other options for flying include Kelowna (about 4 hours drive west of Golden) or Cranbrook (2h45 south of Golden). Driving from Vancouver to Golden takes about 7h30, from Spokane the

drive is around 6 hours. There is a regional airport in Golden but it only handles very small charter aircraft.

Equipment

A gear list for the week is attached below. Ski crampons are a must for spring ski touring, and they can make a big difference even on a powder skiing week at times. If you have any difficulty obtaining these please let me know. We have some spares and can likely set you up with a pair. You will need a climbing harness with several locking carabiners. Please ensure that it fits comfortably over your ski clothes. A light weight ice axe (optional) may be useful for some of the routes and peaks in the area.

The lodge is equipped with AC power but does not WiFi/internet access at all. It also has a wonderful sauna for the end of the day. Beer and wine are not provided, but feel free to bring your own.

Sorcerer Chalet

Ski Touring - Equipment List

Clothing

- Wool or synthetic socks and liner socks
- Long underwear top - synthetic or wool
- Light fleece or wool sweater
- Wind shell - nylon or 'Schoeller' type jacket
- Waterproof breathable jacket
- Warm insulated jacket - down or synthetic
- Long underwear bottoms - synthetic or wool
- Multipurpose stretch nylon or 'Schoeller' type pants
- Waterproof breathable pants
- Warm hat - wool or synthetic
- Brimmed cap for sun protection
- Face warmer - scarf, neck tube or balaclava (optional)
- Light gloves - wool, synthetic or leather
- Insulated gloves or mitts with waterproof outer shell
- Spare gloves or mitts
- Handkerchief for blocking the sun (optional)

Snow Safety Equipment

- Avalanche beacon with good batteries (and spares)
- Shovel
- Probe (2.4m or longer preferred)

Travel Equipment

- Skis or splitboard -- this is a spring trip, so just about any skis will do. Most people are happy with skis in the 95 mm to 110 mm range (waist) these days.
- Ski strap
- Ski or snowboard boots
- Poles
- Climbing skins
- Skin wax (or a candle)
- Ski crampons
- Binding repair kit to fix your personal travel setup
- Ski helmet (optional)

Personal Equipment

- Pack (30-40 litres)

Sunglasses (Having both orange and dark lenses helps for uphill travel in all conditions)
Goggles (orange lenses)
Sunscreen and lip cream (SPF 30+)
Head lamp with good batteries
Insulated water bottle or thermos (1-2 L)
Lunch bag or container
Personal blister kit (i.e: Leukotape-P and Compeed/Second Skin blister pads)
Pocket knife (optional)
Camera (optional)

Glacier Gear

Harness - fitted for over your ski clothing
Locking carabiners (x2)
Non locking carabiners (x2)
Prusik cord - 5m x 6mm (optional)
Sewn sling - 120cm (optional)
Lightweight ice axe (optional)

Hut Gear

Duffle bag for flying into the lodge
Shoes or sandals
Winter boots for travel to the outhouse (boots at the hut for you to use as well if you prefer)
Hut clothing
1-2 Towels and swimsuit for sauna
Personal medications and toiletries
Ear plugs
Reading material
Chargers for electronic devices (normal AC power is available via micro-hydro)

Note the following are provided:

- * Beer and wine are not provided at the lodge, so BYOB
- * Pillows and duvets supplied at the lodge

Group Gear (supplied by the guides)

Altimeter
Map and compass
GPS
Snow study kit
Snow and/or bush saw
First aid kit
Emergency tarp/toboggan
Group repair kit
Radio & satellite phone
Ropes for glacier travel



Photos





Nordic Glacier in April



Tom kicking steps up Iconoclast N Face, April 24, 2011



Tom skiing down Iconoclast N Face, April 24, 2011