**Big White**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

21

**Intermediate Runs**

64

**Advanced Runs**

33

**Total Runs**

118

**Lifts**

16

**Chairs**

10

**Drags**

5

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

7.5m (24.7ft).

**Overview**

Popular Canadian ski resort Big White is accurately named – it’s one of North America’s largest ski area and its reputation for reliable, light powder snow means that it looks, well, very white.

The resort has grown rapidly in recent years and even outshines Whistler in terms of the number of ski-in/ski-out guest accommodation available to visiting skiers and boarders. Although minor roads snake around the resort to allow guest access, the resort's ethos is largely one of pedestrianisation, and its central road, Main Street, is actually a flat ski run.

On the slopes there’s a great variety of terrain and a large choice of runs, so there'll be no problem keeping all members of a mixed-ability group happy.

Off the slopes, there’s a lively après-ski scene for those in search of late nights of hedonism, while numerous child-friendly restaurants and hotels mean it’s equally as appealing to families. The resort’s close proximity to the airport at Kelowna, just a short drive away, means Big White is accessible to visitors from across the globe, giving the resort a nice international feel.

**Location**

Big White is located in the Okanagan Valley, within the Monashee mountain range in central British Columbia, southwest Canada.

**Website**

http://www.bigwhite.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.bigwhite.com/media-public/media-access/maps-and-brochures

**Hit The Slopes**

British Columbia’s second biggest ski area has a great snow record, with more than 7m (24ft) falling annually. Conditions are therefore normally good throughout the season, from late November through to mid-April.

There's excellent beginners’ terrain close to the resort centre at Happy Valley with its dedicated lifts; but nearly two thirds of the resort's ski slopes are graded at intermediate standard, with runs up to 7.2km (4.5 miles) in length.

There's all kind of intermediate terrain here, from ultra smooth cruisers to gladed runs on thinly wooded slopes. But many come for the powder, which is among the best around. Skiers looking to ski powder for the first time will love Big White’s easy runs, while experienced hands will also have plenty of options.

Experts will enjoy the double black diamond grade terrain of The Cliff bowl, with slope gradients of up to 45%; while the 1km-long (0.6 miles) Parachute Bowl is regarded as having the steepest slopes of all. Black runs can also be found in the Sun Rype Bowl and from the top of the Falcon and Powder chairlifts.

Cross-country skiers can make the most of the 25km (16 miles) of trails starting at the Happy Valley area.

**Big White**

**Resort**

1755

**Base**

1508

**Top**

2319

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Visitors who fancy some time off their skis or board can explore the snow-covered hills by snowmobile or dog sled instead. There’s also the chance to discover the resort's back country on snowshoes or by taking a sleigh ride through the wilderness. For an opportunity to see the resort from up high, climb the 18m-high (60ft) ice climbing tower. Other options include ice skating and tubing.

Many hotels have outdoor hot tubs to soak in while watching the sunset, while others offer more luxurious spa treatments. The Beyond Wrapture Day Spa (tel: +1 250 448 8899; www.[beyondwrapture.com](http://beyondwrapture.com/)) is one of two spa centres at the resort and can be found within the Chateau Big White hotel.

A more unique activity to Big White is the Sno-Limo service, which involves a skiing staff member pushing their customer around the resort’s ski slopes on a sledge.

**Family Fun**

As with most major North American ski centres, Big White has superb childcare facilities for all ages. Nursery provision is available from 18 months at the Kids’ Centre (tel: +1 250 491 6101) in the heart of the village. This is also the base for the ski school where children aged three and older can progress through various fun learning levels, including ‘Ski Cubs’ and ‘Snow Riders’.

There's plenty to do in the evenings at the Happy Valley Lodge entertainment area at the base of Lara’s gondola. This contains the largest resort tubing park in North America, as well as Canada’s highest ice rink. The resort also organises regular family friendly events including carnivals, bingo, live music and firework displays.

**Retail Therapy**

Retail choices at Big White have expanded over the last few years, catering for most holiday needs. As well as the usual offering of grocers, bakeries and confectioners, there are several ski and board shops, including the new Big White Kids shop that sells accessories for children under 12. A good shop for adults is Dizzy's boot store in the base lodge; it’s become a mecca for skiers thanks to its 20-year reputation for ski boot fitting.

For a major shopping expedition, drive to Kelowna, which has a great range of city-scale shops; including most major chain stores. The resort also organises regular shopping trips to Kelowna by bus.

**Splashing Out**

The Ultimate III Day Spa Package offered at the Beyond Wrapture Day Spa (tel: +1 250 448 8899; www.[beyondwrapture.com](http://beyondwrapture.com/)) in the Chateau Big White hotel is an incredible experience that lasts upwards of seven hours. The procedure includes a sea salt and loofah glow massage, aromatherapy wrap, pedicure, spa manicure, aromatherapy massage, and finally a soothing signature facial, with lunch and drinks also included.

**Apres Ski**

The mixture of Australian, British and, of course, Canadian clientele at Big White can lead to some lively nightlife in a resort with half a dozen or so venues to choose from.

The Blarney Stone Irish Tavern (tel: +1 250 491 2009) within the Inn at Big White, is marketed as “Canada’s highest altitude Irish tavern”, and is one of the more popular spots with live music, theme nights and a great selection of Irish and international beers on tap.

For livelier après-ski fun, Snowshoe Sam's (tel: +1 250 765 5959; www.[snowshoesams.com](http://snowshoesams.com/)), is one of Canada’s, and indeed the whole skiing world’s, classic ski bars that’s legendary for its great pub atmosphere, games, DJs and live bands. The Moose Lounge in the Happy Valley Day Lodge (tel: +1 250 491 6155) also hosts live musical entertainment every evening.

**Eating Out**

The selection of dining establishments in the resort is moderate, with around a dozen choices.

Of these the Globe Café and Tapas Bar (tel: +1 250 765 1501; [www.globedining.com](http://www.globedining.com)) is one of the most popular, serving, somewhat predictably, a great selection of tasty tapas dishes.

Small but upscale 6 Degrees in the Stonebridge Lodge ([www.6degreesbigwhite.com](http://www.6degreesbigwhite.com)) has two sittings nightly and usually requires a reservation. It endeavours to serve a higher calibre on contemporary cuisine, with a wide ranging wine list of local Okanagan wines.

The Kettle Valley Steakhouse also specialises in fine dining with dishes using tender Canadian beef and venison. For slightly more affordable Canadian fare, that doesn’t lack on quality, check out The BullWheel (tel: +1 250 765 6551; [www.thebullwheel.com](http://www.thebullwheel.com)).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Kelowna International Airport (YLW).

Distance to resort: 61km (38 miles).

Driving time: 45 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Big White is relatively compact, so visitors can walk (and in many cases ski) between all the different areas. It is located on a hillside and the resort centre transit gondola links the upper and lower sections. There is also a free shuttle bus that circulates around the resort every 30 minutes throughout the day and evening.

**Hotels**

The large, purpose-built resort is an attractive mixture of wood and stone buildings. Much of the accommodation in Big White is ski-in/ski-out, ranging from modern apartments and luxury hotels to lodges, cabins and inexpensive hostels.

**White Crystal Inn**

Located next to the gondola and Bullet Express chairs, the White Crystal Inn offers spacious rooms. The hotel has a hot tub, sauna, free underground parking and free Wi-Fi internet access.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Central Village

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Big White

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

V1P 1P3

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 250 765 8888.

**Website**

http://www.bigwhite.com

**Chateau Big White**

Located directly on the Hummingbird Run, this is one of the best hotels in the resort. It features an international restaurant, well-equipped rooms and a spa.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Central Village

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Big White

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

V1P 1P3

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 250 765 8888.

**Website**

http://www.bigwhite.com

**Urban Retreat Hostel**

A totally ski-in/ski-out hostel, Urban Retreat Hostel has excellent facilities and is a two-minute walk from the resort’s main attractions and services.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

7470 Porcupine Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Big White

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

BC

**Postcode**

V1P 1P3

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 250 765 7920.

**Website**

http://www.urbanretreathostel.com

**Ptarmigan Inn**

Affordable but now rather dated, the Ptarmigan Inn has limited facilities, but occupies a prime spot on the resort close to slopes, the village store and Snowshoe Sam’s bar.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

6430 Whiskey Jack Rd

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Big White

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

V1P 1P3

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 250 765 8888.

**Website**

www.bigwhite.com

**Sundance Resort at Big White Ski Resort**

Family friendly facility close to resort centre featuring pool with slides, hot tubs, steam room and media room.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

255 Feathertop Way

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Big White

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

V1P 1P3

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 250 765 9131.

**Website**

www.sundancebigwhite.com

**Inn at Big White**

The Inn at Big White houses 100 rooms, each fitted with kitchen facilities and high speed Wi-Fi. On-site facilities include a heated outdoor pool and hot tub as well as popular Irish pub The Blarney Stone, promising a lively après ski close to home but also the increases the likelihood of late evening noise, especially for rooms at the front of the hotel.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

5340 Big White Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Big White

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

BC

**Postcode**

V1P 1P3

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 250 765 8888.

**Website**

www.bigwhite.com