**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**

Big White is one of Canada's largest and most popular ski resorts, with a great variety of terrain and a reputation for amazing powder.

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. Off the slopes, there are enough activities and a good range of bars and restaurants to keep visitors entertained.

There is a large choice of runs, so there'll be no problem keeping all members of a mixed-ability group happy. The resort has a particularly strong reputation for its abundant, light powder snow and frequently tops polls for the resort with the snow that skiers like best. This snow also forms one of the area's more unusual attractions, ‘snow ghosts', which are snow-encrusted trees that actually do look quite ghostly in low light.

**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: (250) 448 8899; [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: (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. Among these, the new Big White Kids shop 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: (250) 448 8899; [beyondwrapture.com](http://beyondwrapture.com/)) in the Chateau Big White hotel is an incredible seven hours plus experience. This 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**

Big White has a good selection of lively après-ski bars where guests can enjoy locally brewed Okanagan beers and world-famous wines. For the latter, visit the Kettle Valley Steakhouse and Wine Bar (tel: (250) 491 0130) in Happy Valley, which boasts more than 140 selections from the Okanagan Valley and around the world.

For livelier après-ski fun, Snowshoe Sam's (tel: (250) 765 5959; [snowshoesams.com](http://snowshoesams.com/)) is legendary for its great pub atmosphere, games, DJs and live bands. The Moose Lounge in the Happy Valley Day Lodge (tel: (250) 491 6155) also hosts live musical entertainment every evening.

**Eating Out**

There are about 20 restaurants dotted around Big White, with options ranging from the family friendly to the gourmet. The Kettle Valley Steakhouse specialises in fine dining with dishes using Canadian beef and venison. For Canadian fare in more casual surrounds, check out The BullWheel (tel: (250) 765 6551), while the Globe Café and Tapas Bard (tel: (250) 765 1501; [www.globedining.com](http://www.globedining.com)) serves great tapas, perfect for groups.

**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.

**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**

XXX

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

(250) 765 7920.

**Website**

http://www.urbanretreathostel.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**

XXX

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

(250) 765 8888.

**Website**

http://www.bigwhite.com

**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**

XXX

**Country**

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**Telephone**

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