

SKI VACATIONS

*Where families gather.

Set amid the Rocky Mountains — just west of the famous and always-scenic Gallatin River, near the northwest corner of the Yellowstone National Park in Montana's Big Sky — the glamorous yet rustic Yellowstone Club just happens to be the only private ski and golf community on the planet.

With its focus on family fun and a meticulous makeover since Discovery Land Company took over management in 2009, this esteemed community is now the gold standard for like-minded communities.

Set under a canopy of seemingly endless blue skies and star-filled nights, the Yellowstone Club is a luxurious 13,600-acre residential community framed by mountain

peaks reaching 11,000 feet in elevation, with more than 300 inches of yearly snowfall. Outfitted with family-style schussing along 60-plus powder-perfect slopes and the best grooming conditions possible, this luxurious resort is for those who desire nothing less than the best in snow and board skiing, blue-ribbon trout streams, golfing and restaurant lodges.

Real estate opportunities range from land purchases (sized from a bit under an acre to a whopping 350 acres) for building homes ranging from custom-designed sin-

gle-family residences and carefully harvested timber wood chalets to enormous ranches and two- to seven-bedroom furnished and/or unfurnished condominiums and townhouses. Needless to say, each and every residence offers heart-stopping mountain views — and many homes are ski-in/ski-out or edge the championship golf course.

Better yet, the Yellowstone Club provides easy access to another 5,500 acres of Matterhorn-like skiing terrain at the adjacent Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin's resorts, making the Yellowstone Club the provider of the most skiing acreage in the nation — for just-starting-out newbies seeking bunny trails to expert adrenaline

junkies all season long, and everyone in between. Incidentally, whenever there's a full moon, Moonlight Dine & Ski evenings are on the schedule for night flyers with skis or boards at the Timberline Café.

Under the heading of "membership has its privileges" — families and friends can grab more than a helping of comfort with yummy respites at the Warren Miller Lodge, an architectural masterpiece where they can hang out, seek five-star concierge services, rejuvenate inside its day spa, or seek health and wellness at the fitness facility. Additional lodge amenities include 20 Below — a younger-age-group area with a game room, a basketball court, a rock-climbing wall, a 38-seat movie theater, an arts and crafts room, and the Frostbite Diner, a retro eatery for burgers, shakes and such.

When the time comes for chowing down — whether you want dining on the run, family-style casual or gourmet fine dining with world-class wine pairings to match — options are plentiful. For example, the Rainbow Lodge serves up a broad range of Montana-infused wild game

cuisine (think roasted elk chops and braised bison signature dishes) in its stone-fireplaced dining room overlooking Big Sky's Lone Peak, which tops out at over 11,100 feet. Other relaxing prospects at the lodge include a hot tub and a heated outdoor infinity swimming pool.

The mid-mountain Timberline Café is ideal for casual wintertime lunches and small-plate snacks between runs — and the Yellowstone Club's two mountainside warming/comfort station huts are ideal for grabbing cups of thick velvety cocoa along with an assortment of healthy-yet-delicious or comfort-food snacks.

The Camphouse Fitness Center and Pool is for getting fit with an option to work with personal trainers or taking yoga and ski-conditioning classes, but not before browsing its boutique for yoga and workout apparel. Tennis (including paddle tennis) and basketball courts are also available at this facility.

Do you enjoy a round of golf on a view-blessed 18-hole championship course? No problem. The Yellowstone Club's Tom Weiskopf-designed course will do the trick. The clubhouse, with its sunny daytime outdoor deck and grill area, also has a golf shop for apparel and gear. As one would expect, the golf club and course staff (includ-

ing expert pro instructors), like those found throughout the community, are highly trained. The course has two comfort stations, one of which offers soft-serve ice cream and locally brewed root beer, along with similar offerings found at the mountainside warming huts/comfort stations.

This exclusive club's signature lifestyle and recreational programs allow members to take part in countless seasonal activities, be it indoors or out. High on the list of all-year-long family pursuits are snowboarding, snowmobiling, kayaking, whitewater rafting and fly-fishing — as well as multiday horseback riding trips, zip-line excursions, mountain biking, Yellowstone Park tours and guided A.T.V. trips just below the summit of Eglise Mountain or the trails of Pioneer Mountain. Age-appropriate youth program offerings range from puppet shows and sporty activities (even archery and golf) to under-the-stars sleepovers and Adirondack-style summer camps when the temperatures rise.

Additionally, the Yellowstone Club established the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation (Y.C.C.F.) in 2010. With members, friends, and the ownership and management of the Yellowstone Club, Y.C.C.F. actively contributes to worthwhile, nonprofit charitable organizations in the Greater Big Sky and Gallatin Valley area.

For more information, visit yellowstoneclub.com or call (406) 995-4900.



LEFT: Yellowstone Club ski ambassador, Scot Schmidt, skiing at Yellowstone Club. Photo: Ryan Turner

ABOVE: A family skiing into a residence. Photo: Travis Andersen



ABOVE: A Yellowstone Club warming Hut. Photo: Travis Andersen

RIGHT: The Warren Miller Lodge. Photo: Karl Neumann



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