

SKI THE NEAR NORTH

Friday, February 15, 2019-February 17, 2019.

Come and discover, what may be some for some of you, some new ski resorts – Arrowhead Provincial Park in the Huntsville area, North Bay Nordic Ski Club and Georgian Nordic Ski Club in Parry Sound.

The plan is to depart Burlington on Friday, February 15, 2019 at approximately 0800 hours, with a brief nature break on the way, arriving in Huntsville at approximately 1130-1145 hours. We will have lunch in Arrowhead Provincial Park in the heart of Muskoka and spend the balance of the afternoon skiing the trails in Arrowhead. Please bring your lunch/snacks/drinks with you since Arrowhead will only have snack type foods. Arrowhead now boasts a new Visitor Centre and a new “warming” hut.

Arrowhead PP has 28 km of classic ski trails; 16 km of skate/ski trails, all ranging from beginner to expert level. Access to Arrowhead’s tubing hill is included in your day pass; only Park tubes are allowed on the hill. The Park also has 8 + kms of well-marked snowshoe trails and, of course, the Park now offers a 1.3 km ice skate trail, weather permitting. Depending upon the weather/road conditions, we will depart the Park at 1600 hours to drive to our accommodation at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Huntsville. The evening is free for you to dine where you wish.

Saturday, February 16, 2019 we will head to the North Bay Nordic Ski Club departing the hotel at 0800 hours. The drive to North Bay will take approximately 90 minutes, arriving at the Club at approximately 1030 hours. The North Bay Club has a variety of trails ranging from “easier” (3.9 kms) to “more difficult” (7.3 kms) to “most difficult” (40 kms). The easier trails are the shortest distances. The short distance and relatively flat terrain of these trails make them ideally suited to both novice skiers as an introduction, as well as to more advanced skiers as a warm up and cool down. The “more difficult” trails consist of two trails - a 3.0 km trail, featuring gradual uphill, rolling terrain and a scenic return through a coniferous forest, and a second one of 4.3 km through hardwood forests and along scenic ridges. The “most difficult” of the trails, comprising of four loops, offer 40 kms of trails ranging from 5 kms to the longest trail of 18 kms. These trails offer a challenge, however, skiers are rewarded, if that’s the right word, with rolling terrain, long downhill runs and spectacular views, depending upon the trail one takes.

Depending upon Mother Nature and the weather conditions we will depart from North Bay at 1500 hours arriving in Huntsville at 1630 hours. Again, the evening is free to dine where you wish.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to contact a “live body” in North Bay either by e-mail or telephone so my information is skimpy. Clive and I have skied at North Bay in the past and at that time they did have a “mini” lunch room, selling hot soups and drinks, as well as the usual “snack” food. We would suggest you pack a lunch with drinks to take with you. As the ski season approaches, we will provide updates on this as more information becomes available.

Sunday, February 17, 2019 we will head to Georgian Nordic Ski Club departing the hotel at 0830 hours arriving at Georgian Nordic at approximately 0930 hours. I do not believe the Club has skied at this Club. We have skied there in the past but a number of changes have been made since then. The “Burrow” commonly known to us as the “warm-up hut” is large and bright and the Club now has a separate building for waxing. You will need to bring a lunch and drinks. Georgian Nordic serves the Parry Sound area and is known for a good selection of trails for all Nordic enthusiasts. The groomed trails have an equal amount of easy to advanced loops that, we are told, are rarely crowded and are in a very scenic and not-too-hilly area. The area is part of the Canadian Shield.

The Club offers 18.7 kms of skating and classic trails ranging from 1.4 km to 8.0 kms; 34.2 kms of classic trails, ranging from 2.0 km to 14.0 kms, plus a snowshoe trail of 4.5 km. Those wishing to snowshoe are encouraged to not only use the “official” trail but to also venture into the forest as there is plenty of open

area. As my contact at the Club told me – “that’s what snowshoeing is all about – getting into the bush”. Last winter, the trails were open in early December and lasted into April, with over 115 days of skiing.

The plan is to leave Georgian Nordic at approximately 1430 hours arriving in Parry Sound at approximately 1500 hours for a group dinner at Wellington’s Pub and Grill. You will have the option of Salmon (grilled with a lemon/dill caper sauce); Stuffed Chicken Breast-Asiago Cheese and roast red pepper stuffing with béarnaise sauce; Jaeger Schnitzel-Port Tenderloin topped with bacon, onions, mushrooms and seasoned brown gravy. All entrees will include mashed or baked potato and fresh seasonal vegetables. A vegetarian option is would be a stir fry in a ginger garlic sauce or a vegetarian lasagna. A gluten free diet can be accommodated. To top off dinner, dessert will be cheesecake with strawberry topping – you have to eat your dinner first, though!! Following dinner we will head directly back to Burlington, with a brief stop for a nature break, arriving at approximately 2000 hours.

General Information

The Holiday Inn and Suites offers a variety of services including mini-fridges and microwave in all rooms. A hot and cold breakfast is served from – 0730-0930 hours. There is also a swimming pool and a fitness gym for those who may feel the need of extra activity. The Bulk Barn and the Independent Grocery Store is within easy walking distance from the hotel for any additional supplies you may need. The Independent Grocery Store offers a good selection of beers (import, domestic and craft) as well as a selection of Canadian wines. East Side Mario’s is also located in the same “mall”. For those who may wish to dine there ESM offers a 10 discount for people staying at the Holiday Inn. Please remember, this is a long weekend and one may need to make a reservation if a small group decides to dine at any of the restaurants.

Trip Costs

Single Room - \$585

Double Room - \$399

Gentle Reminder – There are no deposit payments for this type of trip. Payment is required in full through PayPal.

Cancellation Policy – Should you need to cancel your trip, you must notify Bonnie at the Club Office. If it is prior to the deadline of January 12, 2019 then your payment will be refunded, minus a \$25.00 processing fee. Refunds will be processed by our administrator through PayPal. After that date, you will be charged for any expense that the Club incurs on your behalf.

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