

SJSC VAIL FEB 8TH-15TH 2019



Our large SJSC group departed from PHL on Friday evening at 6pm on our direct flight to Denver. We met up with David P from Atlanta and promptly called our Arrow bus to get on our way. Michelle and Eric had ordered some libations from Applejack and Gloria from Ski.com kindly picked up the order and met our bus. After our quick stop we were served beer and wine from Debbie and Maryanne T and passed around pretzels and candy on our clear and smooth ride through the mountains to Vail. The time flew by and we pulled into Vail Village at 12:30 am, first stopping at our Condos on Vail Road next to the Sonnenalp Hotel. Eric and Jason helped everyone get settled and we were off to the Lodge.

The Lodge at Vail was ready for our group with Brittany heading up the Front Desk. We checked in quickly, and the bellman delivered our bags. Michelle passed out our Breakfast vouchers and \$75 Lunch on Us Cards. Exhausted but excited we all went off to bed to get some rest.

Saturday was partly sunny and we met up with Earl, Donna, Eileen, Jeff, Don & Erika who arrived before us. The Breakfast at Cucina is quite amazing. Every day they have blueberry pancakes, cheese blintz, waffles with fruit, omelets, eggs made to order, etc. Breakfast opened at 7 and many ate and headed out for our first day at Vail. It was a quick 2-minute walk to Gondola One and we were on our way.

Our Après ski from 3-5 was at Elway's Steakhouse connected to the hotel. Elway's did not disappoint with their amazing steak tacos, calamari and Après drinks...Pink Lady's and Mules. SJSC packed the bar and several friends in Vail also came by to create a fun and festive evening. Our Vail Rep stopped by to say hello and tell us about Epic Mixx and she set up our Guided Tours for Sunday morning. A large group including Eric and Brittany, headed off to the Hot tubs and to check out the Pool and firepits. Every day the Lodge has fixings for Smores outside by the fire pit for a help yourself Smore treat!

We woke up Sunday to a clear bluebird day. About 25 of us met the guides at Eagles Nest for a 2 hour guided tour of Vail. We split up and headed off on a fun filled tour from Lionshead side all the way over to Riva Bahn lift, Highline lift and back. Judith was our guide and she took us along on our way to the Riva Bahn / Golden Peak side while telling us some interesting stories about Bear Tree and Vail's history. We made it to the Highline Chair and learned that it has the longest mogul run in North America. We glanced at the long mogul run from the lift, and we spotted Eric and Brittany cruising down it effortlessly! After the tour Georgan, Steve, Michelle, Debbie, Jim, Linda S, Linda H, and Eric headed into Wildwood BBQ and used our Lunch on Us cards on brisket, ribs, salad, and chili.

Après ski was at the Redlion at 4 pm with Johnny Schleper. We slowly took over a lot of real estate in the bar with our large group. Everyone shared stories of their day and the

shot ski made its way to one of our tables with Rich, Chip, Amanda and Laura. Many of us were tired from the busy ski day and headed back to the Lodge for the night. There were rumors of snow coming on Monday!

Monday was our powder day and it was cold. Many left the Lodge early to head into the Back bowls. The powder was so light and fluffy; there were hoots and hollers everywhere. The visibility was poor but the powder was excellent. After a busy day on the slopes many headed to the steam room and sauna to warm up. Our group party that night was at Cucina at the Lodge. Sarah our group event liason, set up a beautiful room for our group by the fireplace. We had two long tables for a very inviting party together. Our group feasted on several different appetizers, wings and drinks from 4-5:30. We toasted our fun powder day and many headed off to the hot tubs to soak for a bit.

Tuesday morning was the perfect bluebird day. A large group met at the top of Chair 4 for our Blue Sky Basin Tour, including Eileen, Joe K, Dave, Chris, Diane, Steve, Joe H, Joe B and many others. We split up into different groups and headed out on an adventure. Our group skied with Wade, who loved his job. Apparently Wade used to be a racecar driver; when he said follow me, I was a little nervous! It was an incredible journey to Blue Sky Basin, through Poppyfield in the China Bowl. We finally made it to Cloud 9 into Big Rock and through the trees. Wade explained that you could bring a picnic lunch up and use grills to have your own cookout lunch at the top of Blue Sky Basin. The views from the top are so vast and beautiful as you look out over the seven-mile wide Vail terrain.

That evening our group met up at the Sonnenalp Hotel at the Kings Club bar for some Mudslide Martini's! Several groups gathered around the fireplace and piano bar including Geri, Gwen, Maryanne, Debbie, Joe B, Rich, and Amanda, to enjoy the entertainment. It was a warm and inviting atmosphere in the Sonnenalp with its European vibe.

In the morning, many planned a day into the Back Bowls of Vail. A large group planned a Powder Cat ski day including Chip, John, Joey, George and several others. Our group stayed on the front side and skied the Avanti 6 pack chair, then headed over to Sourdough chair and to Northwoods. At the end of the day, we enjoyed the Après Express bar at the base of Gondola One, with some bourbon Mules to end the day. We were able to use up our Lunch on Us cards for snacks and drinks! The sun was shining and it occurred to us that we had a front row view of Pepi's Face, a steep bump run, and those lucky ...or not so lucky skiers and boarders who decided to try it. That night we headed to the hot tub and relaxed.

Thursday was our last day out on the slopes; most everyone took first tracks to make the best of it. The snow was coming down hard and the powder got deep. It was a long, fun, exhausting day. We planned our last Après ski at Pepi's with live entertainment at 4 pm.

A large group gathered together for drinks and Bavarian pretzels to celebrate our fun week. It was a pleasure skiing and traveling with everyone on this trip to Vail. We hope to see you on another SJSC trip soon!

Michelle & Eric Tieniber



