

Riverside Golf Course & Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

# Brainstorming the Mountain

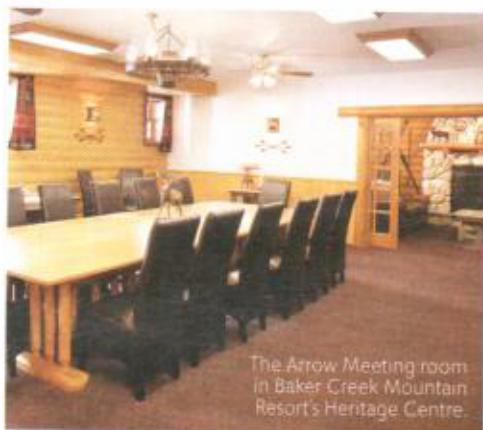
All work can include mostly play at resorts fully equipped to host your corporate retreat



**Talk about a** thankless task. The boss just asked you to organize your company's annual off-site meetings. After last year's slumber-inducing sessions, in a downtown hotel, staff members are less than excited for this year's gathering. After a long winter of hunkering down, the team needs a change of scenery and maybe a little bonding time to reinvigorate creative juices, generate new ideas and make sure productivity stays at a peak.

With the Rockies an easy morning drive from Calgary and resorts fully equipped with spaces to get work done and activities to get you out from behind a desk, the mountains are one of corporate Calgary's best assets. Here are five mountain options for corporate retreats, all within four hours of the city.





The Arrow Meeting room in Baker Creek Mountain Resort's Heritage Centre.

## Baker Creek Mountain Resort

Cyclists, bus tours and Sunday drivers know and enjoy the Bow Valley Parkway, also known as the 1A, as the rest of the world rushes by on the TransCanada. Follow the parkway to Lake Louise and find Baker Creek Mountain Resort just minutes from the Lake Louise townsite. The resort offers overnight accommodation in 35 units that include suites with Jacuzzi tubs and private balconies and chalets with log walls and stone fireplaces. It's a hotel known for comfy duvets and decadent food — ask for the duck-in-a-jar at Baker Creek Bistro. It also has a hidden talent in accommodating private business meetings for up to 30 participants in the Heritage Centre, and there are smaller breakout areas available. The centre is equipped with digital projection systems, and it only hosts one event at a time, so your corporate secrets are safe. Once the meetings are done, toast your colleagues to a job well done along the creekside next to a roaring campfire. (Bow Valley Pkwy., Lake Louise, 403-522-3761, bakercreek.com)



Fairmont Hot Springs

## Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

A scenic three-and-a-half-hour drive through Banff National Park over the mountains and into the Columbia Valley will get you to Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. Its namesake hot springs with their healing waters along with the Purcell Mountain range are the same as when the area was first settled in the 1880s. The resort, with its three golf courses, ski area, spa, restaurants and hotel, was added over the past 40 years with major upgrades in the past five.

It attracts families but is also fully equipped to host business retreats.

There are six meeting spaces from a post-and-beam chalet with 25-foot ceilings and a wrap-around deck to big banquet rooms for 300 in the

conference centre. Mealtime ranges from custom buffets and sit-down meals to pizza and de platters. Throw in a chocolate fountain and a fully staffed and stocked bar for fun. If you are looking for a party post-meeting, the Mountainside Clubhouse has a stage and dance floor. If you want to bond with your co-workers outside the boardroom, the resort organizes team-building activities that include golf, trail riding, geocaching and cooking. For the truly jet set, Fairmont Hot Springs has a private airport across the river with space to land aircraft up to the size of a 737. (5225 Fairmont Resort Fwy., Fairmont Hot Springs, 800-663-4979, fairmonthotsprings.com)



Canmore Nordic Centre trails.

## Canmore Nordic Centre

The Canmore Nordic Centre opened to athletes and the world in 1988 for the Winter Olympics. The park continues to be a training ground for Canadian hopefuls of all ages and abilities. In the winter, there are more than 65 kilometres of groomed cross-country ski trails and a 31-lane biathlon shooting range. In the summer, there is a mountain bike skills park, roller ski trails and more than 100 kilometres of trails for hiking and biking.

For tasks that require less cardio and more corporate strategy, the Nordic Centre has plenty of meeting spaces. There are three fully equipped conference rooms ranging in size from an 80-person banquet room to a private 15-person boardroom. Each room is technology enabled with flat screen TVs and Wi-Fi connections. And Mountain Events Catering will make sure the room is organized and stocked with plenty to eat and drink. During coffee breaks or after your sessions, the team can bond on the Frisbee pitch. (1988 Olympic Way, Canmore, 403-678-2400, canmorenordic.com)





oh  
**Snap!**

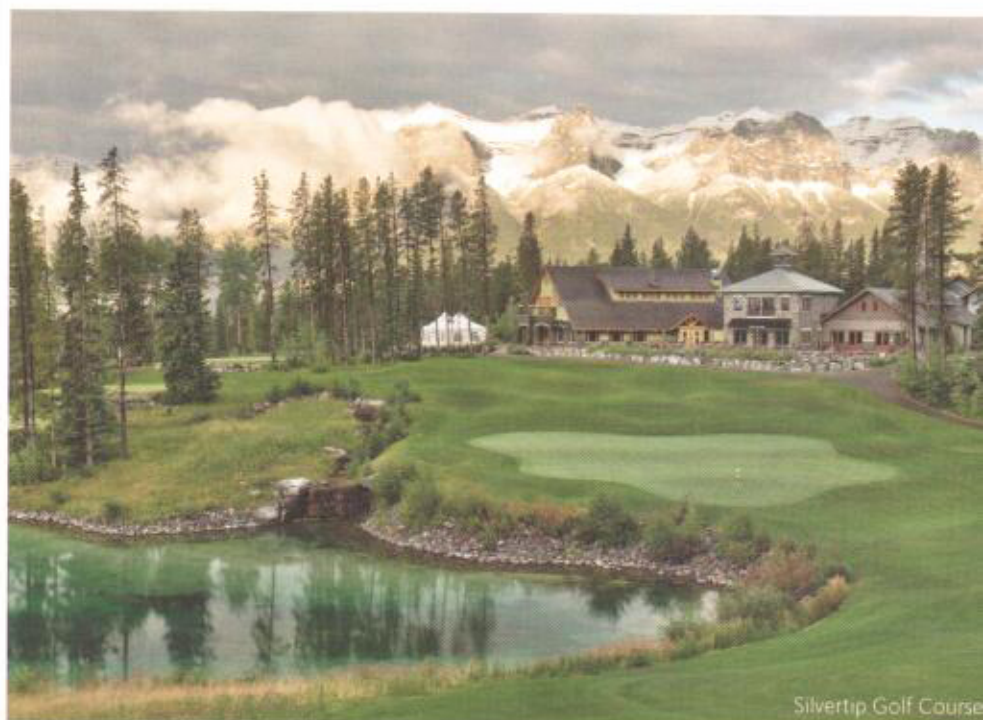
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Silvertip Golf Course

## Silvertip Resort

Directly across the valley from the Nordic Centre in Canmore, Silvertip Resort benefits from some of the best vistas in the Bow Valley. Your team can work through strategic planning and business forecasting in eight different spaces. The rooms vary in size accommodating between 20 and 250 participants. Need a boardroom? Require a theatre-style seating plan? The rooms are flexible with lots of tech options.

On-site catering can serve snacks, including antipasto platters or chips-and-dip trays. For lunch, enjoy Indian, Italian buffets or good old-

fashioned barbecue. And the create-your-own-buffet option for dinner lets companies customize the spread from options including lobster risotto, raw oysters and slow-roasted striploin. After your meetings conclude, your team will fall over themselves to get to the first tee-box of this championship golf course. Include a shotgun-style golf tournament in your formal programming, and cruise the course with your coworkers in GPS-equipped carts with on-screen leaderboard scoring. (2000 Silvertip Trail, Canmore, 403-678-1600, silvertipresort.com)



Kika's at Mount Norquay.

## Mount Norquay

Build your corporate legacy surrounded by more than 100 years of ski history at Mount Norquay. Just a few minutes outside of Banff, the views of Mount Rundle and the town are stunning. The Cascade and North American lodges are both available for business meetings in summer months (with more limited availability in the winter). The spacious, bright room with soaring ceilings can accommodate groups up to 200 people. Audio-visual technology and Wi-Fi are available within the lodges.

In summer months, hike the trails or take the North American chairlift to the top for breathtaking views of the Rockies. In the winter, rent out the tube park or have the resort set up a GS Ski Race on the Cascade

ski run for your group, complete with numbered racing bibs. Or rent out the ski hill for an evening between November and April for private use of the Cascade chair, three runs and the terrain park. Mount Norquay will shuttle you to and from Banff year-round. (2 Mt. Norquay Rd., Banff, 403-762-4421, banffnorquay.com) @