

# Whitefish Lodge Frequently asked Wedding Questions and Answers

## **How many people can Whitefish Lodge accommodate for a wedding reception?**

The banquet room at Whitefish Lodge can accommodate up to 300 people for a seated dinner.

## **Does Whitefish Lodge offer onsite ceremonies?**

Whitefish Lodge has an outdoor area behind the lodge for onsite ceremonies as well as the main fireplace area for indoor ceremonies. Smaller weddings can use one of the private rooms downstairs for a ceremony location. Our indoor fireplace area for an onsite ceremony can accommodate 185 chairs with the cat walk for more seating and standing room. The outdoor area can accommodate up to 300 chairs for a ceremony. Lakeside ceremonies are available at Manhattan Beach Lodge, 3.5 miles away from Whitefish Lodge but cannot be guaranteed for dates September – May until 6 months before, due to events booked at that venue. July and August Saturdays are available for bookings with the lakeside ceremony at Manhattan Beach Lodge and the reception to follow at Whitefish Lodge.

## **Do you have a food and Beverage Revenue Minimum?**

June – October Whitefish Lodge has a \$6,000.00 minimum and it includes ceremony cost, reception package, food and beverage. Lodging is not included in the minimum. No minimum is required for weddings November – May.

## **Do you have discounts for off-peak dates?**

Yes, discounted wedding packages are available November – May. Please contact Crystal for the specific discount for each month.

## **What is your deposit/payment Policy?**

The deposit to secure your date is \$1,000 November – May and \$1,500 June - October. You are welcome to make payments through the planning process. When you determine your food and beverage needs for your catering contract, a deposit of 25% is required. Your final invoice is given to you the week of your event after your guarantee numbers are given. Final payment is due no later than the day after your event.

## **Do you supply decorations and/or music for an onsite ceremony?**

Whitefish staff sets up and tears down the chairs and any required tables for the ceremony. Whitefish staff does not decorate the outdoor or indoor locations, but you are welcome to decorate yourself or hire a company to decorate for you. You can provide a runner for the aisle if you'd like. We recommend a fabric runner, as paper or plastic ones tend to get blown around outdoors. Power outlets are located outside and inside, so you may have your DJ set up any equipment you need for music.

## **Do you supply decorations for receptions?**

Whitefish Lodge has three different packages to pick from for your wedding reception. You are also given the option to create a custom package with the items you'd like. Whitefish staff does all the set up and tear down for the items included with the wedding package you select. Items include ceiling fabric/lighting, tables, chairs, table cloths, napkins, skirting, chair covers, sashes, silver, plate chargers, glassware and centerpieces included with specific packages.

## **Do you offer a room block for lodging?**

Yes, when you meet with Crystal to go over your wedding package you will discuss how many rooms you'd like put into your wedding block. Whitefish Lodge has the option of complete exclusivity for your wedding night with a guarantee block of 54 rooms. Blocks without guarantees are typically released 30 days before your event date so you are not held liable for any rooms not reserved. You will be given a group block reservation code, normally the first three letters of you and your fiancé's last name. This code and your zip code from your contract will access the reservation log online. Reservations under code can be made through the reservation desk by calling 218-692-2246, ext. 0 or through the online reservation system. You are offered complimentary group block reservation code cards to put in with your save the dates or invitations. To receive the cards you just have to tell Crystal how many you would like and they will be mailed to you.

## **Do you offer a discount on lodging?**

Yes, every wedding guest receives a discount on their lodging for guests. Your discounted rate is determined by the time of year and how many rooms you anticipate to use for your guests. Whitefish has 54 lodging rooms varying from standard rooms, suites, whirlpool and king kiddie suites.

**What time does the reception have to end?**

All events with entertainment are required to guarantee 20 guest rooms the night of the wedding. If you fall below the minimum 20 required rooms, entertainment must end no later than 11:00 PM. If between 20 and up to 89% percent of the lodge is reserved by wedding guests, ending time will be no later than midnight. If 90% or more of the lodge is booked by wedding guests, the event will end no later than 1:00 a.m. If 100% of the lodge is booked by wedding guests, the event will end no later than 2:00 a.m.

**What size tables are set up for the reception?** The guest tables are 60” round, with 8-10 seated per table. Larger weddings have a layout option with up to 4 long tables of 16 people. The head table size is determined by how many people will be seated at it. We typically seat 4 people per 8’ table and 3 people per 6’ table.

**Do you have a room for the bridal party to get ready in?**

For the weekend of your wedding you have access to the bridal suite, located across the hall from the banquet room. This room is yours complimentary all weekend for you to store items in and get ready in. The room has tables, chairs, mirrors, power outlets, a flat screen TV, garment rack, fireplace and a couple large hooks on the wall for the wedding dress and veil.

**How much time is allowed for decorating and set-up?**

You are allowed access to the banquet hall as early as the morning before your special day, and have the day after the wedding to remove your items. The wedding rental is a weekend rental – not just the day of the wedding. Whitefish staff removes all garbage and items not taken out by the wedding party after they check out. At check-in the wedding clients are given a key to the banquet room and bridal suite to have for the weekend.

**Does Whitefish have a security or cleaning fee?**

No, Whitefish does not have any additional fees on top of your package fee (reception package and ceremony do not have tax/service charge) and catering prices/taxes/fees. Whitefish does not require a security guard for onsite events or charge an additional fee for cleaning during or after the wedding.

**Can I supply my own food/beverage or bring in my own Caterer?**

Whitefish Lodge is a full service facility and does not allow outside beverage/food or outside caterers. We are, however, happy to discuss special meals for those with allergies and food restrictions. You are allowed to supply your own dessert, candy, snack mixes, popcorn and nuts. You are not required to go through a licensed baker for your dessert.

**Does Whitefish Catering have a cake cutting fee?**

A cake cutting fee is available for \$.50 per person and includes the cake professionally cut, plated and served with a fork for each person. You are not required to have Whitefish Catering cut and serve your cake. If you decide to waive the cake cutting fee you must supply the forks, plates and someone to cut and serve the cake. Cupcakes and self-serve dessert stations are not assessed a cake cutting fee.

**Are menu tastings available?**

Yes, we provide a complimentary tasting for wedding clients. If parents are helping with the wedding, they are welcome to attend the tasting. The tasting is traditionally limited to the entrée items you are considering serving at your dinner to make sure they meet your expectations. Each tasting is set up and coordinated with Crystal and the chef team. You also receive one complimentary night stay at the lodge for the night of your tastings.

**Do you recommend any other vendors/officiants in the area?**

Yes, we have a full list of all the best vendors in the area from bakers, photographers, bridal shops, florists and DJ services. You receive the wedding planning booklet when your contract is setup.

**Do you have someone who will coordinate my ceremony and do a rehearsal with my bridal party?**

Yes, Crystal will meet with you to discuss the ceremony and be onsite for your rehearsal and ceremony.

**Will someone personally coordinate and attend our ceremony and reception?**

Crystal will guide you through the planning stages, linen selection, menu selection, ceremony, dinner and reception timeline.