

PURGATORY RESORT: A COLORADO SKI RESORT for FAMILIES, BEGINNERS and BIG MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

DURANGO, CO – At Purgatory Resort, you will find an authentic Colorado ski experience where family-friendly fun meets big-mountain adventure. Nestled in the San Juan Mountains near Durango, this Colorado ski resort combines a welcoming atmosphere with terrain and activities that appeal to families, beginners and powder chasers alike.

A Reputation Stacking Up

Purgatory has been steadily earning recognition in the ski world. OnTheSnow users recently voted it the best ski resort for beginners in North America. That speaks directly to how newcomers and families experience the mountain and illustrates that learning to ski at Purgatory is approachable and rewarding.

Durango itself has also gained notice as one of Colorado’s most appealing ski towns, and Purgatory plays a central role in that reputation. Together, they create a destination that combines great skiing with a vibrant community and year-round attractions.

Terrain, Powder and Adventure

Purgatory offers more than 1,600 acres of varied terrain, from wide-open groomers to glades and challenging tree runs. The mountain averages 260 inches of snow each year, giving skiers consistent powder days.

One of the factors that makes Purgatory unique is its backcountry access. With 35,000 acres of guided terrain, Purgatory Snowcat Adventures is the largest snowcat skiing operation in Colorado. Skiers and riders can explore bowls, glades, and untouched powder with experienced guides leading the way.

Family Ski Vacations in Colorado

Few resorts make skiing as accessible for families as Purgatory does. The Kids Ski Free program is one of the best family ski deals in Colorado. Children 12 and under ski free every day of the season, with no blackout dates or fine print.

Wide beginner areas, gentle slopes and progression-friendly lifts give kids and first-timers confidence while keeping the experience fun.



DURANGO CO — Purgatory Resort is where families come to learn, explore, and enjoy authentic Colorado skiing, surrounded by some of the best views in the Rockies. Named Best Ski Area for Beginners in North America (OnTheSnow Visitors’ Choice Awards), Purgatory offers uncrowded slopes, an unpretentious vibe, and convenient access to historic Durango. Best of all, lift tickets start at \$9 and kids 12 and under ski free, no strings attached. Visit: purgatory.ski

Photo courtesy of Purgatory Resort

Skiing is only part of the story. Purgatory also offers tubing hills, snowshoe adventures, and other winter activities that make the resort fun for everyone. Even if skiing or snowboarding is not your thing, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the mountain and the snow.

Durango: The Perfect Base

A trip to Purgatory is not just about skiing. Only 25 minutes away, Durango offers restaurants, breweries, shops and history that make the trip feel like a full Colorado ski vacation. Guests can ride the historic Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, soak in the Durango Hot Springs, or enjoy the lively downtown after a day on the mountain.

This blend of mountain adventure and small-city charm makes Purgatory more than just a ski resort. It is a complete Colorado experience.

Slopeside Lodging at Purgatory Resort

When the lifts close, Purgatory makes it easy to stay close to the action. Lodging in the base area includes ski-in/ski-out condos, townhomes and private homes, as well as units with fireplaces and mountain views.

Guests who want to be near dining and activities can stay within walking distance of restaurants, shops and après-ski fun.

Purgatory also partners with lodging providers in nearby Durango to offer a wider range of accommodations, often with the best rates and packages. Whether staying slopeside or in town, guests can count on comfort, convenience and options to fit every trip.

Why Purgatory, Why Now

Ski vacations in Colorado have become more expensive, and many resorts lean heavily on exclusivity and price. Purgatory offers something different. It delivers quality skiing, approachable pricing and a sense of welcome that is hard to find at larger mountains.

With recognition as the best ski resort for beginners, one of the largest snowcat operations in the country, family-first perks, slopeside lodging and activities for non-skiers, Purgatory is carving out a unique place among Colorado ski resorts. It is not about being the flashiest destination. It is about being the kind of mountain people return to year after year.

If you want a ski vacation that blends adventure, comfort and authenticity, Purgatory Resort should be at the top of your list.

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For more info to help plan your trip today, please log on to: purgatory.ski

MOUNTAIN SPORTS CLUB SAVES YOU MONEY on the SLOPES

BOULDER, CO – Mountain Sports Club is an online service where skiers, snowboarders, mountain bikers, rafters and general outdoor enthusiasts can print personalized coupons and save on lift tickets, lodging, bike parks and activities. There are also money saving travel bookings and shopping at online and offline retailers and suppliers across North America.

Premium members enjoy BOGO/2 for 1 Lift Tickets and daily savings at resorts throughout North America all year. Bike parks, rafting and activity offers provide savings all year. Your membership is good for one year and for all four seasons. Mountain Sports Club is entering its 19th season providing value and savings for mountain sports enthusiasts. Discounts are available at resorts and areas from coast to coast.

In recent years, Mountain Sports Club has developed more year-round offers because skiers and snowboarders visit and play in the mountains all year. From small local areas to destination resorts, there are many options for members to save on their next mountain visit.

The premium Mountain Sports Club membership is a great complement to the many season pass options. Available are lodging, gear, shop offers and activities in the towns where passes and multi area passes are valid. The membership is a

great standalone service for beginners and those returning skiers/snowboarders who are not sure how often they will get out to the mountain. With lift ticket prices soaring to the \$300 mark in certain areas, and membership cost under the price of a modest priced lift ticket, one only needs to use the membership once to pay for the membership price. Early season memberships are as low as \$15 and there is a 2-year option for only \$25. Next price increase will be Nov. 16 and will keep increasing as more areas open. The in-season cost is \$60 annually.

Some of the offers are valid every day with no restrictions while some areas black out holiday and peak periods. While many of the larger multi-area pass resorts do not offer lift ticket discounts as they push more pass sales, Mountain Sports Club works to make sure there is lodging, shop and activity discounts in the respective towns to provide value not covered by many of the passes.

The Mountain Sports Club membership is an affordable alternative, offering infrequent participants more access to more areas with a significantly lower price of entry. Some of the offers simply require using a promotion code when making a purchase while others require presenting the voucher/coupon when redeeming with a valid ID. There is also the Premium plus option where there is a one-day lift

ticket included with membership in select areas. These are limited and sell out quickly, so act fast for this special deal.

As an online service, the Mountain Sports Club is consistently adding new vendor partners throughout the year and updating members on these new offers via the email newsletter and on social channels. Recently it has started to expand to some European and international destinations and expect this to grow.

A discount on equipment from sponsors is also a unique offer that continues to grow and expand. Shop discounts include savings on tunes, service, gear, rentals and more. Members also receive special emails from partners with unique offers targeting members.

Be sure to visit www.mountainsportsclub.com to review the many discounts and offers. Look in the upper right-hand corner for purchase a membership to get your membership now. Stay in touch by following on different social channels as well. Use the membership once and it is paid for, use it often and save hundreds.

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To learn more on how to save money on the slopes, please visit them at: www.mountainsportsclub.com

THE MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

SHORT TURN SATISFACTION – SHORT TURNS KEY TO EXPERT SKIING

By TONY CRESPI, SKIER NEWS’ TECHNICAL EDITOR

The best skiers sometimes seem able to float down the mountain gracefully linking one turn with another. Like running water, each turn flows fluidly into the next. In truth, of course, while many skiers can ski fast, not every skier can connect a fast line of short turns. Not every skier possesses short turn satisfaction.

Years ago, skiing with then PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) Examiner Shawn Smith, who had served as a guest coach with the US team, he noted, “To me, short turns make a greater ability to ski a wider variety of terrain and conditions.”

Understand, New England native Shawn Smith is not a typical skier. In fact Smith spent approximately two decades skiing with and coaching PSIA’s elite National Demonstration Team. In the inner circle of ski teaching, Smith is considered one of the most knowledgeable and technically astute ski teachers in the country. Simply put he is good, very good.

“In certain conditions, you need a short turn,” reflects Smith, “On steeper terrain you need that skill! Short turns are key to advanced skiing.”

Short turns are so important. From moguls to free skiing, it is an important skill if you want to truly master the mountain.

Interested? Welcome to the Advanced Class.

The Short Turn Clinic

True black diamond skiers can change the radius of their turns quickly and deftly. The best skiers can maintain short-radius turns while changing speed and while adapting to changing conditions. Here are four keys to short-radius turns.

1) Face the Upper Body Down The Fall-Line.

Intermediate skiers often face in the direction of travel. All-mountain skiers, in contrast, face down the fall-line. It is often a subtle distinction. But to be a top gun, the difference can be powerful.

Try to remain calm and project your skiing down the mountain. When you are moving down steep terrain you do not want to face sideways. Allow your skis to pass underneath as your upper body moves down.

Remember to face down the hill.

2) Practice Lateral Rather Than Vertical Movements.

Years ago experts used vertical movement to initiate quick turns. Today, with shaped skis, experts flex knees and ankles as they arc from turn to turn.

Modern experts steer the skis with ankles and knees using the skis’ energy and foot steer to smoothly arc the skis from one side of the body to the other.

“You need to keep thinking of the direction of travel,” emphasized Smith. “If you can’t feel the shins against the front of both boots then you are likely going to end up too much laterally or back on the heels.”

Learn to roll the skis and use the whole ski and steer both feet. This adds control.

Think of a pendulum and emphasize lateral movement.

3) Stand With The Skis Functionally Apart.

The key is not to lock the feet together. You need to work both skis. Are your skis functionally apart?

“If your feet are too close you will probably feel your tempo is impeded. You may feel like you are tripping,” says Smith.

The ideal stance varies from person to person. The key is to choose what is functional for your body type. Experts know that while pros in days past skied with their skis virtually glued together, modern experts know to keep the skis functionally apart, and their weight centered over both skis.

A balanced stance is critical to expert skiing.

4) Master Speed Control.

Speed control is a hall-mark of expert skiing. Expert skiers learn two key points; 1) Experts learn to control the shape of the turn, using rounder more arcing shapes to enhance speed control. And 2) Experts learn to pressure the entire ski to add control. Adding pressure to the tip and forebody of the ski enhances edge grip, and allows the tail to release and skid, leaving a wider more controlled track.

Learn speed control and you will own the throttle.

So what is the take home? Top experts know that short, precise turns are truly a hallmark of black diamond skiing. Examine your short swing. Examine your skills. Consider these pointers.

Be Aware

Refine Your Short Turn

Tony Crespi has served as both a Ski School Trainer and Development Team Coach.

A frequent contributor to publications throughout snow country, his column and instructional pointers are published throughout the season.