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SKIER NEWS®

SKIING ICE? HERE'S a THOUGHT - p. 4 to LINK • REGIONAL LODGING DEALS • plus ALTA GETS DEEP! - p 8

BIG SKI DEALS in JACKSON - p. 2 & 3 • MAMMOTH LAKES INFO - p. 6 • VISIT OGDEN UTAH - p. 7

JANUARY - SPRING 2025 • VOL. 39 • ISSUE 124 • BRING ON THE SNOW EDITION

ONE of TWO TOP-TO-BOTTOM GONDOLAS at SNOWBASIN NEAR OGDEN, UTAH, ONE OF THE MANY REASONS THIS RESORT WAS VOTED AMERICA'S No. 1 SKI RESORT by READERS of SKI MAGAZINE.

SNOWBASIN HOSTED 2002 WINTER OLYMPIC EVENTS and PROBABLY WILL AGAIN in 2034.

READ MORE on PAGES 4 and 7.



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Ryan Thompson photo courtesy of Snowbasin and Visit Ogden: www.visitogden.com

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INSIDE: DEALS & INFO for the BEST RESORTS & LODGING from DESTINATIONS to YOUR REGIONAL MOUNTAINS

JACKSON HOLE HAS ACCESS with 12 NON-STOP CITIES, FLIGHT CREDIT SAVINGS and GOLDEN TICKET – the NEW SUBLETTE QUAD PROVIDES QUICKER ACCESS to STEEPS

TETON VILLAGE, WY – Take an awesome ski resort with fabulous terrain for any ability, add many recent winters of more than 500 inches of powder and a Golden Ticket promotion that takes half off your daily ticket, and it becomes more awesome. Combine that with non-stop flights from 12 major U.S. cities: Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, LA-LAX, Minneapolis, Newark, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle. You can earn up to a \$400 airfare credit when you book by calling 1-866-265-4037. There are many incentives that provide reasons to visit JHMR. The Golden Ticket Strikes Again

Skiers and snowboarders who own a valid 2024-25 winter resort season pass anywhere in the world can go to JHMR, aka The Big One, and receive a very special rate. Travel to Jackson Hole March 17 to April 14 in 2025, and receive a 50 percent discount on lift tickets based on the current daily window rate. Lift tickets are subject to availability, as daily capacity is again limited this year.

Advanced purchasing is highly recommended for this deal. For the details on this great deal, visit: www.jacksonhole.com/lift-tickets/ New Sublette Quad Joins the Fleet

Last winter Jackson Hole upgraded their lift system as they replaced their regular speed Thunder Quad with a high-speed quad. The result is easier and faster access to the famed Laramie Bowl as well as the Grand Trail to the new Sublette Quad. The new Sublette quad will ascend 1,600 vertical in just four minutes. There is now high-speed access to the top of each area of the resort for outstanding terrain and views. Getting to Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

Jackson Hole Airport (JAC) is the only commercial airport in the United States located within a national park, Grand Teton. Upon arrival at the airport, you are an easy 30-minute drive to the mountain resort by car, taxi or rental car. There are no moun-



JACKSON HOLE, WY – The top of the new Sublette Quad which now completes the high speed access to the top of southernmost peak of JHMR. It opened on December 20, 2024. It joins their Tram plus the Teton, Casper and Thunder High-Speed Quads to help provide easy access to awesome mountaintop views and terrain.
Nate Berenson photo courtesy Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

tain passes, tunnels or four lanes of bumper-to-bumper traffic. Once in Jackson, their public bus system, named START, allows for efficient and affordable travel between the town of Jackson and the ski area at Teton Village. Rental car agencies are plentiful, as are taxis in the town of Jackson.

Save \$400 per Person, Book Now & Save

Receive up to \$400 off your airfare per person when you book your roundtrip flights, lodging, and lift tickets or an equivalent winter activity. Now is the time to book and save. Whether you are a family of four, a group of friends or a couple, you will

find your adventure in Jackson Hole.

JHMR worked with several major airlines to save you up to \$400 on each flight you book to Jackson Hole, based on how many nights you stay.

Staying three nights? When you book a vacation, hotel and \$200 in qualifying activities, you save \$200 on each flight; an \$800 savings in flights for a family of four. Planning a 4-night vacation in Jackson Hole? Receive \$300 in savings on each flight when you book airfare, hotel and \$300 in qualifying activities. Looking for even more savings? Plan a 6-night stay with \$400 in qualifying activities and save \$400 on each flight.

Call them at 1-866-265-4037 or scan the code in the ad below, and they will help you plan your family's perfect winter escape today.

Lodging

The wide range of lodging options available around Jackson Hole is as varied as the ski area terrain. Select from standard hotels to high-end resorts. Any setting you choose, the mountain resort or in town, you are sure to love your stay in Jackson.

Kings and Queens of Corbet's - Feb. 8 to Feb. 15

No ski resort in North America has a chute as legendary as Corbet's Couloir. It is a crucible where skiers go to prove their mettle, or more often, to retreat in fear.

The run is named for Barry Corbet, a mountaineer who in 1960 spotted a narrow crease of snow shaped like an upside-down funnel, high up on Jackson Hole. Author Christopher Stenner wrote that Corbet remarked, "Someday someone will ski that."

The 2025 Kings and Queens of Corbet's event is set for Sat., Feb. 8, to Sat., Feb. 15, 2025. Qualifying skiers and riders will test their grit and flash their style. The event will be showcased on JHMR's website when completed. Log on to see the show and recap at www.jacksonhole.com

Intermediate Terrain

Jackson Hole is known for its challenging terrain. However, did you know they are also ranked highly by many for terrain variety? Rolling groomers, adventurous kids stash parks, and uncrowded long runs are there, too. They have never been complacent at JHMR, and in the last several years, they have prioritized improving the intermediate ski and snowboard experience to give their guests a large variety of terrain to enjoy.

Mountain Sports School

This winter, Mountain Sports School is again prioritizing health and safety through new offerings with more individualized attention, smaller classes and protocols to provide a safe learning environment. For a full list of safety FAQs visit their FAQ page at: jacksonhole.com/winter-faq.html#mss

Join them for your ultimate mountain experience. They want you to have your best day ever on skis or on a board, and their professional staff is poised to help you do that. Whether you are looking to perfect your turn, explore some new terrain or have someone guide your day, they are there to help.

Jackson Hole Rendezvous Festival

The Jackson Hole Rendezvous is a spring lifestyle and music festival providing the most iconic backdrops imaginable for the legendary music acts.

The events will take place in the historic downtown Jackson Town Square on Fri., April 4, and at the base of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort on Sat., April 5, 2025. Log on to www.jacksonhole.com for the participating bands and other fun.

Off Mountain Adventure

If you want a wildlife experience, look no further than the north edge of Jackson at the National Elk Refuge where thousands of elk winter.

The elk begin their migration out of the high meadows in the fall, usually after the first snowstorm.

They stay in the refuge through the spring when food in their higher habitat becomes more abundant.

The sleigh rides into the elk herd are available via a private contractor, Double H Bar, Inc. The National Elk Refuge also offers educational and daily programs at the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center. Call 307-733-0277 to book your ride. It is really cool.

Please view, read and share this page with your friends at: www.skiernews.com/ Spring2025-Jackson1.pdf

Twitter @jhski - Instagram @jacksonhole #jacksonhole #jhdreaming

Listen to the Jackson Hole podcast at: www.AlwaysUpright.com and find them via the "West" tab.

For all things JHMR, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, snow totals, great deals and fun events, please visit: www.jacksonhole.com



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JACKSONHOLE.COM

In JACKSON HOLE YOUR VISIT BEGINS with GREAT DEALS for EVERY BUDGET

JACKSON, WY - Whether you are looking to grab a beginner's lesson at Solitude Station on Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR), cruise the all-new, all blue terrain of the Casper area of the mountain or take a dive into some of JHMR's deep powder stashes, the town of Jackson and Teton Village have lodging choices for you. This is where you will find lodging that is perfect for your ski trip needs and budget. Please consider these choices.

HOTEL TERRA SLOPESIDE IN TETON VILLAGE

Discover a new kind of luxury mountain resort, designed to inspire bucket-list-worthy adventures. They think of everything, from the feeling you get when you walk in the front door, to the bed you wake up in, to the dinner you enjoy. The Hotel Terra is slopeside and has it all.

Hotel Terra's recent remodel has transformed the 132 rooms and suites into an unparalleled retreat. With a focus on more efficient use of space, the redesigned accommodations feature stylish finishes and luxurious comforts, creating a sophisticated ambiance that complements the breathtaking surroundings. Please see the ad below and for much more. Please visit: www.hotelterrajacksonhole.com

MOUNTAIN MODERN - YOUR JACKSON BASECAMP

This unique boutique property puts you smack dab in the heart of Jackson and close to everything this glorious destination has to offer. Here you are two blocks from the charming Town Square, five blocks from Snow King Mountain, 10 miles to Grand Teton National Park, 12 miles from Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, 46 miles to Grand Targhee Ski Resort and 55 miles from Yellowstone National Park.

Recently unveiling a massive expansion in October 2022, the 194-room Mountain Modern disrupts the textbook hotel experience with its frontier flair and plaid-to-the-bone stylish design, vibrant atmosphere, whimsical amenities and more, all at approachable rates. Located in the heart of Jackson, Wyo., along the downtown corridor mere steps to the charming, and very famous, Town Square, Mountain Modern is the perfect home base for year-round adventure where you want to spend every possible minute outdoors. Mountain Modern also debuted The Triple M, a design-forward community social hub designed to be a year-round adventure launch pad to explore all the bucket-list adventures that Jackson Hole has to offer.

See their ad on the right and learn about their ski and stay special packages. You can book now by logging on to: <https://mountainmodernmotel.com> or by calling them at (307) 733-4340. Let the saving begin by using the exclusive discount code SKIERNEWS.

TOWN SQUARE INNS - OFFERING GREAT CHOICES

Town Square Inns is a collection of four hotel properties in the town of Jackson, Wyo., including 49er Inns and Suites, Antler Inn, Cowboy Village Resort, and Elk Country Inn. Located near the middle of town, they are a short walking distance from many of restaurants, shops and galleries. Stay at one of their four convenient properties, all located within downtown Jackson. Many guests fall in love with the unusual log cabin experience of Cowboy Village Resort.

Many of the room options include fireplaces, and the properties also have fitness centers, hot tubs and indoor



JACKSON HOLE, WY – Wheels down for another flight landing at Jackson Hole Airport (JAC) with the beauty of the Grand Teton Mountains as a backdrop. Find easy access with non-stop flights from 12 major U.S. cities. See page two article for more. It is easy to book your flight, just call 1-866-265-4037. JHMR has 4,139 vertical feet of great terrain on 2,500+ acres, half of which are beginner trails and intermediate terrain. Photo courtesy Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

pools. To select the right accommodations for your needs, you can view the properties on their detailed website www.townsquareinns.com

Lift Tickets and Transportation Included

Guests who stay a minimum of three nights will receive amazing package pricing, including lift tickets, lodging and transportation to and from Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. The price for this three-night deal starts at \$399. Town Square Inns' free ski shuttles depart for the mountain from all four properties between 7 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and the shuttles return in the afternoon between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. It is super simple and easy to hop on the shuttle and make the most of your time on the slopes.

Learn more about the fantastic Ski and Stay Package at: www.townsquareinns.com and also see their ad on the right.

Please call 1-800-4TETONS(1-800-483-8667) today to book your winter getaway.

THE SNAKE RIVER BREWPUB

Rejoice, Jackson's Snake River Brewery is still celebrating. The brewery began 31 years ago. Since then, the establishment has recently been completely renovated. The beers have won numerous awards and their menu has many great selections for casual dining. Stop in when your in Jackson and join the party, you never know what celebratory event will be taking place.

Relive your Teton adventure with an award winning beer and delicious meal at the Snake River BrewPub. They offer a seat for everyone, from the kiddos to the riders and the lifelong adventurers. Local or visitor, live the Jackson life and unwind with friends at the BrewPub known as "Jackson's Living Room."

At the BrewPub, you will find reasonably priced food items from sandwiches to pizzas to pastas and beyond with a kids' menu to match. Their head chef

sets a high standard in the kitchen. Nearly everything is handmade. All of the breads and desserts are created in house using only 100 percent organic flour.

The Snake River Brewery and the Brewpub inhabit an old cinder block building that was previously the base of operations for a Coca-Cola distributor. It seemed to be the perfect spot for Wyoming's first brewpub. The owners wanted an open industrial look with lots of light and exposed steel beams. The brewing equipment and wood burning oven would be the artwork. Their major recent remodel adds to this. They were determined to create a brewpub building that was architecturally excellent in style and offered excellent food and beer.

The Snake River Brewery is located at 265 S. Millward Street in the town of Jackson, Wyo. It is only a few blocks away from the famous town square and walking distance from downtown Jackson hotels.

This is a must stop for après ski or to enjoy happy hour. You may just meet a real cowboy or cowgirl in "Jackson's Living Room," the Snake River BrewPub.

You can learn more about the pub and brewery, their beers, the menu and much more including their recent renovations, at: www.snakeriverbrewing.com

YOUR WINTER ADVENTURE AWAITS

There is a winter adventure for everyone in Jackson. You can visit Yellowstone National Park by rental snowmobile, or hike or snowshoe in Grand Teton National Park. Both are unique, scenic and great winter attractions. From fly fishing on the Snake River, to snow skiing at Jackson Hole, the area offers some of the best winter experiences in the world. You can also visit the National Elk Refuge and take a guided sleighride into a herd of thousands of elk.

For more info, please log on to the individual websites in the ads and also view, read and share this page online at: www.skiernews.com/Spring2025-Jackson2.pdf

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*Restrictions apply, including blackout dates. Reserve your slopeside stay at www.hotelterrajacksonhole.com

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HOTEL TRUCKEE TAHOE – STAY THERE, SKI ANYWHERE

TRUCKEE, CA – When traveling to Truckee this winter, keep in mind that the Hotel Truckee Tahoe offers the quality and amenities that you find at high-end resorts, without the high-end resort pricing. The Hotel Truckee Tahoe is perfectly located near downtown Truckee, just minutes away from the excellent ski areas for which Truckee-Tahoe is known.

When you arrive, you will be greeted by the friendly, courteous staff that is available to help make your stay memorable. Every room is conveniently outfitted with both a microwave and refrigerator and has a luxurious feather-topped mattress.

With the many activities offered throughout the area, the hotel knows how important it is for guests to fuel up before the day's adventures. Each morning you will start with a complimentary hot breakfast buffet of scrambled eggs, bacon or sausage, country potatoes, biscuits and gravy, yogurt, and a variety of other breakfast foods. In addition to the complimentary hot breakfast, the hotel also features a pub inside of the hotel for your added convenience should you decide to grab a bite to eat or drink without having to venture out into the snow after a long day outside exploring the Truckee-Tahoe area. Whether you are on a family vacation or in town with friends, the staff makes sure everyone is happy.

Getting to the slopes is easy from the Hotel Truckee Tahoe. It is a quick drive to Northstar-at-Tahoe, Palisades USA, Alpine Meadows, and Tahoe Cross Country. The town of Truckee offers complimentary transportation within the town via the TART Connect. Download the app for more information. In addition, public transportation will get you to many of the other ski resorts in the area. Sugar Bowl, Boreal, Mt. Rose, Diamond Peak and Royal Gorge are all less than an hour drive from the hotel and are worth the ride.

After a great day of skiing, the hotel has

everything you need to unwind and celebrate the day's events. Relax in the beer and wine lounge, or sit in the spa after a dip in the pool or a workout in the fitness room.

There are three restaurants within walking distance of the hotel that offer everything from Thai cuisine, sushi, to pub fare at Fifty-Fifty Brewing Co. If you are looking for nighttime entertainment, the hotel is just minutes from downtown Truckee, where dining and nightlife options are plentiful.

Whether you are here for business or pleasure, take advantage of free wireless Internet service and the business center. They also have 1,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, perfect for business retreats or group gatherings. The sales staff can provide anything that your meeting requires, from a casual luncheon to a catered dinner.

Lake Tahoe offers many other activities that will please any member of the family. From shopping in historic downtown Truckee to various outdoor activities, including snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, sledding and ice skating. You will find it all just minutes from the Hotel Truckee Tahoe. If gaming is your thing, it is just about a 30-minute drive to the casinos in Crystal Bay or downtown Reno.

You can read this exact page online and then easily link directly to the hotel, Truckee Tahoe Inn, at this online page www.skiernews.com/
Jan2025-TruckeeEditorial.pdf

The hotel is located a few minutes off the I-80 at the Hwy 267 exit, turn toward the town of Truckee. For more info, you can find a link to the property on www.skiernews.com/LodgingWest.htm

For direct information on lodging deals, visit www.hoteltruckeetahoe.com or call (530)587-4525.

SKIER NEWS

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Associate Editor, Jennifer Hawkins
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TECHNICAL EDITOR: Tony Crespi

PRINT & WEB PHOTOGRAPHERS:

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Link to Technical Editor Tony Crespi's reflections on skiing ice and having fun!
www.skiernews.com/Spring2025-SkiingIce.pdf



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BE AWARE, SKI WITH CARE, KNOW THE CODE

Ski resorts can be enjoyed in many ways. At the areas you may see people using alpine, snowboard, telemark, cross country and other specialized ski equipment, such as that used by disabled or other skiers.

Observe the code listed below and share with other skiers the responsibility for a great skiing experience.

1. Always stay in control.
2. People ahead of you have the right of way.
3. Stop in a safe place for you and others.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging, look uphill and yield.
5. Use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
6. Observe signs and warnings, and keep off closed trails.
7. Know how to use the lifts safely.

KNOW THE CODE, IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

From the PUBLISHER'S DESK:

By Publisher and Editor, Dave Leonardi

Welcome to SKIER NEWS edition number 124, since 1988.

More podcast episodes at: www.AlwaysUpright.com

When you are skiing or snowboarding, it is best to be always upright. That is one of the reasons why SKIER NEWS decided, when we launched our podcasts, to name our newly minted podcast episodes just that. You can find the episodes online at www.AlwaysUpright.com. The series has interviews with ski industry insiders as well as legends in music, entertainment and sports. Many episodes were recorded at the American Century Championship in Lake Tahoe in July by Publisher, Dave Leonardi. SKIER NEWS is working media at the event.

The home page is divided into three landing pages. They are Western Ski News; Eastern Ski News and Sports and Entertainment. Larry the Cable Guy gets it done in his Entertainment based podcast as well as WVVE's The Miz, both are funny and informative. This year John O'Hurley, who played the popular character Jay Peterman of Seinfeld fame, participated as well as female golfing great Anika Sorenstam.

In entertainment Jason Scheff, former lead singer with Chicago, and Jay DeMarcus, formerly of Rascal Flatts, discuss the efforts with their new project Generation Radio.

Log on to to find in-depth individual interviews with our Skiing Legends series featuring Bode Miller, Dan Egan and Donna Weinbrecht, the first woman to win Olympic Gold in Freestyle Mogul Skiing in 1992.

Many hospitality and ski industry marketers and PR spokespersons are interviewed as well and comprise the majority of the podcasts. More episodes will be added and will continue throughout the ski season.

Check it out at www.AlwaysUpright.com and sign up also for our email updates.

RIDE ANOTHER DAY and SNOW ANGEL FOUNDATION

This past November we met Chauncy and Kelli Johnson at the Boston Snowbound Expo. You may not know their names, but you probably have seen their posters at your favorite resort. The posters show an empty snow angel and read "She was 5. You were going 50."

They were there to give presentations on the history behind the poster and more.

Chauncy and Kelli have snowboarded and skied most of their lives. They brought this passion into their marriage and subsequently with their children. On Christmas Eve, 2010 a snowboarder riding at approximately 50 mph collided with Kelli and daughter Elise (5 years old). The collision resulted in the death of Elise and the snowboarder. Kelli sustained life altering injuries including a severe Traumatic Brain Injury and other injuries that she lives with to this day.

Chauncy continues to struggle with the aftermath of the events that day. In 2016, he partnered with the National Ski Areas Association to promote ski collision awareness [Collision Safety (nsaa.org)]. This partnership resulted in the Ride Another Day safety campaign which the Johnson's have promoted nationwide. Snow Angel Foundation was formed in 2023 in order to increase safety education and awareness while promoting the benefits of skiing and snowboarding.

Please log on to: www.snowangelfoundation.org

And please listen to their podcast episode with SKIER NEWS at:

www.skiernews.com/alwaysuprighteast.htm and click on the Snow Angel label for their heartfelt podcast interview.

OUR USUAL CLOSING THOUGHTS - Think snow, ski safely and stay well

Once again we ask God to bless our troops all around the world, as they continue to defend America against terrorists and other evil-doers so that we can continue to enjoy the blessings of liberty here in our beautiful homeland.

Please continue to travel safely and enjoy the freedom of skiing. Also, do not forget to thank all of our local heroes for helping to preserve our freedoms and our fine way of life.

Thank you for reading SKIER NEWS over the past 37 years and 124 editions.

We hope you continue to read it, enjoy it, our websites and podcasts. All are linked from www.skiernews.com.

Please, also contact our advertisers for the great deals they provide.

ON THE COVER

SNOWBASIN'S GONDOLAS

Recently crowned America's No. 1 Ski resort, Snowbasin has a history of hosting past Olympic Winter Games, and future Winter Games in 2034.

This beautiful resort has two virtually top-to-bottom gondolas as well as many high speed quads that keep you skiing. Relax in one of their exquisite lodges.

Owned by Sun Valley, and it shows!
Log on to: www.visitogden.com
and please read more on page 7

Copyright January, 2025, The Skier News, Inc.
S.S.N. 1094-0960 Vol. 39 Issue 124
We are now printed on gluten free paper with no GMO's!
SKIER NEWS, published by The Skier News, Inc., a New Jersey Corporation, distributes two national and two regional editions for this ski season, from November through Spring. These double editions are labeled November-January and January-Spring. Summer and Fall issues are published online at www.skiernews.com. The inaugural issue was published November, 1988. In the ski industry, that was pre-historic eons ago.
SKIER NEWS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of all of the fine organizations associated with skiing and we are by concept dedicated to promote skiing. We consider the term "skiing" to be the all-comprehensive, generic term for all downhill snowsports.
Appreciation is hereby, once again, proclaimed to Mark Bunzel, now of Washington state. His original technical and computer suggestions, in 1988, helped make the first edition possible. Now he publishes Fine Edge boating books in the Pacific Northwest.
Thanks again to the pre-press and press room staff of Brad, Vanessa, Scott, Tim, Dan, Jim, Chris, Joe and many, many more.
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SKIER NEWS is published in the shadows of the beautiful but now defunct, formerly rope-tow serviced Belle Mountain Ski Area in Hopewell, New Jersey, Exit 7-A. Printed in New Jersey off of Exit 3.
No animals were killed or maimed in the production of this publication. This publication was not tested on animals.
Unsolicited manuscripts formerly were used as kindling for our office wood stove and now digitally deleted with a loud "woo-hoo."
One more thing, we do not use a period to end a sentence when that sentence ends with a web URL address. Some knuckleheads might think that the period is part of the web address! Not you, of course, but the guy who picked up the copy just before you or maybe the other guy also at the rack, but don't stare. But just in case we forgot to eliminate one, you would know better than to use the period when typing the URL. Thanks. Why are you still reading this fine print?

Look for SKIER NEWS' podcast series at:

www.AlwaysUpright.com

On all major platforms:

iHeart, Spotify, Google, etc.

HOTEL BECKET HAS MODERN AMENITIES in the CENTER of SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA – Hotel Becket is a place that brings the best of South Lake Tahoe together as one. Just steps from the Heavenly Village gondola and close to downtown nightlife, the hotel is central to some of the world's greatest outdoor activities, from lakeshore to mountaintop. The Becket is born out of the union of two distinct, boutique hotel properties. For business or pleasure, or both, this is the finest in true Tahoe Style.

The Location

Hotel Becket is conveniently located across the street from Heavenly Village for access to more than 4,800 acres of excellent skiing and snowboarding. The scenic shoreline and crystal-clear water of Lake Tahoe, where guests have entry to a private beach, is a short walk from the hotel.

The casino nightlife of Nevada is two blocks away for gaming and live entertainment by national and international performers. The nearby casinos are larger and more exciting than their counterparts on the North Shore. They offer more table games and a larger variety of machines, larger poker rooms and larger entertainment venues with bigger acts.

The Shops at Heavenly Village at the base of the Heavenly Gondola are across the street from the hotel. They are the place to go for the latest trends in food, fashion and fun. Experience Lake Tahoe's best shopping venue with local and national brands, popular restaurants, and an eight-plex cinema. On the other hand, try ice skating or mini golf at the seasonal outdoor pavilion.

The Accommodations

All guest rooms at Hotel Becket offer a warm sense of home. The contemporary rooms feature hand-crafted architectural details such as recycled barn wood doors, as well as custom artwork reminiscent of the mountain lakes found throughout the Sierra. Contemporary rooms also have a warm color palette with a pop of color – hot pink and mustard yellow – that was inspired by the vibrancy of South Lake Tahoe. Luxurious Tempur-Pedic beds are highlighted by custom-designed

HOTEL BECKET IS NOW a
 BEST WESTERN
 SIGNATURE COLLECTION HOTEL

headboards and nightstands.

In contrast, the rustic accommodations are designed to eco-friendly standards, creating a unique juxtaposition to the contemporary rooms. Combining a modern rustic décor with sustainable materials, these accommodations feature hand-made furnishings crafted from reclaimed Douglas Fir from an

old Nevada mine, recycled glass and blue denim insulation, plus zero-VOC paints, organic linens and natural patinas.

The Features

Guest services and programs at Hotel Becket also reflect the nature and seasonality of the Sierra. After a day outdoors, enjoy snacks and beverages with friends around the fire pits on the outside terrace.

Now as a Best Western Signature Collection Hotel, the property is nicely enhanced.

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BEACH RETREAT & LODGE – CONVENIENCE with RESTAURANTS & a LAKE VIEW

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA – The Beach Retreat and Lodge at Tahoe, located in the heart of town, is the ideal location for your South Lake Tahoe ski vacation. With a seven-acre campus on stunning Lake Tahoe, there is no more beautiful place to stay. Each of its 261 rooms features a gas fireplace and a balcony or patio. The Beach Retreat and Lodge is just 1.5 miles from Heavenly and offers rapid shuttle service to and from Heavenly's lifts. Relax by one of their many outdoor firepits and enjoy complimentary s'mores or a variety of hot beverage offerings sure to please both adults and children. Rest easy knowing that you are staying in South Lake Tahoe's first Blue Certified hotel as designated by the League to Save Lake Tahoe.

Sidelines Sports Pub

Sidelines Sports Pub is one of two restaurants on the property for your convenience. After a long day of skiing down the mountain, relax and enjoy a delicious refreshment and catch the game with friends. Located in the lobby of the hotel, Sidelines is a casual restaurant and bar with local beers on tap, tons of big screen TVs and hearty pub grub.

The Boathouse on the Pier

The Boathouse on the Pier is one of Tahoe's must-visit dining locations. It is set atop the hotel's 1,000-foot pier, where there is an active marina with boats and motorsport activities available to guests in the summer. The pier is the longest on the entire lake and Boathouse on the Pier offers a unique dining experience as it is the only restaurant that sits over the water on all of Lake Tahoe. This waterfront restaurant and bar features New American Cuisine and panoramic Lake Tahoe views. It is the best place in Tahoe to enjoy picturesque sunsets over the mountains. Enjoy a beautiful view of the Sierra Mountains and the tranquility of Tahoe in the winter, while sipping on a warm winter beverage on the balcony.

Meetings, Events and Weddings

You may be in town to ski, but if a winter wedding is your heart's desire, check out weddings on the beach or the Lakeview Ballroom. Just go to the website to look at the pictures. You may need to find an excuse for a party.

The Beach Retreat & Lodge's sophisticated 3,200-square-foot



SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA - The Beach Retreat has it all, with two restaurants for you to relax after a great day on the nearby slopes. It is close to Heavenly and about 40 minutes to Sierra-at-Tahoe. The nightlife is nearby as well to make for a fun week or weekend.

Photo courtesy of The Beach Retreat & Lodge

Conference Center is the perfect event and meeting space featuring state-of-the-art technology, indoor and outdoor space, a dedicated catering staff and a meetings team that is as good with logistics as they are creativity. The Conference Center is a great place to do business during the day before heading out to enjoy the Tahoe nightlife. The Conference Center includes an outdoor deck equipped with fire pits, so you can enjoy the views of the snow-covered lake.

The Beach Retreat & Lodge is located in South Lake Tahoe at 3411 Lake Tahoe Blvd., across from Safeway.

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They guarantee the lowest rates when booking directly so please call them at (530) 541-6722 or go online at: www.tahoebeachretreat.com



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ESCAPE to UNREAL WINTER ADVENTURE in MAMMOTH LAKES

MAMMOTH LAKES, CA – Let us address the Mammoth in the room. With Mammoth Mountain reporting an average of 400 inches of snow per season and simultaneously boasting over 300 days of sunshine, this destination delivers the ultimate winter getaway. Surrounded by boundless acres of breathtaking national forest, encompassing one of the biggest and one of the best skiing and snowboarding resorts in California, Mammoth Lakes is a West Coast wonderland. Superior snow conditions, a giant vertical drop and a monster amount of fresh powder per year prove that California’s premier four-season alpine paradise lives up to its larger-than-life name. The only downside? You cannot capture it in a snow globe and keep it forever.

At an elevation of 11,053 feet and home to the highest lifts in California, the mountain towers over the competition. With 25 lifts, 175 trails, 3,500 skiable acres and an impressive 3,100-foot vertical drop from the summit to the base lodge, you are guaranteed thrills and excitement at every turn. Whether this is your first trip or you make the pilgrimage every year, this mountain always offers something new and unique. No wonder it is a bucket-list destination for any skier or snowboarder countrywide. The fun does not stop at the slopes. Mammoth Lakes has over 3 million acres of wide-open wilderness to explore. So slip on some snowshoes and trek up to Minaret Vista for unreal views of Mammoth Lakes’ signature mountain skyline. Glide across more than 140 miles of cross-country trails. Hold on tight while tubing at Woolly’s Tube Park, or skate around the new Olympic-sized LA Kings Ice indoor rink. Whatever you are into, a wide range of winter recreation ensures that there is enough fun for everyone.

Mammoth Lakes is so amazing that it is nearly unbelievable. Where else can you barrel down a powder-soft mountain taking in views of glimmering crystalline lakes while the California sun beams through an azure sky? Where else can you soak in the warm hues of a classic California sunset while breathing in crisp mountain air and savoring the



MAMMOTH LAKES, CA - While cruising down one of the many powder filled trails of Mammoth Mountain, a skier gets their exhilaration fix on one of the many great days the region has to offer. Visit Mammoth Lakes, Calif., to indulge in an area known for having more than 300 days of sunshine and a 400 inch average of snowfall per season. Flying to Mammoth Lakes is easy via the nearby Bishop, Calif., airport (BIH) connecting through Denver or San Francisco.

Photo courtesy of Mammoth Lakes Tourism

warmth of a fire by your feet after a long, rewarding day on the slopes? Where else does real life feel so unreal? When you come down from the clouds, you are greeted with a small-town experience that feels just as unreal. Simply head to The Village at Mammoth, where relaxation and après-ski vibes are at their highest. Enjoy a tasty bite or a hot toddy at a local restaurant. Snag one-of-a-kind souvenirs at the local shops or enjoy live music as you hit the bar scene. There is so much to love in this mountain town, and thanks to the free trolley service, it is easy to take it all in.

Any day of the week Mammoth Lakes has a lot to offer, but on weekdays, you practically have the place to yourself. Consider booking your trip beyond the weekend and unlock an extraordinary winter vacation that ensures more

runs and less wait times, more thrills and fewer crowds, more opportunities to break personal records and less background noise. Lift tickets cost less too. In addition, midweek ski days come with midweek après-ski specials, on and off the mountain. Expect to get food and drink discounts at some of your favorite local hangouts. Accommodations are also often more affordable midweek. From cozy chalets with mountain views to boutique hotel rooms in the heart of town, you have the best options available at the best rates.

When it comes to massive snowfalls paired with bluebird skies, California’s premier alpine destination serves up the best of both worlds. Moreover, the High Sierra climate gives it one of the longest seasons in the country.

With a few early snowfall events to begin the season, and more falling during the Holiday week, Mammoth is off to another good start. Make this ski season your best one yet, and do not miss a chance to feel the real unreal at Mammoth Lakes.

Getting to Mammoth Lakes is easy

Getting to Mammoth Lakes is easier than ever. Book on United Airlines and fly into Bishop, Calif., from around the country, with nonstop service from San Francisco and Denver. In addition, Advanced Air offers

another option for regional travelers. Grab a nonstop flight in under an hour from Carlsbad or Los Angeles. Learn more about flying to the area and get all kinds of insider info about the best sights to see, places to eat, and things to do once you arrive at www.visitmammoth.com or at: #KeepMammothUnreal

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For more, please listen to the Mammoth Lakes podcast episodes, visit: www.AlwaysUpright.com and easily find them linked from the West section label.

Please find more great Mammoth Lakes information at: www.visitmammoth.com or at: #KeepMammothUnreal

WINTER at ASPEN SNOWMASS – WHAT’S NEW 2024–25

Snowmass debuts an all-new high-speed quad lift, Coney Express

ASPEN, CO – The winter season is on and Aspen Snowmass is welcoming skiers and riders to its four mountains. Leading the excitement is the opening of the new Coney Express lift, a high-speed quad that will transform the Snowmass base area experience. Also headlining the season is the 20th anniversary of Aspen Snowmass’ Art in Unexpected Places (ArtUP) program, with this winter’s lift ticket artist announced as Alex Israel.

With a major events calendar on the horizon and exciting updates on-mountain like The Cabin’s renovation, Aspen Snowmass is poised for another memorable winter season.

New Coney Express Lift on Snowmass

Aspen Snowmass debuted an all-new high-speed quad at Snowmass this winter season. Construction on the new “Coney Express” lift took place this summer and the lift was opened to the public at the start of the winter season.

While Coney Express effectively replaced the existing Coney Glade chair, the new lift extends down to the Snowmass base area, providing a new access point to the mountain and significantly increasing Snowmass’ out-of-base capacity.

Originating across from the Snowmass Mall and ending at the top of Coney Glade trail, Coney Express will help move more skiers and riders out of the base area and alleviate congestion on busy days.

Coney Express will provide access to the Big Burn, Alpine Springs and Sheer Bliss, and features a midway angle station for loading to continue offering easy access to the renowned Snowmass Terrain Park. The lift will also provide unloading for foot traffic at the midway station, for the first time allowing foot passenger access to Lynn Britt Cabin and Spider Sabich Race Arena.

Lift Ticket Artist Announced for ArtUP’s 20th Anniversary

This winter Aspen Snowmass celebrates the 20th anniversary of sharing art across its mountains and community through Art In Unexpected Places (ArtUP), and a renewed partnership with the Aspen Art Museum. Together, Aspen Snowmass and the Aspen Art Museum were pleased to announce this season’s lift ticket artist as Alex Israel.

Based in Los Angeles, Israel creates artworks that draw upon traditions of pop culture, celebrity and entertainment to consider ways in which fantasy, escapism and the pursuit of joy shape our lives. Much of his work, including props and scenic backdrops of sunset-hued skies, is made within the Warner Bros. Design Studio. As such, Israel presents this lift ticket not as an image of an artwork, but a work of art in and of itself.

In addition to being featured on the winter 2024-25 season lift ticket, Israel mounted a coinciding exhibition and programming that was announced as the season drew closer.

The Cabin Expansion

Snowmass’ The Cabin (formerly Lynn Britt Cabin), underwent a major renovation and expansion this summer and opened this winter with an expanded outdoor patio, grill and bar area. In addition, renewed experiences including après parties and specials, live entertainment, and the return of snowcat dinners will be featured throughout the winter season.

Located at mid-mountain on Snowmass, The Cabin combines western ambiance with a vibrant atmosphere for lunch and après. With the opening of the new Coney Express lift, non-skiing guests can now access The Cabin via the lift’s midway foot passenger station, available during select hours.

Hero’s Terrain Expansion Continues to Evolve

Last season, Aspen Mountain debuted an all-new 153 acres of terrain and high-speed quad lift. The Hero’s terrain expansion was the mountain’s first significant addition since the opening of the Silver Queen Gondola in 1985.

Over the course of this summer, the Aspen Mountain team was hard at work continuing to glade the Hero’s terrain to improve the ski experience in the area. This winter season, skiers can expect an entirely new experience in Hero’s with even more to explore.

Sustainability for the Slopes

Sustainability and climate advocacy remain core commitments for not only Aspen Snowmass but across Aspen One’s businesses. This season the compostable cups provided on-mountain have a message. The message is that the compostable cups themselves are not enough to solve the climate problem. Instead, they will feature a QR code and a call to action to join the climate advocacy movement with Aspen One and Protect Our Winters (POW) to fight for meaningful climate action.

Stay in the Know

New this season, the Aspen Snowmass app will provide elevated grooming, lift and trail status information with the ability for guests to quickly search and filter for their favorite trails. Enable push notifications for morning powder alerts, important mountain updates, and information about special on-mountain happenings. The app also features snow totals and mountain cams, status of parking lots as well as lift ticket, lesson and rental purchases.

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For more info on all four Aspen Mountains, log on to www.aspensnowmass.com

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NBC’S AMERICAN CENTURY GOLF EVENT PROVIDES a SUMMER SHOWDOWN in TAHOE SOUTH JULY 9–13

Will the 2023 winner square off with the 2024 champ?

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA/NV – Summer’s premier event, the American Century Championship in South Lake Tahoe, takes place in July at the beautiful Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course in Stateline, Nev.

South Lake Tahoe is a fun place to visit in winter to ski, snowmobile, party or just enjoy the scenery of the snow-capped peaks surrounding the beautiful lake.

Summers, however, are spectacular and packed with activities. The Tahoe South comes alive each July with a star-filled celebrity golf event. Plan your summer Tahoe visit for NBC’s American Century Championship Celebrity Golf tournament, July 9-13.

The event will once again be televised live on NBC networks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

There are many activities that begin mid-week on Wednesday, July 9, with Celebrity Pro- Am golf events. This gives the celebs a chance to warm-up to playing at the beautiful Edgewood golf course in 6,200 feet of altitude.

In past years WWE’s The Miz played alongside fan favorites like Charles Barkley, Alfonso Ribeiro, Larry the Cable Guy as well as NHL Stars Joe Pavelski and TJ Oshie. Last year’s Stanley Cup winner, Matthew Tkachuk, made his first appearance.

You could rub elbows with athletes like NFL legend Jerry Rice, music greats like Jay DeMarcus and Jason Scheff or TV stars like Jack Wagner. Many people take selfies with the celebrities.

The 2023 winner was NBA star Steph Curry, who skipped the 2024 event to prepare and win the USA Basketball Gold in the Summer Olympics. The 2024 winner was US Tennis great Mardy Fish. The showdown revives the friendly rivalry as Curry overtook Fish in 2023 on the 18th hole by sinking an Eagle putt to seal his victory. Curry also added to his Stableford point total by shooting a hole-in-one on the 7th hole on the second day of play.

Last year, Fish trailed the contenders only on Day One when NFL star Adam Thielen had a one point lead. Fish fin-

ished the tournament with a Stableford score of +83 to win. This was the highest winning point total since 2010.

In other news, Charles Barkley (NBA great, retired) beat the Caesar’s betting odds to finish with his best score ever with -4 Stableford points, tied for 52nd place. In 2023, he finished in 81st place with -32 points. This was quite an improvement and best finish in his 29 years of play.

If you are looking for great accommodations in South Lake Tahoe, check out Beach Retreat & Lodge online at: www.tahoebeachretreat.com. More great lodging in South Lake Tahoe can be found at Hotel Becket, which is walking distance to the golf course. Please visit them online at: www.hotelbecket.com

For photo essays from past American Century events and happenings off the golf course, please visit www.skiernews.com/TahoeGolf.htm

For on-course podcast interviews with many athletes and celebrities, log on to www.AlwaysUpright.com and click the Sports and Entertainment label.

WHAT’S NEW at SIERRA–at–TAHOE for 2024–25

TWIN BRIDGES, CA – Sierra-at-Tahoe is welcoming skiers and riders back this winter with new investments designed to enhance the guest experience, including new snowmaking equipment, lift improvements, partnerships that expand lift access opportunities, a tasty new collaboration with a Sacramento area brewery and smokehouse, and more

“We’re gearing up for a great winter and are ready to welcome skiers and riders back to Sierra,” said John Rice, former Sierra-at-Tahoe general manager who is now President of Ski California. “The enthusiasm we experienced at our annual Keep Sierra Clean Day was incredible, and if that’s any indication of the excitement there is for people to get back to the slopes, we’re here for it. We had record-breaking attendance with over 800 guests that showed up to pick up litter and plant 1,000 new seedling trees. We’re feeling the love and are ready to give it back to those who come visit us this season.”

Mountain Improvements

From the moment resort guests turn onto Sierra-at-Tahoe Road this winter, they will notice improvements made over the summer season, starting with fresh paving of the road itself and over 60,000 square feet of parking lots.

On the mountain, new investments include the replacement of the haul ropes on the Nob Hill and Easy Rider Express chairlifts, the addition of two new Techno Alpin snowmaking fan guns to amplify early season snow coverage on Easy Rider and assist snowmaking efforts in the Aspen Terrain Park pod throughout the season. These are the newest, most advanced automatic fan guns on the market, and the first big step in advancing Sierra’s snowmaking system.

Food and Beverage

A new collaboration with Sacramento-based Urban Roots

Brewing & Smokehouse will feature their craft beer and signature Pork Belly Burnt Ends at the top of Grandview inside 360 Smokehouse BBQ, one of Sierra’s token eateries, with a scenic view of Lake Tahoe. In addition, hungry skiers and riders will find modern tacos like the “Day Tripper” with marinated chef’s mushrooms, kimchee, Sriracha aioli and micro greens, and the Carne Asada Taco with ribeye, shishito pepper, Oaxaca and jack cheese, salsa Verde and micro greens at Baja Grill. The Aspen will offer family pizza meal deals to help feed the whole crew and provide value to resort guests.

Ski and Ride School

Sierra’s legendary adventure zones return this season highlighting the resort’s history, environment, successes and heroes. An artist has been commissioned to carve five wooden figurines that showcase the history of the Pony Express and Snowshoe Thompson, the different species of Sierra’s pine trees, Sierra’s three Olympic gold medal-winning athletes and a special carving of one of the resort’s avalanche dogs. Each carving will be accompanied by a QR code that will offer a brief background of the meaning behind it and the significance. The carvings will be placed on the mountain in various locations for people to find.

Retail and Rental Services

Resort guests will also find new brands in the retail shop from Ugg to O’Neill and Vuori, plus a variety of new Sierra-at-Tahoe branded logo apparel.

New and Returning Events

Known for hosting events that amplify the skiing and snowboarding experience, new and returning marquee events are scheduled at Sierra this season. For the first time, the resort will host the California Nevada Interscholastic Ski and Snowboard Federation Championships in March 2025. Returning events include Subaru Winterfest, Boarding for

Breast Cancer, Playgrounds Party and Vans Methodology.

Sierra Joins Ikon Pass

In late August it was announced that Sierra-at-Tahoe joined Ikon Pass for the 2024-25 season, offering even more Tahoe access to Ikon Pass holders. The proudly independent resort is the only South Lake Tahoe resort and the sixth California mountain destination on the Ikon Pass, joining Big Bear Mountain Resort, Snow Valley, June Mountain, Mammoth Mountain and Palisades Tahoe. Ikon Pass holders will have up to seven days of access to Sierra depending on their pass type.

Season-long Deals

Plan ahead and save by purchasing Sierra-at-Tahoe lift tickets from participating retailers including Sports Basement, Costco and REI this season.

Plan a winter visit or purchase a Sierra season pass online at www.sierraattahoe.com.

About Sierra-at-Tahoe

With 48 trails across 2,000 acres, Sierra-at-Tahoe has something for everyone. For first-timers, they offer dedicated Learning Terrain with welcoming vibes to carve your first turns at any age.

To kick it up a notch, head over to the Sierra Playgrounds which feature nine amphitheater style terrain parks and South Shore’s only Halfpipe (conditions permitting). They also offer thrill seeker favorites, Avalanche Bowl and five backcountry gates in some of Tahoe’s steepest expert terrain, Huckleberry Canyon.

Come experience the all-new Sierra-at-Tahoe, close to home, far from the same, and #DefinitelyDifferent.

Learn more at www.sierraattahoe.com

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Snowbasin, voted No. 1 Ski Area in the U.S. by SKI Magazine, was actively getting snow, as was Powder Mountain, at press time as 2025 began

DISCOVERING OGDEN, UTAH with THREE GREAT RESORTS: YOUR NEXT UNCROWDED and AFFORDABLE SKI GETAWAY

OGDEN, UT – If you are searching for a ski destination combining fantastic slopes with a laid-back atmosphere, Ogden, Utah, might be your perfect match. Located just north of Salt Lake City, Ogden offers a refreshing alternative to the bustling resorts of Park City and the Cottonwood Canyons. With Powder Mountain, Snowbasin and Nordic Valley right at its doorstep, this area offers diverse skiing experiences without the hefty price tags or overwhelming crowds.

Powder Mountain: Where Vast Terrain Meets Art

Powder Mountain, perched near Eden, Utah, is a skier’s dream come true. As the largest ski resort in the United States by acreage, with over 8,500 acres of skiable terrain, it is a place where you can truly spread out and explore. The mountain is designed to preserve a natural and open feel, so even on busy days it feels like you have the slopes to yourself.

One of the unique aspects of Powder Mountain is its blend of outdoor adventure with cultural flair. The resort is introducing art installations throughout the mountain, bringing creativity into the skiing experience. As you navigate the runs, you will encounter works from various artists, adding an unexpected and delightful dimension to your day on the slopes.

Whether you are carving through the challenging terrain of Powder Country or cruising down intermediate runs, there is something for every level of skier. Powder Country, in particular, offers long, uninterrupted runs that conclude right at the highway, where shuttle buses whisk you back to the lodge. It is a backcountry-style experience without the usual crowds, making it a standout choice for those who value both adventure and solitude.

Snowbasin: Ski Like an Olympian

Just a short drive from Ogden, Snowbasin is a resort that combines world-class skiing with top-notch amenities. Famous for hosting the downhill, combined, and super-G events during the 2002 Winter Olympics, Snowbasin is set to be in the global spotlight again as it prepares to host down-

hill events for the 2034 Winter Olympics. This gives visitors the rare opportunity to ski on future Olympic courses.

With 3,000 acres of terrain, Snowbasin caters to all skill levels. Advanced skiers can challenge themselves on the Grizzly Downhill and Wildflower Downhill trails, steep, fast runs that test your mettle.

For those who prefer a more relaxed pace, the resort offers wide, groomed runs perfect for intermediate and beginner skiers. Modern lifts keep wait times low, so you can spend more time enjoying the mountain.

Beyond the slopes, Snowbasin is known for its luxurious lodges with breathtaking views. The John Paul Lodge and Needles Lodge offer a variety of dining options in a cozy setting, making them perfect spots to recharge during your day. Despite its upscale features, Snowbasin maintains a serene atmosphere, allowing you to soak in the beauty of the surroundings without feeling rushed or crowded.

Nordic Valley: Family Fun without the High Costs

For families and beginners, Nordic Valley is a gem that is both welcoming and wallet-friendly. Located near Eden, this smaller resort focuses on providing an enjoyable experience for those new to skiing or those who prefer a more easygoing environment. The terrain is mostly beginner and intermediate, but there are a few black diamond runs for those looking to push their skills.

One of the standout benefits of Nordic Valley is that children 12 and under ski for free. This makes it an excellent option for families looking to introduce their kids to the joys of skiing without incurring steep costs. Affordable lessons and equipment rentals make it even easier to get started.

Nordic Valley also offers night skiing across 80 acres of illuminated terrain. There is something magical about gliding down the slopes under the stars, and it is a great way to extend your skiing adventure into the evening

The resort is currently expanding, with plans for new lifts and additional terrain, all while keeping its commitment to affordability and a family-friendly atmosphere.

Embracing the Charm of Ogden

What truly sets the Ogden Valley apart is the seamless blend of outdoor adventure and vibrant local culture. After an exhilarating day on the mountains, downtown Ogden awaits with its historic 25th Street. This revitalized area is brimming with restaurants, shops and art galleries, offering a lively yet unpretentious vibe.

Ogden’s rich history as a frontier town adds to its unique character. The city has managed to modernize without losing its authentic charm, providing a refreshing change from more commercialized ski towns. Accommodations are varied and affordable, ranging from well-known hotels to boutique lodgings like the Compass Rose Lodge in nearby Huntsville.

Why Ogden Should Be on Your Ski Radar

The combination of Powder Mountain’s expansive terrain, Snowbasin’s Olympic-level runs, and Nordic Valley’s family-friendly slopes makes Ogden a versatile destination for all types of skiers and snowboarders. The area remains relatively uncrowded and affordable, offering a more relaxed alternative to Utah’s larger resorts.

Accessibility is another major plus. With the resorts just a short drive from each other and downtown Ogden, it is easy to explore multiple mountains during your stay. In addition, when the sun sets, the city’s cultural offerings provide plenty of entertainment, from dining and shopping to simply soaking in the local atmosphere.

In a world where many ski destinations are becoming increasingly commercialized and crowded, Ogden offers high-quality skiing experiences wrapped in genuine hospitality. Whether you are seeking the thrill of future Olympic courses, the serenity of uncrowded slopes adorned with art, or a fun-filled family getaway, Ogden, Utah, has it all.

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For snow info, lodging and more, access them directly please log on to: www.visitogden.com

THE MOUNTAIN JOURNAL**BLACK ICE: SKIING THE ICY HARDPACK*****DUE to a FULL JAN–SPRING 2025 EDITION, WE PRESENT THIS INFO as an ONLINE BONUS*****By TONY CRESPI, SKIER NEWS' TECHNICAL EDITOR**

Ice can be clear, blue or black, and real ice resembles those little blocks you acquire from your freezer. I explain this, not because I think you might not know about ice, but because on a Western adventure I heard a skier comment that he considered harder snow as ice. Grinning, I put things in perspective. What we were skiing was neither blue nor black. It just did not qualify as ice.

Black ice, blue ice, boilerplate, grey washboard, and some types of hardpack can be each, in different ways, a nemesis. Each can vary. Have you skied glistening ice? It is not like powder. Have you encountered gray washboard? The stuff I told my lift friend about, blue ice, is the most demanding. Fortunately, it is not common with grooming. However, hardpack and boilerplate still can appear on the mountain. In fact, while mountain managers may cringe at this commentary, I have observed that snowmakers can produce a certain amount of gray (and even blue) hard-pack.

The good news is that ice can make a solid base.

Given that powder days are too rare in New England, and since we could not ski if we waited for powder, experts must learn to master varied conditions. Is it enjoyable? Truthfully? Yes. In fact, Eastern skiers know how to use their edges, and know this is a sure-fire strength. In addition, I think it partially explains why many racers hail from New England. Diversity builds competence.

From a technical angle, there are several strategies most veterans use for skiing hardpack: 1) Maintain a Tuned Ski, 2) Develop a Square Stance, and 3), Learn to Ski Different Lines. You should consider each of these.

Maintain a Tuned Ski

While most recreational skiers may not need the high-level precision required for competition, it is helpful to maintain your skis in proper condition.

Are your skis tuned? Top skiers will often tune and polish side edges daily. In addition, waxing helps maximize ease of turning

If your skis are not tuned, speak to your mountain shop. Consider purchasing basic tuning tools. Even a few minutes of minor polishing and deburring can maintain overall performance between major tune-ups.

2) Develop A Square Stance

Some years past, skiing with former U.S. Team Racer Holly Flanders, I was humbled. While the terrain constantly changed, and although the snow was less than ideal, Holly appeared completely at ease. She stood square, evenly balanced, and she seemed ideally positioned for advanced skiing.

A square, well-balanced stance allows for an ideal position for retraction, extension, weighting and unweighting, and allows for subtle adjustments.

Balance and stance are critical on hard-pack.

While there are times virtually any skier will not be perfectly square, the ideal position for hardpack is a well-developed, and square, stance.

Pay attention to your stance.

3) Learn to Ski Different Lines

Eastern skiers tend to push their bragging rights about icy technique. One reason is that before grooming came to the forefront, ice was prominent in the East. Folks

realized that to ski often, we had to ski anything. In all honesty, racers have been skiing hardpack for years. The result is that many racers know the benefits.

Generally, if you survive the initiation, and most of you probably have, you will learn that hard-pack can vary from one day to the next and from one trail to another. It is an important point. In addition, top skiers often look smooth because they learn to ski different and varied lines. This can help as it allows you to take advantage of the best snow.

Personally, I wander as things deteriorate, often exploring trails I might not typically enjoy. Remember, most folks do not modify their technique on ice and turn in the same places, and on the same bumps, whether the mountain is blessed with powder or frozen granular. Most good skiers adjust their line.

Watch a top skier the next time you are on your favorite trail. Most top skiers smoothly modify their line as slope and conditions change. Remember, a strong tactical orientation can often be as important as technique.

If you find yourself faced with challenging snow this season, consider your options. Start with tuned skis. Then adopt a square stance. Third, learn to ski different lines. Finally, remember that when slopes are icy, novice runs can ski like intermediate trails and intermediate trails like black diamonds. Explore. The entire mountain is rarely frozen solid.

Savor your day, from your first run to your last run.

Tony Crespi is a former ski school supervisor and development team coach. He has skied on and enjoyed ice-glazed slopes more than he cares to admit.

TWO SEASONS.
1,531 INCHES.
| WHAT A RUN.



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