

# 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 warmth of a fire by your feet after a long, rewarding day on the slopes?

Publisher’s Note: By press time on Dec. 30, Mammoth Mountain reported 73 inches of new snow over a two-day period. This brought their total-to-date to 11.3 inches and counting.



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. To find convenient flights go to: [www.visitmammoth.com/flying](http://www.visitmammoth.com/flying)

Christian Pondella photo courtesy of Mammoth Lakes Tourism

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 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.

For visitors with a taste for mountain luxury, stay tuned to the exciting opening of Limelight Mammoth hotel and residences this winter. This all-electric facility pairs sweeping Sierra views, elevated amenities and a vibrant après scene at its Limelight Lounge, all just steps from The Village.

With a High Sierra climate delivering one of the longest seasons in the country, along with massive snowfalls and bluebird skies, you can make this ski season your best yet. Book a trip to Mammoth Lakes and experience the real unreal.

## GETTING to MAMMOTH LAKES IS EASY

Getting to Mammoth Lakes and Bishop has never been easier. United Airlines offers nonstop flights from San Francisco and Denver to Bishop, CA (BIH), in addition to easy one-connection service from the East Coast.

This winter United Airlines expands its Bishop schedule, with double weekend service to make your trip even smoother.

You can also fly nonstop directly to Mammoth Lakes in under an hour with Advanced Airlines from Carlsbad or Hawthorne-LA.

To book your flights from anywhere, please log on to: [www.visitmammoth.com/flying/](http://www.visitmammoth.com/flying/)

View, read and share this page online at: [www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-NewsEditorial.pdf](http://www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-NewsEditorial.pdf)

To learn more about Mammoth Lakes, please listen to the Mammoth Lakes podcast episodes, please visit: [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com) and easily find them linked on the West section label.

For more Mammoth Lakes information please go to: [www.visitmammoth.com](http://www.visitmammoth.com)

Please find more great Mammoth Lakes information at: [www.visitmammoth.com](http://www.visitmammoth.com) or at: #KeepMammothUnreal

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Link to Technical Editor Tony Crespi’s ideas on taking lessons.

### Find it at

[www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-lessons.pdf](http://www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-lessons.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.â

(This is a partial list.)

## From the PUBLISHER’S DESK:

By Publisher and Editor, Dave Leonardi

Welcome to SKIER NEWS edition number 126, published continuously since 1988.

REMINDER - MORE PODCAST EPISODES ADDED at: [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://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](http://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 NBC’s American Century Championship in Lake Tahoe in July by Publishers Lorie and Dave Leonardi who are working media at the event.

The podcast 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 second Entertainment based podcast as well as famed comedian Nate Bargatze, both are funny and informative. Also this year country star Jake Owen joined along with Miles Teller from Top Gun Maverick, and famous MLB and NFL broadcaster Joe Buck joined with great interview.

Also interviewed was the 2008 Phillies’ World Series Champ Jimmy Rollins. Jay DeMarcus returned with news of his stellar group, Rascal Flatts, reuniting. In more entertainment news Jason Scheff, former lead singer with Chicago, discusses his new project “Lead Singers of Classic Rock.”

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

Check it out at [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com) and also sign up for our email updates.

### CELEBRATE! SKI RESORTS MARK BIG ANNIVERSARIES

This winter season at least three ski areas are marking major milestones in their existence.

In the Poconos of Pennsylvania, Shawnee Mountain is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with fun events planned all year long. See: [www.shawneemt.com](http://www.shawneemt.com) for all the details. We apologize to Shawnee for previously reporting it was their 25th and stand corrected.

Jackson Hole, in Wyoming, is joyous about their 60 years of building a great ski resort. From their humble beginning in 1964, they now are a major resort with seven high-speed quads, two gondolas and their world famous tram that rises 4,139 vertical feet from their base. Look for their many events and more at: [www.jacksonhole.com](http://www.jacksonhole.com)

Alta Ski Area, located in Little Cottonwood Canyon in Utah, celebrates their 88th year of operation. Why the 88th year? It highlights the super powder days they receive and the abundance of “Powder 8” competitions they have had. Look for those events and more at: [www.alta.com](http://www.alta.com)

### GET SET FOR THE 2026 WINTER GAMES - ITALY SHOWCASES OLYMPIC EVENTS

NBC will once again bring America closer to the 2026 Winter Games. They are in Milan and Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy. Milan will be home to the ice competitions. The outdoor events will occur in Cortina d’Ampezzo. “Ski Mountaineering” will be one of the newest Olympic games.

The events will begin on Friday, February 6, 2026 and continue through the closing ceremony on Sunday, February 22. They are officially known as the XXV Olympic Winter Games and it should be an exciting 16 days, especially the USA ice hockey games.

NBC will broadcast the events over many of their platforms. You can find their schedule by checking [www.nbcolympics.com/schedule](http://www.nbcolympics.com/schedule)

Go Team USA especially Men’s and Women’s ice hockey, skiing and all of the many Team USA athletes. Mikaela Shiffrin and Lindsey Vonn should rally our downhill skiers as Jesse Diggins looks to conquer the 10k women’s cross-country event. Bring home the gold!

### OUR USUAL CLOSING THOUGHTS

Think snow, ski safely and stay well.

Once again we ask God to bless our troops all around the world, helping to keep the peace 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. We hope you continue to view, read and enjoy our websites and podcasts. All are linked from [www.skiernews.com](http://www.skiernews.com)

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

## ON THE COVER

### ALTA SKI AREA, UTAH

Alta Ski Area located near Salt Lake City in Utah’s Little Cottonwood Canyon is a delight for powderhounds. Alta is a “skiers only” mountain and annually known for its deep snow. The last three winters they received more than 2,000 inches. This year’s first big dump should be on its way soon to help Alta celebrate its 88th anniversary on which many great skiers have carved “Powder 8’s.” Log on to: [www.alta.com](http://www.alta.com) for updates and please see their ad on pages 4 & 5

Copyright January, 2026, The Skier News, Inc.  
S.S.N. 1094-0960 Vol. 40 - Issue 126  
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](http://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](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com)

and on all major platforms:

iHeart, Spotify, Google, etc.