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Sunday River

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SUNDAY RIVER IS DOUBLING DOWN on the MOST DEPENDABLE SNOW in NEW ENGLAND

NEWRY, ME – Sunday River Resort in Newry, Maine, is an ideal destination for families, adventurers, and everyone in between. With eight interconnected mountain peaks come 135 designated trails and over 2,000 acres of boundary-to-boundary access for on-slope fun, plus special events and activities to keep the good times going long after the lifts stop spinning.

Sunday River's commitment to providing the most dependable snow in New England means that whenever you visit, conditions are sure to be on par. The resort has taken the first steps towards doubling their snowmaking capacity with the addition of a new 600 horsepower pump and the replacement of the pipe that runs from their namesake water source to the pump house in Barker Basin. For the 2018-19 season, there will be a 15 percent increase in the amount of water that can be pumped into the system, meaning that they can make more snow even faster. Future upgrades on-mountain following this project will allow for double the water capacity. Pair this with an experienced crew manning the snow grooming fleet, and you can rest assured that snow conditions have been taken care of prior to your trip.

Visitors to Sunday River also have many options when it comes to season passes and tickets. The New England Pass offers unlimited skiing at Sunday River, Sugarloaf and Loon Mountain, with pricing options to match your budget and visitation habits.

New this year, the resort offers the Threedom Pass, which gives purchasers three days of skiing or snowboarding anytime during the season. Once those three tickets have been used, you can save 40 percent on additional lift tickets for Sunday through Thursday, and 20 percent on Friday, Saturday and holiday periods. You can also purchase your tickets online in advance for savings, and with the Easy Change and Snow Guarantee programs, you can book with confidence.

Families visiting Sunday River will find fun for all ages on and off the slopes. In addition to terrain for beginners to expert skiers and snowboarders, kids and adults can learn the ropes through the resort's SnowSports School programs. During weekends and holidays, the trails on South Ridge and North Peak are lit up for night skiing well into the evening. When it is finally time to take their ski boots off, activities like snow tubing, ice skating, Black Diamond Family Entertainment events, and fireworks are sure to fill their mental scrapbooks.

The resort also appeals to the adventurous type traveling without kids. Whether it is conquering expert terrain or trying an unusual (but delicious) meal at any one of the resort's on-mountain dining locations, such as The Mountain Room at the Peak Lodge or the signature Camp restaurant.

Throughout the season, guests can stay while they play at any of Sunday River's lodging properties, including two hotels that bookend the resort and the Snow Cap Inn located near the heart of everything. Both the Jordan Hotel and the Grand Summit Hotel offer ski-in/ski-out access, restaurants, health clubs, heated outdoor pools and spa services, while the Snow Cap Inn is a budget and dog-friendly option within walking distance to the slopes. Numerous slopeside condominiums also claim Sunday River as their backyard playground, earning the resort the distinction of having the most slopeside lodging in the East.

In addition, just a few miles away sits Maine's most beautiful mountain village, Bethel, which is home to historic sites, delicious restaurants, quaint boutiques, dog sledding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, a unique movie theater, and additional lodging options including idyllic New England style inns.

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MAINE SKIING HIGHLIGHTS and WHAT'S NEW for 2018-19

SKI COUNTRY, MAINE – Snow was on the minds of skiers and snowboarder as the 2018-19 season approached. Long-range forecasts called for a cold and snowy season, otherwise known as good old Maine Winter. The Maine ski areas continued to polish their operations with summer trail work and snowmaking expansions being the rule of the day.

Here are a few highlights from around the state.

Sunday River - please see the article above.

Sugarloaf

Sugarloaf, located in Carrabassett Valley, renovated its secondary snowmaking system

by expanding an existing pump house and installing a new 600 horsepower, 1,000 gallon per minute electric pump that helps improve efficiency and production on eastern and mid-mountain terrain during key early-season time frames.

The upgraded system will also exclusively service Drop Line, a new expert-level terrain park under construction east of the Lower Winter's Way Trail, just above The Landing.

"It takes a lot of snow to build a terrain park," said Dan Barker, director of snow surfaces. "By increasing the capacity of our secondary system and relocating the terrain park,

we'll be able to start making snow for freestyle features much earlier in the season than ever before."

Sugarloaf's freestyle terrain includes two other terrain parks, Skybound, which offers smaller, friendlier features for novice skiers and snowboarders, and Skid Road, a progressive training ground for intermediate-skiers and riders that offers larger, more technical features in addition to a World Cup level ski and snowboard cross track in Sidewinder.

In addition, in the glades on Burnt Mountain, Sugarloaf brought in its "brontosaurus" stump grinder to continue thinning and smoothing the terrain.

Shawnee Peak

Shawnee Peak in Bridgton aggressively expanded their snowmaking system with the automation of the two snowmaking pump houses. This gives Shawnee Peak one of the most modern and efficient systems in the East, providing increased water flows and higher pressure at the top of the mountain. This boosts snow making capacity allowing for more snow to be made in a shorter period. This boost opened more trails in the early season and allow more resurfacing of the trails during the winter. The ski area now boasts one of the industry's most modern fleet of snow groomers after purchasing its newest PistenBully.

In other news, Shawnee Peak announced an agreement with Jackson Hole Mountain Resort for another pass holder reciprocity program. Shawnee Peak pass holders will receive a 40 percent discount on daily lift prices during the 2018-19 ski season, as will Jackson Hole pass holders at Shawnee Peak. This is a significant pass partnership between two independent owned resorts. Shawnee Peak will celebrate its 25th year of family ownership, a testament to its success and growth since the early 1990s.

The ski area continues to build its community support around its skiers, snowboarders and a loyal core of season pass holders.

Lost Valley

Lost Valley in Auburn, a popular community ski area, is now in its fourth season under the Shanaman family's ownership. This ski area was the incubator of snowmaking and grooming during its early days in the 1960s.

Today Lost Valley attracts the local college crowd, families and youth programs with consistent snow cover and extensive night skiing.

The addition of the Lost Valley Brewing Co. and an expanded menu have contributed to Lost Valley's reputation of being more than just a ski area.

Mt. Abram

Mt. Abram in Greenwood continues to offer some of the finest learn to ski and ride terrain in ski country. The magic carpet and separate base area, the West side, cater to new skiers and young families looking for the comfort of having their own beginner zone and lift network. The ownership is working on its plan to expand snowmaking capacity for all levels of skiers and snowboarders.

Black Mountain

Black Mountain in Rumford added 17 SMI Super Wizard Tower snow makers to their current arsenal. These guns are designed for optimal performance even in marginal weather. The tower fans line the two main trails, the Upper Androscoggin and the Lower Androscoggin, from base to summit. Permanent mounts have been created and installation began Oct. 1 with completion set for the last week of December.

Adding these towers as permanent snow guns to the Androscoggin trails, allows Black Mountain to mobilize their 13 existing guns, resulting in more snowmaking at an earlier date. The Allagash, a widely popular trail off the summit, of roughly two miles of intermediate terrain will benefit with snowmaking on the summit of the trail this year.

Camden Snow Bowl

Camden Snow Bowl is just 90 minutes north of Portland. The Snow Bowl has 20 trails, a 4,000-foot triple lift, snowmaking on more than 80 percent of the mountain, night skiing and ski instructors that moonlight as schooner captains. It is the only ski destination on the East Coast with stunning views of the ocean. In addition, when your ski day is over, enjoy Midcoast Maine's award-winning restaurants, scenic harbor views, and vibrant art scene. The municipally-owned Snow Bowl is fun for the whole family, on and off the mountain.

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