

EIGHT REASONS to ADD SKI CITY to YOUR WINTER LIST

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – In winter, Salt Lake becomes affectionately known as Ski City. This is a place where a lively downtown scene meets world-class skiing. A place where locals and visitors alike share the stoke of the last night's storm. It is not your typical resort experience. It is so much more.

Whether you are coming with family, a group of friends or travelling solo, there are many reasons to visit Ski City. Here are the top eight.

The Snow

For serious skiers, this list could start and end here. A dry desert climate means that the snow here is light, fluffy and a joy to ski. Thanks to the lake effect, storms pick up extra moisture as they pass over the Great Salt Lake and drop it in the form of snow on the Cottonwood Canyons, home of the Ski City resorts. The four resorts, Snowbird, Brighton, Solitude and Alta, average approximately 500 inches in a season. Utah powder days are described with terms like "chest deep" and "hero skiing" for a reason. If you love groomers, fear not. Each of the four resorts groom to perfection a large percentage of trails each night.

The Resorts

Utah has many great places to ski. However, these four resorts stand out for the quantity and quality of their snow, the variety of terrain, and their unique character. Some people are dedicated to just one of the four as their favorite. Nevertheless, if you have never been to Ski City, you owe it to yourself to experience all four of these unique resorts.

Alta – Between the most snow in Utah and a distinct old school vibe, it is easy to see why Alta is a longtime local favorite. Tip: After ending the day with a lap down Alf's High Rustler or High Boy, enjoy a beer on the deck of the Goldminer's Daughter.

Snowbird – An adrenaline junkie's dream—Snowbird is known for its iconic aerial tram that takes you 3,000 vertical feet to a summit where you can access some of the best terrain in Utah. Tip: During whiteout conditions, head for the trees off the Gad 2 lift.

Brighton – Arguably Utah's most laidback resort and a snowboarder Mecca. Brighton is littered with terrain parks plus countless nooks and crannies waiting to be explored. Tip: If you arrive on an afternoon flight and want to hit the slopes then you are in luck.



SNOWBIRD, UT – Overlooking Mineral Basin atop Snowbird, skiers delight in deep snow and majestic mountain views. Snowbird along with the other three Ski Salt Lake resorts - Alta, Brighton and Solitude - annually receive huge amounts of Utah's famous "Greatest Snow on Earth." Photo courtesy Ski Salt Lake

It is reported that Brighton, in Big Cottonwood Canyon, has the best night skiing in Utah.

Solitude – Solitude holds up to its name. Known for short lift lines, it is also one of the few places you can still ski powder after lunch. Tip: On storm days be on the lookout for Honeycomb Canyon to open. It is worth the wait.

Urban Apres

There is no reason the fun has to end when the lifts stop spinning. Choose among a wide variety of restaurants. Even if you are from a big city, you will be impressed with Salt Lake's growing foodie scene. In addition, it is now easy to grab a drink at a downtown bar, catch a Utah Jazz NBA game or see a Broadway musical at Eccles Theater. What other ski town offers that?

Rest day activities

As much as we all hate to admit it, your legs might need a break if you are skiing the entire week. Ski City has all the typical urban activities you would expect, and a whole bunch of stuff you would not. Axe throwing, anyone?

If you are feeling ambitious, you could even take a scenic drive to Arches National Park. Utah's Red Rock country is only a few hours from Ski City.

Ski in the morning, golf in the afternoon

Seriously, you can do it. March and April can provide some of the year's best skiing. Because Ski City is 4,000 feet lower in elevation than the resorts, you can enjoy spring afternoon activities in the valley while winter is still going strong in the mountains.

Value

In Ski City, how much you spend is really up to you. With 200-plus hotels, 2,000-plus restaurants and food trucks, there are accommodations and dining for every budget. In addition, there are other ways to save. While the holidays are high season for most resort areas, in Ski City you can find some of the best lodging rates of the year.

The Super Pass

Alta, Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude have teamed up to offer you a discounted rate on lift tickets. The Super Pass can be used at any of the four Ski City resorts, and it offers free transportation on UTA ski buses and TRAX light rail.

Customize your Super Pass for three to 10 days of skiing, and skip the ticket line by purchasing online at www.skicitysuperpass.com

Access

Salt Lake International Airport has over 650 daily flights from over 95 non-stop destinations. It has been recognized for having more on-time arrivals than any other airport in the country. With four resorts, hundreds of hotels and thousands of restaurants all within 40 minutes, ski trip logistics have never been easier.

"A Different Adventure Every Day" means just that. No two days in Ski City have to be the same. Welcome to a place where you can mix and match resorts, lodging, restaurants and activities to create your ultimate ski vacation.

Experience Ski City and Utah's "Greatest Snow on Earth" for yourself this winter and learn what locals know about a great snow experience.

Read, view and share this full page on our website at: www.skiernews.net/Jan2019-SLC-Editorial.pdf

For Ski City Superpass info, and to learn the ease of getting to Salt Lake City and getting to these four great ski resorts, check out their all-comprehensive website at: www.skicity.com

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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.
(This is a partial list.)

From the PUBLISHER'S DESK:

By Publisher and Editor, Dave Leonardi

WELCOME to SKIER NEWS 110 - Our annual "Winter Travel Planner" edition

This is our 32nd year, edition 110, and another time to say "thank you" and Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to our readers and advertisers.

DEALING with MOTHER NATURE and the SNOW GODS

At press time in late November, resorts were opening early, with natural snow and snowmaking. At the famed Boston Ski and Snowboard Expo in mid-November many New England resorts were already bragging of their successful opening days. Snowmaking was in full swing in the Northeast and feet of natural snowfall sparked enthusiasm. It could be a another great year for Eastern ski resorts with consistent snowmaking temperatures and natural snow.

In late November, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (www.jacksonhole.com) was reporting a good beginning of 83 inches of snow with more on the way. Although for many Northwest U.S. resorts and those in Tahoe that benefited from the "Miracle March" of massive snows, it may be difficult to beat last year's beginning and ending snowfall totals. Log on to www.skiernews.com for snowfall updates for U.S. resorts.

Colorado resorts at press time were beginning to receive large amounts of early season snow. Check out www.skicb.com for Crested Butte and www.steamboat.com for Steamboat Ski Resort as both were reporting a good early start to their season.

In Utah, the Ski City resorts of Alta, Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude (www.visitsaltlake.com/skicity) also were beginning their season in late-November with encouraging snowfall totals.

Keep in mind, this is not their base depths, but accumulated snowfall at press time on November 26. See the info below on our SKIER NEWS' rule of thumb for base depths and skiing.

Log on to www.skiernews.com/GreatResorts.htm and easily link to your favorite resort to check out their conditions in real time. If you are looking for great lodging across the U.S. and Canada, log on to www.skiernews.net/GreatLodging.htm

HERE IS MY WESTERN SNOW DEPTH GUIDE TO BASE DEPTH REPORTS

Below 30 inches, watch out for rocks, tree stumps and fallen branches above the snow surface.

At 30 to 40 inches, there will be good cruising but will be dangerous in steep terrain especially if a few new inches of snowfall create a false cover on rocks.

Forty to 50 inches will provide great cruising on groomed runs and a chance that you will not have to worry about rocks in steep terrain, depending on the mountain. Some of them have 55-inch rocks that need to be completely covered.

Fifty to 60 inches will provide great coverage for moderate all-mountain skiing.

With 60 to 70 inches, there will be great all over, groomed, steep, bowls, you name it, all should be excellent, but be cautious.

And more than 70 inches, pretty much everything will be covered on the main trails.

If you go between the trees you can always encounter problems, especially tree-wells that will literally swallow you and suffocate you beneath the snow surface. It will be your last run! There were more than a dozen avoidable tree-well deaths last winter.

Always remember one of the Safety Code rules, "Be Aware of Changing Conditions" especially in trees.

And be aware. Ski with care and have fun out there.

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OUR USUAL CLOSING THOUGHTS

Once again we ask God to bless our troops in Afghanistan, the Middle East and all around the world, as they continue to defend America against terrorism and 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, and do not forget also to thank all of our heroes - police, fire and military - for helping to preserve our freedoms and outstanding way of life.

Thank you for reading SKIER NEWS over the past 32 years and 110 editions.

We hope you continue to read it, enjoy it, visit our websites, all linked from our homepage at www.skiernews.com and contact our advertisers for info and deals. Think snow.

ON THE COVER

Western edition:

SIERRA-at-TAHOE, LAKE TAHOE

Certified Unserious, this is the place to ski with authentic California big time fun on the slopes. Their snow is locally sourced and GMO free

Read more about Sierra-at-Tahoe on pg 5.

Eastern edition:

MOUNT SNOW in Vermont

Read more about Mount Snow in our "Best of Vermont..." edition

www.skiernews.net/BestoftheEast2019.htm

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We are now printed on gluten free paper with no GMO's!
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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 believe that the term "skiing" should be the all-comprehensive, generic term for all 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 issue possible. Now he publishes Fine Edge boating books in the Pacific northwest.
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No animals were killed or maimed in the production of this publication. This publication was not tested on animals.
Unsolicited manuscripts will be used as kindling for our office wood stove or deleted with a loudly vocal "wooooo."
One more thing, we do not use a period to end a sentence when that sentence ends with a web address, URL. 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. Just in case we forgot to eliminate one, you would know better than to use the period. Thanks. Why are you still reading this fine print?

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