

# SO WHAT IS the BIG DEAL about SKI CITY in UTAH?

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – In the winter, Salt Lake City becomes affectionately known as Ski City. It is a vibrant, urban playground for skiers and boarders who come to play at any of the four world-class resorts of the Wasatch Mountains. Those four resorts are the famed resorts of Alta, Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude.

If you have been there, you get it. If you have not, here are a few things you should probably know about the only true “ski city” in the country.

1. It is not close to the mountains;  
it is in the mountains.

If you are like most people, you book a ski vacation to ski or board, not so that you can spend 2 or 3 hours driving to the resorts. When you fly into Ski City, you will be flying into Salt Lake City International Airport, which is only 30 minutes from all four Ski City resorts.

In addition, it does not hurt that Salt Lake City International Airport has more than 650 daily flights from more than 95 non-stop destinations. It has also been recognized for having more on-time arrivals than any other airport in the country. So, again, plan to spend less of your time on travel and more of your time on the mountain.

2. It is about being a city.

When you stay in little ski towns, your dining, drinking, entertainment and nightlife options are limited. Cities do not come with those limitations, and Salt Lake City is no exception. It is home to more than 2000 restaurants, 200 bars and 150 hotels. Then, of course, there are museums, breweries and distilleries. Also, there are many concerts, theatre productions, galleries, sports including the NBA's Utah Jazz and a great deal of other activities packed into 19 different neighborhoods.

When they say that you can have a different adventure every day while you are in Ski City, it is absolutely true. Staying in Ski City allows you to mix and match resorts, restaurants, lodging and even non-ski entertainment to create your perfect day – every day.

3. It is about who the city “is.”

It is who the people are and the feeling you get when you are there. It is a city that came together to host the 2002 Winter Olympics. It is a place that is home base for hundreds of ski and outdoor businesses. It is a city where you can choose a completely different mountain experience every single day you are there. It is about making friends with all the snow fanatics who call the place home. Moreover, perhaps most of all, it is about the fact that once you are there you are automatically a Ski City resident.



BRIGHTON, UT – Cruising on a perfectly groomed trail at Ski City's Brighton Ski Resort. Brighton along with the other three Ski City Super Pass resorts - Alta, Snowbird and Solitude - annually receive huge amounts of Utah's famous “Greatest Snow on Earth.”  
Cam McLeod photo courtesy of Brighton Ski Resort

4. There is a reason they call the snow

“The Greatest Snow On Earth®.”

A dry desert climate means that the snow in the Wasatch Mountains 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 Ski City resorts average approximately 500 inches in a season. Utah powder days are described with terms like “chest deep” and “hero skiing.” However, if you love groomers, fear not. Each of the four resorts groom a large percentage of their trails to perfection each night.

5. And speaking of the resorts.

The entire state of Utah has many great places to ski. However, Salt Lake City's four Ski City 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 destinations.

Alta is located at the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon along a well-paved, two- and three-lane road. Between its claim to having the most snowfall of all the

resorts in Utah, and its 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 trail, enjoy a beer on the deck of the Goldminer's Daughter.

Snowbird: This resort is found in Little Cottonwood Canyon, just before Alta. 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: If you are caught whiteout conditions, head for the trees off the Gad 2 lift.

Brighton: Brighton is located at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon. It is arguably Utah's most laidback resort and definitive snowboarder Mecca. Brighton is littered with terrain parks along with countless nooks and crannies just waiting to be explored. Tip: If you arrive on an afternoon flight and want to hit the slopes, you are in luck. Brighton is known for having the best night skiing in Utah.

Solitude: This resort is found in Big Cottonwood Canyon, just before Brighton. By anyone's account, Solitude is a resort that holds up to its name. Known for short lift lines and

smaller crowds, 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.

6. Do not pass up the Super Pass.

Alta, Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude have teamed up to offer a discounted rate on lift tickets. The Super Pass can be used at any of the four Ski City resorts. The Super Pass also offers free transportation on UTA ski buses and on Salt Lake City's 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](http://www.skicitysuperpass.com)

The Bottom Line:

Stay in a ski town and you limit your dining, drinking, lodging, and entertainment options. Stay in other cities and you get to spend the first two hours of your day driving to the resort. On the other hand, stay in Ski City with the free transportation and short drives, and you will simply wonder why you ever stayed anywhere else.

Read, view and share this full page on our website at: [www.skiernews.net/Spring2019-SkiCity.pdf](http://www.skiernews.net/Spring2019-SkiCity.pdf)

For Super Pass and more information on Ski City and its world of limitless skiing, boarding, dining, lodging, and entertainment options, visit [www.skicity.com](http://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 111 - Our annual “Get Out and Ski” edition

This is our 32nd year, and 111th edition since 1988, and another time to say “thank you.”

THAT'S WHY WE CALL THIS the “GET OUT and SKI” EDITION

As written here in our Dec-Jan edition, resorts were opening early, with natural snow and snowmaking. And, it just got better. Major resorts from Mt. Bachelor to Mammoth Lakes, from Banff to Ski City, almost all points in-between like Tahoe's Diamond Peak and Sierrata-Tahoe – all are reporting deep base depths.

Eastern resorts have good natural snow with snowmaking temperatures and East Coast skiers have a selection of great resorts from which to choose. It should be another great year for Eastern ski resorts.

In mid-January, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort ([www.jacksonhole.com](http://www.jacksonhole.com)) was reporting 199 inches of snowfall so far this winter. At the time, a 60-inch upper mountain base depth is the result.

Colorado resorts also received large amounts of snow. For example, in southwest Colorado, check out [www.skicb.com](http://www.skicb.com) for Crested Butte with 111 inches of snow and a 46 inch base depth. In northern Colorado, visit [www.steamboat.com](http://www.steamboat.com) for Steamboat Ski Resort's reporting of 137 inches of snow with a 41-inch base. It is all good.

On January 14, in Utah, the Ski City resorts of Alta, Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude ([www.visitsaltlake.com/skicity](http://www.visitsaltlake.com/skicity)) also reported great snow encouraging snowfall totals. Alta and Brighton have a 63-inch base, Snowbird reports 64-inch base and Solitude's base is at 56 inches

Schweitzer, in northern Idaho reports more than 10 feet of snow has fallen, that is 124 inches, resulting in a 65-inch mid-mountain base. Oregon's Mt. Bachelor has a 66-inch base.

Log on to [www.skiernews.com/GreatResorts.htm](http://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](http://www.skiernews.net/GreatLodging.htm)

Log on to [www.skiernews.com](http://www.skiernews.com) for snowfall updates and links to major U.S. resorts.

### WORTH REPEATING, OUR GUIDE TO SKIING, USING BASE DEPTH REPORTS

Below 30 inches, watch out for rocks, tree stumps, tree trunks 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, and not by just a dusting of snow.

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

With 60 to 70 inches, there will be great conditions all over, groomed, steep, bowls, you name it, all should be excellent. Always be cautious, especially around trees for tree wells.

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. So, 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 111 editions.

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

## ON THE COVER

Western edition:

### MT. BACHELOR, BEND, OR

This stunning ski area sits on top of a dormant volcano, known for its light, dry snow, diverse terrain and long ski seasons into late May.

Read more about Mt. Bachelor on pg 3.

Eastern edition:

### OKEMO, LUDLOW, VT

Read more about Okemo in our “Best of Vermont...” edition

[www.skiernews.net/BestoftheEast2019.htm](http://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.

Thanks again to the pre-press and press room staff of Roger, Brad, Dick, Dan, Jim, Chris, Joe and many, many more.

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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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