

The rough guide to skiing snowboarding in north a

The rough guide to skiing snowboarding in North A

Embarking on a skiing or snowboarding adventure in North A promises an exhilarating experience filled with breathtaking scenery, varied terrain, and vibrant après-ski culture. Whether you are a seasoned pro or a first-timer, understanding the essentials of navigating North A's ski resorts will ensure your trip is safe, enjoyable, and memorable. This comprehensive guide aims to provide you with everything you need to know—from choosing the right resort and mastering the slopes, to safety tips and local tips that will help you make the most of your winter sports adventure.

Understanding North A's Ski Terrain and Resorts

Overview of North A's Ski Regions

North A is renowned for its diverse ski terrain, ranging from sprawling alpine bowls to beginner-friendly slopes. The region boasts several world-class resorts, each offering unique features suited to different skill levels and preferences.

- Resort A: Known for its extensive ski terrain and vibrant nightlife
- Resort B: Ideal for families and beginners
- Resort C: Famous for challenging runs and off-piste adventures
- Resort D: Offers a mix of terrains with excellent snowboarding facilities

Types of Terrain Available

Understanding the terrain types helps you select the right resort and plan your days effectively.

- Gentle Slopes and Green Runs: Perfect for beginners
- Intermediate Blue Runs: Suitable for skiers progressing from beginner to advanced
- Advanced Red and Black Runs: Designed for experienced skiers and snowboarders
- Off-Piste and Backcountry: For adventurous riders seeking untouched snow and natural terrain
- Freestyle Parks: Equipped with jumps, rails, and half-pipes for freestyle enthusiasts

Preparation Before Hitting the Slopes

Physical Fitness and Skill Level

Prior to your trip, assessing your fitness and skill level is crucial.

- **Beginner:** Focus on basic techniques, balance, and safety.
- **Intermediate:** Practice carving and controlled turning.
- **Advanced:** Prepare for challenging terrain and off-piste riding.

Engaging in pre-trip exercises such as cardio, leg strengthening, and flexibility routines can improve your stamina and reduce injury risk.

Essential Equipment and Gear

Having the proper gear not only enhances performance but also ensures safety.

- **Clothing:** Layered clothing including moisture-wicking base layers, insulating mid-layers, and waterproof outer layers
- **Helmet:** Mandatory for safety, fits snugly without discomfort
- **Goggles:** Protect eyes from sun, wind, and snow glare
- **Gloves:** Waterproof and insulated
- **Boots and Bindings:** Well-fitted ski or snowboard boots for control and comfort
- **Skis/Snowboard:** Rental or personal equipment suited to your skill level
- **Avalanche Safety Gear:** Transceiver, probe, and shovel if venturing into off-piste areas

Lessons and Guiding Services

For beginners or those looking to improve, booking lessons with certified instructors is highly recommended.

- Group lessons provide social and cost-effective learning
- Private coaching offers personalized feedback
- Guided backcountry tours ensure safe exploration of off-piste areas

Navigating the Slopes and Resorts

Understanding Trail Maps and Signage

Trail maps are vital tools for navigation and safety.

- Color Coding:
- Green: Easy slopes for beginners
- Blue: Intermediate terrain
- Red/Black: Advanced or expert terrain
- Symbols: Indicate features such as terrain parks, ski lifts, and caution zones

Always plan your routes according to your skill level and avoid venturing into unfamiliar terrain without proper guidance.

Using Ski Lifts and Transportation

North A's resorts are equipped with modern lift systems, including chairlifts, gondolas, and T-bars.

- Lift Etiquette:
- Follow posted instructions
- Be courteous to other skiers and snowboarders
- Keep your equipment clear of loading areas
- Transportation Tips:
- Shuttle services are often available between resorts
- Parking areas fill quickly; arrive early for convenience

Safety Tips and Best Practices

Personal Safety

Safety should always be a priority on the mountain.

- Always wear a helmet
- Stay within your skill level
- Be aware of weather conditions and changing snow quality
- Follow resort signage and instructions
- Never ski or snowboard alone in backcountry areas

Managing Risks in Off-Piste and Backcountry

Venturing into untouched snow offers thrill but also risks.

- Check avalanche forecasts before going off-piste

- Carry proper safety gear
- Consider hiring a guide if unfamiliar with the terrain
- Inform someone of your plans and estimated return time

Dealing with Common Injuries

In case of injury:

- Seek immediate help from resort patrol
- Know basic first aid
- Carry a small kit with essentials like bandages and pain relievers

Après-Ski and Local Tips

Enjoying the Après-Ski Scene

North A boasts lively après-ski options that enhance the overall experience.

- Cozy mountain bars with local brews and cocktails
- Gourmet restaurants serving regional cuisine
- Live music and entertainment events

Local Culture and Cuisine

Immerse yourself in North A's culture through its food and traditions.

- Try regional specialties like hearty stews, fondue, and local cheeses
- Attend cultural festivals if timing permits
- Support local artisans and shops

Environmental Responsibility

Respect the environment and contribute to sustainable tourism.

- Use eco-friendly transportation options
- Avoid littering and dispose of waste responsibly
- Stick to marked trails to preserve natural habitats

- Support resorts with green initiatives

Additional Tips for a Successful Trip

- Book accommodations and equipment rentals in advance to secure the best options
- Check weather forecasts regularly and plan accordingly
- Pack essential items such as sunscreen, lip balm, and hydration bottles
- Stay hydrated and take regular breaks to prevent exhaustion
- Respect other skiers and snowboarders; practice good mountain etiquette
- Keep emergency contact information handy

Conclusion

Skiing and snowboarding in North A offers a world of adventure, challenge, and enjoyment. By understanding the terrain, preparing properly, prioritizing safety, and respecting local customs and environment, visitors can maximize their experience and create lasting memories. Whether carving down gentle slopes or tackling steep backcountry, North A's diverse offerings cater to all levels of snow sports enthusiasts. With this rough guide, you're well-equipped to make your trip to North A an unforgettable winter escape.

The Rough Guide to Skiing and Snowboarding in North A

Embarking on a skiing or snowboarding adventure in North A offers an exhilarating escape into winter wonderland landscapes filled with pristine slopes, diverse terrains, and vibrant mountain culture. This comprehensive guide aims to provide you with everything you need to know—from the best resorts and terrain parks to essential tips for beginners and seasoned riders alike. Whether you're planning your first trip or are a seasoned snow enthusiast, understanding the nuances of North A's ski scene can elevate your experience and ensure a memorable, safe journey on the snow.

Introduction to North A's Skiing and Snowboarding Scene

North A is renowned for its expansive mountain ranges, abundant snowfall, and diverse terrain suited for all levels of skiers and snowboarders. The region boasts a mix of luxury resorts, charming villages, and backcountry options, making it an ideal destination for families, thrill-seekers, and those seeking tranquility in nature.

The region's climate typically results in long, snowy winters, with peak season running from December through April. This consistency in snow conditions, combined with well-maintained lifts and facilities, makes North A a premier winter sports destination.

Top Ski Resorts in North A

1. Mountain Peak Resort

Known for its vast ski area and high-altitude terrain, Mountain Peak Resort is a favorite among advanced skiers and snowboarders.

Features & Highlights:

- Over 150 runs covering all difficulty levels
- Extensive backcountry options with guided tours
- State-of-the-art lift system reducing wait times
- Modern on-mountain amenities and après-ski scene

Pros:

- Large variety of runs for all skill levels
- Excellent snow quality and consistent snowfall
- Vibrant nightlife and dining options

Cons:

- Can be crowded during peak weekends
- Higher price point for accommodations and lift tickets

2. Snow Valley Ski Village

Ideal for families and beginners, Snow Valley Ski Village offers a friendly, accessible environment.

Features & Highlights:

- Multiple beginner zones and gentle slopes
- Dedicated snowboarding terrain parks
- Ski and snowboard school programs
- Family-friendly accommodations nearby

Pros:

- Affordable lift tickets and rentals
- Well-designed beginner areas
- Community-focused atmosphere

Cons:

- Limited advanced terrain
- Smaller ski area compared to other resorts

3. Glacier Heights

This resort is famous for its challenging runs and impressive vertical drops, attracting expert skiers and snowboarders.

Features & Highlights:

- Steep chutes and powder bowls
- Night skiing on select trails
- Freestyle terrain parks with rails and jumps
- Snowboarding competitions and events

Pros:

- Excellent terrain for advanced riders
- Consistent powder and deep snow days
- Vibrant freestyle scene

Cons:

- Not suitable for beginners
- Can be intimidating for novice skiers

Terrain and Snow Conditions

North A's terrain varies from gentle beginner slopes to challenging expert runs. The region's high elevation and climate ensure reliable snow coverage, with some resorts investing heavily in snowmaking technology to extend the season and maintain quality conditions.

Key Features:

- Wide, open groomed runs ideal for learning
- Steep, rugged backcountry for experienced skiers and snowboarders
- Terrain parks with rails, boxes, and jumps for freestyle enthusiasts

Snow Conditions:

- Typically light, dry powder in winter's peak months
- Snowmaking capabilities help maintain quality during dry spells
- Avalanches are a concern in backcountry areas; proper training and safety equipment are essential

Activities Beyond Skiing and Snowboarding

North A offers a plethora of activities to enhance your winter holiday experience:

- Snowshoeing and Cross-country Skiing: Explore scenic trails that wind through forests and mountain meadows.
- Ice Skating: Many resorts feature outdoor rinks with rental gear.
- Heli-skiing and Backcountry Tours: For thrill-seekers looking to access untouched snow.
- Après-ski and Local Cuisine: Cozy lodges, craft breweries, and fine dining options are plentiful.
- Wildlife Viewing: Spot native animals adapted to winter conditions, including elk and mountain goats.

Essential Tips for Skiers and Snowboarders

For Beginners

- Take a lesson: Professional instruction accelerates learning and safety.
- Start on gentle slopes: Build confidence before tackling more difficult terrain.
- Dress appropriately: Layer clothing, wear moisture-wicking base layers, and use proper gear.
- Practice falls and stopping techniques: Safety first to prevent injuries.

For Advanced Riders

- Explore backcountry with a guide: Safety is paramount in unmarked terrain.
- Invest in quality gear: Well-maintained skis and snowboards improve performance.
- Participate in local competitions or events: Great way to meet others and challenge yourself.
- Respect mountain safety signs and closures: Protect yourself and preserve the environment.

Gear and Equipment Recommendations

- Skis/Snowboards: Choose based on terrain preference and skill level.
- Clothing: Waterproof jackets and pants, thermal layers, gloves, and goggles.
- Safety Equipment: Helmets are essential; consider avalanche beacons and probes for backcountry trips.
- Accessories: Neck warmers, sunscreen, and lip balm to protect against sun and wind.

Transportation and Access

Most resorts in North A are accessible via major airports, with shuttle services and rental cars available. Once in the region, a combination of private vehicles and resort shuttles makes moving between accommodations and ski areas straightforward. Some resorts offer on-site parking, while others encourage the use of public transportation.

Best Time to Visit

The prime ski season in North A runs from December to April, with January and February typically offering the best snow conditions. Early season may have limited terrain, while late-season visits often feature warmer weather and reduced crowds.

Accommodations and Dining

Options range from luxury lodges and boutique hotels to budget hostels and cozy cabins. Many resorts feature on-site restaurants, après-ski bars, and mountain cafes serving local cuisine, hot drinks, and snacks. For a more authentic experience, consider staying in nearby villages to enjoy regional dishes and local culture.

Environmental and Safety Considerations

Respect the natural environment by adhering to marked trails, avoiding littering, and using eco-friendly products. Always check weather forecasts and avalanche reports before heading into backcountry areas. Carrying appropriate safety gear and informing someone about your plans is crucial for ensuring a safe adventure.

Conclusion

The rough guide to skiing and snowboarding in North A highlights a region rich with diverse terrains, world-class facilities, and vibrant mountain communities. Whether you're carving your first turns, seeking adrenaline on steep slopes, or simply enjoying the serene winter landscape, North A offers an unforgettable winter sports experience. Proper preparation, respect for mountain safety, and an adventurous spirit will help you make the most of your trip to this winter paradise. With its combination of reliable snow, varied terrain, and welcoming atmosphere, North A remains a top destination for winter sports enthusiasts worldwide.

Question What are the top ski resorts recommended in North A for beginners? In North A, resorts like Glacier Valley and Snowflake Ridge are highly recommended for beginners due to their gentle slopes, excellent ski schools, and beginner-friendly facilities. **Answer** What safety tips should I follow while snowboarding in North A? Always wear appropriate protective gear, stay within designated areas, check weather conditions before heading out, and consider taking lessons if you're new to snowboarding to ensure safety and proper technique. When is the best time to visit North A for skiing and snowboarding? The optimal time is typically from December to March when North A experiences peak snowfall and ideal skiing conditions. Be sure to check local weather reports for the best recent snowfalls. Are there any special events or festivals related to skiing and snowboarding in North A? Yes, North A hosts annual events such as the North A Winter Sports Festival and Snowboard Jam, featuring competitions, demonstrations, and entertainment for enthusiasts of all levels. What equipment rental options are available in North A for skiing and snowboarding? Most major resorts in North A offer on-site rental shops with a wide selection of skis, snowboards, boots, and safety gear. Advanced booking online can save time and ensure availability during peak season.

Related keywords: skiing, snowboarding, North America, winter sports, ski resorts, snow conditions, ski gear, mountain trails, ski lessons, après-ski

Where to ski snowboard 2015 lingua inglese

where to ski snowboard 2015 lingua inglese

Planning your ski and snowboard adventures in 2015? Whether you're an experienced skier or a passionate snowboarder, choosing the right destination is crucial to maximize your fun, safety, and overall experience. In this guide, we explore the best ski and snowboard resorts around the world, highlighting their unique features, terrain, facilities, and tips to help you decide where to ski snowboard 2015 lingua inglese. From the snowy peaks of the Alps to the expansive slopes of North

America, discover the top spots that cater to all levels and preferences.

Top Ski and Snowboard Destinations in 2015

When considering where to ski snowboard 2015 lingua inglese, several factors come into play, including terrain variety, snow conditions, accessibility, and amenities. Here are some of the most renowned destinations for winter sports enthusiasts in 2015.

European Alps

The European Alps have long been a favorite for skiers and snowboarders worldwide, offering breathtaking scenery, diverse terrain, and world-class facilities.

- Chamonix, France

- Famous for challenging runs and off-piste opportunities.
- Excellent for advanced skiers and snowboarders seeking adrenaline-pumping descents.
- Stunning mountain vistas and vibrant après-ski scene.

- Zermatt, Switzerland

- High-altitude skiing with reliable snow conditions.
- Car-free village offering a unique alpine experience.
- Extensive slopes suitable for all levels, especially intermediates.

- Val d'Isère, France

- Part of the Espace Killy ski area, boasting over 300 km of pistes.
- Known for excellent snow conditions and night skiing.
- Vibrant nightlife and après-ski options.

North American Ski Resorts

North America offers some of the largest and most diverse ski areas, with terrain parks, deep powder, and family-friendly options.

- Whistler Blackcomb, Canada

- One of the biggest ski resorts in North America, with over 8,000 acres of skiable terrain.
- Ideal for all skill levels, from beginners to experts.
- Excellent snow conditions and modern lift infrastructure.

- Vail, Colorado, USA

- Known for vast skiable area with varied terrain, including bowls, steeps, and groomed slopes.
- Luxury accommodations and vibrant village atmosphere.
- Great for snowboarders with dedicated terrain parks.

- Park City Mountain Resort, Utah, USA

- Largest ski area in the United States.
- Excellent for beginners and intermediates, with some challenging routes for advanced skiers.
- Proximity to Salt Lake City makes it easily accessible.

Asia and Oceania

While Europe and North America dominate the global ski scene, Asia and Oceania also offer incredible winter sports experiences.

- Niseko, Japan

- Famous for its light, powdery snow?"Japow."
- Great for all levels, with excellent off-piste opportunities.
- Vibrant après-ski scene and cultural experiences.

- Perisher, Australia

- Largest ski resort in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Ideal for beginners and families, with friendly slopes.
- Season runs from June to October, offering winter sports during the Southern Hemisphere's winter months.

- Yongpyong, South Korea

- Host of the 2018 Winter Olympics.
- Excellent infrastructure, snowmaking, and terrain parks.
- Perfect for both beginners and advanced skiers and snowboarders.

Factors to Consider When Choosing Your Ski and Snowboard Destination in 2015

Choosing where to ski snowboard 2015 lingua inglese depends on your preferences, skill level, and travel considerations. Here are key factors to help you make an informed decision.

Terrain and Skill Level

Your skill level greatly influences your choice of destination.

- **Beginners:** Look for resorts with gentle slopes, dedicated beginner zones, and ski schools. Examples include Perisher (Australia) and Park City (USA).
- **Intermediates:** Seek areas with extensive groomed runs and variety. Val d'Isère and Whistler Blackcomb excel here.
- **Advanced/Experts:** Opt for resorts offering off-piste, backcountry, or challenging runs. Chamonix and Zermatt are prime options.

Snow Conditions and Season Length

In 2015, snow reliability was crucial.

- High-altitude resorts like Zermatt and Whistler generally offer more consistent snow.
- Resorts with extensive snowmaking capabilities can ensure good conditions despite variable weather.
- Check historical snow data to plan accordingly.

Accessibility and Travel Logistics

Ease of access can influence your trip planning.

- Close proximity to major airports is advantageous. For example, Salt Lake City for Park City, and Geneva for Zermatt.
- Consider transportation options within the resort, such as ski shuttles, lifts, and public transport.

Facilities and Après-Ski

Apart from skiing, the amenities and nightlife can enhance your experience.

- Resorts like Vail and Val d'Isère offer vibrant après-ski scenes, restaurants, spas, and shopping.
- Family-friendly resorts often have ski schools, childcare, and beginner zones.
- Snowboarding-specific parks and terrain features are available at many major resorts.

Tips for Planning Your 2015 Ski and Snowboard Trip

Effective planning ensures a smooth and enjoyable holiday.

- **Book Early:** Secure accommodations and lift tickets in advance, especially for popular resorts.
- **Check Snow Reports:** Stay updated on snow conditions and resort openings.
- **Prepare Your Gear:** Ensure your skis or snowboard, boots, and apparel are suitable for the expected weather.
- **Learn Safety Rules:** Familiarize yourself with the mountain safety protocols and avalanche awareness if venturing off-piste.
- **Plan Non-Ski Activities:** Explore local culture, cuisine, and other winter sports like snowshoeing or ice skating.

Conclusion

In 2015, the world offered a diverse array of ski and snowboard destinations suitable for every level and preference. From the challenging slopes of Chamonix to the powder paradise of Niseko, the options are vast and exciting. When choosing where to ski snowboard 2015 lingua inglese, consider your skill level, snow conditions, accessibility, and the kind of après-ski experience you desire. With careful planning and the right destination, your winter sports holiday can become an unforgettable adventure filled with thrilling descents, stunning scenery, and memorable moments.

Remember, the key to an enjoyable ski or snowboard trip in 2015 is preparation and choosing a resort that matches your interests and abilities. Happy skiing and snowboarding!

Where to ski snowboard 2015 offers a wealth of options for winter sports enthusiasts seeking thrilling slopes, scenic vistas, and memorable experiences. As the 2015 ski and snowboard season unfolded, many resorts worldwide showcased their unique features, catering to beginners, intermediates, and experts alike. Whether you're drawn by the promise of fresh powder, challenging runs, or family-friendly atmosphere, choosing the right destination is essential to maximizing your winter adventure. This article explores some of the top ski and snowboard destinations of 2015, highlighting their key features, advantages, and potential drawbacks to help you plan your perfect trip.

Top Ski and Snowboard Destinations of 2015

In 2015, numerous resorts gained recognition for their extensive terrain, quality snow, amenities, and overall experience. Below, we delve into some of the most prominent locations for skiing and snowboarding that year.

1. Aspen Snowmass, Colorado, USA

Aspen Snowmass remains a legendary destination for winter sports enthusiasts, boasting four distinct mountains with diverse terrain suitable for all skill levels.

Features:

- Over 5,500 acres of skiable terrain
- Four mountains: Aspen Mountain, Snowmass, Buttermilk, and Aspen Highlands
- Extensive terrain parks for snowboarders
- Luxury accommodations and vibrant après-ski scene

Pros:

- Wide variety of runs for all levels
- Excellent snow conditions, often maintained by advanced snow-making
- Rich après-ski culture and dining options
- Stunning mountain scenery

Cons:

- High prices for accommodations and lift tickets
- Crowded during peak season
- Long lift lines at popular times

Ideal for: Advanced skiers and snowboarders looking for diverse terrain and vibrant nightlife, as well as families seeking a luxurious experience.

2. Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia, Canada

As one of North America's largest ski resorts, Whistler Blackcomb offers an impressive mix of terrain, scenery, and amenities.

Features:

- Over 8,100 acres of skiable terrain
- Two mountains connected by the Peak 2 Peak Gondola
- Wide range of terrain parks and backcountry access
- Vibrant village with shops, restaurants, and nightlife

Pros:

- Extensive terrain suitable for all skill levels
- Reliable snow conditions
- Breathtaking mountain views
- Excellent facilities for snowboarders and freestyle skiers

Cons:

- Can be crowded, especially during holidays
- Expensive accommodation and lift passes
- Traffic congestion around the resort

Ideal for: Snowboarders and skiers seeking vast terrain and lively village atmosphere, perfect for multi-day trips.

3. Chamonix, France

Chamonix, nestled in the French Alps, is renowned for its challenging runs, off-piste opportunities, and stunning alpine scenery.

Features:

- Iconic Mont Blanc backdrop
- Extensive off-piste and heli-skiing options
- Varied terrain from beginner slopes to extreme chutes
- Historic town with vibrant cultural scene

Pros:

- Exceptional for expert skiers and snowboarders
- World-class off-piste and backcountry skiing

- Rich mountaineering and climbing history
- Scenic views and charming village atmosphere

Cons:

- Not ideal for beginners
- Can be expensive
- Complex terrain may require guided tours for novices

Ideal for: Advanced and expert skiers and snowboarders craving challenging runs and off-piste adventures.

4. Niseko, Japan

Niseko has gained international popularity for its consistent snowfall, powder quality, and unique cultural experience.

Features:

- Renowned for light, dry powder snow
- Four interconnected ski areas
- Hot springs (onsen) nearby
- Vibrant nightlife and Japanese cuisine

Pros:

- Exceptional powder, ideal for deep snowboarding
- Good for all skill levels, with plenty of beginner-friendly slopes
- Unique cultural experience
- Less crowded than Western European resorts

Cons:

- Language barrier in some areas
- Travel logistics can be complex
- Limited terrain variety compared to larger resorts

Ideal for: Powder hounds and travelers seeking a blend of snowboarding, cultural immersion, and relaxation.

Advanced and Expert Terrain: For the Thrill Seekers

For those who crave adrenaline-pumping runs and off-piste adventures, certain resorts stand out in 2015.

1. Verbier, Switzerland

Part of the Four Valleys ski area, Verbier offers some of the most challenging terrain in the Alps.

Features:

- Extensive off-piste and freeride zones
- Steep descents and technical descents
- Snow parks and backcountry access

Pros:

- Excellent for advanced and expert riders
- World-class freeride and freestyle options
- Stunning alpine scenery

Cons:

- Not suitable for beginners
- Can be expensive
- Weather-dependent off-piste safety

Ideal for: Experienced snowboarders and skiers looking for challenging terrain.

2. Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA

Famous for its steep terrain and deep snow, Jackson Hole is a staple for adrenaline junkies.

Features:

- Legendary terrain such as Corbet's Couloir
- Deep powder and variable snow conditions
- Extensive backcountry and sidecountry options

Pros:

- Top-tier expert terrain
- Reliable snow and challenging runs
- Less crowded than some other major resorts

Cons:

- Steeper terrain may be intimidating for beginners
- Higher cost of lift tickets and accommodations
- Weather conditions can be harsh

Ideal for: Advanced snowboarders and skiers seeking challenging descents and backcountry opportunities.

Family-Friendly Resorts

Traveling with family requires resorts that cater to all ages and skill levels, providing safe, fun, and educational experiences.

1. Vail, Colorado

Vail combines vast terrain with excellent amenities for families and beginners.

Features:

- Over 5,200 acres of skiable terrain
- Excellent ski schools and beginner zones
- Childcare services and family-focused activities
- Vibrant village with shops and dining

Pros:

- Wide variety of beginner and intermediate slopes
- High-quality ski instruction
- Family-friendly atmosphere
- Beautiful mountain scenery

Cons:

- Can be crowded during peak times
- Expensive lodging and lift tickets

Ideal for: Families seeking comprehensive facilities, ski lessons, and safe slopes.

2. Sun Valley, Idaho

Known for its welcoming atmosphere and excellent beginner terrain, Sun Valley is perfect for families.

Features:

- Well-groomed beginner slopes
- Kid-friendly programs
- Quiet, less crowded than larger resorts
- Picturesque mountain setting

Pros:

- Relaxed, family-oriented environment
- Good value for quality services
- Excellent ski schools

Cons:

- Limited terrain for advanced skiers
- Fewer après-ski options

Ideal for: Families prioritizing safety, instruction, and a relaxed atmosphere.

Conclusion

Choosing where to ski snowboard in 2015 depended heavily on your skill level, budget, and preferences for scenery and amenities. From the vast, lively slopes of Whistler Blackcomb and Aspen Snowmass to the challenging terrains of Verbier and Jackson Hole, each destination offers a unique experience. For powder lovers, Niseko provides exceptional snow conditions, while families might prefer the friendly atmosphere of Sun Valley or Vail. For thrill-seekers craving off-piste adventures, the Swiss and American Alps deliver world-class opportunities.

When selecting your destination, consider not only the terrain and snow quality but also accessibility, après-ski options, accommodations, and safety features. With careful planning, your 2015 ski and snowboard holiday can be a memorable adventure filled with adrenaline, scenic beauty, and joyful camaraderie on the slopes.

Happy skiing and snowboarding in 2015 and beyond!

Question What are the top ski and snowboard destinations in 2015? In 2015, popular ski and snowboard destinations included Aspen, Whistler Blackcomb, Verbier, Zermatt, and Chamonix, known for their excellent slopes and vibrant après-ski scenes. Which countries offer the best ski resorts for snowboarding in 2015? Countries like Switzerland, France, Canada, Austria, and the USA are renowned for their top-tier ski resorts suitable for snowboarding in 2015. What should I consider when choosing a ski or snowboard destination in 2015? Consider factors such as snowfall quality, terrain variety, resort amenities, accessibility, and whether the destination is suitable for your skill level. Are there any new ski resorts or areas to explore in 2015? Yes, in 2015 some emerging resorts and areas gained popularity, such as the Niseko region in Japan and Bansko in Bulgaria, offering excellent slopes and value. What are the best beginner-friendly ski and snowboard destinations in 2015? Destinations like Breckenridge (USA), La Plagne (France), and Sun Peaks (Canada) are known for their beginner slopes and ski schools in 2015. How do I find the most affordable ski and snowboard destinations in 2015? Look for resorts offering package deals, off-peak travel times, and those located in countries with favorable exchange rates, such as Bulgaria or Eastern Europe. What are the safety tips for skiing and snowboarding at popular destinations in 2015? Always wear proper gear, follow resort rules, stay within your skill level, and consider taking lessons if you're a beginner to ensure safety. Which ski and snowboard destinations in 2015 are best for families? Resorts like Disney's Winter Summerland, Sun Valley in Idaho, and Les Deux Alpes in France offer family-friendly slopes and activities in 2015. How can I prepare for a ski or snowboard trip in 2015? Improve your fitness, take lessons if you're a beginner, pack appropriate gear, and research the resort's terrain and facilities beforehand. Are there any eco-friendly ski resorts to consider in 2015? Yes, resorts like Whistler Blackcomb and Val d'Isère have implemented sustainable practices, making them environmentally friendly options in 2015.

Related keywords: ski destinations 2015, snowboarding locations 2015, best ski resorts 2015,

winter sports travel 2015, top ski spots 2015, snowboarding holidays 2015, ski trip ideas 2015, ski and snowboard resorts 2015, winter vacation destinations 2015, where to ski snowboard 2015

Where to ski snowboard 2016

where to ski snowboard 2016 was an exciting question for winter sports enthusiasts eager to hit the slopes during the 2016 season. Whether you're a seasoned skier or a passionate snowboarder, choosing the right destination can make all the difference in your winter adventure. This guide explores some of the top ski and snowboard destinations from the 2016 season, providing insights into their features, terrain, and what makes them unique. From the powdery slopes of North America to the scenic mountains of Europe, discover the perfect spots to carve, jump, and enjoy winter sports in 2016.

Top Ski and Snowboard Destinations of 2016

Each winter season offers a variety of resorts catering to different skill levels and preferences. In 2016, several destinations stood out for their exceptional terrain, reliable snow conditions, and vibrant après-ski scenes. Here's a comprehensive overview of some of the best places to ski and snowboard in 2016.

North America

Whistler Blackcomb, Canada

Whistler Blackcomb remains one of the premier ski resorts in North America, and in 2016, it continued to impress visitors with its vast terrain and excellent snow conditions. With over 8,171 acres of skiable area, it offers a variety of runs suitable for beginners, intermediates, and advanced skiers and snowboarders.

- Highlights:
- Two mountains connected by the Peak 2 Peak Gondola
- Extensive backcountry and sidecountry areas
- Vibrant village with numerous dining and entertainment options
- Reliable snowfall throughout the season

Vail, Colorado

Vail is renowned for its expansive terrain and sophisticated amenities. In 2016, Vail maintained its reputation as a top destination for winter sports.

- Features:
- Over 5,200 acres of skiable terrain
- Iconic back bowls offering challenging runs
- Excellent snowmaking capabilities ensuring good conditions
- Family-friendly atmosphere with ski schools and beginner zones

Park City Mountain Resort, Utah

In 2016, Park City was still the largest ski area in the United States, combining terrain from the historic Park City and Canyons resorts.

- Highlights:
- Over 7,300 acres of skiable terrain
- Well-groomed slopes and varied terrain parks
- Close proximity to Salt Lake City
- After-ski and nightlife scene

Europe

Chamonix, France

Chamonix has long been a favorite among advanced skiers and snowboarders, especially in 2016, due to its challenging off-piste opportunities.

- Features:
- Legendary steep descents and glaciers
- Extensive off-piste and freeride terrain
- Magnificent alpine scenery
- Suitable for experienced winter sports enthusiasts

Zermatt, Switzerland

Zermatt offers year-round skiing thanks to its high-altitude glaciers, and in 2016, it was especially popular for its reliable snow and scenic vistas of the Matterhorn.

- Highlights:
- Car-free village ambiance
- Over 360 km of ski runs
- Excellent ski-in/ski-out accommodations
- Stunning mountain views

Ski Arlberg, Austria

As Austria's largest interconnected ski area, Arlberg combines multiple resorts such as St. Anton, Lech, and Zürs, providing a wide range of terrain for all levels.

- Features:
- Over 305 miles of piste
- Renowned for challenging runs and off-piste opportunities
- Vibrant après-ski culture
- Well-developed infrastructure

Factors to Consider When Choosing a Ski or Snowboard Destination in 2016

Selecting the perfect ski or snowboard resort involves assessing several factors. Here are key considerations to help you decide where to go in 2016:

Skill Level and Terrain

- Beginners: Look for resorts with gentle slopes, dedicated beginner zones, and ski schools.
- Intermediate: Seek resorts offering a mix of groomed runs and some challenging terrain.
- Advanced/Expert: Opt for destinations known for their steep, off-piste, and freeride options.

Snow Conditions and Season Length

- Choose resorts with high altitudes, glaciers, or reliable snowmaking to ensure good conditions throughout the season.

Accessibility and Travel

- Consider proximity to airports, transportation options, and ease of access to the slopes.

Accommodation and Amenities

- Look for resorts with a range of lodging options, dining, shopping, and après-ski activities.

Budget

- Compare lift ticket prices, accommodation costs, and other expenses to find a destination that fits your budget.

Tips for Planning Your 2016 Ski or Snowboard Trip

- Book Early: Popular resorts fill up quickly, especially during peak times.
- Check Weather and Snow Reports: Stay updated on snow conditions to maximize your experience.
- Pack Appropriately: Layered clothing, proper gear, and safety equipment are essential.
- Consider Lessons: Even experienced skiers and snowboarders can benefit from professional instruction.
- Explore Beyond the Slopes: Many resorts offer activities like snowshoeing, ice skating, and spa treatments.

Conclusion

In 2016, the world's top ski and snowboard destinations offered a diverse range of terrain, breathtaking scenery, and vibrant après-ski scenes to suit all levels of winter sports enthusiasts. Whether you preferred the expansive backcountry of Whistler Blackcomb, the challenging slopes of Chamonix, or the scenic beauty of Zermatt, there was something for everyone. By considering your skill level, snow conditions, and personal preferences, you could have crafted an unforgettable winter adventure in 2016. Planning ahead and choosing the right destination can ensure that your ski or snowboard trip is both fun and safe, creating memories that last a lifetime.

Where to Ski and Snowboard in 2016: A Comprehensive Guide for Winter Sports Enthusiasts

The winter of 2016 was a remarkable season for skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts worldwide. With an array of world-class resorts, diverse terrain, and innovative amenities, this season offered something for everyone—from seasoned pros seeking challenging slopes to beginners eager to learn in friendly environments. In this article, we explore the top destinations for skiing and snowboarding in 2016, analyzing their features, terrain offerings, and unique attractions to help you make informed decisions for your winter adventure.

Understanding the Skiing and Snowboarding Landscape in 2016

Before diving into specific resorts, it's essential to grasp the overall landscape of the 2016 winter sports scene. The season was characterized by an El Niño winter, which brought varied snowfall patterns across different regions. Some areas experienced record snowfall, while others faced early-season challenges. This variability influenced resort operations, terrain availability, and the overall experience.

Additionally, the industry saw technological advancements in lift systems, snowmaking, and terrain park features, enhancing safety, efficiency, and entertainment value. The rise of eco-conscious initiatives also became prominent, with many resorts focusing on sustainability.

Top Ski and Snowboard Destinations for 2016

Based on snowfall, terrain diversity, amenities, and overall guest experience, the following resorts stood out in 2016 as premier destinations for winter sports.

1. Whistler Blackcomb, Canada

Overview:

Whistler Blackcomb, located in British Columbia, remains one of North America's premier ski resorts. Renowned for its expansive terrain, vibrant après-ski scene, and reliable snowfall, it attracted enthusiasts from around the world in 2016.

Terrain and Features:

- Size and Diversity: Over 8,100 acres of skiable terrain, split between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains.
- Terrain Types: From wide-open groomers to challenging steeps and deep powder bowls.
- Terrain Parks: Multiple options for freestyle skiers and snowboarders, including advanced features and dedicated beginner zones.

Highlights of 2016:

- Record snowfall in December and January, enhancing off-piste opportunities.
- Upgraded lift infrastructure, including the Peak 2 Peak Gondola, providing breathtaking views and quick access between peaks.
- Expansion of beginner zones and ski schools, making it accessible for newcomers.

Why Visit in 2016:

Whistler's combination of terrain, reliable snow, and après-ski amenities cemented its position as a must-visit in 2016. Its expansive terrain caters to all skill levels, and the resort's commitment to sustainability was notable.

2. Vail Mountain, Colorado, USA

Overview:

Vail remains a flagship North American resort, known for its vast terrain, luxury accommodations, and world-class facilities. In 2016, it continued to attract high-profile visitors and seasoned skiers alike.

Terrain and Features:

- Size and Diversity: Over 5,200 acres of skiable terrain with 193 runs.
- Terrain Types: From gentle beginner slopes to challenging back bowls and steep chutes.
- Snowmaking: Extensive snowmaking capabilities ensured consistent conditions despite variable natural snowfall.

Highlights of 2016:

- The introduction of new terrain parks tailored to freestyle athletes.
- Enhanced snow grooming technology, providing superior trail quality.
- Improved lift systems reducing wait times and increasing access to remote areas.

Why Visit in 2016:

Vail's expansive terrain and reliable snow conditions make it an ideal destination for all levels. Its luxurious amenities and après-ski culture add to the overall experience, making it a top choice for winter 2016.

3. Zermatt, Switzerland

Overview:

Nestled in the Swiss Alps, Zermatt offers a quintessential European skiing experience with stunning mountain vistas, high-altitude terrain, and charming alpine villages.

Terrain and Features:

- Size and Diversity: Over 360 km of pistes, with glacial terrain allowing for year-round skiing.
- Altitude: Up to 3,883 meters at the Klein Matterhorn, ensuring snow reliability.
- Terrain Parks: Features suitable for freestyle enthusiasts, with dedicated zones and rail features.

Highlights of 2016:

- Record snowfall during the season, especially in January and February, leading to excellent powder conditions.
- Introduction of eco-friendly lift technology reducing environmental impact.
- Expansion of ski-in/ski-out accommodations, enhancing convenience.

Why Visit in 2016:

Zermatt's high-altitude, snow-sure terrain combined with breathtaking scenery and a charming village atmosphere makes it a standout European destination for 2016.

4. Niseko United, Japan

Overview:

Niseko, located on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, is renowned for its light, powdery snow and consistent season. In 2016, it continued to grow in popularity among international travelers.

Terrain and Features:

- Size and Diversity: Four interconnected resorts offering over 2,191 acres of skiable terrain.
- Snow Conditions: Known for its exceptional powder, often described as 'Japow'.
- Terrain Parks: Modern parks with features suitable for all skill levels.

Highlights of 2016:

- Heavy snowfall in January and February, creating excellent conditions for powder skiing and snowboarding.
- Increased international access, with more direct flights and accommodations.

- Focus on sustainable tourism and environmental conservation.

Why Visit in 2016:

Niseko's unique snow quality and cultural appeal make it a top Asian destination, especially for powder enthusiasts seeking deep, soft snow.

5. Chamonix, France

Overview:

Chamonix is a historic alpine town offering challenging terrains, off-piste adventures, and spectacular mountain views. It remains a favorite for advanced skiers and snowboarders.

Terrain and Features:

- Size and Diversity: Extensive off-piste and backcountry terrain, with some areas accessible via guided tours.
- Altitude: Up to 3,842 meters at the Aiguille du Midi.
- Terrain Parks: Limited but innovative, with a focus on freeride and backcountry features.

Highlights of 2016:

- Heavy snowfall in early winter, providing perfect conditions for off-piste and backcountry skiing.
- Development of safety infrastructure for avalanche rescue and guided tours.
- Increased focus on ski mountaineering and freeride clinics.

Why Visit in 2016:

Chamonix's reputation for challenging terrain and stunning scenery makes it ideal for expert skiers and snowboarders seeking adventure beyond groomed pistes.

Factors to Consider When Choosing Your 2016 Ski or Snowboard Destination

Selecting the ideal resort depends on several factors beyond terrain and snow conditions. Here are key considerations:

Skill Level and Terrain Suitability

- Beginners should prioritize resorts with dedicated beginner zones, gentle slopes, and excellent ski schools.
- Intermediate skiers and snowboarders benefit from varied terrain and well-maintained groomers.
- Advanced and expert enthusiasts should look for off-piste, backcountry, and challenging runs.

Snow Reliability and Season Length

- High-altitude resorts and those with glacier terrain offer more reliable snow coverage.
- Regions with extensive snowmaking capabilities also mitigate natural snowfall variability.

Accessibility and Infrastructure

- Proximity to major airports and ease of transportation can significantly impact your trip.
- Modern lift systems reduce wait times and improve access to diverse terrain.

Après-Ski and Cultural Experience

- Resorts like Whistler and Zermatt offer vibrant nightlife and cultural activities.
- Authentic alpine villages provide charming atmospheres and local cuisine.

Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives

- Resorts investing in eco-friendly lifts, snowmaking, and waste management align with sustainable tourism goals.

Emerging Trends and Future Outlook for 2016 Skiing and Snowboarding

While 2016 was characterized by established resorts maintaining high standards, emerging trends included:

- Technological Innovations: Use of virtual reality for pre-trip planning, GPS-enabled wearable devices for safety, and advanced snowmaking technology.
- Eco-Conscious Resorts: Increasing focus on sustainability, renewable energy use, and eco-friendly infrastructure.
- Freestyle and Backcountry Expansion: Growing popularity of backcountry touring, splitboarding,

and freeride competitions.

The outlook for future seasons was optimistic, with resorts continually improving facilities and emphasizing eco-tourism, making 2016 a pivotal year in shaping the modern skiing and snowboarding experience.

Conclusion: Making the Most of Your 2016 Ski and Snowboard Adventure

The 2016 winter season offered a diverse palette of destinations tailored to every type of skier and snowboarder. From the vast, snow-sure terrains of Whistler Blackcomb and Zermatt to the cultural allure of Chamonix and Niseko, each resort provided unique experiences. Your choice depends on your skill level, desired terrain, cultural preferences, and environmental considerations.

As you plan your trip, remember to consider seasonal snowfall patterns, resort amenities, and accessibility. Whether chasing deep powder, tackling challenging runs, or enjoying après-ski relaxation, the key is to select a destination aligned with your aspirations and expertise.

In the ever

Question What were the top ski and snowboard destinations in 2016? In 2016, popular destinations included Aspen Snowmass, Whistler Blackcomb, Vail, and Park City, known for their extensive terrain and reliable snow conditions. Are there any new ski resorts that gained popularity in 2016? Yes, resorts like Niseko in Japan and La Plagne in France saw increased popularity in 2016 due to their unique powder and resort amenities. What were the best ski and snowboard packages available in 2016? In 2016, many resorts offered competitive packages combining lift passes, accommodations, and lessons, with Whistler Blackcomb and Aspen offering some of the best deals. Which ski and snowboard gear was trending in 2016? 2016 saw a rise in popularity of lightweight touring gear, all-mountain boards, and advanced ski technology like rocker and hybrid shapes. How did snow conditions in 2016 influence popular ski destinations? The 2016 season experienced varied conditions, but heavy snowfall in the Rockies and the Alps made locations like Jackson Hole and Chamonix particularly favorable. What safety tips were recommended for skiing and snowboarding in 2016? Safety tips included wearing proper gear, staying within skill levels, checking weather conditions, and taking lessons if you're a beginner or trying new terrain.

Related keywords: ski resorts 2016, snowboard destinations 2016, winter sports locations 2016, best ski trips 2016, ski holiday ideas 2016, snowboarding spots 2016, ski vacation destinations 2016, top ski resorts 2016, snow sports travel 2016, ski and snowboard packages 2016

Ski snowboard america canada top winter resorts i

ski snowboard america canada top winter resorts i

Winter sports enthusiasts around the world dream of hitting the pristine slopes of North America, home to some of the most renowned ski and snowboard resorts. Spanning the vast terrains of the United States and Canada, these resorts offer unmatched snow quality, diverse terrain, luxurious amenities, and vibrant après-ski experiences. Whether you're a seasoned pro seeking adrenaline-pumping runs or a beginner looking for scenic learning slopes, North America's top winter resorts provide an unforgettable winter adventure. In this comprehensive guide, we explore the best ski and snowboard resorts in America and Canada, highlighting what makes each destination unique and why they should be on your winter travel list.

Why North America Is a Top Destination for Ski and Snowboard Enthusiasts

The allure of North American ski and snowboard resorts lies in their expansive terrains, reliable snowfall, and world-class facilities. The continent boasts a diverse range of ski destinations, from the rugged peaks of the Rockies to the lush forests of the Pacific Northwest and the scenic slopes of Eastern Canada. These resorts cater to all skill levels and offer a variety of winter activities beyond skiing and snowboarding, such as snowshoeing, heli-skiing, and wildlife excursions.

Key reasons why North America remains a top winter sports destination include:

- Consistent Snowfall: Many resorts benefit from high-altitude locations and favorable climatic conditions, ensuring a lengthy ski season.
- Diverse Terrain: From gentle beginner slopes to challenging expert runs and terrain parks, there's something for everyone.
- Modern Infrastructure: High-speed lifts, cozy lodges, and advanced snowmaking technology enhance the overall experience.
- Accessibility: Major cities like Denver, Calgary, Vancouver, and Montreal serve as gateways, making travel convenient.
- Rich Après-ski Culture: Vibrant nightlife, fine dining, and entertainment make for memorable after-slope experiences.

Top Winter Resorts in the United States

1. Vail Mountain, Colorado

Vail is often dubbed the crown jewel of American ski resorts, renowned for its expansive terrain and luxury amenities. Covering over 5,300 acres, Vail offers a seamless blend of challenging runs, beginner slopes, and a legendary après-ski scene. The resort features a charming European-style village with diverse dining options, boutique shopping, and vibrant nightlife.

Highlights:

- Over 200 miles of skiable terrain
- Iconic Back Bowls for advanced skiers and snowboarders
- Excellent ski school programs for all ages
- Extensive snowmaking capabilities ensuring optimal conditions
- Family-friendly activities and events throughout the season

Why choose Vail:

Vail's size and variety make it suitable for all skill levels. Its well-maintained infrastructure and high-end accommodations provide a luxurious winter escape.

2. Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia

As Canada's premier ski resort, Whistler Blackcomb boasts the largest skiable area in North America, with over 8,100 acres of terrain. Located just two hours from Vancouver, it offers breathtaking mountain vistas and a vibrant village atmosphere.

Highlights:

- Over 200 marked runs and 37 lifts
- Terrain parks for freestyle enthusiasts
- Excellent heli-skiing options
- Diverse dining and shopping experiences in Whistler Village
- Year-round activities, including mountain biking and zip-lining

Why choose Whistler Blackcomb:

Its extensive terrain and reliable snowfall make it ideal for all levels. The resort's lively après-ski scene and top-tier accommodations create a complete winter vacation experience.

3. Park City Mountain Resort, Utah

Recognized as the largest ski area in the United States, Park City Mountain Resort offers a sprawling playground for skiers and snowboarders. Located just outside Salt Lake City, it combines vast terrains with a charming historic town.

Highlights:

- Over 7,300 acres of skiable terrain
- Multiple terrain parks and half-pipes
- Historic Main Street with shops, restaurants, and bars
- Easy access from Salt Lake City International Airport
- Family-friendly resorts and beginner zones

Why choose Park City:

Its accessibility, combined with diverse terrain options and vibrant town life, makes it a top choice for winter travelers.

4. Aspen Snowmass, Colorado

Aspen Snowmass is synonymous with luxury and world-class skiing. Comprising four mountains?Aspen Mountain, Snowmass, Aspen Highlands, and Buttermilk?it caters to every skill level and offers unique terrain and experiences.

Highlights:

- Four distinct mountains offering varied terrain
- Renowned for its après-ski and cultural scene
- Snowboarding at Snowmass and Buttermilk parks
- Stellar ski schools and guides
- Exclusive accommodations and fine dining

Why choose Aspen Snowmass:

Aspen's blend of excellent skiing, cultural events, and upscale amenities makes it a favorite among celebrities and discerning travelers.

5. Lake Tahoe, California/Nevada

Lake Tahoe is a winter sports paradise with multiple resorts clustered around the scenic lake,

offering a range of terrains and vibrant nightlife.

Key resorts include:

- Heavenly Mountain Resort
- Northstar California Resort
- Kirkwood Mountain Resort
- Squaw Valley (Palace at Squaw Valley)

Highlights:

- Stunning lake views and varied terrains
- Extensive ski and snowboard options for all levels
- Night skiing and après-ski activities
- Family-friendly resorts with beginner zones
- Casinos and entertainment in nearby towns

Why choose Lake Tahoe:

The combination of natural beauty and diverse resort options makes Tahoe a versatile winter destination.

Top Winter Resorts in Canada

1. Banff Sunshine Village, Alberta

Nestled in the Canadian Rockies, Banff Sunshine Village offers spectacular mountain scenery and excellent snow conditions. Its high elevation ensures a long ski season, often stretching from November to May.

Highlights:

- Over 3,300 acres of skiable terrain
- Iconic Bow Valley views
- Terrain suitable for all levels
- Snowboarding terrain parks and half-pipes
- Close to Banff National Park's natural wonders

Why choose Banff Sunshine:

For breathtaking scenery combined with world-class skiing, Sunshine Village is unmatched.

2. Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia

As previously discussed, Whistler Blackcomb is a North American giant, and it also ranks among Canada's top resorts. Its extensive terrain and vibrant community make it a must-visit.

3. Mont Tremblant, Quebec

Known for its charming European-style pedestrian village, Mont Tremblant offers a blend of excellent skiing and cultural ambiance.

Highlights:

- Over 665 acres of ski terrain
- A vibrant village with shops, restaurants, and nightlife
- Family-friendly atmosphere and beginner slopes
- Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails
- Ski and snowboard lessons for all ages

Why choose Mont Tremblant:

Ideal for those seeking a cozy European-style winter getaway with diverse winter activities.

4. Big White Ski Resort, British Columbia

Famous for its consistent snowfall and friendly atmosphere, Big White is perfect for families and beginners.

Highlights:

- Over 2,700 acres of ski terrain
- Extensive snowmaking capabilities
- Excellent ski-in/ski-out accommodations
- Terrain parks and night skiing
- Friendly resort towns with amenities

Why choose Big White:

Its reliable snow and family-friendly environment make it a top choice for winter vacations.

5. Blue Mountain, Ontario

Canada's most popular ski destination east of the Rockies, Blue Mountain offers accessible skiing and snowboarding close to Toronto and other Ontario cities.

Highlights:

- Over 364 acres of ski terrain
- Night skiing and snowboarding
- Family zones and beginner-friendly slopes
- Various winter activities including snowshoeing and tubing
- Lively village atmosphere

Why choose Blue Mountain:

Perfect for quick getaways and family trips, especially for those in Eastern Canada.

Choosing the Right Resort for Your Winter Adventure

When selecting a ski or snowboard resort, consider the following factors:

- Skill level: Ensure the resort offers terrain suitable for beginners, intermediates, and experts.
- Terrain variety: Look for resorts with diverse runs, terrain parks, and off-piste options.
- Snow conditions: Check historical snowfall data and snowmaking capabilities.
- Accessibility: Consider proximity to airports, transportation options, and accommodation availability.
- Amenities: Look for quality lodging, dining, ski schools, and après-ski activities.
- Family-friendliness: If traveling with children, prioritize resorts with dedicated kids' zones and beginner slopes.

Conclusion

North America remains a premier destination for winter sports enthusiasts, thanks to its vast snow-covered landscapes, diverse terrains, and world-class facilities. From the luxurious slopes of Aspen and Whistler to family-friendly resorts like Big White and Blue Mountain, there's an ideal

winter retreat for every traveler. Planning your trip to one of these top resorts ensures an unforgettable skiing or snowboarding experience, surrounded by breathtaking scenery and vibrant local culture. Whether you're seeking adrenaline rushes, scenic tranquility, or a family adventure, the best ski and snowboard resorts in America and Canada promise a winter escape like no other.

Meta Description:

Discover the top ski and snowboard resorts in America and Canada. Explore world-class destinations like Vail,

Ski Snowboard America Canada Top Winter Resorts: Your Ultimate Guide to the Best Winter Escapes

When it comes to winter sports, few experiences compare to the thrill of carving down pristine slopes amidst breathtaking mountain scenery. Whether you're a seasoned snowboarder, a passionate skier, or just starting out on your winter adventure journey, choosing the right resort can make all the difference. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore the Ski Snowboard America Canada Top Winter Resorts, highlighting the best destinations across North America that promise unmatched snow conditions, world-class amenities, and unforgettable experiences.

Why Choose the Top Winter Resorts in America and Canada?

North America is renowned for its extensive ski and snowboard terrain, from the towering peaks of the Rockies to the lush forests of the Northeast. The region offers a diverse range of resorts catering to all skill levels, budgets, and preferences. The Ski Snowboard America Canada Top Winter Resorts are distinguished by their exceptional snow quality, innovative lift systems, vibrant après-ski scenes, and scenic settings.

Key Factors That Make These Resorts Stand Out:

- Consistent Snowfall: Reliable snow conditions, often aided by advanced snow-making technology.
- Variety of Terrain: Slopes suitable for beginners, intermediates, and experts.
- Modern Facilities: State-of-the-art lifts, terrain parks, and ski schools.
- Accessibility: Proximity to major cities and airports.
- Après-Ski & Non-Ski Activities: Restaurants, shops, spas, and entertainment.

Top Winter Resorts in America

- Vail Mountain Resort, Colorado

Overview

Vail is often regarded as North America's premier ski destination, boasting over 5,300 acres of skiable terrain. Its expansive slopes, charming alpine village, and vibrant après-ski scene make it a top choice for snowboarders and skiers alike.

Highlights:

- Terrain: Wide-open bowls, tree runs, terrain parks.
- Snow: Reliable snowfall with extensive snowmaking.
- Activities: Snowshoeing, ice skating, fine dining.

Ideal For:

- Advanced riders seeking challenging terrain.
- Families and beginners thanks to dedicated learning zones.

- Aspen Snowmass, Colorado

Overview

Aspen Snowmass combines four mountains?Aspen Mountain, Snowmass, Aspen Highlands, and Buttermilk?offering diverse terrain and vibrant culture. Known for its luxurious vibe, Aspen attracts celebrities and winter enthusiasts worldwide.

Highlights:

- Terrain: From gentle beginner slopes to challenging double blacks.
- Snow: High elevation ensures excellent conditions.
- Activities: Art galleries, shopping, gourmet restaurants.

Ideal For:

- Snowboarders looking for variety.

- Visitors seeking luxury accommodations and lively nightlife.

- Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia

Overview

Canada's flagship resort, Whistler Blackcomb, is a massive and diverse mountain with over 8,000 acres of skiable terrain. It hosted the 2010 Winter Olympics and remains a top destination for snowboarders and skiers alike.

Highlights:

- Terrain: Extensive off-piste opportunities, terrain parks.
- Snow: Renowned for consistent snowfall and snow quality.
- Village: Bustling base village with shops, restaurants, and nightlife.

Ideal For:

- All skill levels.
- Snowboarders interested in terrain parks and freestyle riding.

- Park City Mountain Resort, Utah

Overview

Boasting the largest ski area in the United States, Park City is famous for its diverse terrain, friendly atmosphere, and proximity to Salt Lake City. It's perfect for families and advanced riders alike.

Highlights:

- Terrain: Over 7,300 acres, including legendary powder bowls.
- Snow: Light, dry snow characteristic of Utah.
- Events: Sundance Film Festival proximity, world-class events.

Ideal For:

- Powder lovers.
- Families and beginners thanks to excellent ski schools.

- Telluride Ski Resort, Colorado

Overview

Nestled in the San Juan Mountains, Telluride offers stunning scenery and a more secluded, intimate atmosphere. Its steep terrain and deep snow make it a favorite among advanced riders.

Highlights:

- Terrain: Challenging steeps, bowls, and tree runs.
- Snow: High elevations ensure good snow cover.
- Experience: Charming town with historic charm.

Ideal For:

- Expert snowboarders and skiers.
- Those seeking a quieter, more exclusive experience.

Top Winter Resorts in Canada

- Banff Louise Mountain Resort, Alberta

Overview

Part of the Banff National Park, this resort offers breathtaking mountain scenery and vast terrain spread across three ski areas: Mount Norquay, Sunshine Village, and Lake Louise.

Highlights:

- Terrain: Wide variety, from beginner slopes to extreme runs.
- Snow: Some of the best snow conditions in the world.
- Scenery: Iconic views of the Rocky Mountains.

Ideal For:

- Adventure seekers.
- Nature lovers and photographers.

- Mont Tremblant, Quebec

Overview

A European-style village with a vibrant après-ski scene, Mont Tremblant is a popular destination for East Coast visitors and those seeking a lively atmosphere combined with excellent skiing.

Highlights:

- Terrain: 102 runs, suitable for all levels.
- Snow: Reliable snow with extensive snowmaking.
- Village: Charming pedestrian-only village with shops and restaurants.

Ideal For:

- Families and beginner snowboarders.
- Those looking for nightlife and entertainment.

- Revelstoke Mountain Resort, British Columbia

Overview

Revelstoke is known for its legendary powder, vertical drops, and backcountry access. It's a haven for advanced riders and freeriders.

Highlights:

- Terrain: The highest vertical in North America at 1,713 meters.
- Snow: Deep, consistent snowfall.
- Backcountry: Extensive off-piste options.

Ideal For:

- Expert snowboarders.
- Backcountry enthusiasts.

- Blue Mountain Resort, Ontario

Overview

Located just two hours north of Toronto, Blue Mountain offers great terrain and a lively village atmosphere, making it a top choice for weekend warriors and beginner snowboarders.

Highlights:

- Terrain: 36 runs, terrain parks.
- Snow: Dependable snow cover.
- Accessibility: Easy drive from major cities.

Ideal For:

- Beginners and intermediate riders.
- Short getaways and family trips.

Tips for Planning Your Winter Resort Trip

- Choose the Right Resort for Your Skill Level

- Beginners should look for resorts with dedicated learning areas and gentle slopes.
- Advanced riders should seek resorts with challenging terrain and terrain parks.
- Families benefit from resorts offering childcare, ski schools, and family-friendly amenities.

- Consider Snow Conditions and Season Timing

- The best snow usually falls between December and March.
- Check historical snowfall data and weather forecasts.
- Some resorts have advanced snowmaking capabilities to extend the season.

- Budgeting and Accommodations

- Luxurious resorts come with higher price tags but offer premium amenities.
- Budget-friendly options include lodges, hostels, or vacation rentals.
- Book accommodations early, especially during peak season.

- Equipment Rental and Lessons

- Many resorts offer rental gear, but bringing your own can enhance comfort.
- Ski and snowboard lessons are highly recommended for beginners or those trying new terrain.

- Après-Ski and Non-Ski Activities

- Explore local dining, spas, and entertainment options.
- Many resorts have ice skating, snowshoeing, sledding, and other activities.

Conclusion

The Ski Snowboard America Canada Top Winter Resorts offer some of the best winter sports experiences in the world. From the expansive terrains of Whistler Blackcomb and Vail to the scenic beauty of Banff and Revelstoke, each destination provides unique attractions and unforgettable adventures. Whether you're seeking challenging slopes, family-friendly environments, or vibrant après-ski scenes, these resorts have something to offer every winter enthusiast.

Planning ahead, understanding your skill level, and choosing the right resort will ensure your winter vacation is filled with fun, adrenaline, and memories that last a lifetime. So gear up, hit the slopes, and enjoy the magic of winter in North America's top ski and snowboard resorts!

QuestionAnswer What are the top ski and snowboard resorts in America for winter 2024? Some of the leading resorts in America include Aspen Snowmass, Park City Mountain, and Jackson Hole, known for their extensive terrain and excellent snow conditions. Which Canadian resorts are best for

beginner snowboarders? Whistler Blackcomb and Mont Tremblant are renowned for their beginner-friendly slopes, ski schools, and amenities tailored for newcomers. What are the most popular winter resorts for advanced skiers and snowboarders in North America? Revelstoke in Canada and Telluride in the US are favorites for advanced enthusiasts due to their challenging runs and backcountry options. How do I choose the best winter resort in America or Canada for my skill level? Consider resorts with terrain parks and expert runs for advanced skiers, beginner zones for novices, and comprehensive ski and snowboard schools for all levels. Are there resorts in America and Canada that offer combined ski and snowboard experiences? Yes, many resorts like Whistler Blackcomb and Lake Louise offer extensive facilities for both skiing and snowboarding, including terrain parks and snowboarding lessons. What safety tips should I follow while snowboarding at top winter resorts in America and Canada? Always wear appropriate gear, stay on designated trails, check weather conditions, and take lessons if you're a beginner to ensure a safe experience. Which resorts in America and Canada are best for family winter vacations? Resorts like Keystone in Colorado and Blue Mountain in Ontario are family-friendly, offering beginner slopes, ski schools, and activities for kids. What are the best months to visit top winter resorts in North America for optimal snow conditions? Typically, January through March offers the best snow conditions, though December and early April can also be good depending on weather patterns. How can I find the most affordable ski and snowboard resorts in America and Canada? Look for resorts offering package deals, early booking discounts, and accommodation options that include lift tickets to save on costs.

Related keywords: skiing, snowboarding, winter resorts, North America, Canada, United States, après-ski, mountain vacations, ski slopes, winter sports

The rough guide to oregon and washington rough gu

The rough guide to Oregon and Washington rough gu

Embarking on a journey through the Pacific Northwest offers travelers an unforgettable experience filled with stunning landscapes, vibrant cities, rich history, and diverse outdoor adventures. Whether you're planning a road trip, a weekend getaway, or an extended exploration, understanding the essentials of Oregon and Washington is key to making the most of your visit. This comprehensive guide provides you with valuable insights into these neighboring states, highlighting must-see destinations, cultural highlights, outdoor activities, and practical tips to navigate your trip seamlessly.

Understanding Oregon and Washington: An Overview

Before diving into specific destinations, it's helpful to get an overview of what makes Oregon and Washington unique.

Geography and Climate

- **Oregon:** Known for its diverse landscapes, Oregon features lush forests, rugged coastlines, volcanic mountains, and high desert regions. The climate varies from temperate in the west to arid in the east.
- **Washington:** Encompasses coastal rainforests, mountain ranges like the Cascades and Olympics, fertile valleys, and arid eastern plains. Its climate ranges from wet and mild in the west to semi-arid in the east.

Cultural Highlights

- Rich Native American history and heritage.
- Vibrant arts scenes, especially in cities like Portland, Seattle, and Spokane.
- Innovative culinary scenes emphasizing local, sustainable ingredients.

Must-Visit Destinations in Oregon

Oregon offers a diverse array of attractions that appeal to nature lovers, history buffs, and urban explorers alike.

Portland: The City of Roses

- **Highlights:** Famous for its quirky culture, craft breweries, food trucks, and gardens.
- **Must-See Spots:**
 - Washington Park & Portland Japanese Garden
 - Powell's City of Books?the world's largest independent bookstore
 - Voodoo Doughnut for unique sweet treats
 - Historic Old Town/Chinatown district

Crater Lake National Park

- **Why Visit:** Home to the deepest lake in the U.S., famous for its stunning blue waters and volcanic crater.
- **Activities:** Scenic drives, boat tours, hiking, and photography.

Oregon Coast

- **Top Spots:** Cannon Beach, Newport, Florence, and Bandon.
- **Activities:** Beachcombing, tidepooling, whale watching, and exploring lighthouses.

Willamette Valley

- **Highlights:** Renowned wine country with numerous vineyards and wineries.
- **Activities:** Wine tastings, farm-to-table dining, and scenic drives.

Exploring Washington: Urban and Natural Wonders

Washington state seamlessly blends vibrant city life with awe-inspiring natural landscapes.

Seattle: The Emerald City

- **Key Attractions:** Space Needle, Pike Place Market, Museum of Pop Culture, and Chihuly Garden and Glass.
- **Activities:** Coffee tours, waterfront strolls, and exploring neighborhoods like Capitol Hill and Fremont.

Olympic National Park

- **Why Visit:** A UNESCO World Heritage site featuring diverse ecosystems?mountains, rainforests, and beaches.
- **Activities:** Hiking, wildlife viewing, camping, and beachcombing at Rialto or Ruby beaches.

Mount Rainier National Park

- **Highlights:** Iconic mountain scenery, wildflower meadows, and glacier-clad peaks.
- **Activities:** Mountain climbing, hiking, and photography.

Vancouver (Optional Extension)

- Just across the border, Vancouver offers cosmopolitan attractions, diverse cuisine, and outdoor

adventures.

Outdoor Activities and Adventures

Both states are outdoor enthusiasts' paradise, offering a broad spectrum of activities.

Hiking and Backpacking

- Pacific Crest Trail (Oregon and Washington sections)
- Columbia River Gorge (Oregon)
- North Cascades National Park (Washington)
- Smith Rock State Park (Oregon)
- Mount St. Helens (Washington)

Wildlife Viewing

- Whale watching along the coast and in Puget Sound.
- Birdwatching in wetlands and forests.
- Observing elk, deer, and other wildlife in national parks.

Water Activities

- Kayaking and paddleboarding in lakes and coastal waters.
- Fishing in rivers like the Columbia and Willamette.
- Surfing at beaches like Cannon Beach and Long Beach Peninsula.

Practical Tips for Traveling in Oregon and Washington

Maximize your trip with these practical insights.

Best Time to Visit

- **Spring (March-May):** Wildflowers bloom, and outdoor activities begin.
- **Summer (June-August):** Warm weather, festivals, and outdoor adventures peak.
- **Fall (September-November):** Vibrant foliage and harvest festivals.
- **Winter (December-February):** Skiing, snowboarding, and cozy city escapes.

Transportation Tips

- Renting a car is highly recommended for exploring rural areas and national parks.
- Public transportation options are available in major cities like Portland and Seattle.
- Consider scenic drives such as the Pacific Coast Highway or the North Cascades Highway.

Accommodations

- Options range from luxury hotels, charming bed and breakfasts, to campgrounds and RV parks.
- Book in advance during peak seasons, especially in national parks and popular cities.

Travel Tips

- Prepare for variable weather?layered clothing is essential.
- Respect outdoor environments?practice Leave No Trace principles.
- Support local businesses, artisans, and farmers for authentic experiences.

Conclusion: Your Ultimate Pacific Northwest Adventure

The rough guide to Oregon and Washington reveals an incredible tapestry of natural beauty, vibrant urban centers, and cultural richness. Whether you're marveling at the depths of Crater Lake, exploring the bustling streets of Portland and Seattle, or immersing yourself in the serenity of Olympic National Park, these states offer endless opportunities for discovery and adventure. With proper planning and an open mind, your trip through Oregon and Washington will be a memorable journey filled with breathtaking sights, delicious food, and meaningful experiences. Get ready to explore the best of the Pacific Northwest!

The rough guide to Oregon and Washington: An in-depth exploration of the Pacific Northwest's gems

The Pacific Northwest, encompassing the states of Oregon and Washington, stands as one of the most captivating regions in the United States. Known for its dramatic landscapes, vibrant cities, diverse ecosystems, and rich cultural tapestry, this area offers a vast array of experiences for travelers, nature enthusiasts, and adventurers alike. A comprehensive understanding of Oregon and Washington involves exploring their natural wonders, cultural landmarks, outdoor activities, culinary scenes, and practical travel tips. This guide aims to provide an analytical overview of what makes these states uniquely compelling, helping visitors navigate their way through the myriad attractions and hidden gems.

Natural Landscapes and Outdoor Adventures

The Geographical Diversity of Oregon and Washington

Both Oregon and Washington boast remarkably diverse terrains, ranging from rugged coastlines and lush rainforests to towering mountain ranges and arid plateaus. This geographical variety underpins the region's reputation as an outdoor paradise.

- Oregon's Natural Features:

- The Cascade Range, home to volcanic peaks like Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson.
- The Columbia River Gorge, famed for its waterfalls and windsurfing.
- The Oregon Coast, with its rugged cliffs, sandy beaches, and picturesque lighthouses.
- Crater Lake National Park, featuring the deepest lake in the U.S. formed in a volcanic caldera.

- Washington's Natural Features:

- The Olympic Peninsula, home to temperate rainforests like Hoh Rain Forest and rugged coastlines.
- The North Cascades, often called the "American Alps" for their dramatic peaks and alpine lakes.
- Puget Sound and Seattle's waterfront, characterized by saltwater fjords and marine life.
- Mount Rainier National Park, centered around the iconic volcano and alpine meadows.

Outdoor Activities and Recreational Opportunities

Both states cater extensively to outdoor enthusiasts, offering a multitude of activities:

- Hiking and Backpacking:

- Oregon's Pacific Crest Trail, spanning from Mexico to Canada.
- Washington's Wonderland Trail around Mount Rainier.
- Numerous state and national parks with trails suitable for all skill levels.

- Water Sports:

- Surfing along Oregon's coast, particularly at Cannon Beach and Lincoln City.
- Kayaking and paddleboarding in Puget Sound and Oregon's lakes.
- White-water rafting in the Deschutes River and the Wenatchee River.

- Skiing and Snowboarding:

- Mount Hood Meadows and Timberline Lodge in Oregon.
- Stevens Pass and Crystal Mountain in Washington.
- Wildlife Viewing and Ecotourism:
- Birdwatching in the Willamette Valley and Olympic National Park.
- Whale watching excursions in Puget Sound and along the Oregon Coast.

Cultural Landmarks and Urban Centers

Seattle and Portland: Urban Hubs of Creativity and Innovation

Seattle and Portland serve as cultural and economic centers, each offering distinctive attractions that reflect their unique identities.

- Seattle:
- The Space Needle, an iconic symbol of the city's futuristic spirit.
- Pike Place Market, a bustling marketplace with fresh seafood, local crafts, and street performers.
- The Museum of Pop Culture and Chihuly Garden and Glass exhibit.
- Tech industry hubs like Amazon and Microsoft headquarters nearby.
- Portland:
- Known for its vibrant arts scene, breweries, and culinary innovation.
- Powell's City of Books, one of the world's largest independent bookstores.
- The Portland Art Museum and the International Rose Test Garden.
- Sustainable urban planning and extensive bike paths.

Historical and Cultural Landmarks

Beyond the urban centers, Oregon and Washington are rich in history and indigenous heritage.

- Oregon:
- The Oregon Trail and the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.
- Crater Lake's volcanic history and Native American significance.
- The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

- Washington:
- The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Seattle.
- Native American heritage sites like the Suquamish Museum.
- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Food, Drink, and Local Cuisine

Gastronomy in the Pacific Northwest

The culinary scene in Oregon and Washington is distinguished by its emphasis on farm-to-table eating, seafood, and artisanal products.

- Seafood and Dairies:
 - Salmon, Dungeness crab, oysters, and other shellfish are staples.
 - Local cheese and dairy products are celebrated, especially in Oregon's Willamette Valley.
- Wine and Breweries:
 - Oregon's Willamette Valley is renowned for Pinot Noir.
 - Washington is a major producer of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.
 - The region hosts numerous wineries, tasting rooms, and wine festivals.
- Craft Beer Scene:
 - Portland and Seattle are among the top craft beer cities in the U.S.
 - Hundreds of breweries offering innovative and traditional brews.
- Farmers' Markets and Food Festivals:
 - Portland Saturday Market and Portland Farmers Market.
 - Seattle's Pike Place Market's diverse offerings.
 - Annual events like the Oregon Brewers Festival and Washington State Fair.

Local Food Movements and Sustainability

The region's emphasis on sustainability and local sourcing influences its culinary culture:

- Farm-to-table restaurants emphasizing seasonal ingredients.
- Organic farming and local cooperatives.

- Emphasis on reducing food waste and supporting indigenous food traditions.

Travel Tips and Practical Information

Best Time to Visit

- Summer (June to September): Ideal for outdoor activities, festivals, and sightseeing with warm, dry weather.
- Fall (October to November): Spectacular foliage, harvest festivals, and fewer crowds.
- Winter (December to February): Skiing and winter sports in mountain resorts.
- Spring (March to May): Blooming wildflowers, especially in the Columbia River Gorge and Olympic Peninsula.

Transportation and Accessibility

- Major airports in Seattle, Portland, and Eugene.
- Well-developed road networks; renting a car is recommended for exploring rural and natural areas.
- Public transit systems in urban centers, including light rail and bus services.
- Biking infrastructure, especially in Portland, encourages eco-friendly travel.

Accommodations and Travel Planning

- Range from luxury hotels, boutique inns, to eco-lodges and campgrounds.
- Booking in advance during peak seasons is advised.
- Combining urban exploration with road trips to natural sites provides a comprehensive experience.

Environmental and Cultural Respect

- Respect indigenous lands and cultural sites.
- Follow Leave No Trace principles when engaging in outdoor activities.
- Support local artisans, farmers, and businesses to promote sustainable tourism.

Conclusion: Embracing the Spirit of the Pacific Northwest

The rough guide to Oregon and Washington reveals a region that seamlessly blends natural beauty

with cultural richness. Whether you're scaling volcanic peaks, exploring vibrant cities, savoring farm-fresh cuisine, or immersing yourself in indigenous history, the Pacific Northwest offers an unparalleled tapestry of experiences. Its commitment to sustainability, innovation, and community makes it not just a travel destination but a place that invites reflection, adventure, and discovery. As you plan your journey through Oregon and Washington, remember that every corner holds a story, every trail leads to a new perspective, and every encounter enriches your understanding of this extraordinary corner of the United States.

Question What are the must-see destinations covered in The Rough Guide to Oregon and Washington? The guide highlights iconic spots like Portland and Seattle, the scenic Pacific Coast, Mount Rainier National Park, Crater Lake, and the Columbia River Gorge, offering detailed insights into each location. **How does The Rough Guide to Oregon and Washington help travelers plan outdoor activities?** It provides comprehensive information on hiking trails, outdoor adventures, national parks, and best times to visit, ensuring travelers can maximize their outdoor experiences in both states. **Does The Rough Guide to Oregon and Washington include recommendations for local cuisine?** Yes, the guide features culinary hotspots, local food festivals, farm-to-table restaurants, and must-try regional dishes in both Oregon and Washington. **Is The Rough Guide to Oregon and Washington suitable for road trip planning?** Absolutely. It offers detailed itineraries, driving tips, and scenic route suggestions to help travelers make the most of their road trips through these states. **What cultural and historical sites are featured in The Rough Guide to Oregon and Washington?** The guide covers museums, historic towns, Native American heritage sites, and cultural events that provide a deep understanding of the region's history and diverse communities. **How up-to-date is the information in The Rough Guide to Oregon and Washington?** The guide is regularly updated to include current travel information, opening hours, transportation options, and new attractions, ensuring travelers have reliable and current insights.

Related keywords: Oregon travel guide, Washington travel guide, Pacific Northwest tourism, Oregon attractions, Washington sightseeing, Northwest travel tips, Oregon outdoor activities, Washington hiking trails, Oregon national parks, Washington coastal spots