

## Travel

# 10 great places to let the others go downhill

Despite one of the warmest winters on record, you can still catch some excitement off skis at top North American destinations. **Marc Peruzzi**, editor in chief of *Skiing* magazine, shares his list of great mountain resorts for non-skiers with **Kathy Baruffi** for USA TODAY.

## Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort

Whistler, British Columbia

"Whistler has two great mountains with a huge variety of expert terrain. The nightlife is almost as diverse. You can check out lots of good music and dine at top-tier seafood and sushi restaurants," Peruzzi says. The whole family can enjoy the no-skill thrill of tubing at the Coca-Cola Tube Park. Choose from eight lanes of varying difficulty. A conveyor will breeze you back up Blackcomb Mountain for more. 888-403-4727; [whistlerblackcomb.com](http://whistlerblackcomb.com)

## Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

Teton Village, Wyo.

"Outdoorsy non-skiers can snowmobile into Yellowstone National Park and see Old Faithful as well as moose and bison," Peruzzi says. Enjoy the snowy serenity of nearby National Elk Refuge, home of 7,500 wintering elk. Sample "new Western" cuisine, which includes local game, at the Teton Mountain Lodge. 888-333-7766; [jacksonhole.com](http://jacksonhole.com)

## Bridger Bowl Ski Area

Bozeman, Mont.

"Home of Montana State University, this college town has a lively arts, music and shopping scene. A blue light in town alerts locals to powder days at Bridger Bowl," says Peruzzi. Everyone else can head to Southside Park and practice their figure eights at the municipal ice-skating rink. Other fun excursions off the mountain include the Museum of the Rockies, the Gallatin Pioneer Museum and the American Computer Museum. 800-223-0600; [bridgerbowl.com](http://bridgerbowl.com)



Mont-Tremblant Resort

**In Quebec, Canada:** At the Acrobranche aerial obstacle course at Mont-Tremblant Resort, zip lines are strung 25 to 75 feet high across trees. The full course takes 2½ hours; the family course takes 60 minutes.

## Stowe Mountain Resort

Stowe, Vt.

"Boasting the longest average trail length in New England (3,603 feet), Stowe is one of the best resorts in the East. And there's a lot to do off the slopes, too," Peruzzi says. The luxurious spa at Stowe-flake will lift your spirits as high as the Green Mountains. Head into Montpelier for the architecture and diverse food of this charming town, or go to Waterbury for the Ben & Jerry's Willy Wonka-esque factory tour. 800-253-4754; [stowe.com](http://stowe.com)

## Park City Mountain Resort

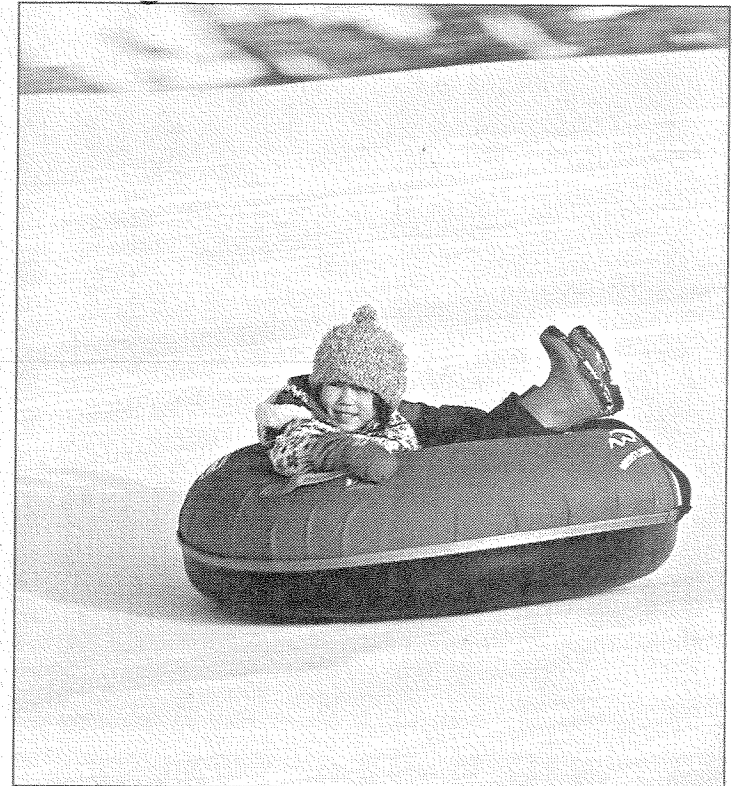
Park City, Utah

"With three top ski areas and all the amenities of a large city within a 45-minute drive, it's easy to ignore Park City proper. Don't. The place really heats up during Sundance Film Festival (through Jan. 28), but celeb-watching is a year-round activity. Book a dinner at The Canyons' Viking Yurt and take a moonlit sleigh ride to mid-mountain, where a gourmet meal is served in a wood-stove-warmed yurt," Peruzzi says. 800-331-3178;

## Vail Mountain Resort

Vail, Colo.

"Vail offers more than just superior back bowls and acres upon acres of incredible skiing. Ice climbing and snowmobile trips leave from town, and a multimillion-dollar overhaul of LionsHead Village is bringing more stores, restaurants and spas," Peruzzi says. Saddle up for winter horseback riding through the Colorado backcountry or hike to the huts, part of the 10th Mountain Division Hut system, in White River National Forest. 800-



By Toshi Kawano, Whistler Blackcomb Resort

**In Whistler, British Columbia:** A girl rides a tube down a mountain at the Coca-Cola Tube Park at the Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort.

## Steamboat Ski Resort

Steamboat Springs, Colo.

"Ascend in a hot-air balloon ride over the snow-covered Yampa Valley or winter fly-fish for trout and northern pike down below," Peruzzi says. There are still active cattle ranches in the area. You might even meet a real cowboy at the Ore House at Pine Grove, known for its steak and prime rib and cinnamon rolls in the breadbasket. 800-922-2722; [steamboat.com](http://steamboat.com)

## Angel Fire Resort

Angel Fire, N.M.

"Less than half an hour from the galleries and Indian crafts shops in Taos, this resort is great for all levels of skiing and (has) ice-fishing for rainbow trout at nearby Eagle Nest Lake," Peruzzi says. Save time to go dashing through the snow on a horse-drawn sleigh ride across the wide-open, high alpine Moreno Valley. 800-633-7463; [angelfireresort.com](http://angelfireresort.com)

## Heavenly Mountain Resort

South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

"The town has several casinos and a sort of Vegas-circa-1970 thing going for it. That's not a bad thing. The completely redone Mont Bleu Casino lets you feel a bit like James Bond," Peruzzi says. Take a cruise on Lake Tahoe and marvel at the Sierra Nevada mountain range surrounding it on all sides. 800-432-8365; [skiheavenly.com](http://skiheavenly.com)

## Mont-Tremblant Resort

Quebec

At the highest peak in the Laurentians, get high on nature with Acrobranche, located between the resort's ski trails. At the scary but safe aerial obstacle course, harnessed participants zip from tree to tree through a series of games. Headlamps are provided for the more challenging nighttime course. 866-829-7722; [tremblant.ca](http://tremblant.ca)



Looking for more travel ideas? Review "10 Great" lists on the Internet at [10great.usatoday.com](http://10great.usatoday.com)