



SNOWBASIN VIEW

SLOPESIDE BY RICH SILVER SKI UTAH

>SOLITUDE MOUNTAIN RESORT

Politics, Putin, North Korea, Real news, Fake news. Everyone needs a way to quiet the chaos. I found a moment of solitude atop Honeycomb Canyon at Utah's Solitude Mountain Resort. The "noise" of the world just slipped away as I dropped in and floated through a foot of fresh powder dotted with towering snow-covered pines. The beauty and serenity of the mountains can do that. Skiing can do that. Even when sharing the experience with a group of friends, it's the quiet relationship between you and mountain that is special. It's what makes this ski resort's hashtag so appropriate – #FindSolitude.

Fly non-stop from JFK to Salt Lake City (visitsaltlake.com) and after a 30-minute drive up Big Cottonwood Canyon you've arrived at Solitude Mountain Resort. Compared to nearby Alta and Snowbird, Solitude has fewer crowds, an intimate base village and an easygoing vibe. There are only eight lifts, yet the mountain skis much bigger than that. The terrain is simple to navigate for all ability levels. Beginners will enjoy the Moonbeam and Sunrise areas while intermediates and advanced skiers can hone

their skills off the Summit Express and Powderhorn lifts. Experts should sign up for the Hidden Tracks Clinic, where mountain guides help you explore hard to find powder stashes. For the most adventurous, the jewel is Honeycomb Canyon, which feels more like backcountry than resort skiing. With an enhanced lift ticket you can ski over to neighboring Brighton resort via the SolBright trail. Nordic enthusiasts can access the over 20 km of cross-country trails and 10 km of snowshoe trails at the Nordic Center.

Solitude has a nice compact base village. Lodging includes The Inn at Solitude and condos of all sizes, literally just steps from the slopes. Several remarkably good restaurant options are available. At the Inn, St. Bernard's serves delectable European specialties in a casual buffet setting. Stop in



SOLITUDE MOUNTAIN RESORT

POWDER MOUNTAIN
PHOTO BY IAN MATTESON



for a cocktail by the crackling fireplace in the cozy Library Bar.

Across the way, Honeycomb Grill offers contemporary American cuisine for the whole family. And don't miss the unique dining experience of The Yurt! Snowshoe by moonlight to a Mongolian style yurt where a rustic yet elegant communal four-course dinner and wine pairing awaits. Solitude has excellent on-mountain food options as well thanks to its new owner, Deer Valley Resort, known for its outstanding mountain fare. Notably, Roundhouse features Himalayan inspired dishes (the curried fries are out of this world) and the Last Chance Lodge serves Southwestern specialties, including a terrific taco bar. At the end of the day, après ski cocktails and beer flow at the Hungry Squirrel, where the atmosphere is so casual that an avalanche rescue dog might just occupy the stool next to you.

Find YOUR Solitude, including lodging, dining and spa packages at SkiSolitude.com

POWDER MOUNTAIN

If size matters, why does Powder Mountain, the largest ski area in America, remain undiscovered by the majority of the ski world? We went to Powder Mountain, located one hour north of Salt Lake City in tiny Eden, Utah to find out. First and foremost this is a no-frills, real skiers mountain. "PowMow" as it is known, caps skier visits at only 1500 per day so each skier has lots of room to roam the unspoiled deep powder of nearly 8000 acres. They also have full day tours or pay per ride snowcat skiing to explore the mountain's massive terrain.

When the Summit group purchased the mountain in 2013, instead of following the current trend of creating a mega-resort, they decided to keep it rustic and unpretentious with a local, friendly community vibe. Their vision is to create a public mountain town focusing on culture, creativity and collaboration. The Summit Series at Powder Mountain hosts an ongoing program of events gathering entrepreneurs, athletes, scientists, musicians, authors and other luminaries to connect, problem solve and inspire.

Although there are limited options to stay directly on the mountain, the Moose Hollow Condos in Eden are spacious, comfortable and only a five-minute shuttle ride away. After skiing, take a quick trip over to New World Distillery (www.newworlddistillery.com) for a tour and

taste of their small batch gin and tequila. For dinner, hop over to the Shooting Star Saloon in the neighboring town of Huntsville. It's the oldest continually running bar west of the Mississippi. They only serve burgers and beer—but they have it down just right.

Additional information about "PowMow" and the Summit Series at Powder Mountain can be found at powdermountain.com and summit.com

SNOWBASIN SKI RESORT

Snowbasin is a stark contrast to Powder Mountain. Home of the 2002 Olympic Downhill, Snowbasin is best known for long, steep, leg-burning groomed trails as well as remarkably beautiful day lodges.

snowbasin.com

Make the old railroad city of Ogden, UT your base of operations, just 20 minutes away. Here you'll find more options for lodging as well as dining, shopping and entertainment on historic 25th St.

visitogden.com

skiutah.com

PARK CITY

A convenient ski concierge and short gondola ride from the Waldorf-Astoria provides easy access to one of North America's largest ski playgrounds, **Park City Mountain Resort**.

parkcitymountain.com

Entering through Canyons Village you'll find 7200 acres of incredibly diverse terrain, ranging from fun family groomers to challenging trees and powdery bowls. And if that's not enough, work your way over to the new Quicksilver Gondola, which connects the formerly separate resorts of Canyons and Park City Mountain.

Quick tip: Head over to the Dreamscape/Dreamcatcher area where you'll find uncrowded trails all day and the mountaintop restaurant, Cloud Dine, to refuel.

You'll need lots of time to see it all, but luckily the **Vail Resorts Epic Pass™** has you covered. Purchase the best ski pass in the business and enjoy unlimited ski days not only at Park City, but at 12 other resorts in North America and access in Europe, Australia, and Japan.

epicpass.com

And let's not forget that **Deer Valley Resort** is just minutes away. Rightfully known for its first class service, impeccable grooming and gourmet on-mountain food, DV has surprisingly challenging terrain as well. Check out the complimentary mountain host guided tours for both intermediates and experts each morning and hit the slopes on your own all afternoon (after a great lunch of course).

deervalley.com



SNOWBASIN RESORT
PHOTO BY RYAN THOMPSON



>WALDORF-ASTORIA PARK CITY

A family trip is often a combination of wonderful and cranky moments. Remember your first trip to Disney World with the kids? It required extensive research and preparation to maximize the fun and avoid pitfalls for potential meltdowns. The Waldorf-Astoria Park City has anticipated the bumps and figured out the solutions for a memorable family trip. (Is that called reverse parenting?)

Complaint #1: Why did they cancel the connecting flight? There's nothing to do in this airport for 4 hours!



Solution: Choose a non-stop destination. Park City, Utah. Non-stop flights to Salt Lake City, and a 35-minute ride to Park City Resort, and you can be skiing the same day. Settle into luxury condo living at The Waldorf-Astoria Park City. The resort has so many suite possibilities, whether you're a family of four or you're two families with ten people. The kitchens look just like your newly renovated kitchen at home, Viking appliances, dining room, luxe bathrooms and a family bonus: a washer and dryer to dry your snow gear.

Complaint #2: I miss Fluffy!

Solution: Bring the pooch to the Waldorf Astoria "Bark City"

Only a \$100 pet deposit fee and a one-night pooch charge for the entire stay. Your pet will "ruff it" at the Waldorf with an in-room welcome amenity complete with bowls, logo beds and homemade, personalized treats.

Complaint #3: I hate taking the bus to the mountain.

Solution: Getting kids dressed and off to ski school can be a

test of sanity that can sabotage the entire family ski experience. Welcome to a ski morning at the Waldorf-Astoria Park City. A ski butler awaits with your boots and poles, and escorts guests large and small to the Frostwood Gondola steps away from the hotel entrance.

At last! Time to rejuvenate at the hotel's 16,000-square-foot spa with 15 treatment rooms, and a full service hair and nail salon. Just thinking about the Mountain Salvation Sports Massage is a "take a deep breath and slowly exhale" reminder. Wellness programs include stress reduction workshops and the fitness center offers classes and equipment for workout enthusiasts.

The family will love a post-ski school swim party at the hotel's outdoor 90° heated pool and hot tubs. Adult après is happening in the lobby lounge; sink into plump couches in front of a magnificent 300-year-old fireplace brought from an Italian villa. (That must have been a serious shipping bill from Italy.) Dine right in the hotel at Powder, offering locally sourced fare for breakfast, lunch, après and dinner.

Complaint #4: I don't want to ski today. I'm tired of skiing! (Isn't parenthood fun!)

Solution: Call the concierge, who can arrange for a multitude of unique experiences on and off the mountain.

Favorite option: Visit Nuzzles, a local non-profit rescue and adoption agency for animals around the country and learn about their program. Guests can spend the day at the ranch and walk the animals.

Complaint #5: I'm an artistic teen into film. I don't want to be with my family skiing all day.

Solution: Plan your vacation during the Sundance Film Festival, Jan 18-28, 2018. This is the ultimate film immersion experience, Ten days of festival screenings all about town, from 9:00 am till midnight. Park City offers free festival route bus rides so getting around to the different festival venues is easy. Celebrity sightings are happening everywhere; don't be surprised that you're sharing the lobby couch with Hollywood's A-listers.

sundance.org

waldorfastoriaparkcity.com

