

# bobcoxblog

## Bob Cox on Skiing

### Ski City wheels you to 4 great resorts

Posted on [February 11, 2019](#) by [bobcoxblog](#)

SALT LAKE CITY – You are drawn to this Utah capital for so many things skiing, and certainly the chance to ski four mountains in four days is one of the most attractive.

You are also drawn by the aura of the big mountains, Alta and Snowbird, side by side in Little Cottonwood Canyon, yet different enough to have different fan clubs.

And you are drawn by the two resorts in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Solitude and Brighton, who each have righteous claims to being the locals' favorite.

Together, the four resorts are being market as part of the Ski City Super Pass, an attractive offering that retails for about \$100 a day.

Skiing at \$100 a day might be considered a bargain at many big-name resorts in 2019 but toss in the free transportation in Salt Lake City and you can see the beginnings of a very attractive ski vacation.

That's what our group of traveling snow sports journalists decided last month as we embarked from east and west and some in between for our annual event. We chose the Hyatt Place Cottonwood for its proximity to the two canyons and the bus stop that serves the four resorts.

And to summarize the events of the last week in January, while the majority of the country fought off the dreaded polar vortex, Utah received weather perfect for skiing: Temps in the high 20s, mostly clear skies and sun that makes photographers smile.

Salt Lake City has always been a destination favorite of mine, coupling the ease of access of direct flights and the diversity of so many quality ski resorts. In previous seasons, I have marveled at the ease of taking an early-morning flight from LAX and being on the hill before lunch. Conversely, you can log a full day of skiing and be home for a late dinner.

That works for any of the ski areas in the region, but the four mentioned above came up with an intriguing marketing tool in the Ski City Super Pass.

First, the name: Ski Town was taken a long time ago by Steamboat Springs in Colorado, and, well, Salt Lake really is a major city ....

Second, all four of the resorts are tucked into canyons that can require strong driving skills on weather days, and each has a parking situation that includes the words Capacity Reached on busy days. No parking, no skiing. So they came up with a plan and the folks at Utah Transit did the rest. Buses leave regularly all day from park-and-ride lots and a couple of strategic stops near hotels like the Hyatt.

Marketing guru Shawn Stinson, who has worked for many of the Utah resorts and now works for Visit Salt Lake, pre-rode the buses in advance of our visit. He reported the bus stop was about the length of a football field from the hotel. In other words, 100 or 120 vigorous steps in the morning. But lugging one's skis, poles and boots back in the afternoon made that same walk seem like the Longest Yard. Side note: That may be a commentary on the skiers, rather than the trek.

One other side note: Since most of us hate to lug skis through airports, we worked with Ski Butlers in Park City to supply gear. We've noted over the years that many experienced skiers would rather rent demo gear than haul their own on ski adventures, and Ski Butlers has risen to the need. In our case, skiing four resorts in four days, it was a perfect alternative to renting four times at the ski area.

And while I've dwelled on the logistics a bit here, suffice to say the skiing lived up to all the marketing claims.

Snowbird and Alta continue to offer a challenge and a charm. Who doesn't love skiing off the Snowbird tram? And Alta may be one of only ski areas in the country that does not allow snowboards, but it also has some of the best upper mountain terrain anywhere to challenge two-plankers. Both areas also supply enough groomed skiing to tire out the veteran skiers in our group.

Perhaps the biggest surprises for those visiting from the east, was the quality of skiing at Brighton and Solitude. Each has a strong and loyal local following but is not considered on the national lists of top ski resorts for travelers. What a shame. Each is big enough to push you through a full day and more of skiing, and each contends for top grooming on a regular basis. I know at least one eastern ski writer who planned on writing rave reviews on Brighton and Solitude – areas mostly unknown to his readers – after this adventure.

Details on the Ski City Super Pass: It is available for any number of days and gives you the flexibility to decide which area to ski on which day, or whether to double or triple on one favored spot.

Whatever decisions you make as to resort or runs to challenge, one thing remained a constant for us: The outdoor hot tub at the Hyatt was a toasty 104 degrees every afternoon and that was something to look forward to on the bus ride home.

-end-



**Gut Doctor "I Beg Americans To Throw Out This Vegetable Now"**

REPORT THIS AD



**Gut Doctor "I Beg Americans To Throw Out This Vegetable Now"**

REPORT THIS AD

Create a free website or blog at WordPress.com.