

USA TODAY TRAVEL | BEST SLOPES FOR FAMILY SKIING

GO ESCAPE

WINTER 2018

PACK
YOUR
BAGS!

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WINTER

Getaways



INDULGE IN
EUROPE

SANTA FE'S
SPICY CHARM

LAKE SUPERIOR'S
CHILLY THRILLS

ENJOY LAID-BACK
LOWCOUNTRY

Beach near
Algarve, Portugal

AMAZING DESTINATIONS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

BY ALLISON ENTREKIN

IT'S NO SECRET that family ski trips take a lot of work. There are lift tickets to purchase and poles to carry, chair lifts to navigate and trail maps to argue over. And if you've ever tried to help a bundled-up child rush to the bathroom, you know skiing with kids has its challenges. So why do families do it? >





AMUSEMENT FOR ADRENALINE JUNKIES

If plain ol' skiing isn't exciting enough for your crew, choose a resort that understands your need for speed. At **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort** (jacksonhole.com) in Jackson Hole, Wyo., you'll find guided backcountry skiing, night skiing on nearby **Snow King Mountain** (snowkingmountain.com) and Corbet's Couloir — a cliff-start chute some call the scariest in America. "If you have hotshot teen skiers, Jackson Hole is the coolest place in the world," Friedland says. Off-mountain adventures also abound: Ride a horse-drawn sleigh among thousands of elk at the **National Elk Refuge** (fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge); take a snowmobile into Yellowstone; or hike the trails at **Grand Teton National Park** (nps.gov/grte). At day's end, unwind in a Wild West-style restaurant such as the Silver Dollar Grill in the historic **Wort Hotel** (worthotel.com).

If your family enjoys a little friendly competition, head to **Sun Valley Resort** (sunvalley.com), Idaho, home to a moderately challenging,

all-ages cross course. On multiple skiing and snowboarding terrain parks, the whole family can zip around obstacles. Afterward, try cross-country skiing or snowshoeing at the Nordic Center, then soothe your sore muscles at the Sun Valley Lodge, featuring a year-round outdoor heated pool and hot tub with cocktail service.

In **Whistler** (whistlerblackcomb.com), Canada, skip the lift lines and make your own tracks. The advanced skiers in your group will never forget a heli-skiing or cat-skiing adventure in which you access backcountry terrain via a helicopter or snowcat grooming machine. You can also try zip lining (yes, even during the winter), bungee jumping, icê fishing and dog sledding. And don't forget the helicopter tour of the local ice caves. "Whistler has so many incredible options for adventure," says Iseult Devlin, skiing columnist at *The Record* in Woodland Park, N.J. After you work up an appetite, head to Dusty's Bar & BBQ, a Whistler institution known for its friendly service and mouthwatering ribs. If your kids are 19, buy 'em a beer — it's legal in Canada. ■



Aspen
Snowmass,
Colorado

Après for All

After a day of skiing, kick back with the kids in tow.



S'mores Happy Hour at the Montage Deer Valley

Jennie Iverson, author of *Ski Town Après Ski*, suggests letting the kids roast complimentary s'mores at this luxury hotel from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. while you enjoy a libation and stunning views. You might want to indulge in a s'more, too: There are five marshmallow varieties, plus two kinds of Hershey's chocolate.

► 9100 Marsac Ave.; Park City, Utah.; 435-604-1300; montagehotels.com/deervalley

Afternoon Tea at the Trapp Valley Lodge

Warming tea, freshly baked cookies and a lodge owned and operated by the legendary von Trapp family (of *Sound of Music* fame): These are a few of your favorite things!

► 700 Trapp Hill Rd.; Stowe, Vt.; 800-826-7000; trappfamily.com

Dinner Sleigh Ride at Keystone Resort

Jingle all the way! Hop on a horse-drawn sleigh and ride through the woods until you reach a historic log cabin. You'll be greeted with toasty drinks, a home-cooked meal and live music by the fire.

► 1202 Jones Gulch Rd.; Keystone, Colo.; 855-603-0049; keystoneresort.com