**Mammoth**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

38

**Intermediate Runs**

61

**Advanced Runs**

53

**Total Runs**

152

**Lifts**

28

**Chairs**

23

**Drags**

2

**Gondola Cable Cars**

3

**Parks**

9

**Pipes**

3

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

9m (29.5ft).

**Overview**

One of the best loved ski areas in North America, Mammoth is the skiing embodiment of the American dream – rising from humble beginnings to become one of the world’s top resorts.

Mammoth was founded in 1942 by a remarkable man named Dave McCoy who secured an $85 loan to set up a rope lift on the mountain. McCoy went on to run the resort for most of his life until his retirement in 2005 at the age of 90, making it one of the longest surviving ski areas to avoid corporate take over.

After McCoy’s retirement, Starwood Capital Group bought the ski resort and quickly began to implement changes, building a full resort base village – previously most lodging was down in the town of Mammoth Lakes. A long-planned gondola link to Mammoth Lakes was also added, cutting out the need for a drive up to the base area car parks, along with a ski run back down.

Standing alone in Southern California, Mammoth has grown to encompass a huge ski area, with a speedy modern lift network. A great snow record means the ski area offers one of the longest ski seasons in the world, typically opening in the first half of November and often staying open into June – although it has reached into August in the past.

**Location**

Mammoth is located on the eastern edge of California's Sierra Nevada range. It is to the east of Yosemite National Park (access road closed in winter) and inland from San Francisco on the USA's west coast.

**Website**

http://www.mammothmountain.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.mammothmountain.com/winter/ski-ride/mountain-information/trail-map

**Hit The Slopes**

The season in Mammoth officially runs from mid-November to late April, but it is usually open until late spring and sometimes even to 4 July, for the Independence Day holiday weekend.

With over 1,400 hectares (3,500 acres) of ski terrain, Mammoth's huge ski area offers slopes for all standards. A quarter of the runs are graded easy; two fifths intermediate; and the remaining third or so advanced - the terrain typically becomes steeper the further up you go.

The upper mountain is a mecca for advanced skiers and boarders, with a swathe of black and the steepest double black diamond trails swooping down into the powder fields below the summit ridge. However, there is an easier route down for those who need it.

Intermediate skiers can find over a hundred runs to entertain them, while beginners have a special low-priced lift ticket that covers three lifts accessing easier terrain. There are also low-price introductory offers including a lift ticket, tuition and equipment rentals.

The resort's nine Unbound terrain parks have built up a worldwide reputation and spawned easier, family-friendly offshoots suitable for those unnerved by super pipes and big jumps.

Mammoth has invested heavily in on-mountain improvements in the past decade and is one of only five ski areas on the continent to offer more than 25 chairlifts and gondolas (many of them high-speed versions), with a combined uplift in excess of 50,000 people per hour.

**Mammoth**

**Resort**

2424

**Base**

2424

**Top**

3368

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There's plenty to do in Mammoth besides ski and board. Staying on the snow, thrill-seekers can sign up for Mammoth Snowmobile Adventures, with over 120km (75 miles) of trails to explore. At the top of the Panorama gondola, the Top of the Sierra Interpretive Centre educates visitors about the surrounding area and the dynamic nature of the Eastern Sierra. Sleigh rides, ice skating, cross-country skiing, snow tubing and dog sledding are also available.

**Family Fun**

Mammoth ski resort’s family ski facilities begin at the resort's Family Centre, located in the Mountain Centre at The Village at Mammoth ([www.villageatmammoth.com](http://www.villageatmammoth.com/)). This state-of-the-art area offers a hassle-free experience for guests with children aged between four and 12. Hire and tuition are arranged and the centre links directly to the village gondola, which whisks groups up to the ski slopes in six minutes. Once on the mountain, there are special family fun parks and most terrain suited to family groups can be found at the base of the hill.

Non-ski childcare is offered at the resort's Mammoth Child Care (tel: +1 800 626 6684) from birth to age 12.

**Retail Therapy**

There are about 20 shops in Mammoth village and at the base of the ski slopes, with a further 50 or so in Mammoth Lakes below. There's a good range of options here, from children's clothes purveyor Trendy Tots (tel: +1 760 934 5655) to art dealer Mammoth Gallery (tel: +1 760 934 6120).

**Splashing Out**

Mammoth ski resort hosts snowcat dinners (tel: +1 800 626 6684) on Friday and Saturday nights. Guests meet at the Mammoth Mountain Inn for a glass of champagne, before climbing aboard one of Mammoth's state-of-the-art snowcats for a ride up to Parallax restaurant at McCoy Station for a five-course dinner.

Mammoth also offers luxury snowcat tours to Minaret Vista, which include a three-course gourmet picnic lunch with a front row seat to the jagged Sierra skyline.

**Apres Ski**

Mammoth has a generally laid back après-ski scene, but can be buzzing at some venues. The

Swiss-style Yodler Bar & Pub (tel: +1 760 934 0636), with its outdoor patio, is often busy as the ski day ends, and is the best place to try the Yodler's beers, flatbreads and salads.

Alternatively, Petra’s in the Alpenhof Lodge (tel: +1 760 934 3500; [www.alpenhof](http://www.alpenhof)-lodge.com) offers a more relaxed ambience for wine lovers.

Later on, head to Lakanuki (tel: +1 760 934 7447), a tropical themed bar with hula dancing in the centre of the village. Here, you can sip tropical cocktails until the early hours and join in the regular events.

**Eating Out**

The choice of dining establishments in Mammoth continues to expand and there are now more than 70 restaurants and cafes, covering the full range of budgets as well as an eclectic mix of dining styles and experiences.

Mogul Restaurant (tel: +1 760 934 3039) has established a reputation with the locals as one of the best eateries in town with copious portions of quality cuisine served up by attentive staff.

Toomeys (tel: +1 706 924 4408; [www.toomeyscatering.com](http://www.toomeyscatering.com)) is another equally popular venue run by chef Matt Toomey - the seafood dishes are normally especially good.

The Lakefront Restaurant in the historic 1920s-built Tamarack Lodge (tel: +1 760 934 2442; www.[tamaracklodge.com](http://tamaracklodge.com/)) offers fine California-French dining. The restaurant employs French chef Frederic Pierrel, who mixes his classical French training with regional ingredients.

Other options found dotted throughout the resort and Mammoth Lakes include Chinese, Greek, Indian, Italian, Japanese, Mexican and Thai restaurants. As well as specialist steakhouses, vegetarian restaurants and Mediterranean options.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH); Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO).

Distance to resort: 13km (8miles); 190km (119 miles).

Driving time: 20 minutes; 3 hours 20 minutes.

**Getting Around**

A free shuttle service operates around the town of Mammoth Lakes, both day and night. It follows six separate routes linking most key properties and amenities during the daytime and two major routes at night. Taxi services are also available.

**Hotels**

Apart from the new slopeside developments, most of the accommodation in Mammoth is situated fairly far from the slopes. Although there are a few hotels in Mammoth, the majority of accommodation is in the form of lodges that are either run like a hotel or have their own self-catering apartments – most are timber-clad in a traditional style for an attractive rustic ambience. The closest base to the slopes is Canyon Lodge, where there is a good variety of hotels and apartments.

**Holiday Haus**

This affordable motel on Main Street benefits from large rooms, friendly service and good breakfasts.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 800 626 2414.

**Website**

www. holidayhaus.net

**Mammoth Creek Inn**

Despite being situated in a quieter location downtown, guests at the Mammoth Creek Inn are still within walking distance of the resort’s main amenities. The hotel boasts spacious rooms, a fitness centre and a hot tub, and breakfast is also included in the room rate.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 800 626 6162.

**Website**

http://www.themammothcreek.com

**Westin Monache Resort**

Ideally located next to the gondola and resort village facilities, the Westin Monache Resort has spacious rooms and facilities including a heated outdoor pool and 24-hour gym.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 760 934 0400.

**Website**

http://www.westinmammoth.com

**Travelodge Mammoth Lakes**

An affordable hotel 8km (5 miles) from the ski area, Travelodge Mammoth Lakes is in the centre of the resort's shopping and dining district. The hotel also has an indoor hot tub and games room for relaxing after time on the slopes.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 760 934 8892.

**Website**

http://www.travelodge.com

**The Village Lodge**

With a great central location in the heart of The Village at Mammoth, visitors get the benefits of action in the town and mountain access via the Village Gondola, which is just steps away.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 800 626 6684.

**Website**

http://www.mammothmountain.com

**Mammoth Mountain Inn**

This original base accommodation has been refurbished several times and now houses a heated pool, games room and 40-inch plasma TV screens. This is a particularly good option for those with children, as the village nursery is located on-site.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

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