**Steamboat**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

23

**Intermediate Runs**

69

**Advanced Runs**

72

**Total Runs**

164

**Lifts**

18

**Chairs**

16

**Drags**

1

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

4

**Pipes**

2

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

8.5m (28ft).

**Overview**

Like quite a few famous North American ski areas, Steamboat is a resort of two parts. Firstly, there is the old cowboy-era town of Steamboat Springs, which is full of Wild West steakhouses and bars where ranchers rub shoulders with international tourists and ski bums. Then, there is Steamboat Ski Resort itself a few miles down the road, which is a thoroughly modern place that still has echoes of Wild West terrain with its age-old view down the rolling Yampa Valley.

The ski slopes are directly above the modern resort area, which has grown to be one of the USA’s biggest over the past five decades, constantly evolving and improving as it does.

Skiers have the option of staying near the lifts in the community, which features a newly finished promenade connecting base area lodging, restaurants, bars and retail stores, or in the town; the former has the ease of doorstep skiing, while the latter the attractions of shopping and nightlife.

One of Steamboat’s main attractions is its reputation for its abundant lightweight Champagne Powder snow – a term it has trademarked.

**Location**

Steamboat is located to the northwest of Denver in the state of Colorado in the USA. The resort is within the Rocky Mountains range.

**Website**

http://www.steamboat.com

**Piste Map**

http://ww1.steamboat.com/web/maps/trailMapLg.jpg

**Hit The Slopes**

Steamboat has excellent terrain for all ability levels, from easy slopes for beginners and cruising pistes for intermediates to double black diamond chutes for experts.

Advanced skiers love the challenge of heading down the slopes amongst the trees (for which the place is famous), especially when there's deep, new 'champagne powder'. In fact, skiers here can spend all day hardly touching a groomed piste – there are, however, plenty of these. The majority of the toughest runs can be found from the top of Morningside Park, which has a choice of black and double black diamond chutes and bowls.

Intermediates can flash around on the easier runs on Sunshine Peak or the moderately challenging Morningside Park pistes. Many of the classified ‘advanced runs’ throughout the ski area are also suitable for confident intermediates

Beginners, meanwhile, are well served by the nursery slopes at the base. This large area keeps those learning the basics largely out of the way of other skiers, and vice versa.

The runs in Steamboat are well linked, thanks to the modern lift system dominated by high-speed chairs and the gondola that departs from the village at the base of the slopes.

The ski school here is highly rated, which is no surprise given that it is headed by former Olympic silver medallist Billy Kidd. Intermediate and expert skiers can venture out with Billy on three-day race camps or join him for a free clinic at 1300 on days he skis at the resort.

Steamboat's ski season runs from late November until mid-April.

**Steamboat**

**Resort**

2103

**Base**

2103

**Top**

3224

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Steamboat Springs is a pleasing place in which to wander, with its bookshops, cafés, galleries and various Wild West-themed attractions.

Those who want further on-snow action can try snowmobiling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horse riding, ice fishing on the Stagecoach Reservoir and ice-climbing on the frozen Fish Creek Falls waterfall.

Less energetic options include helicopter or balloon flights, or a 4-wheel drive trip into the woods; while the ultimate relaxation is to lounge in rustic, open-air Strawberry Park Hot Springs (44200 County Road; tel: (970) 879 0342; [www.strawberryhotsprings.com](http://www.strawberryhotsprings.com)).

**Family Fun**

Steamboat ski resort is a good option for families. At the slopeside base, children from six months to six years old are streamed into three separate schemes, with the 'one hour on-snow' activities beginning from age two. Older children (up to the age of 15) can also be taught in their relevant age groups.

Families can have fun tubing or taking part in the dozen or so other family-friendly activities available off the slopes, while boarding teenagers might well have a go on the massive Mavericks superpipe.

In the evening, there are plenty of fun and affordable kid-friendly places to eat in downtown Steamboat Springs, including Johnny B. Good’s Diner (738 Lincoln Avenue; tel: (970) 870 8400; [www.johnnybgoodsdiner.com](http://www.johnnybgoodsdiner.com)), which serves milkshakes and burgers.

**Retail Therapy**

There is a quaint main street with a range of shops in Steamboat Springs. Here, don't miss FM Light (830 Lincoln Avenue; tel: (970) 879 1822; [fmlight.com](http://fmlight.com)), a great old ‘Western wear’ store. There are many galleries, including Artisans' Market of Steamboat (626 Lincoln Avenue; tel: (970) 879 7512; [www.steamboatartisansmarket.com](http://www.steamboatartisansmarket.com)), a non-profit cooperative of local creatives that is well worth a look for all manner of things from jewellery and paintings to clothes.

**Splashing Out**

Steamboat is known for its natural mineral hot springs, so it’s the perfect place for a relaxing soak in natural surrounds. Old Town Hot Springs (136 Lincoln Avenue; tel: (970) 879 1828; [www.oldtownhotsprings.org](http://www.oldtownhotsprings.org)) is a family-friendly location featuring a variety of hot pools, slides, a climbing wall and recreational facilities. Alternatively, Strawberry Park Hot Springs are more rustic and romantic springs set amid a remote mountain area just outside downtown Steamboat (44200 County Road; tel: (970) 879 0342; [www.strawberryhotsprings.com](http://www.strawberryhotsprings.com)).

**Apres Ski**

The base area at Steamboat ski resort is a good area for a late afternoon drink – try Bear River Bar and Grill in the Sheraton Steamboat Resort (2200 Village Inn Court; tel: (970) 879 2220; [www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com)), with its lively terrace and umbrella bar.

The best places for après-ski in Steamboat Springs include the Mahogany Ridge Brewery and Grill (435 Lincoln Avenue; tel: (970) 879 3773; [www.mahoganyridgesteamboat.com](http://www.mahoganyridgesteamboat.com)), which serves fine home-brewed beer (try the Alpenglow) in a sedate setting. Further along the street, sports bar The Tap House (729 Lincoln Avenue; tel: (970) 879 2431; [thetaphouse.com](http://thetaphouse.com)) and Old Town Pub (600 Lincoln Avenue; tel: (970) 879 2101; [oldtownpub.jimdo.com](http://oldtownpub.jimdo.com)) are also generally buzzing come the end of the day.

Steamboat ski resort is not a place with a huge dance scene, although the Old Town Pub and Ghost Ranch (56 7th Street; tel: (970) 879 9898) have live music and DJs.

Visitors in March and April are in perfect time to make the most of The Rocks the Boat Free Concert series, which brings top bands to the heart of base area.

**Eating Out**

There are around 100 bars and restaurants in Steamboat that are divided between the town and base area. These encompass everything from cafés serving snacks to restaurants dishing up the latest Pacific Rim cuisine.

Of the eateries at the base area, Café Diva (1855 Ski Time Square Drive; tel: (970) 871 0508; [www.cafediva.com](http://www.cafediva.com)) is one the best. It serves innovative dishes conjured up from seasonal ingredients. Another option here is The Cabin in the Steamboat Grand (2300 Mt Werner Circle; tel: (970) 871 5550; [www.steamboatgrand.com](http://www.steamboatgrand.com)). This restaurant offers classic Colorado dining with a mountain flourish.

For top-notch food and sweeping views of the Yampa Valley, try Hazie's (2305 Mount Werner Circle; tel: (970) 871 5150), on the mountain at the top of the gondola. The eatery is open for lunch daily and remains open for dinner at weekends and during holidays.

In the town, Ore House (1465 Pine Grove Road; tel: (970) 879 1190; [www.orehouse.com](http://www.orehouse.com)) and 8th Street Steakhouse (50 8th Street; tel: (970) 879 3131; [www.8thstreetsteakhouse.com](http://www.8thstreetsteakhouse.com)) both fit the Western mountain ambiance, with their hearty meat dishes.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Yampa Valley Airport (HDN); Denver International Airport (DEN).

Distances to resort: 37km (22 miles); 270km (170 miles).

Driving times: 30 minutes; 3 hours 30 minutes.

**Getting Around**

A free bus service connects the town and ski area. Shuttles operate services to and from nearby airports.

**Hotels**

There is plenty of high-quality slopeside accommodation in Steamboat ski resort to suit all tastes and budgets. Options range from catered chalets and motels to countless apartments and a variety of hotels, from the luxurious to the affordable.

**Steamboat Mountain Lodge**

A pleasant, partly rustic-style hotel within walking distance of various nightlife and shopping options, Steamboat Mountain Lodge offers free breakfast, free Wi-Fi and an outdoor hot tub.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

3155 Lincoln Avenue

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Steamboat Springs

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(970) 871 9121.

**Website**

http://www.thebunkhouselodge.com

**Steamboat Grand**

A large 4-star hotel complex, Steamboat Grand provides condo-style accommodation along with free Wi-Fi internet access, an outdoor heated pool and a day spa.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Mount Werner Circle

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Steamboat Springs

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(970) 871 5050.

**Website**

http://www.steamboatgrand.com

**Rabbit Ears Motel**

This old-style motel is basic, but has free Wi-Fi access, in-room refrigerators and microwaves, and offers free breakfast.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

201 Lincoln Avenue

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Steamboat Springs

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(970) 879 1150.

**Website**

http://www.rabbitearsmotel.com