**Squaw Valley**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

43

**Intermediate Runs**

77

**Advanced Runs**

50

**Total Runs**

170

**Lifts**

30

**Chairs**

23

**Drags**

5

**Gondola Cable Cars**

2

**Parks**

4

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

11.5m (38 ft).

**Overview**

Squaw Valley ski resort is one of North America’s leading snow sports areas, due mainly to its vast amounts of skiable terrain and a lift system capable of accommodating nearly 50,000 people per hour on its slopes – not that it’s usually crowded enough to test this figure.

But there’s more to Squaw Valley than its size. Established soon after WWII, its early rise in success was so meteoric that, by 1960, it was hosting the Winter Olympics. More latterly, it has built a reputation as one of the world’s leading extreme ski and board destinations – many of the stars depicted in the top ski films released each year learned their trade here.

Squaw Valley was ‘just’ a famous ski area until the 1990s, when the first slopeside lodging was built. But, more recently, a modern base village has emerged. Known as The Village, it was originally designed by Intrawest (the company behind Whistler Blackcomb and several dozen other world-famous resort developments) and has provided a full accommodation, dining and retail experience without the need for a car.

**Location**

The USA resort of Squaw Valley is located above the northern end of Lake Tahoe, in California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains.

**Website**

http://www.squaw.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.squaw.com/the-mountain/trail-map

**Hit The Slopes**

Squaw Valley is one of the world’s most snowsure areas and is typically open from mid-November to at least late April, but often into May. It receives an average of 11.5m (38ft) of snowfall during that time and also has snowmaking cover on 242 hectares (600 acres) of its terrain. When most ski resorts in the USA close in early April, Squaw Valley starts its ‘second season’, when a beach-type atmosphere prevails at the High Camp Lagoon and Spa on the slopes.

Until recently, the resort was famous for not naming, numbering or really locating its trails individually on the map: instead there were large areas of open terrain descending from the top of each lift with descents of up to 5.1km (3.2 miles). The terrain hasn’t changed, but now 170 or so runs are marked and named, making the resort more family friendly.

There’s plenty of excellent skiing for all ability levels at Squaw Valley. A quarter of the ski area is suited to beginners, nearly half intermediate, and the remaining portion to advanced skiers. As a consequence, the slopes are very varied with everything from perfect nursery slopes to wide, fast cruising pistes and winding technical trails through the trees. The area is also crowned by no less than 16 powder bowls.

Steep and extreme skiing has its spiritual home in Squaw Valley, with big names such as Olympic gold medal-winner Jonny Moseley based here. Indeed, visitors can sign up for a ‘Ski with Jonny’ day over the Christmas holidays, which involves skiing or riding on a free mountain tour led by the great man himself.

Freestyle boarders and skiers have four terrain parks to enjoy, each requiring different levels of technical ability: the SnoVentures and Belmont Parks are for beginners; while the Gold Coast and Mainline Parks are suited to intermediate and advanced skiers and riders. There are more than 50 rails, table tops and boxes spread throughout the parks, as well as a family-sized cross course under the Big Blue Express.

Over the past few seasons, Squaw Valley ski resort has become increasingly integrated within the neighbouring ski area of Alpine Meadows. Lift passes from either ski area are valid here and there’s long-term potential for a ski lift connection. For now, skiers and riders can use the resort’s free Squaw Alpine Express shuttle bus to move from one resort to the other.

**Squaw Valley**

**Resort**

1890

**Base**

1890

**Top**

2743

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There’s a good choice of things to do in Squaw Valley besides skiing and boarding. At the large High Camp area (accessed from the base by a cable car), there’s the Olympic Ice Pavilion (tel: 1 800 403 0206) for skating with spectacular views of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding Sierra Nevada. There's also an equally well-located giant swimming pool and spa complex, as well as a museum dedicated to the 1960 Olympics.

Back down on the snow, there’s the choice of dog sledding with Alaskan huskies, snow tubing at SnoVentures, or cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at the Resort at Squaw Creek.

**Family Fun**

Squaw Valley is a good choice for families with its relaxed atmosphere and family-oriented attitude and services. Ski and snowboard school classes are, of course, tailored to different age groups and ability levels.

Squaw’s SnoVenture Activity zone is located at the base of the mountain and offers family snow tubing and mini-snowmobiles for kids aged six to 10. Here, a lodge with snacks, bathrooms and games keeps the little ones happy all day long.

Child-friendly ski and snowboard school facilities are concentrated in the Squaw Kids Centre at the base area, a massive edifice designed especially for children aged between three and 12. It includes a special ski rental shop with equipment for children and, out on the slopes, a separate ski hill to the main ski area – complete with its own easy-to-ride drag lifts and two ‘magic carpet’ conveyor-style lifts.

**Retail Therapy**

Altogether, there are several dozen shops in Squaw Valley around the base area, including a specialty wine shop, various clothing boutiques and a photographer’s gallery. For days when the children need a break, Everything Hunky Dory (tel: (530) 583 6500) offers crafts for the whole family, including candle and button making.

Squaw Valley’s shopping opportunities are expanding rapidly in the base village. A recently added pedestrianised area houses the ski and outdoor wear at Parallel Mountain Sports (tel: (530) 452 4478) and the Squaw One Logo Company (tel: (530) 584 6250), which sells Squaw Valley branded clothing. A more unusual option is Squaw Dogs (tel: (530) 584 6562), which features a wide range of canine treats and accessories.

**Splashing Out**

Spend a day being pampered at the Trilogy Spa (1850 Village South Road; tel: (530) 584 6125; [trilogyspa.com](http://trilogyspa.com/)) offers a rich menu of signature beauty and sports treatments. Options include the Lomi Pohaku Hot Stone Massage or a Hawaiian Hot Stone Massage (which combines traditional Lomi-Lomi healing strokes with the warmth of a full-body stone massage).

**Apres Ski**

Squaw Valley has quite a lively après-ski vibe, particularly straight after the lifts close – although as with most other western North American resorts, it does tend to quieten down and spread out later on.

Popular venues for après-ski in Squaw Valley include the newly renovated Olympic Plaza Bar in the Olympic House at the base of the slopes with its popular sun deck. Elsewhere, the Loft Bar in Le Chamois (tel: (530) 583 4505; [www.squawchamois.com](http://www.squawchamois.com/)) is a locals’ favourite. For the inevitable Irish-themed pub, it has to be the Auld Dubliner, which has live music or a DJ several nights each week (1850 Village South Road; tel: (530) 584 6041; [www.aulddubliner.com/SV](http://www.aulddubliner.com/SV)).

For a quieter evening, try the Uncorked Wine Bar (1750 Village East Road; tel: (530) 584 6090; [www.uncorkedsquaw.com](http://www.uncorkedsquaw.com/)), which serves a range of worldwide wines.

**Eating Out**

The range of cuisine offered in the base village has continued to expand, and there are now several dozen restaurants in Squaw Valley offering a global mix of flavours. Those with a car can also explore the wider Lake Tahoe area, which has a further choice of restaurants.

In the resort, head to Cornice Cantina (tel: (530) 452 4362) for Mexican food;; Mamasake (1850 Village South Road; tel: (530) 584 0110) for sushi and Californian-Asian fusion dishes; or the Fireside Pizza Company (1985 Squaw Valley Road; tel: (530) 584 6150; [firesidepizza.com](http://firesidepizza.com/)) for Italian. There are also some great grab-and-go eateries such as Dave’s Deli (tel: (530) 581 1085), Mountain Nectar (tel: (530) 584 6161) or the Wildflour Bakery (Olympic House; tel: (530) 583 1963; [wildfloursquaw.com](http://wildfloursquaw.com/)).

For a taste of local cuisine, diners can head to Rocker@Squaw (tel: (530) 584 6080), Twenty-Two Bistro (1995 Squaw Valley Road; tel: (530) 584 6170; [www.22bistro.com](http://www.22bistro.com/)) or PlumpJack Café (tel: (530) 583 1578; 1920 ; www.plumpjacksquawvalleyinn.com), the last of which pairs farm-fresh meals with Californian wines.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO).

Distance to resort: 80km (50 miles).

Driving time: 60 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Truckee

Distance to resort: 11km (7 miles).

Driving time: 10 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Most of the facilities at the resort base are within a compact pedestrian area reached on foot or by snow on skis or board.

For those travelling from further out, most accommodation options run shuttle bus services, while free ski shuttles also run daily from North Lake Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe and Reno.

**Hotels**

There is a mix of accommodation in Squaw Valley ranging from chalets to hotels, which can be located either slopeside, at the base, or in the surrounding area.

**Red Wolf Lodge at Squaw Valley**

This popular and affordable family-friendly accommodation is located close to the lifts, next to the Squaw Kids Centre.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

2000 Squaw Loop Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Squaw Valley

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(530) 583 7226.

**Website**

http://www.redwolfsquaw.com

**The Village at Squaw Valley**

The main accommodation at the resort base, The Village is comprised of high-value condominiums, each with up to three spacious bedrooms. These units received US$1.2 million renovations ahead of the 2013/14 ski season.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

1750 Village East Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Squaw Valley

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(530) 583 5585.

**Website**

http://www.squaw.com/the-village

**Squaw Valley Lodge**

This well-positioned, modern property offers ski-in/ski-out suites of various sizes and a popular health club.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

201 Squaw Peak Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Squaw Valley

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(855) 549 6742.

**Website**

http://www.squawvalleylodge.com

**The Resort at Squaw Creek**

Ranked as one of the ‘Top 50 ski hotels in North America’ by *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine, The Resort at Squaw Creek is a luxury 405-room full-service hotel and spa that recently underwent a US$50 million renovation.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

400 Squaw Creek Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Squaw Valley

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(530) 583 6300.

**Website**

http://www.squawcreek.com