**Mammoth**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

45

**Intermediate Runs**

60

**Advanced Runs**

45

**Total Runs**

150

**Lifts**

28

**Chairs**

23

**Drags**

2

**Gondola Cable Cars**

3

**Parks**

9

**Pipes**

3

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

9m (29.5ft).

**Overview**

Mammoth's north-facing slopes spread over one of the biggest ski areas in North America and it is widely regarded as one of the world's leading ski resorts.

The resort began in the late 1930s thanks to the efforts of pioneer Dave McCoy, who went on to build Mammoth ski resort up to its current global status – attracting more than 1.5 million visitors annually over 60 years of ownership.

Towards the end of his ownership, McCoy was helped by resort developers Intrawest, who took a stake in the resort when McCoy retired in 2005, aged 90. The company then began to build a full resort base village – previously most lodging was down in the town of Mammoth Lakes. A long-planned gondola link to Mammoth Lakes has also been built, cutting out the need for a drive up to the base area car parks, and most recently a ski run back down has been developed.

Mammoth's 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.

Although the resort's off-slope facilities are not quite on the scale of South Lake Tahoe, Aspen or Vail, they are more than adequate, and the ski mountain is certainly a match for most resorts.

**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/docs/assets/trailmap0910.jpg

**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: (760) 934 5655) to art dealer Mammoth Gallery (tel: (760) 934 6120).

**Splashing Out**

Mammoth ski resort hosts snowcat dinners (tel: 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 relaxed après-ski scene, which can be buzzing at some venues. The Swiss-style Yodler Bar & Pub (Main Lodge; tel: (760) 934 0636) is often busy as the ski day ends, offering one of the best atmospheres for après-ski in Mammoth. The outdoor patio is good if the sun is shining (as it usually is) and is the best place to try the Yodler's beers, flatbreads and salads. Alternatively, Petra’s (Alpenhof Lodge; tel: (760) 934 3500) offers a more relaxed ambience for wine lovers.

Later on, head to Lakanuki (tel: (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.

Away from the bar scene, evening activities include seeing the latest blockbuster in the cinema, shopping for special gifts or the opportunity to relax in a spa or sauna.

**Eating Out**

There are around 50 different places to eat in Mammoth and its environs, with cuisine ranging from Chinese, Indian, Italian and Japanese to Californian.

The Lakefront Restaurant in the historic 1920s-built Tamarack Lodge (Lake Mary Road; tel: (760) 934 2442; [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.

Families can enjoy dinner with the resort's mascot Woolly every Friday and Saturday night at Talons Restaurant (Little Eagle Lodge; tel: (760) 934 0797) as part of a family-style buffet dinner.

**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.

**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**

54 Sierra Boulevard

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Mammoth Lakes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(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**

1111 Forest Trail

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Mammoth Lakes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

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**

1 Minaret Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Mammoth Lakes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

800 626 6684.

**Website**

www.mammothmountain.com