**Sun Peaks**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

12

**Intermediate Runs**

73

**Advanced Runs**

40

**Total Runs**

125

**Lifts**

11

**Chairs**

6

**Drags**

5

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

http://www.sunpeaksresort.com

**Overview**

Sun Peaks is among the world’s newer ski resorts – having celebrated its 50th anniversary during the 2011/12 season – and its rise to global prominence could reasonably be termed ‘meteoric’. In less than 20 years, it has grown to be the second largest ski area in British Columbia (second only to Canada's largest ski resort, Whistler), with around 4,000 acres (nearly 1,500 hectares) of terrain for all skiing and boarding ability levels and styles.

The resort’s success is down to a number of factors. The characteristic light, dry, easy-to-ski powder spread across three varied mountain faces is certainly a good start, but other British Columbia resorts have similar claims. But what Sun Peaks has that the others don’t, is a very well thought-out ski-through village that provides enough attractions and high-quality service for a very fulfilling ski holiday.

Another attraction, particularly for Canadian visitors, is that the country’s greatest ever skier and Olympic Champion (now a government senator), Nancy Greene, is a major presence in the resort. She is also involved with Nancy Greene’s Cahilty Lodge, which is adorned with a dazzling gold and crystal trophy cabinet, and is currently Sun Peaks’ official director of skiing. She is very friendly and unassuming too, happily giving a free guided ski tour most weekends with any visitor who’d like to ski with her.

**Location**

Sun Peaks is a 45-minute drive north of the town of Kamloops in central British Columbia, Canada.

**Website**

5.6cm (20ft.)

**Piste Map**

http://www.sunpeaksresort.com/winter/interactive-maps/alpine

**Hit The Slopes**

Sun Peaks has one of the world’s most impressive snowfall records, reporting an average of 5.6m (20ft) of light powder each winter. Sun Peaks ski resort usually opens in mid-November and closes shortly before mid-April, due to a lack of demand for winter sports at that time of year, rather than a lack of snow.

The resort of Sun Peaks has one of North America’s largest ski areas accessed via a network of high-speed chairlifts. The terrain is suited to all ability levels, with a particular onus on immaculate grooming of the runs – one of which is 8km (5 miles) long. There are also two Alpine bowls for those looking to plunge into the powder. Runs range from wide, fast cruisers to gladed trails through thinned woodland and steep mogul fields.

Advanced skiers will be interested to follow the resort’s many connections to the global competition circuit. It opens exclusively for international teams to train in mid-November and has a reputation as the leading North American destination for world-class speed-skiing competitions each spring. On a day-to-day basis, around a third of the terrain is classified expert and almost every kind of challenge is available here.

Freestyle skiers and boarders are far from forgotten, with a high-calibre 4 hectare 99 (acres) terrain park accessed from the Sunburst chairlift that is divided into three sectors: novice, intermediate and advanced. Nordic skiers are also well catered for with 52km (32 miles) of groomed tracks and backcountry trails, including a rare lift-accessed Nordic ski run.

**Sun Peaks**

**Resort**

1255

**Base**

1255

**Top**

2080

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

About a fifth of Sun Peaks’ guests don’t come to the resort to ski or board, but to enjoy the other activities the resort offers – though mostly all of these also involve being on the snow. Options include high-adrenaline fun on guide-led snowmobile tours through open meadows and across frozen lakes; the resort’s bungee trampoline or tubing park; or something a little more laid-back such as ice skating or a dog sled ride.

Those who wish to spend some time being pampered can make use of the Sun Peaks Spa (tel: (250) 578 0086; www.sunpeaksmassage.com) complex at Kookaburra Lodge in the village.

**Family Fun**

Sun Peaks is a good choice for families. The compact pedestrianised centre makes it safe and easy to get around, and there are plenty of family-friendly lodging and dining options. Additionally, there are fun family activities such as tubing and ice skating for older children to enjoy.

Non-ski nursery and children’s ski school facilities are first-rate. The Sundance Kids Centre (tel: (250) 578 5505), located slopeside next to the village base lodge, accepts children aged 18 months to five years for non-ski childcare. This facility also houses a ski school available to over threes with specially tailored classes depending on the child’s age and ability.

**Retail Therapy**

Although there’s not a huge selection of shops in Sun Peaks, shopping is an enjoyable activity in the resort as almost all of the shops are located along one long stretch of the curving pedestrianised main street. You can easily stroll from one shop to the next, perhaps stopping every now and then for a coffee and cake, before resuming your quest. Along with plenty of sports shops, you’ll find quirky gift shops, an art gallery, photographic stores and a great village sweet shop. The sweet-toothed will also enjoy a visit to the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in the Delta Residences.

**Splashing Out**

British Columbia is the world capital of heli-skiing. Sun Peaks’ heli-skiing day packages could be the solution for skiers that have always wanted to try the sport but were reluctant to book a full heli-skiing holiday. The resort has teamed up with Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing (tel: 1 800 661 9170; [www.wiegele.com](http://www.wiegele.com/)), one of the world’s longest established and best-known heli-ski operators based at nearby Blue River. The ‘8 Peaks Day Package’ includes three to five runs in the stunning local Cariboo and Monashee mountain ranges.

**Apres Ski**

Those looking for a full-on hedonistic experience found in the likes of Chamonix or St Anton should look elsewhere. That said, there are enough venues for lively après-ski in Sun Peaks to keep most regular ski holidaymakers happy.

Among the several good bars in Sun Peaks are Bottom’s (3160 Creekside Way; tel: (250) 578 0013; bottomssunpeaks.com) and Morrisey’s Public House in the Delta Sun Peaks Resort (3240 Village Way; tel: (250) 578 60062)

Later on, revellers head to the resort's late night dancing spot, The Club (3240 Village Way, tel: (250) 434 0227). Having been built at a cost of more than a million dollars and winning awards for its sound and light systems, it has themed evenings including jazz and blues nights as well as more conventional rock and pop.

**Eating Out**

There are around 20 restaurants in Sun Peaks village with a great mix of styles, from simple bagel breakfast bars to high-calibre restaurants. What most of these eateries have in common is a high standard of cuisine, much of it using local produce from the Thompson Valley.

The Voyageur Bistro (3270 Village Way; tel (250) 578 5268; voyageurbistro.ca) in the Kookaburra Lodge has a reputation for excellent French-Canadian inspired meals, quintessentially Canadian hospitality and historical décor – it's filled with interesting artefacts from early Canadian history, including antique tree canoes hanging from the rafters.

Mantles Restaurant (tel: (250) 578 6060) in the Delta Sun Peaks Resort currently flies the gourmet standard in the resort. It sources many of its ingredients from local Thistle Farm, which operates a winter glasshouse to supply Mantles with fresh herbs and vegetables.

A novelty option is to ride up the chairlift to the Sunburst Lodge mountain restaurant at night for cheese and chocolate fondues, and then ski or board back down a freshly groomed trail in the moonlight wearing a headlamp on your helmet to light the way.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Kamloops (YKA)

Distance to resort: 60km (38 miles)

Driving time: 1 hour

Nearest railway station: Kamloops

Distance to resort: 60km (38 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour.

**Getting Around**

Sun Peaks' ski village is relatively compact. It is conveniently ski-through and pedestrianised with most properties ski-in/ ski-out, so there is little need for transport. Skiers can therefore walk or ski wherever they want to go.

**Hotels**

There is a good variety of accommodation, ranging from condominium style apartments to luxury hotels in Sun Peaks ski resort.

**Delta Sun Peaks Resort**

A luxurious full-service hotel in the heart of the village, Delta Sun Peaks Resort boasts easy access to the slopes. It is also one of the places for après-ski fun with its nice restaurant, bar and club.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

3240 Village Way

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sun Peaks

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

(250) 578 6000.

**Website**

http://www.deltahotels.com

**Coast Sundance Lodge**

This high-quality, mid-range lodge delivers all requisite ski holiday facilities to a high standard. There is no on-site restaurant, but its central location provides numerous options a few steps away.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

3160 Creekside Way

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sun Peaks

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

(250) 578 0200.

**Website**

http://www.coasthotels.com

**Sun Peaks Hostel**

Not the type of budget hostel of years gone by, this is a clean, modern facility with all mod cons at a very reasonable price.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

1140 Sun Peaks Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Sun Peaks

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

(250) 578 0057.

**Website**

http://www.sunpeakshostel.com