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Winter Adventures Thrive in Virginia's Mountains

-Four diverse mountain resorts make winter fun a family affair-

Media Only

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RICHMOND, Va. – The thrill of downhill skiing, the high of snowboarding and the pure fun of snow tubing are supreme in Virginia's mountains at four different resorts – Wintergreen, The Homestead, Massanutten and Bryce. Each of these mountain retreats offer some of the finest skiing and snowboarding terrain in the Mid-Atlantic from December through mid-March.

Virginia's resorts provide a wide range of indoor and outdoor recreational options such as tennis, golf, children's programs and much more. Accommodations can be luxurious or cozy, with hotel rooms, slope side condominiums and mountain top homes. Dining can be casual to classy, and après ski options vary as well.

Mother Nature joins hands with sophisticated snow making equipment to guarantee ideal conditions. In the course of a ski season, temperatures at Virginia's resorts rarely dip below the mid-teens, even at night. More typical are daytime temperatures in the mid-to-high 20s and low 30s, with night-time temperatures in the teens. Those night-time lows are ideal for snowmaking so the at fresh powder greets early morning skiers looking to lay down fresh tracks.

Whether you choose skiing, snowboarding or snow tubing – or just want to relax at a cozy mountain retreat - head to Virginia's mountains this year for winter fun.

Wintergreen Resort: Winter Sports Fanatic's Dream

Named the "Best Ski Resort" in the WashingtonPost.com Annual Readers' Choice Awards two years in a row, [Wintergreen Resort](#) is an 11,000-acre, four-season resort located southwest of Charlottesville in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

Wintergreen lodging options include rooms in the main lodge to studio condominiums and seven-bedroom mountain homes. Wintergreen's six restaurants offer elegant to casual dining options including the gourmet Copper Mine and the casual Edge.

The resort boasts the only automated snowmaking system on the East Coast, ensuring Wintergreen's 25 slopes on 125 skiable acres, and five lifts (including two high-speed, six-passenger lifts) are primed for winter sports

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adrenaline junkies. Skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels enjoy Wintergreen as it features the region's most extensive beginner-to-expert terrain; classified as Beginner - 23 percent, Intermediate - 35 percent and Expert - 42 percent, with 14 slopes lighted for night skiing. The snowboard terrain park offers skiers and snowboarders the chance to practice freestyle skills on snow features, jibs and rails. The resort offers a Guaranteed Learn to Ski & Ride program and free beginner group lessons are available with equipment rental.

For fun the entire family can enjoy, try snowtubing on two tubing parks. The Plunge is a 900-foot, 10-lane hill dubbed "the ultimate scream machine!" And The Slide is for youngsters and those who want their thrills a bit tamer. Also, don't miss Wintergreen's Out of Bounds Adventure Center, which can take family bonding to a whole new level with activities including team paintball, a high-flying bungee trampoline, miniature golf, a mechanical bull, and a 25-foot climbing tower. Children will also love the resort's inflatable playgrounds.

The [Wintergarden Spa and the Aquatics & Fitness Center](#), set at the highest point of Wintergreen Resort, is a retreat from the world below, as each treatment room offers a mountain view. Escape everyday life and feel pampered with refreshing herbal body wraps, hot stone and other therapeutic massages, a full-service salon, and a selection of restorative mountain mud and mineral facial treatments.

The Homestead: Experience Winter Luxury at its Best

[The Homestead Resort](#) in Hot Springs, Virginia has been pampering guests since 1766. Nestled on 15,000 acres of wonder in Virginia's Allegheny mountains, this luxurious year-round resort offers 483 luxurious rooms including 88 suites reflecting the Georgian style and panoramas of pristine mountain valley.

The Homestead ski area offers over 45 acres for skiing and snowboarding enjoyment with complete snowmaking capabilities. Ski and snowboard lessons, rental equipment and bunny school programs are available. Other winter activities include cross-country skiing, snow tubing, snowshoeing, guided snowmobile tours and the region's only Olympic-sized ice skating rink.

Visitors can stay warm and cozy at the Mountain Lodge which serves lunch daily and has a deck with a stone outdoor fireplace where guests can watch skiers coming down the slopes. Other dining options range from the elegant Main Dining Room with continental cuisine to the more intimate 1766 Grille, or the more casual aura of Sam Snead's Tavern.

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After a day on the slopes, guests can soak in the natural hot mineral spring waters of the Jefferson Pools, documented in history books for their restorative powers, like Thomas Jefferson did back in 1818.

Massanutten Resort: Something for Everyone

[Massanutten](#) is a four season timeshare vacation resort near Harrisonburg in the Shenandoah Valley, and is open to the public. Accommodations range from hotel rooms in the main lodge to large four-bedroom condominiums with full or partial kitchens, whirlpool tubs, fireplaces and decks.

Enjoy Massanutten's 14 trails, all of which are lit up for night skiing. Slopes are classified as Beginner - 30 percent, Intermediate - 35 percent and Advanced - 35 percent, spanning 70 skiable acres. Seven ski lifts, including two quad chair lifts to the highest peak, help to keep waiting time in line at a minimum. Massanutten's Terrain Park for snowboards and skiblades features ever-challenging obstacles throughout the season. Kids and parents love snowtubing at the 12-lane Tube Park.

Massanutten also offers guests a little summer with winter fun with the region's only indoor water park. Chill out with eight water slides, an Adventure River, hot tubs, and the Flow Rider: a surfing attraction where 50,000 gallons of water rushes over a trampoline-style mat with a five-foot incline. This constant motion creates the endless, perfect wave. Snowboarders, skate boarders, surfers, and body boarders find the Flow Rider to be the perfect combination of all sports. The park also has 80,000 sq.ft. of outdoor fun with mulit-lane mat racers, wave pool, water b-ball hoops and more.

Bryce Resort: Perfect for Family Fun

Nestled in the Allegheny Mountains, Bryce Resort is a 400-acre member-owned resort that is open to the public. Smaller than the other resorts, Bryce is a great place to bring children and is known throughout the mid-Atlantic region as being the most family-oriented ski resort in Virginia.

Late fall through March - skiing and snowboarding are paramount. Bryce has eight slopes, two chair lifts and three carpet lifts. Slopes are classified as Beginner - 34 percent, Intermediate - 33 percent and Advanced - 33 percent. Night skiing is offered and snowtubing at Ridge Runners Park is a great thrill at Bryce Resort and includes a carpeted lift back up to the top.

Bryce also has a well-known Ski School and children's school - the SKIwee Program. Ski Racing clinics and events happen throughout the season too.



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Even after the snow melts at Bryce, athletic people can mountain board and grass ski, enjoy the scenic chair lift rides to the top of the mountain and try the new mountain tubing run, which is not only new to Bryce, but also to the Nation!

Grab a bite to eat at the Ski Cafeteria, or head to the main Lodge and check out Coleman's Restaurant or Braxton's Bar, which both overlook the mountains. There is also a Ski Boutique, Ski Ticket Office, the Ski School, ski repair and equipment rental facilities.

Virginia is a winter fun haven that beckons families to live out their passion for fun. Visit Virginia.org/winter to get the latest on ski conditions in Virginia and start planning a visit. Or call 1-800-VISITVA for additional travel planning resources.

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