

Ten ski resorts with the best conditions right now

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20 Photos

Ranking the 20 best ski resorts in North America





(Photo: Getty Images)

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Ski resorts across the North American West have begun to recover after a slow start to the winter snow season. Skiers who cancelled trips or stayed away from the mountains during the holidays around New Year's should be taking another look at trips for February and March, as ski runs have filled in from Colorado to California.

The lack of early bookings means that there are still [ski trip deals](#) to be had across the continent, even for upcoming President's Day weekend. At this point, skiers can assure themselves of good conditions if they book at the right resort.

The Northwest continues to outperform the rest of the continent, extending a season-long trend. Mt. Baker in Washington state has received more than 200 inches since January 1, and it's followed by other regional resorts such as British Columbia's Whitewater and Fernie, both with more than 140" since New Year's.

As for major destination resorts, Whistler tops the charts at 125 inches during 2018, adding to a big-time base that was already in place for the holidays.

In Colorado, a drier December has given way to a good January, with Telluride and Breckenridge leading the way with 85 inches and 78 inches of snow in 2018.

Here are the ten destination ski resorts with the best conditions right now:

[Jackson Hole](#) – Jackson requires a lot of snow coverage to ski well, and that's something it certainly has right now. Jackson has been rolling up big snow totals since December and is approaching 300 inches for the season, with 114 of those coming in 2018. Many of the season's biggest weather systems streamed north of Utah and Colorado, tracking directly over the Teton Range in Northwest Wyoming, bringing another big winter to Jackson as well as Grand Targhee, which is on the western side of the range. Jackson's mid-mountain base sits at 61 inches.

[Whistler-Blackcomb](#) – The British Columbia monster resort has a good track record of coming through when the Rockies can get a bit parched, and Pacific storms have helped reinforce that reputation this season, as the resort was nearly 100% open in early December following a series of big storms the previous month. Whistler sports base depths of 100" or more across most of the mountain.

[Lake Louise](#) – This marvel of Alberta, which boasts some of the best vistas in skiing, has received 110 inches since the start of the year, and is currently enjoying a banner season for snowfall, compared with its average years. Skiers won't find a better time to go to Alberta. The base at mid-mountain now measures 71 inches.

[Steamboat](#) – This ski resort, off by itself in north-central Colorado, is near the top of the heap for snowfall in 2018 in the state with 71 inches fallen since January 1, adding to what was a leading position at the close of 2017 in its state. Steamboat has a smaller standard deviation in its average snowfall compared with other Colorado resorts, which makes it a good candidate for trips earlier in the season. That has held true this year. The ski resort's base is now 39 inches.

[Breckenridge](#) – With its high-altitude stashes that top 12,000 feet, Breck is always a good bet for later season skiing; this year will not be an exception. The resort has received 78 inches of snow since the beginning of the year and its base now measures 49 inches.

[Snowbird & Alta](#) – These snow magnets sit next to each other in Utah's Little Cottonwood Canyon, and they're routinely among the best places for snow in the world as they sit at the backend of natural snow trap. After a slow start to the season, things have picked up in the canyon, with 89 inches of snow falling since January 1. Both ski resorts report a 65-inch base.

[Brighton](#) – This Utah resort, always a stalwart for snow, has seen a lot of snow since New Year's, raking in 92 inches. Brighton has a lot of north-facing terrain, comprising 43% of its slopes, so conditions should remain good going forward. The ski resort's snow base measures 54 inches.

Jay Peak – As it does many years, Jay Peak is leading the way on snow out east, with 113 inches having fallen since January 1, also placing it ahead of all but the highest totals on the western side of the continent. This has been a boon for local Vermont skiers and those from Canada who cross the border to ski Jay, which has some of the biggest terrain in the East. Mid-mountain snow depths are now near 30 inches.

Stowe – In a rather anomalous turn, the Vail-owned resort has seen snow pile up at a rate equal to that of its sibling ski resorts in Colorado. Sixty-two inches of snow has fallen at Stowe in 2018, putting it toward the head of the pack in the east. Mid-mountain snow depths are 36 inches and the ski resort is fully open.

Tremblant – The gem of Quebec has put together a banner snow year thus far, with 80 inches falling on the ski resort since the turn of the new year – bettering most mountains out west. Tremblant’s slopes sport the best views of any ski resort in the east, and they’re all the better this season with a thick coat of white draped across the surrounding hills and forests. Mid-mountain base depths are two feet.

Christopher Steiner is a New York Times Bestselling Author of two books and the founder of ZRankings, a ski trip data and booking site.

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