

## **Ski Resorts Do a Flip-Flop for Summer**

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Think snow.

Not snow exactly - just the places that cater to snow-loving families all winter. Those same mountain resorts - from New England to the Rockies to California - now have a lot to offer families all summer long, with kids' adventure camps, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, golf, tennis, music festivals, alpine slides and even kids' spa treatments. You name it, they've got it, and they're adding more each season - at very appealing prices.

Here's your chance to introduce the kids to a new sport, indulge a passion for theater or music, or revel in a little luxury without putting too deep a dent in your budget.

Take, for example, Beaver Creek, Colo., just down the road from Vail. In winter, with its Ritz and Park Hyatt, Beaver Creek caters to a decidedly upscale crowd. But in summer, rates drop 40 percent or more, starting at just over \$100 a night at some places. (Visit [beaver.creek.com](http://beaver.creek.com).)

The Park Hyatt Beaver Creek ([hyatt.com](http://hyatt.com)) has packages that offer a fourth night free and a discounted second room for kids at less than half of what winter rates would be.

And with the money you save, you can treat your little prima donnas to the Park Hyatt's spa treatments (\$15 each), like a tutti-frutti scrub, "sweet cheeks" makeover or "twinkle toes" toenail art. A huge candy-striped tent is set up adjacent to the Hyatt pool for these young spa visitors.

Boys and tomboys won't be bored either, not with a bungee trampoline, 18-hole miniature golf course, outdoor climbing wall and a free children's museum at the base of the mountain. The Beaver Creek Children's Theatre Company performs fractured fairy tales on the plaza, offering visiting kids the chance to join drama workshops. Join a free guided family hike at the top of the chairlift.

Another luxe ski resort, Deer Valley near Salt Lake City, Utah, is touting free use of a Chevrolet SUV (including a tank of gas) with a summer rental of at least two nights. The car will be delivered to your hotel or condo. One caveat: You have to fill out an evaluation. (Visit [deervalleylodging.com](http://deervalleylodging.com).)

Even Aspen has summer deals, especially at its Snowmass Village ([snowmassvillage.com](http://snowmassvillage.com)), with free concerts, condos that often go for half of what they do in winter, the state's oldest continually running local rodeo every Wednesday and Saturday night, and a slew of free or inexpensive activities - from panning for gold to paintball. Rent some bikes and ride the Burlingame Chairlift free to access biking and hiking trails.

The best part: In summer, no matter which ski resort you choose, you won't need an expensive

lift pass or ski gear to have a good time. It doesn't cost anything to hike. In Maine, for example, you can stay at Sunday River ([sundayriver.com](http://sundayriver.com)), where rates begin at \$95 a night, and introduce the kids to the Appalachian Trail.

You don't even have to hike uphill if you prefer not to, nor should physical challenges keep anyone in your gang from getting outdoors. Get a ride to the network of trails on Mount Crested Butte via ski lifts.

The resort's well-regarded Adaptive Sports Center ([adaptivesports.org](http://adaptivesports.org)) now boasts a ropes and challenge course open to people of all physical abilities. Northstar-at-Tahoe ([northstarat-tahoe.com](http://northstarat-tahoe.com)) offers Northern California's largest mountain bike park, which, like its hiking trails and picnic spots, is accessible via chairlift.

If you don't have a full week, plan a long weekend. Look for deals that will give you a needed break during the day or in the evening. The same folks who do such a good job of teaching kids winter sports also offer summer adventure camps. If parents sign up for golf school at Stratton Mountain Resort, for example, the kids' camp is free. (Visit [stratton.com](http://stratton.com).)

Smugglers' Notch in Vermont ([smuggs.com](http://smuggs.com)) seems to add more bells and whistles to its children's programs every year. This year, kids and teens can hone their singing, dancing and songwriting skills, while toddlers will love the new playground facilities and the pirate who tells jokes at breakfast.

Everyone will be thrilled with the four water playgrounds, which include eight pools and four slides. There are organized programs for kids as young as 6 weeks old. While the kids are happily occupied, parents can join "Big Kids Camp," kayaking, mountain biking and trying ropes courses.

Resorts now entice vacationing families by offering a growing array of activities that are either free or part of inexpensive packages.

At Keystone Resort, just a 90-minute drive from Denver, kids and teens can golf for free every afternoon with a paying adult - including junior rental clubs, golf cart and balls. Stay at Keystone and your gang gets a passport that covers all kinds of other freebies: fly-fishing clinics, mountain bike clinics, yoga classes and nature walks.

One day a week, kids get a free pizza lunch. On Wednesday nights, kids can gather around the fire pit for s'mores and stories. (You must book with Keystone: [keystone.snow.com](http://keystone.snow.com).)

Winter Park, Colo. ([winterparkresort.com](http://winterparkresort.com)), where generations of Denver kids have learned to ski, boasts more than 600 miles of interconnected mountain bike trails, as well as Colorado's longest Alpine slide (26 turns) and an 18-hole mountaintop disc golf course. Four-day packages, including lodging, a whitewater trip and park pass, can be had for less than \$800 for a family of four.

Don't forget the bike helmets - and the camera.

Source: Record, The; Bergen County, N.J.