



HASSLE FREE STEAMBOAT FAMILY VACATION GUIDE

Everything you could possibly want to know about a family vacation in Steamboat!

Contents:

- General Information
- Getting to Steamboat
- Frequently Asked Travel Questions
- Ski/Ride Lessons at Steamboat
- Beginner Advice
- Frequently Asked Beginner Questions
- Childcare
- Family Friendly Safety
- About Steamboat

EARLY & LATE SEASONS

11/26/08 – 12/18/08
4/06/09 – 4/12/09

- ◆ Discounted lift pricing
- ◆ More airline seat availability
- ◆ Less busy time of year
- ◆ More lodging options

REGULAR SEASON

12/19/08 – 4/05/09

- ◆ Regular lift pricing
- ◆ Less airline seat availability
- ◆ Less busy time of year
- ◆ Lodging options are more limited

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!

Benefits Include:

- ◆ Additional Package Options & Early Booking Incentives
- ◆ More availability for lodging and flights, as rates are published 6-8 months in advance.
- ◆ Ease of travel: Your airline and lift tickets will be mailed to your home address prior to departure.

Reservations: Book Online or by Phone:

The only authorized reservation center for the Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, [Steamboat Central Reservations®](#) offers hassle-free vacation planning and the most convenient one-step online reservation system for every component of your Steamboat vacation!

You can [book your entire vacation online](#) right now, or visit [Packages & Specials](#), [Airfare & Ground Transportation](#), [Lodging](#), [Tickets & Passes](#), [Ski & Snowboard School](#), [Winter Equipment Rentals](#), and [Activities & Services](#) to learn more.



[Steamboat Central Reservations®](#) agents are trained professionals who know Steamboat Springs and can create a custom vacation package for every member of your group or family.

Call: **877-237-2628** [toll-free] or **970-879-0740** [International]

Email: vacations@steamboat.com | Fax: 970-879-4757

Steamboat Ski Resort | 2305 Mt. Werner Circle | Steamboat, CO 80487

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PAGE 1



Hours: 6:30am-9:00pm (MST) 7 days a week.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Get to Know Our Town:

Become familiar with Steamboat ahead of time, and plan your lodging, dining, activities and Shopping which will allow you the opportunity to visit several distinct areas in the Yampa Valley. Check out the [Interactive Map of Steamboat](#), which lists services and locations in a clickable format.

Online Booking Tips:

- Make sure you have enough time for the reservation process. With all the items you need to research - air and ground transportation, lodging, lift tickets and activities—planning can take some time.
- The more flexible you can be with your travel dates, the better. Prices can change dramatically week to week and you may be able to find a better deal if you can travel on an alternate day.
- Steamboat's online booking system is able to create a price quote for all aspects of your vacation before you make your final decisions. While the quote will be kept active in the system, no inventory will be held without a deposit, so book your vacation as soon as you finalize your plans!

Pack Your Bags Like a Pro:

Clothes, equipment, tickets, stuff for the kids and more?! Does keeping it simple sound impossible? First, make a list for each family member, and begin packing several days in advance. This allows you time to find the items you only use once or twice a year, to buy any last minute items you might need and to unpack items that will weigh you down.

INSIDER TIP! Take time while packing to label your child's items for easier Lost & Found retrieval!

Lodging Check-In:

Check with your Steamboat lodging provider for arrival time restrictions and the location of your lodging check-in. The earlier you arrive, the better! Mid-day arrivals are best, allowing you time to check-in to your lodging, adjust to the altitude and time zone, and get acquainted with the Base Area of the mountain.

If your lodging provider does not have mid-day check-in, ask if they can securely store your luggage until your room is available.

Likewise, if your travel plans have you arriving after 6:00 pm, you will want to confirm late check-in procedures with your lodging provider and be sure you have clear directions for ease with arrivals after dark.

Lodging Check-Out:

Note your lodging check-out time and your airline flight departure time. You can reduce departure day hassles by being well prepared for your check-out and departure day. In some cases, your check-out time and airline departure time may not coincide well, leaving you several hours in between to account for. If this is the case, ask your lodging provider if they have the ability to store your luggage until you depart for the airport. By planning ahead you may be able to ski or do some last minute shopping prior to your departure without the hassle of worrying about what to do with your luggage and personal items!



GETTING TO STEAMBOAT

Air Travel:

Nonstop flights to Steamboat/Hayden Airport are available from nine major airports (Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Newark, New York-LaGuardia and Salt Lake City) on American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Northwest and United Airlines.

The Steamboat/Hayden Airport is located just 22 miles/35kms from the resort, which makes Steamboat the most conveniently assessed ski resort in Colorado!

Ground Transportation:

Getting around Steamboat is easy with Shuttle and Limousine Service, Private Transfers, Rental Cars, and the City of Steamboat Springs' comprehensive system of FREE transportation between the ski area, downtown and most lodging locations.

Have your ground transportation arranged well in advance. Due to the high need of airport transportation, our shuttle services cannot guarantee timely pick-ups without advance reservations. Pre-arrange your [ground transportation](#) well ahead of time through Steamboat Central Reservations and ensure quality service for your transportation!

Maps & Driving Directions:

To make navigating our resort easier, we've included driving directions around Steamboat, from airports and other locations, maps, and suggested alternate routes for visitors with ground transportation.

From Hayden Airport: The Hayden airport is located just a few miles east of Hayden and approximately 22 miles and 35 kilometers west of Steamboat Springs off Highway 40. From the airport, take the access road about 2 miles out to Highway 40 and turn right. Steamboat is about 22 miles east. There is no public bus service from the airport, however, shuttle services are available.

From Denver: 157 miles Northwest of Denver, an easy 3 hour drive. Take I 70 west through the Eisenhower Tunnel to Silverthorne, Exit 205 (67 miles). Take CO 9 North to Kremmling (37 miles), then West on US 40 to Steamboat Springs (53 miles).

From Colorado Springs: 230 miles Northwest of Colorado Springs. Take I 25 north to C 470 (53 miles) then C 470 west to I 70 west (15 miles). Take I 70 west through the Eisenhower Tunnel to Silverthorne exit 205 (67 miles). Take CO 9 North to Kremmling (37 miles), then West on US 40 to Steamboat Springs (53 miles).

Alternate Routes if Rabbit Ears Pass is Closed: Take this route if US 40 over Rabbit Ears Pass is closed and you're coming from Denver or Colorado Springs. Take I 70 west through the Eisenhower Tunnel to Silverthorne, exit 205 (67 miles). Take CO 9 North to Kremmling (37 miles). Head west on US 40 until the intersection with CO 134 (6 miles). Turn left and go over Gore Pass (CO 134). At Toponas, take Colorado 131 north to Steamboat Springs (40 miles). Or, take I 70 west (through Vail) until Exit 157. Take CO 131 North to Steamboat Springs (75 miles), then left on US 40 to town (4 miles).

From Ft Collins: Take CO 14 West, through Poudre Canyon, over Cameron Pass until Walden, CO. Take CO 14 (toward Steamboat Springs) until US 40, and turn right (West) over Muddy and Rabbit Ears Passes to Steamboat Springs.



From Grand Junction: Take I 70 West through Glenwood Springs and Eagle to Exit 157(117 miles). Take CO 131 North (75 miles) to US 40. Turn left on US 40 to Steamboat Springs (4 miles).

From Park City/Salt Lake City, UT: Take US 40/UT 189 South to Heber City, UT. Stay on US 40, Steamboat Springs is about 5 1/2 hours from Park City.

From Laramie, Wyoming: Take WY 230 West (Snowy Range exit) through Mountain Home to the Wyoming/Colorado border, the road changes to CO 127. Stay on CO 127 to Walden. Take CO 14 West to US 40 at Muddy Pass and Rabbit Ears Pass to Steamboat Springs.

INSIDER TIP! If you intend to rent a car... Make sure you have your route planned out and know the road conditions ahead of time.

Tips For Transportation:

- Download and print out all your maps and driving directions before you leave.
- Be prepared for winter driving by making sure your wiper fluids are full and your vehicle is capable to make the trip.
- Check for mountain pass closures, construction, and road conditions at www.cotrip.org or by calling 877-315-7623 for the Colorado Department of Transportation Road Information Hotline.
- Use the drive time to get the kids ready for their skiing or snowboarding experience. You can talk about what to expect, review additional activities or just watch for wildlife along the route.

FREQUENTLY ASKED TRAVEL QUESTIONS

1.) Do planes fly during winter weather?

All winter long, planes from all over the country fly in and out of Steamboat/Hayden Airport and the Denver International Airport (DIA). We land non-stop flights from nine metropolitan areas as well as commuter planes from DIA in Hayden, only 22 miles from downtown Steamboat. It's easy and dependable!

2.) Do we need to take a winter ice-driving course before driving from Denver to Steamboat and rent a 4-wheel drive vehicle in order to make it over the mountain passes?

Steamboat is a 3.5-hour drive from Denver through some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. I-70 and CO Hwy 40 are major Colorado thoroughfares that are plowed and deiced regularly during snowstorms. Any vehicle with snow tires should be fine for driving on Colorado roads. Many people choose to book shuttle ground transportation from DIA directly to their lodging in Steamboat. Take your time and enjoy the sights on your way to Steamboat. The journey is a scenic part of the vacation!

3.) Can I travel and ski in the same day?

Our direct flights into the Steamboat/Hayden Airport can get you here in the morning in time to hop the lift by noon. Even with the 3.5-hour drive from Denver, you can be parked in our convenient mountain parking lots and loading the Gondola by noon assuming you begin driving at 8 a.m. Many avid skiers traveling will arrange their travel to include a few hours of skiing or riding, either during their arrival day or departure day. For families and first timers, however, we recommend taking your time to get oriented to the town, before your first day on the slopes. It will keep things simpler and a lot more hassle-free!



4.) Can kids really handle a winter vacation, or should we leave them at home?

Steamboat is consistently ranked as America's # 1 family ski resort! We love kids and have just about everything you can think of to keep your whole family happy. From toddlers to teens, we have programs tailored just for them! Skiing and snowboarding is one activity the whole family can do together. You may not all play soccer together, but skiing or snowboarding is easy enough that the whole family can all take a run together and have a great time. Kids learn incredibly fast!—Don't be surprised if your little ones pass you down the hill by the end of the vacation! Skiing and snowboarding are terrific sports to learn at any age. For more information about our friendly kids' programs, [click here](#).

5.) It seems like a big hassle to go skiing; all the stuff, all the gear, the bulky winter clothing... isn't it easier to just book a cruise?

Well it's true that taking a winter vacation includes a little more clothing than a trip to the tropics. The key is to do your inventory at home, take only what you need and think about function more than form. And if you forget something, there are hundreds of shops in Steamboat that can provide you with whatever you need. A ski vacation with your family is an opportunity to come together and create memories that won't soon be forgotten. Not to even mention, the value and self confidence that comes with learning a new sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

6.) Do we have to travel with all our equipment, is it better to rent while we're there?

Many people who are new to the sport rent everything, but if you're a seasoned veteran, consider bringing your ski or snowboard boots and renting the hard gear at the mountain. Steamboat has the newest high-end performance skis and snowboards so you'll be able to travel light and experience the latest advancements in winter gear. [Click here](#) for information about Rental Equipment and reduce the hassles of over-packing!

7. We're traveling with a pre-school child or infant, what do we do?

It's always best to double-check all travel arrangements for children and infants with regard to car seats, airline seating, renting a car or taking the airport shuttle. Typically, airlines will allow Infants under 2 years of age to sit on the lap of a parent at no extra charge when approved ahead of time. However, you may wish to purchase an additional seat if you desire to bring your car seat on the airplane. Be sure you have arrangements for the appropriate type of car seat, if you do not intend to bring your own. Specify infant rear-facing, toddler forward-facing or booster, if you are reserving one through the rental car agency. [Click here](#) for additional information on preparing your kids for the vacation.

Ski/Ride Lessons at Steamboat

- **Book Lesson Reservations Early!**
 - During busy holiday periods, lessons fill up and lines to purchase tickets can be long.
- We make learning to ski and snowboard EASY! The Steamboat Ski & Snowboard School can show you how to have fun on the slopes and get the most out of your vacation. Our instructors come from all over the world just to teach you and your family how to ski/ride. If you learn correctly, you'll pick up the sport quickly [Click here](#) for more information about our Ski & Snowboard School lesson programs.
- You can book all lessons with the Ski & Snowboard School and Kids Vacation Center (KVC) by calling us toll free at 1-800-299-5017. You may also book lessons upon arrival at either our Ski &



Snowboard School Ticket Office or the Main Ticket Office. [Click here](#) to view all our programs and products.

- Upon booking, you will receive a confirmation letter from us with all appropriate forms that need to be completed. If all forms can be sent back in time, we will mail back tickets and everything you need to go right to your lessons! [Click here](#) to access forms and liability releases.
- If you book closer to your arrival date, you will receive only a confirmation letter. You will need to bring this letter to the Ski & Snowboard School Ticket Office prior to your lessons to redeem for tickets.
- You can always get your lesson tickets the day of the lesson. Plan on arriving at the Ski & Snowboard School Ticket Office early so that you can get your lift and lesson tickets and still have time to pick up your rentals before class. During peak vacation periods, you might want to arrive as early as 8:00 am so you can easily get your tickets, pick up your rentals, grab a quick breakfast or snack, use the restroom and make it to your lesson without having to hurry. In slower times you can probably arrive at 8:30 a.m. for a 9:30 a.m. start, or 9:00 a.m. for a 10:00 a.m. start.

INSIDER TIP! If you purchase your lessons the DAY OF... Go to the Ticket Office prior to your lesson and get your tickets!

What can adults expect during their beginner lesson?

- You will spend time getting to know your instructor and the other people in the group at the beginning of the lesson. This introduction period is important to help everyone get comfortable and ready to learn.
- You will learn all about your equipment, how to put it on and off, and the basics of maneuvering around on a flat surface. You may feel awkward at first, but your instructor will take the time you need to feel comfortable.
- There are many different types of learners: some people like to watch and imitate, some need specific verbal directions and others prefer to learn by trial and error. Your instructor will try to use a multi-dimensional approach to learning so that each individual gets the most out of their lesson.
- In the first morning, you can expect to learn how to glide and stop, perhaps even turn. Everyone learns at a different rate, so if you are a little slower to catch on, give it a chance!
- When you are ready, you will learn how to ride the chair lift. This will give you a chance to rest your legs between practicing the basics.
- Feel free to ask your instructor anything along the way. Let them know if you need a drink of water, if you have a sore spot in your boot, if you don't understand something or simply just need a rest.
- It's okay to quit early if you get too tired. There's always tomorrow!



How to prep your children for kids' ski school:

- Especially for pre-school age children, the more familiar they are with skiing before arrival, the easier their day in lessons will be! Prep the kids at home by watching videos or movies of skiing!
- Wearing hats, gloves, goggles, helmets and all the other "stuff" can be overwhelming. Practice wearing everything at home. Make it a game, play "super hero" or see how fast they can put everything on or take it off.
- If you can rent ski boots and skis at home, have your child wear the boots in the house for a while. They can be hard to walk in! Get them used to wearing just the boots before putting on skis.
- Once boots are comfortable, have your child put on one ski. They can walk around on the living room carpet or out in the back yard, but keep the skis off pavement or any other rough surface.
- Pre-school age children do MUCH better at Ski School if they have been to some sort of learning experience (away from mom & dad) prior to coming to Steamboat. If your child has never been away from mom & dad, you may want to check in periodically to make sure separation anxiety is not overwhelming or detrimental to their first ski experience.
- If you get to Steamboat while lessons are in progress the day before your family is scheduled to start, make a point to visit the KVC and show your pre-school age child what happens at ski school.
- Be sure to go into the KVC and familiarize your child with the building.

Tips For Parents:

- If your child is attending KVC for multiple days, on the 2nd day you can check in at the back door (under the Gondola bay, nearest the snow) and avoid the lines in the front lobby! Once you've had the initial check in day, following days will be a lot quicker.
- Go outside and watch other children skiing. You will find beginner classes conveniently close to the KVC. Take as much time as needed to set your child's expectations visually. Remember, children this age will have a better grasp of what will happen if they SEE it, rather than you telling them about it.
- Walk over to our beginner area on the Preview Lift. You may observe kids of all ages learning to ski and snowboard. Watch the fun as a family and get ready to learn!
- Save time and label all of your child's equipment with his/her name. When you check in at the Kids Vacation Center with your preschool child, you will be provided with green tape and marking pens to clearly mark any items not already labeled. Older children will meet outside and will not be provided with marking materials.
- Put all necessary items into your child's pockets. Put your name and contact phone number, the name of the lodge or condo where you are staying in Steamboat and any other information needed on a card. In another pocket, put lip balm with UV protection and small tube of sunscreen with at least 30 to 45 UV protection. For older kids & teens, make sure all appropriate lift & lesson tickets are in pockets or attached to clothing.



- Try to arrive a little early, but not so early that your child has to wait a long time before the lesson starts.
- A Parents Guide to Snowsports is available from the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA).

Lesson Meeting Areas

- All of our programs meet in different locations! Make sure to get your meeting location when signing up for lessons.
- Once you arrive at the meeting area, our friendly instructors will greet you and escort you to your proper meeting spot. You'll have time to set your stuff down, adjust your boots, meet new friends and get ready to learn!
- If you are dropping off children, our staff will assist you in getting them to the right spot. There are always plenty of staff members on hand to make sure your children are attended to and so that you can get to your lesson on time.
- During busy times, our meeting areas can seem hectic. We teach a lot of people at Steamboat, but have excellent procedures to make sure everyone gets to the right spot and ultimately in the right class. If you are taking lessons for the first time during our peak holiday season, know that our staff is experienced in dealing with lots of people!

Lift tickets

- You will get a LIFT TICKET, which attaches to your clothing with a zip tie. This ticket allows you to ride our lifts and is non-transferable. Your lift ticket gets checked each time you ride a lift at Steamboat, so it should be in plain view. You will also get a LESSON TICKET. This ticket should go in your pocket and your instructor will collect it once you are settled into your class.
- The kids will get a lift and lesson ticket as well as a "Report Card." Again, attach the lift ticket to their clothing with a zip tie and place the lesson ticket and report card in a secure pocket. Instructors will fill out the report card, at the end of the day, as a way to show you everything your child has learned during the day.
- If you want your children to walk home independently from their lesson, you must sign the front of the report card indicating they may leave the meeting area at the end of the day without a designated parent to pick them up.
- If you have purchased a lift, lesson and rental package, you will also receive a voucher to pick up your skis or snowboard in the rental shop. Simply present this voucher for your equipment. You will have additional paperwork in the rental shop. Rental vouchers may only be redeemed at Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporate rental outlets. [Click here](#) for more information about our Rental Shops.

Beginner Advice



Clothing: Dress for Varying Weather

Your enjoyment of skiing or snowboarding is directly related to your physical comfort... or discomfort. You may not be familiar with our varying weather, so here are some facts to take note of:

- Rocky Mountain winters have can have extremely cold temperatures, and days are usually mixed with snow and wind at the peaks.
- Mountain temperatures can change significantly in an instant. Watch for fast-moving clouds, and dress accordingly.
- Sometimes temperatures are warmer at mid-mountain than at the top of the mountain, and sometimes it's the opposite during temperature inversions. Take note of our updates on temperature and wind at the base of the mountain before you ride the gondola.
- In addition to the colder elements, some weeks of the year are marked with extremely warm days and bright sunshine. The weather is completely unpredictable, so you should pack clothing for a variety of situations.

General Guidelines for Skiing and Snowboarding Clothing

- **Layers=Warmth:** 2-3 medium weight layers are usually warmer than one bulky garment. Air trapped between layers insulates. Layers also help wick sweat away to keep you warm and dry.
- **Keep your middle warm:** If your mid-section is warm, your extremities will also stay warmer.
- **Keep dry:** New technologically advanced fabrics are made to be moisture resistant and dry quickly. Make sure your gloves are insulated and waterproof. Make sure your outer layer is a fabric that is relatively waterproof and windproof. Keep an eye on the kids so they don't roll in the snow and get wet prior to their lesson.
- **Cover your head:** You can lose up to 50% of your heat through an uncovered head! Wear your hat or helmet to help keep your whole body warm. A "neck gator" is an excellent piece of clothing that keeps cold air from getting on your neck, and is less cumbersome than a scarf.
- **Feet:** This may require a purchase. You should to wear only 1 pair of socks in ski or snowboard boots. Bulky wool socks are a thing of the past. You can get wool-blends in a lightweight yet extremely warm material made especially for skiing, snowboarding or hiking. The cost of good ski-type socks is usually from \$10 to \$20, depending on your area.
- **Hands:** Mittens are warmer than gloves. Lightweight "driving" gloves will not be adequate. Wool or rag-type mittens will get wet and should not be considered. Most discount department stores will have mittens and gloves in stock. Rule of thumb is if you buy cheap, you may not be as happy as if you spend the money for the right thing. A good pair of gloves or mittens may cost as much as \$30 to \$70, depending on your area. This may be an item that you wait to purchase at the ski area to make sure you have a good selection.
- **Torso:** Thermal underwear is great but you do not need to go purchase new items if you don't already have them. A long-sleeve tee shirt, turtleneck, sweater or sweatshirt, vest and/or jacket are fine for most days in Steamboat. Check out the new polypropylene sport shirts to stay warm and dry!



- **Legs:** If you don't have thermal underwear, you can wear workout tights underneath your outerwear. Don't wear nylon stockings, as your feet will sweat and then your ski socks may slip in the boots, which will cause blisters. If you do not have snow pants, sweatpants or flannel pants under a waterproofing outerwear that will keep your warmers layer dry.
- **Head:** You will need a warm hat or helmet to cover your head most days in Steamboat. Something that covers your ears is preferable. Scarves are okay but can come untied and cause a hazard on lifts. A neck gator is like a hat with 2 holes, it keeps your neck warm and can be pulled up over your face. Neck gators typically cost around \$15 to \$20 dollars.
- **Eyes:** Protect your eyes: It is especially important to have eye protection at high altitude. When snowing or very cold, goggles work best. On a bright sunny day, either wear dark goggles or UV protecting sunglasses that cover your eyes from all sides. You may need to wait and purchase goggles at the ski area if you cannot find them in your area. Unfortunately goggles aren't cheap, plan to spend anywhere from \$50 to \$150!

Ski Equipment

- **Skis:**
 - Short skis are the ticket! Your skis should not be taller than your chest, and if you can get them shorter, try to do so! New teaching skis are around 125 to 150 cm. If your rental shop does not have new teaching skis, go somewhere else! Short skis make it easier and more fun to learn how to ski.
 - The bindings are designed to hold the skis on your feet when skiing, and release if you fall. Make sure the rental shop shows you how to work your bindings. You will get additional instruction and practice if you choose to attend a beginner lesson.
- **Boots:**
 - Ski boots will definitely feel strange at first. You should only wear 1 pair of socks and make sure they are smooth along your shins. No other clothing should be bunched up inside the boot. Boots should be snug but not overly tight. You should not be able to lift your heel up and down when they are buckled.
 - To walk in your boots, you may leave your top buckles loose and then tighten them up for skiing. Use a heel-to-toe motion when walking. The boots are made for a skiing position, so you will feel your knees bending more forward than usual.
- **Poles:**
 - Children do not use poles when learning to ski. Preschool age children will probably not use them at all, and school age children usually get poles at Level 4 or 5. (Low Intermediate Level) Poles just get in the way for kids, so don't feel the need to push them to get poles too soon!
 - For adults, poles should be tall enough so that your elbow is bent at a 90-degree angle when holding them. As a beginner, poles primarily help you walk in lift lines. You don't really learn how to use the poles while skiing until Level 6 (Mid-Intermediate Level).

Snowboard Equipment

- **Snowboards:**
 - Your snowboard should not be taller than your chin. Getting a board that is a little shorter to start can make learning a little easier.



- There are different types of bindings for snowboards. Some strap over your boots and others allow you step into a plate that holds your boots to the board. Just ask at the shop for assistance in learning how to use the bindings, and which bindings are best for you and the weather.
- **Boots**
 - Snowboard boots will definitely feel strange at first. You should only wear 1 pair of socks and make sure they are smooth along your shin. No other clothing should be bunched up inside the boot. Boots should be snug but not overly tight. You should not be able to lift your heel up and down when they are laced.

FREQUENTLY ASKED BEGINNER QUESTIONS

1.) Why should I even think about learning to ski or snowboard?

Imagine this... A crystal clear day with a sky so blue it hurts your eyes. And white, fresh white snow with sparkling crystals shimmering, shining and twinkling all around you. Imagine trees the size of sailing masts and the dark green color of pine contrasting the landscape. Dotted throughout is the outline of spotted aspen trees, bare for the winter but alive with eyes that watch as you glide silently through the snow. Imagine yourself learning how to ski or snowboard in this incredible environment. Timid and unsure at first, but realizing that you can do it! You too are now a part of the fun, the spirit and the passion we call winter snowsport. At Steamboat, we make it easy for you to step into your very first ski or snowboard trip. Let us show you how to get started for a life-long adventure of snowsport fun.

2.) Why do so many people love skiing and snowboarding?

- It's FUN!
- It's an exciting change from daily routines and pressures.
- Each time you go, there's a new challenge to meet and a new accomplishment to take pride in.
- You're in a mountain environment with astonishing beauty. You feel healthy and alive.
- Beginners have the same fun, thrill and enjoyment as experts. Right from the very first day, you can have fun gliding on snow, no matter how basic the experience!
- It's a great way to meet new friends or for a family to enjoy an activity together.

3.) Am I too old to start?

You can learn to ski or snowboard at any age! New equipment, user-friendly lifts, impeccable snow grooming and guaranteed teaching methods help you learn faster, with less fatigue and with a greater level of success than ever before.

4.) What is easier to learn, skiing or snowboarding?

This depends - here are some of the differences: **In skiing**, you have mobility on two feet. If you have roller-skated, ice-skated or cross-country skied, you will find starting with skiing relatively easy. For people a little more out-of-shape, or those who perhaps are timid and unsure, skiing may be the way to go. With shorter skis, a magic carpet lift to help you practice the basics on the beginner slope, and an instructor, most people are able to maneuver around, stop, make gentle turns and ride a chairlift on their very first day! **In snowboarding**, both feet are attached to the snowboard. If you have ridden a skateboard, single water skied or ridden a toboggan, you will find starting with snowboarding relatively easy. The first day is perhaps the most trying, as learning to get up from a sitting position and gliding on the snow can take a little extra effort. **HOWEVER** - many people say that once you get through the first day, learning to



snowboard is easier than skiing! Give yourself a couple of days to get the feel for it, and you'll be up on the mountain in no time! It's really up to you.

Both sports are fun, and **EVERYONE** gets to glide down the mountain on the beginner hill their first day. Either way, you'll get the same sensations, exhilaration and fun!

5.) How safe is skiing and snowboarding?

Statistically, skiing and snowboarding are no more hazardous than bicycling or playing tennis. New shorter length skis and snowboards, specially made bindings and supportive boots have all been designed to minimize the risk of injury. Many skiers and snowboarders choose to wear helmets and some snowboarders wear protective wrist guards when learning. All of this equipment is available to rent or purchase, and Steamboat's friendly staff will help you make the right choice for your personal experience.

Most importantly, an ounce of know-how goes a long way. When you learn with lessons from a professional ski or snowboard instructor, they will teach you all the easiest ways to maneuver and ride your snowsport equipment. They will also provide you with helpful tips for safe navigation on the slopes. At Steamboat, our instructors take time to educate every student on the Skier's Responsibility Code for the safety of all snowsport participants.

6.) What is the "Skier's Responsibility Code?"

1. Always stay in control, and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.
2. People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.
3. You must not stop where you obstruct a trail, or are not visible from above.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging onto a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
5. Always use devices that help prevent runaway equipment.
6. Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
7. Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.

Know the Code! This is a partial list. Be safety conscious. Officially endorsed by: National Ski Areas Association, National Ski Patrol and Professional Ski Instructors of America.

7.) Do I have to be in great shape to learn to ski or snowboard?

You don't have to be an athlete to learn to ski or snowboard. Today, modern equipment does most of the work for you. New teaching methodologies get you started faster with less effort, and easy Magic Carpet Lifts allow you to minimize walking during the first several hours of your beginner's lesson.

If you do some exercising before your trip, you will avoid fatigue and sore muscles while learning faster. Walking briskly, bicycling, skating of any kind, jogging, jumping rope and of course, stretching are all excellent ways to prepare yourself for your trip. Also remember to drink plenty of water before and during your trip at this high altitude. Most of all, take a lesson when you arrive so that you learn how to ski or snowboard correctly. Proper technique takes less effort than trial and error or having a friend teach you. Our pros will pace your experience to meet your style while making learning FUN!

8.) How long will it take to learn?

For your first day on skis, you'll learn how to put on and off your equipment, walk and maneuver around, get up from the snow, stop, turn, and ride a lift. On snowboards, you'll learn how to put on and off your equipment, get up from the snow, glide down the hill in balance, side slip on toe and heel side, stop, drift from side to side down the slope, and ride a lift.

Compared to other sports, snowsports have a very fast learning curve! Tennis for example, takes a long time to keep the ball in play in order for it to be fun. Organized sports have so many positions and play



rules that it takes months, even years, to learn to play with others. Imagine that on your very first day, you'll be cruising around on the beginner slope and enjoying the sensations of gliding on snow within just a few hours!

Many people say that after just three lessons, you'll have enough skill to enjoy yourself on the easier slopes. Of course, there's always more to learn! "Even Michael Jordan has a coach!"—In other words, getting a pro to help you brush up on your technique is always a good idea. Good technique always makes it easier!

9.) What if I don't like skiing or snowboarding?

We teach thousands of beginning skiers and snowboarders every year. From ages 2 to 92, everyone can learn to enjoy winter snowsports. People with disabilities, people of all shapes, sizes and colors, people from sports backgrounds to people who have never participated in any sport before, can all learn and enjoy the experience!

The key is to participate at the level comfortable for you. Some people hit it hard all day while others only ski or snowboard for a half day.

There is [a lot to do](#) in and around the Steamboat Springs! This is a partial list of other things to do while on vacation in Steamboat:

- Cross Country Skiing
- Gourmet Snowshoe Hike
- Hot Air Balloon Rides
- Hot Tubing or Sleigh Rides or Dog Sledding
- Ice Skating
- Shopping
- Snowmobile Trips
- Soaking in one of the world-famous Hot Springs in Steamboat Springs!
- Waterfall ice-climbing
- Winter Fly Fishing

10.) Okay, How much does it cost? How do I book a vacation?

No matter where you live or what your budget, you can book a specialized vacation package right for you! [Steamboat Central Reservations®](#) can provide you with information, book air or ground travel, lodging or reserve lift tickets, rentals and lessons all in one toll-free phone call.

CHILDCARE

Steamboat has a world-class staff, specially trained staff to care for non-skiing children, ages 6 months to Kindergarten age. All staff members have specific experience, training and certifications in Child Care, including:

- Current First Aid and CPR Certification
- Background checks
- At least 3 years experience working with kids in Child Care setting
- Background and/or degree in Early Childhood Education
- Talent, desire and "gift" for working with this age group!



Book Early!

To maintain our specific child-to-attendant ratios, all Child Care Programs have limited space available. To ensure Child Care during your necessary times, you must reserve your spot early! [Click here](#) to book your Child Care. Fill out pre-registration forms and get everything set prior to your departure!

Easy drop-off for Child Care is in Gondola Parking Lot 1.

Steamboat Child Care is completely contained in a facility conveniently located on the ground floor of the Gondola Building. With easy drop off from the Gondola 1 Parking Lot ([click here for maps](#)), and lockers and restrooms nearby, getting your child to our program should be relatively hassle-free! Child Care has a dedicated Infant Room, Toddler Room and Preschool Room in which we maintain a specific child/attendant provider/child ratio.

No need to bring extra toys for your child...we've got plenty!

Children are entertained with age-appropriate activities while you enjoy your day on the slopes. Preschool age children enjoy a positive learning environment and plenty of activities during the day. There are plenty of toys, books, games and fun for your precious little one!

Let the staff know how they are doing with your child!

The primary goal of the staff is to provide quality Child Care so that you are free to enjoy your day on the slopes!

- Our Child Care Providers are on-hand to tell you about the day and to let you know how your child did in the program!
- Take a few extra minutes to speak with our friendly staff. A conversation will bring you peace of mind!

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

- The Steamboat Ski & Snowboard School has very specific policies and procedures should there be an accident. Rest assured that it does NOT happen often, and we have excellent staff that is well trained in handling these situations.
- In the event of an injury, our professional Ski Patrol team will transport your child to Fetcher Base Headquarters, located on the west side of the base area, near the bottom of the Christie II & III Lifts, adjacent to the Thunderhead Lodge & Condominiums at the end of Ski Time Square. ([MAP](#))



- At the top of every lift, there is a CALL BOARD. Always take a glance at these boards for your name to be posted, just in case. Should there be a problem during the day, and you do not have a cell phone or a pager, we will post your name on all CALL BOARDS. The lift attendants will help you call Ski Patrol for your message.
- Should parents have an accident while children are in lessons, Ski Patrol will notify Ski & Snowboard School and can follow any specific directions from you or to deliver any messages to your children.

INSIDER TIPS!

How to Beat the Crowds:

- Jump in on first tracks! Load the Gondola before everyone else and ski powder in Priest Creek!
- Get on the Gondola before 9:00am. Ski high on the mountain until the crowds make it up there around 11:00am. Take lunch early and then ski all the great runs below the Gondola, making laps on the Thunderhead Express lift. No crowds, great snow!

Best Place for a Coffee and Bagel:

- Gondola Joes is just steps from the Gondola - you can literally grab and go!
- If your morning coffee has to be Starbucks, there is one located adjacent to the lobby in the Sheraton Hotel at the base area.

Where to go for Dinner with the Kids:

- Call for a delivery from one of Steamboat's great restaurants. Pizza parlors and other family establishments in town make life easy!

When to Get Your Skis or Board Waxed:

- If the temperature changes dramatically during your vacation, go get a wax!
- If you feel like your skis or board is sticking or sluggish, it's time to get a wax!
- When temperatures are below zero, you may need to change your wax.

Best Place to Get Some Powder:

- Priest Creek, the Chutes and the runs below the Gondola - everyone else heads to the top!
- Designated tree skiing areas—which are all over Steamboat!
- Pioneer Ridge.

Where to Go If You Like to the cruise spaces:

- Sunshine Bowl—any time
- Heavenly Daze. They don't call it "Heavenly" for nothing!
- Cowboy Coffee down to the Morningside Chair.



FIRST TIME TO STEAMBOAT?

Get Acquainted

There are two main sections of Steamboat Springs, the downtown area and the mountain area. See our online maps of these areas of Steamboat to get yourself acquainted before your arrival to maximize your first few days in the area!

Transportation

Take advantage of the FREE Steamboat Springs Transit (SST) bus service. Steamboat is a small town with an excellent, FREE bus service. Whether you rent a ski-in, ski-out condo or stay at an economical motel, in most cases you don't need a car to enjoy this town! All SST busses are equipped with ski and board racks, bike racks, and wheelchair lifts. Be sure to check with your specific lodging property for details on bus stop locations or their own provided transportation. Click here for more information about SST.

Gift Cards

Steamboat Gift Cards work like a gift certificate, only better! As good as cash, they never expire and are accepted everywhere including all retail outlets, restaurants and lift ticket locations at Steamboat Ski Resort. [Buy one now!](#)

INSIDER TIP! Buy a Steamboat Gift Card for your kids so they don't have to carry cash on the mountain!

FAMILY FRIENDLY SAFETY

Use the Buddy System!

Always ski or ride with a friend whenever possible. Use the Buddy System especially during big snow cycles and when skiing or riding in the trees. If you must go alone, always let someone know where you plan to go and when you intend to return. Most lost people are victims of improper or incomplete planning.

Have a Plan

The most important thing to do when you are with a group is to develop contingency plans in the event you get separated. There is a big public message "dry-erase" board at the top of the gondola where you can leave informal messages for your friends or family, however, the most effective strategy is to plan ahead.

In the event of a lost child, report to Ski Patrol by calling extension #5911. There are telephones at the top and bottom of every lift, in on-mountain restaurants and ticket offices at the Base Area. When you contact Ski Patrol, please give them the name of the child, their age and a complete description. If everyone follows the same protocol we can reunite parties in a timely manner.

Talk with your children and give them a plan in case they get lost. Have them go to a lift and ask for help. If a child is under 12, we will dispatch a patroller to escort the child to the nearest ski patrol station and hopefully entertain them until reunification. A great idea with children is to write down all your contact information and place it in their pocket. Tell your child to give the information to Ski Patrol if are ever lost.



Know How to Contact Ski Patrol

If someone is injured, you should remove your skis and place them upright in the snow, making an "X" that can be seen when other ski down above the injury site. Ask someone to go to the bottom of the nearest lift and call for Ski Patrol. Get an accurate description of your location, a description of the injured party and if possible the nature of the injury. This will facilitate a speedy response by the Ski Patrol.

Watch for your Name on Emergency Message Boards!

At the top of every lift there are Emergency Message Boards with names of people that will be directed to call the Ski Patrol Headquarters (ext. 5911). If you have children in ski school or on their own, or just other members of your vacation party, keep an eye out for your name on those boards. This system is extremely useful when used appropriately. *Note: These boards are reserved for emergency medical messages only.*

Location of Ski Patrol Facilities

The Ski Patrol maintains a receiving facility called Fetcher Base Patrol. It is located at the base of the Christie Chair Lifts at the end of Ski Time Square.

Yampa Valley Medical Center

If the injured party requires extensive medical attention they will be transported to the Yampa Valley Medical Center (970-879-1322). The hospital is located approximately 1.5 miles from the base of the ski area. As you head west on Mount Werner Circle toward Highway 40, turn right on Steamboat Boulevard, and proceed approximately ¼ mile, then turn left on Central Park Drive. The hospital is located on your right. Maps and directions to the hospital are also available at Fetcher Base Patrol, the Information Center in the Gondola Base area, as well as any Ski Patrol station.

Fatigue in an Alpine Environment

If you get "really" tired, consider riding the gondola down at the end of the day. The most common cause of injuries on the mountain is due to fatigue. Try not to overdue it, especially on your first day. If you are coming from sea level, give yourself time to acclimate. Everyone is excited to be here and that first day is usually filled with magic. Riding down the gondola or quitting when you are tired will increase the chance of a repeat performance tomorrow and for the rest of your stay!

ABOUT STEAMBOAT

The Mountain

Steamboat is actually a complete mountain range: Mount Werner, Sunshine Peak, Storm Peak, Thunderhead Peak, Pioneer Ridge® and Christie Peak. 2,939 acres (1176 hectares) of permitted terrain offer a diversity of trails for all levels of ability. Mavericks Superpipe, the longest on the continent, is a freerider's dream. Mavericks is 500 feet long, 56-foot wide, has 18 foot walls, and a 17 foot radius. Steamboat's SoBe terrain park adjacent to Mavericks, features an outdoor sound system, a variety of rails; kinked, sliders, rainbows, "S", mailboxes, double barrel, and Mini-Mav, a miniature version of the superpipe with five-foot walls, perfect for novice riders. Gladed areas of Pioneer Ridge, Sunshine and Storm Peak are Steamboat's particular claim to fame, with Champagne Powder® snow in the trees for the most avid powder hounds.

Snowfall Totals 2007-2008: 489"/1242 cm

Mountain Stats

- Base Elevation: 6,900 feet/2103 meters



- Mid-mountain Elevation: 9,080 feet/2768 meters
- Summit Elevation: 10,568 feet/3224 meters
- Vertical Rise: 3,668 feet/1118 meters - Second highest in Colorado!

Trail System

- Permitted Acres: 2,965 acres/1,200 hectares
- Trails: 165 named trails - over 65 miles/105 km of trails
- Trail Classification: 14% Beginner 42% Intermediate 44% Advanced
- Uphill Capacity: 33,619 per hour
- Snowmaking: 375 acres
- Longest Run: "Why Not," Over 3 miles/4.8 km
- Pillow Count: 17,281 pillows

2008/2009 Season Dates

- Full Season: November 26, 2008 - April 12, 2009
 - Regular Season: December 19, 2008- April 5, 2009
 - Early Season: November 26, 2008 - December 18, 2008
 - Late Season: April 6, 2009 - April 12, 2009
- Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. daily

Note: November 26, 2008 is Scholarship Day. Lift tickets may be purchased for \$15.00 and benefit the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club. Season Passes and Super Value Passes will not be valid on this day.

Steamboat and the Environment

The Steamboat Ski Area is located in Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest. Recreation on this public land is provided by a unique partnership between the Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation and the Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest. Steamboat is committed to the wise use of our natural resources, as well as the preservation and enhancement of the Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest. Our efforts in this area include the improvements of wildlife habitat, erosion control, water conservation and recycling of waste products. We are also committed to the use of recycled materials. Steamboat received national recognition by winning the 2002, 1998 & 1993 Silver Eagle Awards, which recognizes the environmental achievements of ski areas in North America. The resort was also a finalist for the 2003 & 2000 Silver Eagle award and the 1994 Golden Eagle award. Read more about Steamboat's commitment to the environment [here](#).

Contact Steamboat

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