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In Illinois

Though ski areas in Illinois are not nearly as plentiful as in Wisconsin or Michigan, good ski opportunities do exist for both beginners and skiers with more experience.

Illinois offers eight ski sites in the northern part of the state, all of which draw heavily from northern and central Illinois, especially on weekends.

Here is a summary of each:

— Buffalo Mountain Ski Area, Algonquin 60102. Phone: (312) 426-7328. Runs: four; longest run, 1,000 feet; vertical slope, 200 feet. Lifts: six. Snowmaking, instruction, rentals, snack bar.

— Chestnut Mountain Lodge, Galena 61036. Phone: (815) 777-1320. Runs: 13; longest run, 3,200 feet; vertical slope, 465 feet. Lifts: 10. Snowmaking, instruction, rentals, lodging, restaurant, ski shop.

— Four Lakes Ski Area, Lisle 60532. Phone: (312) 964-2550. Runs: 80 percent intermediate, 20 percent beginner; longest run, 1,100 feet; vertical slope, 130 feet. Lifts: six. Snowmaking, instruction, rentals, indoor recreation, day lodge with cafeteria.

— Holiday Park, Ingleside 60014. Phone: (312) 546-8222. Runs: open slopes for beginners and intermediate skiers; longest run: 1,400; vertical slope, 200 feet. Lifts: six. Snowmaking, instruction, snowmobiling, tobogganing, day lodge with restaurant, snack bar, lounge, disco.

— James Park Winter Sports, Evanston 60201. Phone: (312) 869-9449. Runs: one open slope; longest run, 300 feet; vertical slope, 300 feet. Snowmaking, instruction, two indoor ice skating rinks, outdoor rinks, sledding, tobagganing, tubing, snack bar at day lodge.

— Marriott's Lincolnshire Resort, Lincolnshire. Phone: (312) 634-0100. Runs: one, 100 percent beginner; vertical drop, 50 feet. Lifts: one. Instruction, indoor recreation, lodging, restaurants, lounges.

— Plumtree Ski Area, Shannon 61078. Phone: (815) 493-2881. Runs: open slopes; vertical drop, 185 feet. Lifts: two. Snowmaking, instruction, snowmobiling, restaurant, lounges.

— Villa Olivia Ski Area, Bartlett 60103. Phone: (312) 742-5200. Runs: 12, open slopes; longest run, one-fourth mile; vertical drop, 180 feet. Lifts: 13. Instruction, cross-country skiing, golf course, cafeteria and restaurant at day lodge, ski shop, tot program.

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