

From bunny slopes to grand slaloms

The Dubuque area hasn't cornered the market on skiing in Iowa. Perhaps surprisingly for a place that has a reputation for being flat, there are several downhill ski resorts in and near the state. The runs may not be what you'd find in the Rockies, but many visitors use them either to learn to ski, to take the family on an outing, or to practice for the rigors of skiing farther west.

The Quad Cities are served by Snowstar Ski Area, a half-hour away from them near Andalusia, Ill., with eight runs, night skiing, a freestyle aerial jump, and a pre-ski program for toddlers.

For more information, contact: Snowstar Ski Area, 9500 126th St. W., Taylor Ridge, Ill. 61284; (800) 383-4002.

In western Iowa, there are Silver Creek Ski Resort in Humboldt, Mount Crescent near Council Bluffs and Sunset Ski Area in Cherokee.

Day Lodges

These are all-day lodges (no overnight accommodations on-site) and all serve snacks or meals, rent equipment and offer instruction. The rustic-style Silver Creek Ski Resort in Humboldt, established in 1959, is one of the longest established ski resorts in the Midwest.

It has 12 runs and a 140-foot vertical drop, and snowboards and tubes are also allowed. For more information, contact: Silver Creek Ski Resort, 2101 Penn Ave., Humboldt, Ia.