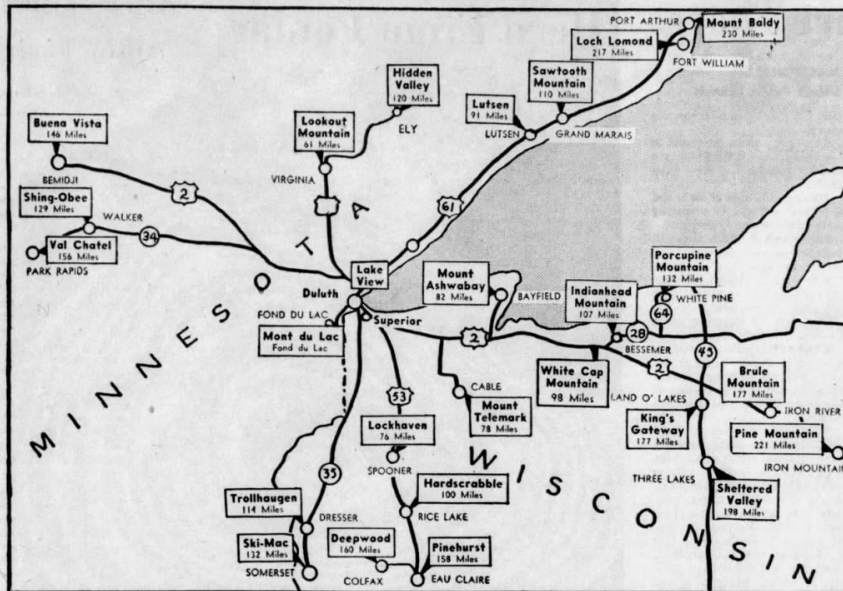


Duluth Region Is Hub of Winter Funland for Skiers



WHERE TO GO? NUMEROUS SKI AREAS ARE WITHIN CONVENIENT DISTANCE.

An Informal Guide to Nearest Facilities

Ski Slopes Beckon to Everyone

Midwest ski resorts have proved through resourcefulness that nature can be improved upon. Although there are few natural mountain ranges in this region, excellent man-made ski hills now abound.

Steepened and smoothed by bulldozers and other earth-moving machinery and then manicured with snow-packing equipment, the vertical drop of these man-made slopes is every inch as challenging as the Alps.

What's more, these ski areas are easily accessible, reasonably priced and custom built to suit every fancy. The skier has his choice of exceptional chalet facilities or, if he chooses, he can rough it, too.

But more and more, the emphasis is on cozy comfort and companionship at ski resorts, for during the past two decades skiing has become a fast growing family sport. Nearly half of today's skiers are women. The advice that skiing is a young man's sport has long been left at the bottom of the tow. Nowadays enthusiasts insist that anyone who can walk can ski — or learn it.

Because competition is great, ski resorts are constantly improving their facilities, providing more of everything for the skier and his family.

With all that in mind, here is an informal guide to most of the better ski areas in this region:

Brule Mountain, at Iron River, Mich., 185 miles east of Duluth on highway 2. Five giant open slopes, ranging from 1,700 to 2,700 feet in length, with 400-foot vertical drop. Tow service is provided by a T-bar and two rope tows. Modern chalet, ski shop and ski school are at the area.

Cliff's Ridge, at Marquette,

Mich., has seven runs ranging from 300 to 3,600 feet in length. Vertical drop, 475 feet. Three rope tows from 300 to 1,200 feet in length and a 1,500-foot T-bar. Shelter, lunch counter and ski school.

Indian Head Mountain, at Bessemer, Mich. Six runs up to 5,000 feet are serviced by two T-bars and one rope tow. Vertical drop is 630 feet. Chalet, snack bar, ski school.

Pine Mountain, at Iron Mountain, Mich., offers six runs serviced by six rope tows and a chair lift. The runs vary in length up to 2,500 feet. Vertical drop is 330 feet. Chalet, snack bar and ski school.

Porcupine Mountain, Ontonagon, Mich. Six runs, up to 4,000 feet in length on a 900-foot vertical drop, are serviced by two double T-bars and five rope tows. Expanded facilities this year include a larger chalet with ski school and snack bar.

Lookout Mountain, Virginia, 60 miles north of Duluth. Large open slopes and trails up to 4,000 feet. Seven trails and two new runs in operation this winter. Tow service includes Minnesota's only chairlift. Seven rope tows provide additional uphill transportation. Night skiing Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Ski school, chalet and snack bar.

Mont du Lac Ski Area, Duluth. Twelve runs up to 2,300 feet on 300-foot vertical drop. Tow service by five rope tows. Night skiing on Tuesday and Thursday. Chalet, food service and ski school.

Sawtooth Mountain, Grand Marais. Nine runs up to 3,600 feet on vertical drop of 730 feet. Three rope tows.

Hardscrabble, Rice Lake, Wis. Eight runs up to 2,000 feet in length, 350-foot vertical drop. Eight tows; chalet, snack bar, ski school and ski shop.

Lackhaven, Spooner, Wis. Runs and trails to 2,000 feet in length. Vertical drop, 200 feet. Five electric rope tows 400 to 1,200 feet. Shelter, cafe and ski shop.

Mount Ashwabay, Bayfield, Wis. Runs to 3,000 feet long. Vertical drop, 317 feet. Five rope tows to 2,500 feet. Shelter, snack bar, ski school.

Mount Telemark, Cable, Wis. Ten runs to 2,600 feet in length on 370-foot vertical drop. Tows consist of three T-bar and ten rope tows. Chalet, snack bar, school and ski shop.

Sheltered Valley, Three Lakes, Wis. Seven runs up to 1,600 feet long. Vertical drop is 200 feet. One palm lift and four rope tows. Chalet, food service and ski school.

Lock Lomond, Fort William, Canada. Seven slopes up to 5,000 feet long. Vertical drop over 700 feet. Two T-bars and one rope tow. New family area and new trail and run. Chalet, ski school and snack bar.

Mount Baldy, Port Arthur, Canada. Numerous runs up to 4,000 feet long. Uphill transportation by rope tows and a new double-chair lift this year. Vertical drop in excess of 1,100 feet. Facilities include chalet, ski school and food service.

White Cap Mt., Hurley, Wis. Eight runs, varying from 1,800 feet to one mile in length. Two T-bars and three rope tows with capacity of 4,000 skiers per hour. Area opened this season.

Pt. William Ski Club, Canada. New double-chair lift, 2,000 feet

long with 530 feet rise. Also two new runs and rope tows.

Hidden Valley, at Ely. Newest winter sports center on the Iron Range, it offers a 90-foot jump with vertical drop of 233 feet; also one cross-country run and four downhill runs served by rope tows. Chalet service.

Lakeview, Duluth. New family ski area near Lester Park, has 10 and 30-meter jumps, two slalom trails and one short trail.

New Sports Area Ready in Duluth

A three-year vision to build a family winter recreation center in the Eastern section of Duluth nears completion as the Seven Bridge Family Ski Area prepares for its first season.

Operated by Lakeview Winter Sports, Inc., a non-profit five-man organization, the \$40,000 winter playground, built largely with volunteer labor, consists of ski jumps, two slalom trails and a short trail. More runs are being planned, including a cross-country run, tobogganing and sledding areas.

At present, the area is celebrating its first annual winter carnival, complete with snow queen and ski jumping tournament.

Leaders of Winter Sports, Inc., are Kenneth Torgerson, president; Fred Anderson, vice president; Joseph Berini, vice president; Robert L. Korn, secretary-treasurer, and Chester Burton, advisor.

Ely Opens Ski Center

Ely is going all-out for winter sports this year, with the opening of its \$30,000 Hidden Valley Winter Sports Center, Northeast Minnesota's newest ski area.

Located just a hoot and a holler east of downtown Ely, Hidden Valley lies in the heart of the region's snow belt.

Construction was financed by contributions from local and area residents and much of the labor was donated.

Much credit for the ski center goes to the Hidden Valley Association consisting of George Bush, president; Charles Strachan, vice president; Ernest Dargis, secretary; Milt Vertin Jr., treasurer; Wayne Berry and Clinton Turfin, planning; Cyrille Fortier, finance; John Somrock, publicity, and Harold Griffen and Arthur Murphy, directors.

It offers five downhill runs with a drop of more than 200 feet. It also has a ski jump and cross-country trails.

The runs are served by rope tows. There is also a new chalet.

How to Ride A Rope Tow

Riding to rope tow is not always as easy as it looks, especially to beginning skiers. Don Schwartz, ski school instructor at Virginia's Lookout Mountain, offers these pointers in an article published by Ski Life magazine:

Even if you are not overly strong in the arms or hands, you can generally ride a tow without too much difficulty. Occasionally, however, when on a steeper incline, you might find the rope sliding through your hands and your forward motion slowing to a stop. The remedy: first, unweight your skis with a sudden drop of the knees. This momentarily takes your body weight off your hands, enabling you to get a new and firmer grip.

As you feel your forward progress resuming, drop your knees even more and keep them well bent until you are underway again.

Often, by midday, you will find your hands and fingers tiring from using the same position. If you continually change during the day, no one hand or arm will then become overfired. For instance, if you use a one-hand-forward-and-one-hand-behind-the-back position, you should alternately rest the hand behind your back, then move both hands to the front grip, taking the strain off the arm that is usually forward on the rope.

With the new colorful clothing worn today, the necessity of riding a wet rope can produce a problem of keeping these clothes clean unless the skier stands in a manner that prevents clothing from rubbing against the rope.

Conditioning

Skis perform better after weather conditioning. When skis are warm, such as when they are taken out of heated cars or lodges, the first contact with snow creates condensation and subsequent freezing. Ice forms on the runners. This can happen even if skis are waxed.

Many skiers prevent this hazard by conditioning their skis to the prevailing temperature.

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