

# Ski resorts

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said Dale Berg, a local ski shop owner with 45 years of experience. "One of the reasons is because the snow is drier than, say, mountains on the west side, and that makes it easier to ski."

## Hoodoo

Hoodoo ski area is 90 minutes from Eugene on the crest of Santiam Pass. There is no bus service offered from Eugene to Hoodoo, but bus service is offered from Corvallis, Albany and Lebanon.

Hoodoo has four chair lifts, 24 runs and a vertical drop of 1,035 feet. It has no daycare but does offer night skiing. An adult lift ticket is \$26, and groomed, marked cross-country ski trail passes are \$6.

"Hoodoo is a very nice, very family-oriented area to go," Berg said.

When deciding whether to try a ski or snowboard adventure remember that preparation is the key to a good time. Check road conditions, familiarize yourself with equipment and get in shape.

Randy Rodgers, former Olympic and University ski coach, recommends stretching

and exercising for a couple of days before skiing or boarding.

"People ski, and they go, 'Oh man, it hurts,'" said Rodgers, current director of skiing at Willamette Pass. "Well, yeah, it would hurt to do anything for eight hours if you'd been dormant for the last three months."

Berg said equipment is crucial and recommends people not wait until the last minute to get gear.


"Come in, try stuff on, don't rush," Berg said. "Familiarize yourself with the equipment before you're up slipping on snow."

Experts suggest first-time skiers take a lesson. All three resorts offer first-timer packages at reduced rates that include rentals, lift ticket and a lesson.

For alternative trips into snow country, be sure to check the Outdoor Program's trip board, located in the EMU basement.

Whether tagging along with the Outdoor Program, driving with friends or relaxing on a ski bus, area ski resorts offer a powdery, white reprieve from Eugene's winter gray.

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