

SKIING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Located within Kosciuszko National Park in the Snowy Mountains, NSW's four snow resorts – Perisher, Thredbo, Charlotte Pass and Selwyn Snow Resort – each has their own style and personality. The resorts have invested heavily in recent years to extend the Winter snow and make sure skiers and boarders have optimal conditions. All-inclusive deals that bundle accommodation with transport, lift passes and equipment hire are a great way to stretch your dollar.

The season generally begins on the June long weekend (the second weekend of the month), with loads of fun events planned throughout the weekend. Now is the time to start planning your Winter holiday – all you have to do is decide where to go.

PERISHER



The largest ski resort in the southern hemisphere, Perisher covers more than 12 square kilometres across seven peaks and four distinct resort areas – Perisher Valley, Blue Cow, Smiggin Holes and Guthega. It's great for all ages and abilities with more than 1,200 hectares of skiable terrain, hundreds of runs, 100km of cross country trails, 47 lifts, five terrain parks and two halfpipes. 240



snow cannons ensure there's a coating of fresh powder for the whole season. The large resort village has lots of places to eat and drink, and other restaurants are spread across the mountains. Once the lifts have closed for the day, there are plenty of welcoming bars and clubs. Enjoy comedy night at the Sundeck Hotel or, for something more refined, you can ski to the piano bar at the Base 1720 Bar and Restaurant or Curve Bar. There are a range of hotels and chalets in Perisher Valley, Guthega and Smiggin Holes. The Skitube conveniently connects Perisher with the outside world, so many people stay outside of the resort.

Where to stay

Corroboree Lodge

This stylish lodge offers spacious rooms, a huge guest lounge with games and DVDs, an in-house bar with a pool table, and an extensive list of wines and whiskies for après ski enjoyment. At night, the kids will be served an earlier two-course meal before heading to the games room to watch a movie, so the adults can savour their three-course meal without interruptions.

Perisher Valley Hotel

Sitting just 100 metres from the base of the Village 8 Express, the Perisher Valley Hotel has great views over the whole resort. The rooms can sleep from two to five people and the Mountain View Suites have an enclosed balcony. Grown ups can relax in the sauna or book an in-house massage while the kids are playing in the games room.

Smiggins Hotel and Apartments

Part of the Smiggins Arcade complex in the heart of the village, the Smiggins Hotel and Apartments has everything you need – like restaurants, take away shops, supermarket, bank and post office – within walking (or skiing) distance. Kids can use the Smigs Kids Club for free and daycare is also available for ages six months to six years.

Perisher Manor

Operating for over 45 years, Perisher Manor is a great option for skiers on a budget who still want the convenience of ski in-ski out. Rooms are compact but clean and sleep two to five guests, close to the base of the Village 8 Express lift. It's also home to The Pub, the largest public bar and food court in the resort.

THREDBO



In Thredbo you'll find Australia's highest lifted point, at 2,037 metres, and the longest ski run, the Crackenback Super Trail that twists and turns for more than five kilometres. It offers 480 hectares of skiable area serviced by 14 lifts, five terrain parks and the largest purpose-built beginners area in the country, Friday Flat. There's something for everyone at Thredbo, from kids and beginners to advanced skiers, snowboarders and cross country adventurers. Thredbo offers twilight skiing twice a week, plus a Flare Run on Saturday nights for experienced skiers and boarders which creates a fantastic light show. Dine at Australia's highest restaurant, Eagle's Nest, or have a drink at the Mumm Poolside Bar at the Thredbo Alpine Hotel. Thredbo is known as a bit of a party town, with events, live music and rowdy bars for the après ski crowd, lit up by the twinkling lights of the Alpine village.

Where to stay

Thredbo Alpine Hotel

Set right in the centre of the village and a short walk from the base of the Kosciuszko Chair Lift, the Thredbo Alpine Hotel has 65 rooms ranging from standard hotel rooms to suites, family rooms and a four-bedroom apartment that can sleep 10. There are plenty of on-site drinking and dining options, including Sagreto Italian trattoria, the casual The Local Pub and the late night Schuss Bar.



River Inn

Location, location, location. You won't find a better spot in Thredbo than River Inn, sitting right next to Friday Flat (where all ski and snowboard lessons start) and close to the base of the Gunbarrel Express chairlift. There are multiple room types to suit groups of all sizes, and families will like the self-contained rooms with bunk beds, fold-out couches and a small kitchenette. After a day on the slopes, soak in the indoor heated spa, relax by the fire or meet new friends in the Bavarian-themed bar.

Ski In Ski Out Chalets

Thredbo's only five-star chalets with ski in-ski out access are a little slice of luxury in the snow. The chalets sit on the edge of the Supertrail that runs right to the base of the village. There are 25 fully-equipped chalets with one to four bedrooms, and some even have indulgent extras such as private Jacuzzis or steam rooms. If you don't have your own gear, the Ski Porter can arrange everything for you.

CHARLOTTE PASS



Australia's oldest and highest ski village sits eight kilometres beyond the Perisher Valley, and is completely snowbound during the winter season. The only way to access it is on one of the purpose-built oversnow vehicles that depart from Perisher for a 45-minute scenic trip



through the main range and into the village. It's compact and easily accessible, with just five lifts and 50 hectares of skiable area, making it a great resort for families and kids. There are still a handful of challenging runs for advanced skiers or you can go cross country and explore the off-piste trails. Charlotte Pass is the place to really immerse yourself in the snow, with no crowds, minimal mobile reception and a real community atmosphere. Everything's on snow at Charlotte Pass, so wherever you stay you can put your skis on at the door. Be aware that Charlotte Pass can be considerably colder than other ski resorts – the lowest ever temperature on mainland Australia was recorded here in 1994, a frosty minus 23 degrees Celsius.

Where to stay

Kosciuszko Chalet Hotel

Australia's original ski lodge was built by the NSW Tourist Bureau in 1930, though burnt down in 1938. The current building was rebuilt the following season and has been hosting avid skiers for the past 80 years. The property makes things easy for families with the free Frosty's Kids' Club that entertains children aged three to 13 with games, crafts and activities during the day, and can supervise an early dinner while parents eat separately.

Knockshannock Ski Lodge

The smallest lodge in Charlotte Pass has just six ensuite bedrooms. That makes for a quieter, more relaxed stay away from the noise of many of the larger hotels. Curl up by the fireplace with a glass of wine and watch the snow blanket the village outside.

Lucy Lodge

One of the highest properties in Charlotte Pass, Lucy Lodge has great views out over the village and slopes. There are twin, double and family rooms, a Chinese restaurant and a cosy communal lounge for après ski drinks.



SELWYN SNOW RESORT



Selwyn Snow Resort is the smallest of the four, covering just 45 hectares, and the only family-owned and operated ski resort in NSW. It is relaxed, friendly and good value. Selwyn is the ideal resort for families and first timers with 40% of its run suitable for beginners and 48% suitable for intermediate skiers. There are 10 lifts, a mini terrain park, a dedicated tobogganing area and the Snowflake Tube Park. Inside the Selwyn Centre you'll find Snowgums Café, a small bar, vending machines, gear hire and a ski hire centre. There are picnic tables spread outside where many skiers like to eat their lunch.



Where to stay

There's no accommodation at Selwyn Snow Resort itself, so most visitors stay in the town of Adaminaby, about 40 minutes' drive from the ski fields. There are a range of houses and self-contained apartments available for rent.

Snowy Mountains Resort and Function Centre

Set just outside of Adaminaby, this large resort has premium, standard and budget rooms for groups of all sizes. There's a bistro restaurant, bar and lounge with cosy wood fires, as well as full laundry facilities and a games room for the kids.

JINDABYNE

Many skiers choose to stay in the town of Jindabyne, which is a 30-minute drive from Thredbo and Perisher. In Winter, the town is buzzing and the short drives to the ski resorts make it a convenient base camp. There are great apartments, hotels and guest houses, and plenty of entertainment options. Just as important, this is where you can load up with supplies; you'll find everything you need here, from food to fashion and ski equipment.