

# SUMMITAS

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## Hitting the Slopes – The Newest Family Ski Destinations

December 6th, 2010 by [Kathy Reilly](#)

Family ski trips are one of the most unforgettable ways to spend your holiday vacation. From hitting the slopes with your kids to sipping hot chocolate by a roaring fireplace, ski vacations maximize family time and create lifelong memories. Recently, major renovations and new openings at some of the nation's top ski destinations have brought new levels of luxury and service to make these trips unforgettable experiences. These new resorts and refreshed classics offer something for everyone, from entertaining kids to pampering adults with the world's most luxurious services.

Our top picks for new and recently renovated U.S. ski destinations:

### **Telluride, Colorado**

Opened in 2009, the 100-room Capella is a chic property in the heart of Mountain Village. Though not directly located on the slopes, the hotel offers a plethora of amenities that make up for its locale: Pratesi linens, an on-site skating rink, a spa and indoor pool, and the swanky Onyx restaurant, to mention just a few. Service is paramount, with every guest assigned a personal assistant who can arrange everything from ski rentals to dinner reservations and childcare services. 970.369.0880, [www.capellatelluride.com](http://www.capellatelluride.com)

### **Park City, Utah**

The Waldorf Astoria & Golden Door Spa opened in July 2009 and connects via gondola and cat track to the Canyons, the fifth-largest ski resort in the United States. Additionally, complimentary transportation to Deer Valley and Park City Resorts provide guests with endless skiing opportunities. In addition to ski-in/ski-out access, the Waldorf Astoria offers a Golden Door Spa, a first-class restaurant, a pool, and a kids' club. Expect world-class service commensurate with the Waldorf-Astoria name. 435.647.5500, [www.parkcitywaldorfastoria.com](http://www.parkcitywaldorfastoria.com)

The St. Regis Deer Crest Resort opened in November 2009. This 181-room resort boasts all the amenities you expect from a St. Regis, including ski-in/ski-out access to Deer Valley's slopes, a Jean-Georges restaurant, split-level infinity swimming pool, and adjacent hot tubs. A 14,000-square-foot Remède Spa offers total indulgence and the superb St. Regis Athletic Club offers the best in fitness amenities. 877.511.7171, [www.stregisdeervalley.com](http://www.stregisdeervalley.com)

### **Aspen, Colorado**

The Little Nell, an Aspen classic, completed a property-wide \$18 million dollar renovation in 2009 under the design direction of Holly Hunt. The Little Nell is the only Five-Star, Five-Diamond ski-in/ski-out hotel on Aspen Mountain. The hotel's refurbished guest rooms feature Hunt's exclusive Studio H furnishings, gas-burning fireplaces, luxurious baths, and breathtaking views. Other new amenities include an updated health spa, Jacuzzi, and heated outdoor pool. 970.920.4600, [www.thelittlenell.com](http://www.thelittlenell.com)

### **Lake Tahoe, California**

The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe is now one of the premier destinations for family skiing. The Ritz-Carlton has unquestionably the best location in the area. The unmatched ski-in/ski-out location on Northstar-at-Tahoe, mountain concierge services and unique Ritz Kids program make it an ideal destination for families. The Ritz Kids program offers a variety of half- and full-day programs to fill your child's day with adventure and fun. The property also has a restaurant overseen by famed San Francisco chef Traci Des Jardins and a 17,000-square-foot Highlands Spa and Fitness Center. 530.562.3000, <http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/LakeTahoe/Default.htm>

In addition to selecting the ideal destination for your family trip, there are other important factors that will help you make the most of your vacation. First and foremost, book ski instructors or ski school for the kids in advance. You should also reserve equipment if you don't have your own to ensure the best gear is available when you arrive. Change your exercise routine several weeks before you leave to focus on the muscles you will use while skiing. This will help you keep up with the kids and avoid a vacation-ending injury. You should also reserve massages and babysitting services well in advance as they tend to book quickly over the holidays.

Another way to enhance your trip is to rent a private home instead of staying in a hotel. Many of the top resorts offer private residences that can be rented, allowing your family to enjoy all the resort's perks with the added benefit and privacy of a home atmosphere. Residences bring additional convenience when traveling with kids as the kitchen allows for easy meals, getting everyone out onto the slopes or into bed with efficiency and ease.

Lastly, you may want to consider a luggage shipping service. These services eliminate schlepping, reduce inconvenience, and make it less of a challenge to get your kids through the airport and onto the plane. Services such as Luggage Free ([www.luggagefree.com](http://www.luggagefree.com), 800.361.6871) will pick up your luggage from your home, safely wrap and protect it, and then deliver directly to your hotel, ensuring that you don't have to lift a finger. Given the increasing security measures at airports, traveling without luggage will shorten your time standing on lines and reduce the hassle of modern air travel.

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