ORCA TRAVEL COLLECTION

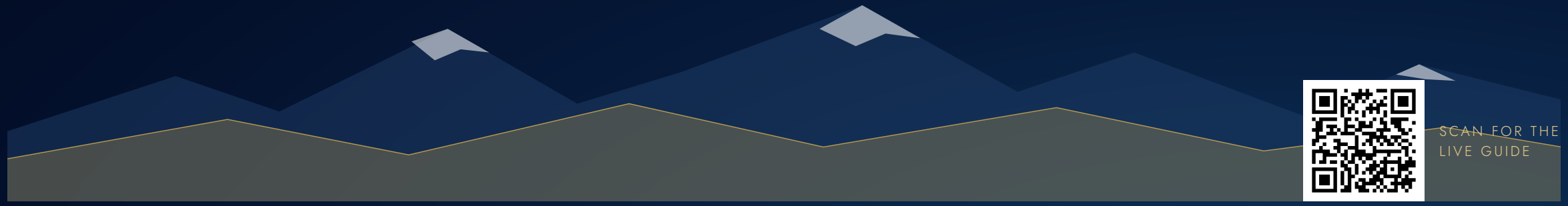
THE ORCA SKI SERIES

The Best Ski Resorts

in the US & the World

Two scored top-10 lists · season dates · passes · airports · what's new — plus an Epic vs Ikon pass guide

FACTS CHECKED AS OF OCT 25, 2026 (PT). ANYTHING WE COULDN'T VERIFY IS MARKED **UNKNOWN**.



SCAN FOR THE LIVE GUIDE

Seven measurable criteria, 100 points

CRITERION	MAX	WHAT IS MEASURED	SOURCE
Lift-served vertical	15	top lift station minus lowest lift base; 1,800 m (5,900 ft)+ = full marks	skiresort.info
Size	15	US: skiable acres (5,000 = full); world: km of marked pistes (300 km = full)	resort page / OnTheSnow; skiresort.info
Average snowfall	15	1,100 cm (433 in) = full; unknown when no reliable figure (all Alpine resorts)	official figure, else OnTheSnow
Snow reliability	15	rating, top elevation and season length, equal thirds	skiresort.info
Lifts	10	lift count and lift-quality rating	skiresort.info
Expert terrain	15	km of difficult runs, share of difficult runs, expert rating	skiresort.info
Village	15	accommodation, après-ski and dining ratings	skiresort.info test reports

Missing data is never filled in: an unknown criterion is dropped and the total re-scaled (points earned ÷ points available × 100). Alpine resorts publish no reliable average snowfall, so they're scored out of 85. US size uses acres and world size uses piste-km, so the two lists are close to — not exactly — comparable.

In this guide

1. US top 10 — scores
2. World top 10 — scores
3. Resort cards: season, airport, passes, prices, what's new
4. Editor's picks (outside the ranking)
5. What most ski lists won't tell you
6. Ski passes 2026-27: Epic, Ikon, Mountain Collective, Indy
7. Which pass pays off — break-even table
8. What we couldn't verify

Read this first

Prices, dates and pass rules change. Every fact links to its source; season dates marked PROJECTED are third-party projections and TO CONFIRM means the resort hasn't confirmed the date. Changes marked PARTLY VERIFIED come from a secondary source.

Live, shareable version: orcatravelcollection.com/ski and /ski/passes.

Top 10 in the US

#	RESORT	SCORE	W/O SNOW	VERT /15	SIZE /15	SNOW /15	RELIAB. /15	LIFTS /10	EXPERT /15	VILLAGE /15	PASSES
1	Big Sky Montana, USA	85.6	84.4	11.1	15.0	13.9	13.3	8.3	10.0	14.0	Ikon Pass, Mountain Collective
2	Vail Colorado, USA	84.0	84.4	8.9	15.0	12.3	13.6	6.8	14.4	13.0	Epic Pass
3	Park City Utah, USA	81.2	81.0	8.1	15.0	12.3	11.2	7.5	15.0	12.0	Epic Pass
4	Palisades Tahoe California, USA	80.3	78.2	7.1	15.0	13.9	12.1	7.6	12.7	12.0	Ikon Pass
5	Snowmass Colorado, USA	79.0	80.7	11.2	10.0	10.4	13.8	5.7	15.0	13.0	Ikon Pass, Mountain Collective
6	Breckenridge Colorado, USA	77.9	77.2	8.2	8.7	12.3	15.0	6.9	13.8	13.0	Epic Pass
7	Jackson Hole Wyoming, USA	75.9	71.6	10.5	7.5	15	11.8	5.1	12.9	13.0	Ikon Pass, Mountain Collective
8	Deer Valley Utah, USA	73.9	74.7	7.8	13.5	10.4	11.1	7.4	9.7	14.0	Ikon Pass
9	Mammoth California, USA	72.6	71.2	7.9	10.5	12.1	13.8	6.1	9.3	13.0	Ikon Pass
10	Snowbird Utah, USA	71.8	66.8	8.2	7.5	15	13.8	5.2	11.1	11.0	Ikon Pass, Mountain Collective

Also scored, didn't make the cut: Telluride 69.3; Alta Ski Area 68.4; Steamboat 63.5; Taos Ski Valley 59.9.

How we scored: 7 criteria, 100 points; US size is skiable acres (5,000 = full marks). "—" = unknown, dropped and the total re-scaled. "w/o snow" re-ranks everyone on the same 85 points as a check.

Top 10 in the World

#	RESORT	SCORE	W/O SNOW	VERT /15	SIZE /15	SNOW /15	RELIAB. /15	LIFTS /10	EXPERT /15	VILLAGE /15	PASSES
1	Tignes–Val d'Isère Savoie, France	92.1	92.1	15.0	15.0	—	13.3	9.0	11.0	15.0	No pass
2	Verbier 4 Vallées Valais, Switzerland	91.5	91.5	15.0	15.0	—	13.0	9.0	12.8	13.0	Epic Pass
3	Les 3 Vallées Savoie, France	90.3	90.3	15.0	15.0	—	12.9	9.0	9.9	15.0	Epic Pass
4	Zermatt–Cervinia Valais / Aosta Valley, Switzerland/Italy	89.3	89.3	15.0	15.0	—	15.0	9.2	7.6	14.0	Ikon Pass
5	Ski Arlberg Tyrol / Vorarlberg, Austria	86.5	86.5	12.6	15.0	—	11.1	10.0	9.9	15.0	Epic Pass
6	Ischgl–Samnaun Tyrol / Graubünden, Austria/Switzerland	83.2	83.2	12.6	11.9	—	11.8	8.8	10.7	15.0	Ikon Pass
7	Whistler Blackcomb British Columbia, Canada	78.9	75.6	13.4	10.0	14.6	10.7	6.2	10.9	13.0	Epic Pass
8	Val Gardena South Tyrol, Italy	70.7	70.7	10.7	9.1	—	9.8	10.0	6.6	14.0	Ikon Pass
9	KitzSki Tyrol, Austria	70.4	70.4	10.0	9.4	—	9.1	9.8	7.4	14.0	Ikon Pass
10	Revelstoke British Columbia, Canada	64.6	59.2	14.3	2.8	14.3	8.2	4.6	10.6	10.0	Ikon Pass, Mountain Collective

Also scored, didn't make the cut: Lake Louise 61.1; Banff Sunshine 58.8; Chamonix – Grands Montets 55.3; Niseko United 54.2.

How we scored: same 7 criteria; size is km of marked pistes (300 km = full). Alpine resorts publish no reliable average snowfall, so they are scored out of 85 and re-scaled — never estimated.

#1 US

Big Sky Resort

Montana, USA

85.6 SCORE

2,073–3,403 m · **1,330 m (4,363 ft)** lift-served vertical · 5,850 acres (OnTheSnow) · 250.0 km pistes (47.0 km difficult) · 40 lifts · snowfall 1016 cm / 400 in (OnTheSnow)

SEASON 2026-27 Opens Nov 25 2026; daily ops to Apr 11 2027, bonus weekends to closing day Apr 25 2027 bigskyresort.com

FLY TO Bozeman Yellowstone Intl (BZN) — ~45–51 mi, about 1 h–1 h 15 min in good conditions bigskyresort.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of US$ 285, season not stated)

PASSES

- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days · Ikon Session (2–4 days). The Tram costs extra. ikonpass.com
- **Mountain Collective:** Mountain Collective 2 days mountaincollective.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- First full season of the Explorer Gondola and Kircliff (per resort press kit) PARTLY VERIFIED *From a search summary of the resort press kit; the page itself wasn't opened.* press kit, undated

Official site
bigskyresort.com

#2 US

Vail

Colorado, USA

84.0 SCORE

2,457–3,527 m · **1,070 m (3,510 ft)** lift-served vertical · 5,317 acres (OnTheSnow) · 234.0 km pistes (93.0 km difficult) · 34 lifts · snowfall 899 cm / 354 in (OnTheSnow)

SEASON 2026-27 Opens Nov 13 2026 (weather permitting); closing date not yet announced TO CONFIRM investors.vailresorts.com

FLY TO Eagle County Regional (EGE); Denver Intl (DEN) is the big-hub alternative — EGE ~30–35 mi, 40–45 min; DEN ~100+ mi, about 2 h (I-70 traffic/weather) vail.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET **$374** adult, peak date 2026-27 TownLift, Sep 4 2026

PASSES

- **Epic Pass:** Epic Pass unlimited epicpass.com
- **Epic Pass:** Epic Local: 10 days total at Vail, Beaver Creek and Whistler Blackcomb, no peak dates epicpass.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- New "Epic Ascent" private-lesson concierge service 2026-27 season (Vail Daily)

ALTITUDE Base ≥2,450 m (8,000 ft): CDC says ~25% of visitors sleeping above 8,000 ft in Colorado get AMS

Official site
vail.com

#3 US

Park City Mountain

Utah, USA

81.2 SCORE

2,073–3,048 m · **975 m (3,199 ft)** lift-served vertical · 7,300 acres (OnTheSnow) · 250.0 km pistes (125.0 km difficult) · 42 lifts · snowfall 902 cm / 355 in (OnTheSnow)

SEASON 2026-27 Targets Nov 20 2026; listed season through Apr 19 2027 TO CONFIRM parkrecord.com

FLY TO Salt Lake City Intl (SLC) — about 35 min drive visitparkcity.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET $369 adult, peak date 2026-27 TownLift, Sep 4 2026

PASSES

- **Epic Pass:** Epic Pass unlimited epicpass.com
- **Epic Pass:** Epic Local unlimited except peak dates epicpass.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- 10-person Canyons Village Skyway gondola replaces the Cabriolet; first test laps reported Oct 2026 TownLift, Oct 2026
- Silverlode, Eagle/Eaglet and Crescent lift upgrades are for 2027-28, not this season Vail Resorts newsroom

Official site
parkcitymountain.com

#4 US

Palisades Tahoe

California, USA

80.3 SCORE

1,890–2,745 m · **855 m (2,805 ft)** lift-served vertical · 6,000 acres (OnTheSnow) · 200.0 km pistes (65.0 km difficult) · 43 lifts · snowfall 1016 cm / 400 in (OnTheSnow)

SEASON 2026-27 Opens Nov 25 2026 (conditions permitting); closing not announced TO CONFIRM palisadestahoe.com

FLY TO Reno-Tahoe Intl (RNO) — about 45 min drive (official); airport shuttle schedule ~60 min palisadestahoe.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of US$ 290, season not stated)

PASSES

- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass and Ikon Base unlimited · Ikon Session (2–4 days) ikonpass.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- Remote avalanche-control tech, 3 new diesel-electric snowcats, expanded snowmaking on Mountain Run, $799 Beginner Progression Pass resort blog, 2026-27

Official site
palisadestahoe.com

#5 US

Snowmass (Aspen Snowmass)

Colorado, USA

79.0 SCORE

2,473–3,813 m · **1,340 m (4,396 ft)** lift-served vertical · 3,342 acres (Snowmass only (OnTheSnow 5,700 = all four Aspen mountains)) · 237.0 km pistes (111.0 km difficult) · 20 lifts · snowfall 762 cm / 300 in (OnTheSnow)

SEASON 2026-27 Opens Nov 26 2026 (Meadows beginner terrain first); closes Apr 11 2027 prnewswire.com

FLY TO Aspen/Pitkin County (ASE); DEN as alternative — ASE ~6–7 mi, 10–15 min; DEN about 4 h gosnowmass.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of US$ 279, season not stated)

PASSES

- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days total across the four Aspen Snowmass mountains · Ikon Base 5 days, Snowmass only ikonpass.com
- **Mountain Collective:** Mountain Collective 2 days mountaincollective.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- New high-speed six-pack Elk Camp lift, upgraded Cirque T-bar, rebuilt all-electric Ullrhof restaurant Aspen Snowmass "recent improvements"

ALTITUDE Base ≥2,450 m (8,000 ft): CDC says ~25% of visitors sleeping above 8,000 ft in Colorado get AMS

Official site
aspensnowmass.com



#6 US

Breckenridge

Colorado, USA

77.9 SCORE

2,926–3,914 m · **988 m (3,241 ft)** lift-served vertical · 2,908 acres (official) · 153.0 km pistes (65.0 km difficult) · 35 lifts · snowfall 901 cm / 355 in (official (355 in))

SEASON 2026-27 Opens Nov 6 2026 (weather permitting); official closing date not yet listed TO CONFIRM cpr.org

FLY TO Denver Intl (DEN) — 104 mi; about 2 h in light conditions, 2.5–3 h+ in storms/peak traffic breckenridge.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET $332 adult, peak date 2026-27 TownLift, Sep 4 2026

PASSES

- **Epic Pass:** Epic Pass and Epic Local unlimited, peak dates included epicpass.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- Remote Wyssen avalanche-control system on Peak 7 (faster high-alpine openings); "Kingdom of Breck" events/après program Summit Daily, 2026-27 upgrades roundup

ALTITUDE Base ≥2,450 m (8,000 ft): CDC says ~25% of visitors sleeping above 8,000 ft in Colorado get AMS

Official site
breckenridge.com



#7 US

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

Wyoming, USA

75·9 SCORE

1,924–3,185 m · **1,261 m (4,137 ft)** lift-served vertical · 2,500 acres (official in-bounds; resort also markets "5,500+ total" incl. 3,000 backcountry acres) · 116.0 km pistes (50.0 km difficult) · 13 lifts · snowfall 1163 cm / 458 in (official)

SEASON 2026-27 Opens Nov 27 2026; resort says closing day not yet set (OnTheSnow projects Apr 11 2027) PROJECTED TO CONFIRM jacksonhole.com

FLY TO Jackson Hole Airport (JAC) — ~20 mi, about 36 min jacksonhole.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of US$ 304, season not stated)

PASSES

- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days, reservations required · not on Ikon Base or Session ikonpass.com
- **Mountain Collective:** Mountain Collective 2 days, reservations required mountaincollective.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- Daily capacity management continues; Ikon and Mountain Collective holders must reserve SnowBrains, 2026-27 opening-date article
- RFID lockers and dryers at Solitude Station resort winter page

Official site
jacksonhole.com

#8 US

Deer Valley

Utah, USA

73·9 SCORE

1,984–2,917 m · **933 m (3,061 ft)** lift-served vertical · 4,500 acres (official 2026-27 after Hail Peak expansion) · 202.0 km pistes (40.0 km difficult) · 41 lifts · snowfall 762 cm / 300 in (official (300 in))

SEASON 2026-27 Opens Dec 5 2026; closing projected (OnTheSnow Mar 28 2027; skiresort.info Apr 11 2027) — not officially confirmed PROJECTED TO CONFIRM kpcw.org

FLY TO Salt Lake City Intl (SLC) — 38-mile drive (official); allow ~45–55 min deervalley.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET $349 adult, peak date 2026-27 TownLift, Sep 4 2026

PASSES

- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days, reservations required · not on Ikon Base or Session ikonpass.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- Hail Peak Express opens 200 new acres and 7 runs; resort reaches 4,500 skiable acres, 32 lifts, 209 runs press release, Jun 29 2026

Official site
deervalley.com

#9 US

Mammoth Mountain

California, USA

72.6 SCORE

2,424–3,369 m · **945 m (3,100 ft)** lift-served vertical · 3,500 acres (OnTheSnow) · 89.8 km pistes (22.9 km difficult) · 25 lifts · snowfall 889 cm / 350 in (official (350 in; USFS lists 400 in))

SEASON 2026-27 Opens Nov 13 2026; closing not announced (OnTheSnow projects Jun 6 2027) PROJECTED TO CONFIRM mammothmountain.com

FLY TO Mammoth Yosemite (MMH, limited service); Reno (RNO) ~3 h — MMH ~10 mi, 15–20 min; RNO about 3 h / 160 mi via US-395 mammothmountain.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of US$ 259, season not stated)

PASSES
- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass and Ikon Base unlimited · Ikon Session (2–4 days) ikonpass.com

NEW FOR 2026-27
- No new lift for 2026-27; new avalanche-control infrastructure (resort "What's New" sheet) 2026-27 What's New PDF

Official site
mammothmountain.com

#10 US

Snowbird

Utah, USA

71.8 SCORE

2,365–3,353 m · **988 m (3,241 ft)** lift-served vertical · 2,500 acres (OnTheSnow) · 103.0 km pistes (36.0 km difficult) · 14 lifts · snowfall 1270 cm / 500 in (OnTheSnow)

SEASON 2026-27 Opens Nov 27 2026 (conditions permitting); closing not announced (OnTheSnow projects May 31 2027) PROJECTED TO CONFIRM snowbird.com

FLY TO Salt Lake City Intl (SLC) — ~29 mi, about 40 min (45–60 min in storms; canyon road can close) snowbird.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET $239 adult, peak date 2026-27 TownLift, Sep 4 2026

PASSES
- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days combined with Alta · Ikon Base 5 days ikonpass.com
- **Mountain Collective:** Mountain Collective 2 days mountaincollective.com

NEW FOR 2026-27
- New fixed-grip Chickadee quad, improved beginner terrain, 11 new automated snow guns Visit Salt Lake, 2026-27 preview

Official site
snowbird.com

#1 WORLD

Tignes–Val d'Isère

Savoie, France

92.1 SCORE

1,550–3,456 m · **1,906 m (6,253 ft)** lift-served vertical · 300.0 km pistes (60.0 km difficult) · 80 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

SEASON 2026-27	Linked area Nov 28 2026 – May 2 2027 (Tignes opens progressively from Nov 21) en.tignes.net
FLY TO	Chambéry (CMF, mostly weekend charters); Geneva (GVA) main hub — CMF about 2 h; GVA about 3 h by car valdisere.com
PEAK WINDOW TICKET	unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of € 75, season not stated)
PASSES	• Not on Epic, Ikon, Mountain Collective or Indy. Buy lift tickets direct (listed adult day ticket €75 per skiresort.info).
NEW FOR 2026-27	• No new lift found in official 2026-27 sources (—)

Official site
valdisere.com

#2 WORLD

Verbier 4 Vallées

Valais, Switzerland

91.5 SCORE

1,350–3,330 m · **1,980 m (6,496 ft)** lift-served vertical · 412.0 km pistes (103.0 km difficult) · 65 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

SEASON 2026-27	Nov 1 2026 – Apr 26 2027 per Verbier.com (sector-specific; most sectors from Dec 5) verbier.com
FLY TO	Geneva (GVA) — about 2 h 40 by train to Le Châble + 20 min lift/bus (official); weekend Verbier Express ~2 h 25 verbier.ch
PEAK WINDOW TICKET	unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of CHF 94, season not stated)
PASSES	• **Epic Pass:** Epic Pass 5 consecutive days · Epic Local 5 consecutive days, not on peak dates or Feb 6–20, 2027 epicpass.com
NEW FOR 2026-27	• New Esserts–Savoleyres télémixte due Dec 2026, completing the ski link Verbier ↔ La Tzoumaz allverbier.ch / ESI

Official site
verbier4vallees.ch

#3 WORLD

Les 3 Vallées (Courchevel / Méribel / Val Thorens)

Savoie, France

90.3 SCORE

1,100–3,230 m · **2,130 m (6,988 ft)** lift-served vertical · 600.0 km pistes (60.0 km difficult) · 159 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

SEASON 2026-27	Val Thorens Nov 21 2026 – May 2 2027; full linked area from Dec 5; Courchevel/Méribel to Apr 18 2027 les3vallees.com
FLY TO	Geneva (GVA); also Chambéry, Lyon, Grenoble — GVA typically ~2 h 30 (Courchevel/Méribel) to ~2 h 45 (Val Thorens) in normal conditions les3vallees.com
PEAK WINDOW TICKET	unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of € 84.20, season not stated)
PASSES	• **Epic Pass:** Epic Pass 7 consecutive days · not on Epic Local epicpass.com
NEW FOR 2026-27	• Châtelet chairlift reopens (Méribel-Mottaret), upgraded La Tania cabins, Rhodos gondola renovation continues Les 3 Vallées news, winter 2026/27

Official site
les3vallees.com

#4 WORLD

Zermatt–Cervinia (Matterhorn Ski Paradise)

Valais / Aosta Valley, Switzerland/Italy

89.3 SCORE

1,562–3,899 m · **2,337 m (7,667 ft)** lift-served vertical · 322.0 km pistes (27.0 km difficult) · 51 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

SEASON 2026-27	Main season Nov 1 2026 – May 2 2027; glacier skiing year-round matterhornparadise.ch
FLY TO	Zurich (ZRH) or Geneva (GVA) — train about 3.5 h from ZRH, about 4 h from GVA (change at Visp); car-free village zermatt.swiss
PEAK WINDOW TICKET	unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of CHF 116, season not stated)
PASSES	• **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days (Zermatt Nov 1–Apr 30; Cervinia via Valle d'Aosta — a Zermatt-to-Cervinia day counts at both) ikonpass.com
NEW FOR 2026-27	• New 6-seat Patrullarve chairlift (Patrullarve–Blauherd), first winter 2026/27 Zermatt Bergbahnen news

Official site
matterhornparadise.ch

#5 WORLD

Ski Arlberg (St. Anton / Lech / Zürs)

Tyrol / Vorarlberg, Austria

86.5 SCORE

1,304–2,811 m · **1,507 m (4,944 ft)** lift-served vertical · 300.0 km pistes (49.7 km difficult) · 85 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

SEASON 2026-27	St. Anton & Lech/Zürs Dec 2 2026 – Apr 18 2027 (Warth-Schröcken from Dec 4) skiarlberg.at
FLY TO	Innsbruck (INN); Zurich (ZRH) — INN ~100 km, about 1 h 15; ZRH ~200 km, Arlberg Express ~2 h 30–40 stantonamarlberg.com
PEAK WINDOW TICKET	unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of € 85, season not stated)
PASSES	• **Epic Pass:** Epic Pass 3 consecutive days, only with a stay at participating Arlberg lodging epicpass.com
NEW FOR 2026-27	• No new lift found in official 2026-27 sources (—)

Official site skiarlberg.at

#6 WORLD

Ischgl / Samnaun (Silvretta Arena)

Tyrol / Graubünden, Austria/Switzerland

83.2 SCORE

1,360–2,872 m · **1,512 m (4,961 ft)** lift-served vertical · 239.0 km pistes (52.0 km difficult) · 45 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

SEASON 2026-27	Nov 26 2026 – May 2 2027 paznaun-ischgl.com
FLY TO	Innsbruck (INN) — ~100 km, about 1 h 20 by car (2.5–4 h public transport) ischgl.com
PEAK WINDOW TICKET	unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of € 83, season not stated)
PASSES	• **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days (incl. Samnaun) ikonpass.com
NEW FOR 2026-27	• New Höllkarbahn 8-seat chairlift opening day one (4,200 pph, heated seats) Snow-Online

Official site ischgl.com

#7 WORLD

Whistler Blackcomb

British Columbia, Canada

78.9 SCORE

675–2,284 m · **1,609 m (5,279 ft)** lift-served vertical · 200.0 km pistes (50.0 km difficult) · 27 lifts · snowfall 1072 cm / 422 in (official (422 in))

SEASON 2026-27 Targets Nov 20 2026; closing not announced (OnTheSnow projects May 16 2027) PROJECTED TO CONFIRM newswire.ca

FLY TO Vancouver Intl (YVR) — 137 km, about 2 h 15 via Hwy 99 whistler.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of C$ 351, season not stated)

PASSES
- **Epic Pass:** Epic Pass unlimited · Epic Local within its 10 combined days, no peak dates epicpass.com

NEW FOR 2026-27
- Showcase T-bar replaced by a fixed-grip quad to Blackcomb/Horstman Glacier terrain newswire.ca / Vail Resorts newsroom

Official site
whistlerblackcomb.com

#8 WORLD

Val Gardena (Dolomiti Superski)

South Tyrol, Italy

70.7 SCORE

1,236–2,518 m · **1,282 m (4,206 ft)** lift-served vertical · 181.0 km pistes (21.0 km difficult) · 79 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

SEASON 2026-27 Dec 4 2026 – Apr 4 2027 (per Val Gardena; snow permitting) TO CONFIRM valgardena.it

FLY TO Bolzano (BZO, small); Innsbruck (INN) 120 km; Verona (VRN) 190 km — BZO ~40 km, about 35 min; INN/VRN no official time published valgardena.it

PEAK WINDOW TICKET unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of € 83, season not stated)

PASSES
- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days via Dolomiti Superski (Nov 15–Apr 15; Italian liability insurance required). Epic's Skirama Dolomiti is a different area. ikonpass.com

NEW FOR 2026-27
- Two new 10-person gondolas (Ruacia–Sochers–Bruno, Costabella) listed by skiresort.info — NOT confirmed in Dolomiti Superski's official 26/27 release PARTLY VERIFIED *Listed by skiresort.info but not in Dolomiti Superski's official 26/27 release.* skiresort.info

Official site
valgardena.it

#9 WORLD

KitzSki (Kitzbühel / Kirchberg)

Tyrol, Austria

70.4 SCORE

800–2,000 m · **1,200 m (3,937 ft)** lift-served vertical · 188.0 km pistes (20.0 km difficult) · 58 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

SEASON 2026-27 Resterkogel from Nov 6 2026; full linked area Dec 11 2026; closes Apr 4 2027 kitzski.at

FLY TO Innsbruck (INN), Salzburg (SZG), Munich (MUC) — INN 96 km ~1 h 10; SZG 81 km ~1 h 30; MUC 127 km ~1 h 45 (by car) kitzbuehel.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of € 83, season not stated)

PASSES

- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days (Kitzbühel with Kirchberg and Mittersill) ikonpass.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- No new KitzSki lift for 2026/27 found in official/Tirol press sources Tirol press highlights, Sep 2026

Official site
kitzski.at

#10 WORLD

Revelstoke Mountain Resort

British Columbia, Canada

64.6 SCORE

512–2,225 m · **1,713 m (5,620 ft)** lift-served vertical · 55.0 km pistes (21.0 km difficult) · 7 lifts · snowfall 1050 cm / 413 in (official (10.5 m))

SEASON 2026-27 Dec 5 2026 – Apr 11 2027 (planned) PROJECTED revelstokemountainresort.com

FLY TO Kelowna Intl (YLW) — ~190–200 km, about 2.5 h (shuttles 2.5–3 h); Revelstoke airport has no scheduled flights revelstokemountainresort.com

PEAK WINDOW TICKET unknown — No verified 2026-27 peak window price; resorts use dynamic pricing. (skiresort.info lists an adult day ticket of C$ 199, season not stated)

PASSES

- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days · Ikon Session (2–4 days) ikonpass.com
- **Mountain Collective:** Mountain Collective 2 days mountaincollective.com

NEW FOR 2026-27

- Cupcake Carpet learning zone at top of gondola, replacement of the lower gondola haul rope PARTLY VERIFIED *Gondola rope replacement from a secondary travel site; only the Cupcake carpet is confirmed on the official stats page.* drifttravel.com (secondary); Cupcake carpet confirmed on official stats page

Official site
revelstokemountainresort.com

Two our numbers can't capture

EDITOR'S PICK · OUTSIDE THE RANKING

Chamonix – Grands Montets

Haute-Savoie, France

55.3
SCORE

1,252–2,765 m · **1,513 m (4,964 ft)** lift-served vertical · 29.0 km pistes (14.0 km difficult) · 8 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

WHY

Underrated by our numbers: only the Grands Montets sector (29 km) could be scored because skiresort.info lists Chamonix's areas separately, so its 55.3 understates the whole valley — 1,513 m of lift-served vertical, top experts-and-freeride rating, and Ikon/Mountain Collective access across all five areas.

PASSES

- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days, combined across 5 Chamonix areas; Aiguille du Midi not included ikonpass.com
- **Mountain Collective:** Mountain Collective 2 days mountaincollective.com

Official site
chamonix.com

EDITOR'S PICK · OUTSIDE THE RANKING

Niseko United

Hokkaido, Japan

54.2
SCORE

255–1,188 m · **933 m (3,061 ft)** lift-served vertical · 50.8 km pistes (10.2 km difficult) · 32 lifts · snowfall unknown (no verified figure)

WHY

Famous for deep, frequent Hokkaido powder — but no verified average snowfall exists, so snowfall (15 points) couldn't be scored and its 54.2 doesn't reflect what it's known for. Top ratings for experts/freeride, snow reliability and accommodation.

PASSES

- **Ikon Pass:** Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days · Ikon Session (2–4 days) ikonpass.com
- **Mountain Collective:** Mountain Collective 2 days mountaincollective.com

Official site
niseko.ne.jp

What most ski lists won't tell you

1 Headline stats are often inflated, sometimes by the resort's own figures.

- Ischgl advertises 239 km of slopes. Its own audited breakdown shows that 239 km is the distance of a "sporty route" (skiing in turns). The horizontal GPS length is 163 km (ischgl.com).
- Steamboat's stats page lists 3,741 "permitted" acres, but only 2,965 skiable acres (steamboat.com).
- Jackson Hole markets "5,500+ acres", which counts about 3,000 acres of backcountry reached through gates. In-bounds terrain is 2,500 acres (jacksonhole.com).
- Breckenridge's 12,998 ft summit is hike-to. The highest lift, Imperial, tops out at 12,840 ft (breckenridge.com).
- This ranking therefore uses lift-served vertical and skiresort.info's measured piste-km throughout.

2 Epic and Ikon brought cheaper passes and much bigger crowds.

- A University of Utah Eccles Institute analysis finds that Epic and Ikon cover 52% of US lift capacity, and 86% in Colorado. Season-pass prices fell, walk-up day tickets rose about 60% since the 1990s, and the cheap passes are the main cause of today's crowding, lift lines and traffic (Eccles Institute).
- What it means on the ground: Ikon's 2026-27 pass comparison lists blackout dates of Dec 26–30, Jan 16–17 and Feb 13–14 for its restricted tiers (Ikon).
- Jackson Hole again requires Ikon and Mountain Collective holders to reserve (SnowBrains).

3 "On the pass" means something different in Europe.

- Epic gives only 3 consecutive days at Ski Arlberg, and only if you book partner lodging directly. It gives 5 consecutive days at Verbier and 7 at Les 3 Vallées (epicpass.com).
- Ikon's Dolomiti Superski days work only Nov 15–Apr 15 (Ikon).
- The #1 world pick, Tignes–Val d'Isère, is on no US mega-pass at all.

4 The real cost of a walk-up ticket: US peak days are 3–4× the Alps.

- 2026-27 peak walk-up prices: Vail $374, Park City $369, Deer Valley $349, Breckenridge $332, Snowbird $239 (TownLift, Sep 4 2026).
- Listed adult day tickets at the top Alpine areas: Tignes–Val d'Isère €75, Les 3 Vallées €84.20, Ski Arlberg €85, Verbier CHF 94, Zermatt CHF 116 (skiresort.info).
- US resorts use dynamic pricing, so buying ahead is much cheaper. The peak price is a ceiling.

5 Altitude sickness is a real risk at the high Colorado resorts.

- The CDC says about 25% of visitors sleeping above 8,000 ft (2,450 m) in Colorado get acute mountain sickness. It names Vail (lodging 8,150 ft) and Breckenridge (9,600 ft) specifically and advises taking it easy for the first 48 hours, with no alcohol (CDC Yellow Book 2026).
- Big Alpine villages mostly sit lower (Zermatt's lowest lift base is about 1,560 m per skiresort.info), even though their lifts go higher.

Epic vs Ikon — and two alternatives

Epic Pass

Vail Resorts

Unlimited, no-blackout skiing at Vail Resorts' own mountains (Vail, Breckenridge, Park City, Whistler Blackcomb and 30+ more), plus capped days at partners such as Telluride, Les 3 Vallées and Verbier.

$1,169

Epic Pass, adult 31+ · Epic Local Pass $869

Ikon Pass

Alterra Mountain Company

Unlimited at 18 destinations including Palisades Tahoe, Mammoth, Steamboat and Solitude, plus 7 days each at 50+ more such as Aspen Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Deer Valley, Big Sky, Zermatt and Niseko.

$1,529

Ikon Pass, adult 23+ · Ikon Base Pass $1,099

Mountain Collective

The Mountain Collective

2 days at each of 27 destinations with no blackout dates, plus 50% off every extra day — the trip-sampler pass.

$729

Mountain Collective Pass, adult 19+

Indy Pass

Indy Pass (independent resorts)

2 days at each of 300+ independent, smaller resorts on four continents. Great value for road-trippers — but none of the resorts in our rankings are on it, and the 2026/27 pass is sold out.

$419

Indy Base Pass, adult · Indy+ Pass $469

All prices in USD from the official pass sites, checked Oct 25, 2026 (PT). Pass prices can still change; we mark anything taken from news reports as **REPORTED**. Full details, live: orcatravelcollection.com/ski/passes

Epic Pass 2026-27

EPIC PASS

Unlimited at every Vail Resorts mountain, including peak dates; partner days as listed

Adult 31+	$1,169
Young adult 18–30	$929
Teen 13–17	$929
Child 5–12	$599

epicpass.com

EPIC LOCAL PASS

Unlimited at most resorts; peak dates restricted at Park City, Heavenly, Northstar, Kirkwood, Stowe; 10 days total at Vail, Beaver Creek and Whistler Blackcomb (no peak dates)

Adult 31+	$869
Young adult 18–30	$689
Teen 13–17	$689
Child 5–12	$455

epicpass.com

EPIC DAY PASS

1–7 days; choose all resorts, 32 resorts or 22 resorts; peak dates are an add-on. Only 4–7-day all-resort versions include Telluride and the Resorts of the Canadian Rockies

Price depends on days, resort tier and peak-date add-on; build it on epicpass.com

epicpass.com

EPIC MILITARY PASS PARTLY VERIFIED

Unlimited at Vail Resorts-owned mountains; partner resorts not included

Active/retired military & dependents (launch price, to May 25)	$215
Veterans & dependents (launch price, to May 25)	$620

Current price not verifiable on epicpass.com (page not readable to us). A ski-shop article reports $230 active/retired and $659 veterans in October 2026; treat as unconfirmed.

investors.vailresorts.com · riverrunski.com

EPIC ADAPTIVE PASS PARTLY VERIFIED

Adaptive skiers

Adult (launch price, to May 25)	$543
Child (launch price, to May 25)	$279

Current price unknown.

investors.vailresorts.com

DEADLINES

- Lowest prices ended May 25, then Sept 7 and Oct 7, 2026 (Vail Resorts releases). news.vailresorts.com
- Next increase after Nov 15, 2026, and sales close Dec 6, 2026 — reported by POWDER (Oct 13, 2026), not yet shown on epicpass.com. REPORTED aol.com

BLACKOUTS

Epic Pass: none — every day including peak dates. Epic Local: restricted Nov 27–28, Dec 26–31, 2026, Jan 16 and Feb 13–14, 2027 at Vail, Beaver Creek, Whistler Blackcomb, Park City, Heavenly, Northstar, Kirkwood, Stowe and Verbier 4 Vallées (Verbier also Feb 6–20, 2027). epicpass.com

RESERVATIONS

No pass-holder reservations listed by Epic. Telluride and all partner resorts need the physical pass card (no mobile pass).

KIDS · STUDENTS · MILITARY

Child 5–12 prices above. A Child 4 & Under pass exists (named in the Epic Coverage terms); its price is unknown. No separate college pass is listed. Ages 13–30 get the new 20% Teen/Young Adult price (age verified).

PERKS & REFUNDS

- **Epic Mountain Rewards:** 20% off on-mountain quick-service food (orders up to $150/day), lodging at select resorts, group lessons, rentals, Epic Mountain Express from Denver airport and Whistler Heli-Skiing; one free wax and 50% off a tune at select shops; free summer scenic lift rides. epicpass.com
- **Epic Friend Tickets:** 5 tickets with a 2026/27 pass, up to 50% off the window rate for friends and family (not with Epic Day Pass). epicpass.com
- **Epic Coverage (refunds):** Free with every pass. Refunds for covered personal events (injury, illness, job loss, pregnancy, military or student transfer, jury duty and more; request within 30 days) and for resort closures from disease, war, terrorism or natural disaster during the Dec 7–Apr 17 core season. Poor snow is not covered, partner resorts are excluded, and Vail sells no other pass insurance. epicpass.com
- **After the partner cap:** 50% off extra lift tickets at Telluride and the Resorts of the Canadian Rockies once your 7 days are used. epicpass.com

Ikon Pass 2026-27

IKON PASS

No blackout dates; unlimited at 18 destinations, 7 days at the rest, 2 days at 11 Bonus Mountains

Adult 23+	$1,529
Young adult 13–22	$1,129
Child 5–12	$499
Age 4 & under	$199
Military, college or nurse	$1,099

Adult price from ikonpass.com; other age and discount prices from Big Bear Mountain Resort's official Ikon page (an Alterra resort).

ikonpass.com · bigbearmountainresort.com

IKON BASE PASS

Blackout dates; unlimited at 15 destinations, up to 5 days at most others; no Alta, Jackson Hole, Deer Valley, Sun Valley or Snowbasin; Aspen Snowmass = Snowmass only

Adult 23+	$1,099
Young adult 13–22	$799
Child 5–12	$399
Age 4 & under	$149
Military, college or nurse	$789

ikonpass.com · bigbearmountainresort.com

IKON SESSION PASS

2, 3 or 4 days total at select destinations; blackout dates; no Europe or Japan except Niseko

Adult 23+ (2/3/4 days)	$369 / $499 / $599
Young adult 13–22	$289 / $419 / $479
Child 5–12	$229 / $289 / $349
Military, college or nurse	$289 / $419 / $479

ikonpass.com · bigbearmountainresort.com

SQUAD PACK

One buyer aged 23–28 buys five Ikon Base Passes

Per pass (5 required)	$880

Codes must be redeemed by Dec 31, 2026.

ikonpass.com

DEADLINES

- Last price increase was after Oct 8, 2026; Ikon told POWDER there will be no further increase before sales stop. **REPORTED** aol.com
- Friends & Family tickets are 50% off only if bought by Nov 3, 2026 (25% after). ikonpass.com
- Upgrades (e.g. Base to Ikon) by Dec 10, 2026. Refund requests on a refundable pass by Jan 15, 2027, 11:59 pm MST. ikonpass.com
- Final sales date not announced ("early to late December"); last season sales ended Dec 11, 2025. **REPORTED** aol.com

BLACKOUTS

Ikon Pass: none. Ikon Base and Session: Dec 26–30, 2026, Jan 16–17 and Feb 13–14, 2027. Bonus Mountains follow the same blackout dates. Southern Hemisphere blackouts for restricted tiers are listed separately on the access page. ikonpass.com

RESERVATIONS

Lift reservations required in 2026/27 at Jackson Hole, Deer Valley and Loon Mountain.

KIDS · STUDENTS · MILITARY

Child 5–12 and 4 & under prices above. With an adult Ikon Base Pass, each child pass is $50 off. The Ikon Pass child saving is advertised, but the amount isn't shown on the page (unknown). College students, nurses and active/retired North American military (plus adult military dependents) get the discount prices above, verified by SheerID; discounts can't be combined.

PERKS & REFUNDS

- **Friends & Family:** 15 discounted tickets with the Ikon Pass and 10 with Ikon Base: 50% off the window rate if bought by Nov 3, 2026, then 25%. Not valid at the European and most Asian destinations, and not on child or Session passes. ikonpass.com
- **Food & retail:** 15% off (Ikon) or 10% off (Base) destination-owned food and retail at select Alterra mountains. ikonpass.com
- **Bonus Mountains:** 2 free days each at 11 Bonus Mountains (Ikon Pass only), e.g. Tamarack, Cranmore and Grouse Mountain. ikonpass.com
- **Lodging:** Lodging discounts vary by date and destination. ikonpass.com
- **Heli-skiing:** Credits up to $400 CAD/day (Ikon) or $200 CAD/day (Base) with CMH and Mike Wiegele. ikonpass.com
- **Refundable pass:** Optional Risk-Free refundable add-on at checkout (fee not shown before checkout): 100% back if the pass has no scans by Jan 15, 2027, 50% after one scan, nothing after two. Session passes aren't eligible. No deferrals. ikonpass.com
- **Watch for extras:** Big Sky's Tram and Chamonix's Aiguille du Midi cost extra. Italy (Dolomiti Superski, Valle d'Aosta) requires daily third-party liability insurance. ikonpass.com

Mountain Collective 2026-27

2 days at each of 27 destinations with no blackout dates, plus 50% off every extra day — the trip-sampler pass.

MOUNTAIN COLLECTIVE PASS

2 days at each of 27 destinations, 50% off additional days, no blackouts (some resorts need reservations)

Adult 19+	$729
Teen	$594
Kids	$304

Teen and kids age bands aren't shown on the home page (unknown).

mountaincollective.com

DEADLINES

- On sale now; sales end date not published (unknown). The spring-sale bonus day has passed. mountaincollective.com

BLACKOUTS

None. mountaincollective.com

RESERVATIONS

Some resorts require advance reservations, including Jackson Hole.

KIDS · STUDENTS · MILITARY

Teen $594 and kids $304 (age bands unknown). No college or military price listed (unknown).

PERKS & REFUNDS

- **Friends & family:** 25% off 1-day lift tickets at any Mountain Collective resort. mountaincollective.com
- **Extra days:** 50% off an unlimited number of additional days. mountaincollective.com
- **Referral and partners:** A bonus day for referring a new pass holder; lodging discounts and partner deals; a free 1-year Protect Our Winters membership. mountaincollective.com

Indy Pass 2026-27

2 days at each of 300+ independent, smaller resorts on four continents. Great value for road-trippers — but none of the resorts in our rankings are on it, and the 2026/27 pass is sold out.

INDY BASE PASS

2 days or nights at each of 300+ resorts; blackout dates

Adult	$419
Kids	$269

indyskipass.com

INDY+ PASS

Same access, no blackout dates

Adult	$469
Kids	$299

indyskipass.com

INDY ADD-ON PASS

For holders of an unlimited season pass at an Indy partner

Adult	$339
Kids	$219

indyskipass.com

DEADLINES

- Sold out for 2026/27 (waitlist only). It sold out in 37 minutes on Apr 3, 2026, reopened on Sep 8, 2026, and is sold out again. indyskipass.com

BLACKOUTS

Base passes have blackout dates set by each resort; the 2026/27 list is still being compiled. Indy+ has none. indyskipass.com

RESERVATIONS

A handful of resorts require reservations (e.g. Cannon Mountain, Magic Mountain, Smugglers' Notch).

KIDS · STUDENTS · MILITARY

Kids prices above (age band not shown; unknown). No college or military price listed (unknown).

PERKS & REFUNDS

- **300-resort guarantee:** Refund available before Dec 1, 2026 if Indy has fewer than 300 partners by Nov 1, 2026. indyskipass.com
- **Discounts:** Lodging discounts, discounted tickets at allied resorts, and cat and heli-skiing discounts. indyskipass.com

North America

	Epic Pass	Ikon Pass	Mountain Collective
Rockies	Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Crested Butte, Park City, Telluride (7 days, partner)	Aspen Snowmass, Steamboat, Winter Park, Copper Mountain, Arapahoe Basin, Eldora, Big Sky, Jackson Hole, Deer Valley, Solitude, Alta, Snowbird, Brighton, Snowbasin, Sun Valley, Taos	Alta, Aspen Snowmass, Big Sky, Grand Targhee, Jackson Hole, Snowbasin, Snowbird, Sun Valley, Taos
US West	Heavenly, Northstar, Kirkwood, Stevens Pass	Palisades Tahoe, Mammoth, June Mountain, Big Bear, Snow Valley, Sierra-at-Tahoe, Crystal Mountain, The Summit at Snoqualmie, Mt. Bachelor, Schweitzer, Alyeska	Sugar Bowl
East & Midwest	Stowe, Okemo, Mount Snow, Mount Sunapee, Attitash, Wildcat, Crotched, Hunter, Liberty, Roundtop, Whitetail, Jack Frost, Big Boulder, Seven Springs, Laurel Mountain, Hidden Valley (PA), Afton Alps, Mt Brighton, Wilmot, Alpine Valley, Boston Mills, Brandywine, Mad River Mountain, Hidden Valley (MO), Snow Creek, Paoli Peaks	Stratton, Sugarbush, Killington-Pico, Loon, Sugarloaf, Sunday River, Snowshoe, Camelback, Blue Mountain (PA), Boyne Mountain, The Highlands, Snowriver, Lutsen, Granite Peak	Sugarloaf, Sunday River, Whiteface (new)
Canada	Whistler Blackcomb, Fernie, Kicking Horse, Kimberley, Nakiska, Mont-Sainte-Anne, Stoneham (7 days total, partner)	Tremblant, Blue Mountain (ON), Le Massif de Charlevoix, Revelstoke, RED Mountain, Cypress, Panorama, Sun Peaks, SilverStar, SkiBig3 (Banff Sunshine, Lake Louise, Norquay)	Banff Sunshine, Lake Louise, Marmot Basin, Panorama, Revelstoke, Sun Peaks, Le Massif de Charlevoix, Bromont

Day limits differ by pass tier — see the resort cards and the live passes page. Indy Pass: 300+ independent resorts on four continents (indyskipass.com); none of our ranked resorts are on it. Sources: epicpass.com · epicpass.com · ikonpass.com · mountaincollective.com

Europe, Asia, Australia/NZ, South America

	Epic Pass	Ikon Pass	Mountain Collective
Europe	Andermatt-Sedrun-Disentis (unlimited), Crans-Montana (unlimited), Verbier 4 Vallées (5 consecutive days), Les 3 Vallées (7 consecutive days), Skirama Dolomiti (7 consecutive days), Ski Arlberg (3 consecutive days, partner lodging stay required), Saalbach & Zell am See-Kaprun (5 days), Zillertal (5 consecutive days), Silvretta Montafon (5 days), Sölden (5 days)	Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley, Megève, Dolomiti Superski (incl. Val Gardena, Cortina; Nov 15–Apr 15), Valle d'Aosta (Cervinia, Courmayeur and more), Zermatt (to Apr 30), St. Moritz, Kitzbühel, Ischgl (incl. Samnaun), Grandvalira Resorts Andorra	Chamonix, Megève
Japan	Hakuba Valley (5 consecutive days), Rusutsu (5 consecutive days)	Niseko United, Furano, Shiga Kogen, APPI, Arai, Myoko Suginohara, Madarao, Mt.T, NEKOMA, Zao Onsen	Niseko United
Other Asia	—	Beidahu, Lake Songhua, Yunding (China), Mona Yongpyong (South Korea)	—
Australia/NZ	Perisher, Falls Creek, Hotham (2027 season)	Thredbo, Mt Buller, Coronet Peak, The Remarkables, Mt Hutt	Mt Buller, Coronet Peak + The Remarkables
South America	—	Valle Nevado	Valle Nevado

Day limits differ by pass tier — see the resort cards and the live passes page. Indy Pass: 300+ independent resorts on four continents (indyskipass.com); none of our ranked resorts are on it. Sources: epicpass.com · epicpass.com · ikonpass.com · mountaincollective.com

Break-even days vs peak window tickets

Days you'd need to ski to beat buying peak-date window tickets (2026-27 peak walk-up prices, TownLift Sep 4, 2026). Off-peak and advance tickets are cheaper, so in practice you need more days than shown. TownLift, Sep 4 2026

PASS (ADULT)	PRICE	RESORT	PEAK WINDOW	DAYS TO BREAK EVEN	LIMITS
Epic Pass	$1,169	Vail	$374	4	Unlimited at Vail, no blackouts.
Epic Pass	$1,169	Park City	$369	4	Unlimited at Park City.
Epic Pass	$1,169	Breckenridge	$332	4	Unlimited at Breckenridge.
Epic Local	$869	Vail	$374	3	10 days total at Vail/Beaver Creek/Whistler, no peak dates.
Epic Local	$869	Park City	$369	3	Unlimited, but not on peak dates.
Epic Local	$869	Breckenridge	$332	3	Unlimited, peak dates included.
Ikon Pass	$1,529	Deer Valley	$349	5	7-day cap; reservations required.
Ikon Pass	$1,529	Snowbird	$239	7	7 days combined with Alta — exactly the cap.
Ikon Base	$1,099	Snowbird	$239	5	5-day cap at Snowbird; blackouts apply. Deer Valley not included.
Mountain Collective	$729	Snowbird	$239	—	Only 2 days at any one resort ($478 at Snowbird's peak rate), so it pays off only if you take 2-day trips to at least two of its resorts.

Which pass for you

You'll ski 4+ days mostly at Vail, Breckenridge, Park City or Whistler, including holidays	**Epic Pass**	Unlimited at all of them with no blackout dates.
Same mountains, but you can avoid peak dates	**Epic Local**	$300 less; Breckenridge stays unlimited, Park City unlimited off-peak, 10 days total at Vail/Beaver Creek/Whistler.
You'll ski Jackson Hole, Deer Valley, Big Sky, Aspen Snowmass or Alta/Snowbird, or several regions	**Ikon Pass**	7 days at each, no blackouts; the only pass among the four with Deer Valley.
Mostly Palisades, Mammoth, Winter Park or Copper and you can skip holiday blackouts	**Ikon Base**	Unlimited at Palisades and Mammoth for $430 less than the Ikon Pass (no Jackson Hole, Deer Valley or Alta).
Three or more short trips to different big-name destinations	**Mountain Collective**	2 days each at 27 destinations, 50% off extra days, no blackouts.
Lots of small, uncrowded local hills	**Indy Pass**	Cheapest per day — but sold out for 2026/27 (waitlist).
Europe only, or 1–2 days	**No pass**	Buy tickets direct — see below.

When a pass doesn't pay

YOU SKI 1–2 DAYS A YEAR

No season pass breaks even in two days at these prices (Epic needs 4 days at Vail at peak rates). Buy lift tickets in advance, or an Epic Day Pass or Ikon Session Pass for just those days.

epicpass.com · ikonpass.com · townlift.com

YOUR TRIP IS EUROPE ONLY

Alpine walk-up day tickets are listed at about €75–85 (Tignes–Val d'Isère €75, Les 3 Vallées €84.20, Ski Arlberg €85 per skiresort.info; season not stated). Seven days at Les 3 Vallées is about €589 — far below the $1,169 Epic Pass. A US pass pays off in Europe only as a bonus on top of US skiing.

skiresort.com · skiresort.com · skiresort.com

YOU WANT TIGNES–VAL D'ISÈRE

Our #1 world resort is on no pass — not Epic, Ikon, Mountain Collective or Indy.

epicpass.com · ikonpass.com · mountaincollective.com · indyskipass.com

SKI ARLBERG ON EPIC

Only 3 consecutive days, and only with a stay at participating Arlberg lodging.

epicpass.com

MOUNTAIN COLLECTIVE FOR ONE RESORT

Only 2 days per resort: two peak days at Snowbird are $478 at the window, less than the $729 pass. It pays off when you sample several of its 27 resorts.

mountaincollective.com · townlift.com

Which pass covers each resort

Big Sky #1 US	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days · Ikon Session (2–4 days). The Tram costs extra. · Mountain Collective: Mountain Collective 2 days
Vail #2 US	Epic Pass: Epic Pass unlimited · Epic Pass: Epic Local: 10 days total at Vail, Beaver Creek and Whistler Blackcomb, no peak dates
Park City #3 US	Epic Pass: Epic Pass unlimited · Epic Pass: Epic Local unlimited except peak dates
Palisades Tahoe #4 US	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass and Ikon Base unlimited · Ikon Session (2–4 days)
Snowmass #5 US	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days total across the four Aspen Snowmass mountains · Ikon Base 5 days, Snowmass only · Mountain Collective: Mountain Collective 2 days
Breckenridge #6 US	Epic Pass: Epic Pass and Epic Local unlimited, peak dates included
Jackson Hole #7 US	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days, reservations required · not on Ikon Base or Session · Mountain Collective: Mountain Collective 2 days, reservations required
Deer Valley #8 US	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days, reservations required · not on Ikon Base or Session
Mammoth #9 US	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass and Ikon Base unlimited · Ikon Session (2–4 days)
Snowbird #10 US	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days combined with Alta · Ikon Base 5 days · Mountain Collective: Mountain Collective 2 days
Tignes–Val d'Isère #1 World	Not on Epic, Ikon, Mountain Collective or Indy. Buy lift tickets direct (listed adult day ticket €75 per skiresort.info).
Verbier 4 Vallées #2 World	Epic Pass: Epic Pass 5 consecutive days · Epic Local 5 consecutive days, not on peak dates or Feb 6–20, 2027
Les 3 Vallées #3 World	Epic Pass: Epic Pass 7 consecutive days · not on Epic Local
Zermatt–Cervinia #4 World	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days (Zermatt Nov 1–Apr 30; Cervinia via Valle d'Aosta — a Zermatt-to-Cervinia day counts at both)
Ski Arlberg #5 World	Epic Pass: Epic Pass 3 consecutive days, only with a stay at participating Arlberg lodging
Ischgl–Samnaun #6 World	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days (incl. Samnaun)
Whistler Blackcomb #7 World	Epic Pass: Epic Pass unlimited · Epic Local within its 10 combined days, no peak dates
Val Gardena #8 World	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days via Dolomiti Superski (Nov 15–Apr 15; Italian liability insurance required). Epic's Skirama Dolomiti is a different area.
KitzSki #9 World	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days (Kitzbühel with Kirchberg and Mittersill)
Revelstoke #10 World	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days · Ikon Session (2–4 days) · Mountain Collective: Mountain Collective 2 days
Chamonix Editor's pick	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days, combined across 5 Chamonix areas; Aiguille du Midi not included · Mountain Collective: Mountain Collective 2 days
Niseko United Editor's pick	Ikon Pass: Ikon Pass 7 days · Ikon Base 5 days · Ikon Session (2–4 days) · Mountain Collective: Mountain Collective 2 days

What we couldn't verify

RESORT DATA

- Average snowfall for every Alpine/Dolomite resort, Lake Louise, Taos and Niseko. There is no official figure, and the OnTheSnow values are missing or contradictory, so snowfall is not scored for these resorts.
- Closing dates not yet officially announced: Vail, Breckenridge, Palisades, Mammoth, Snowbird, Jackson Hole, Whistler. Deer Valley's is only projected. Where shown, these are OnTheSnow or skiresort.info projections.
- skiresort.info day-ticket prices don't say which season they apply to.
- Big Sky "first full season of Explorer Gondola/Kircliff" comes from a search summary of the press kit. The page itself wasn't opened.
- Val Gardena's two new 10-person gondolas are listed by skiresort.info but not in Dolomiti Superski's official 26/27 release.
- Revelstoke's lower gondola rope replacement comes from a secondary travel site.
- Lift counts use skiresort.info's method and differ from resort claims: Deer Valley 41 vs 32 official, Whistler 27 vs 36.
- Village scores are skiresort.info's editorial star ratings, which are subjective by nature.
- Transfer times are resort or tourism-board estimates for normal conditions.
- Close calls: Revelstoke (#10 world) drops below Lake Louise without snowfall scoring. Telluride (69.3) and Alta (68.4) only just miss the US top 10.
- Chamonix was scored on Grands Montets alone (29 km) because skiresort.info lists the valley's areas separately, so its score understates the whole valley.

PASS DATA

- Epic: next price increase (Nov 15) and sales end (Dec 6) are reported by POWDER, not yet on epicpass.com.
- Epic Military: current price not readable on epicpass.com; launch prices shown.
- Epic Day Pass: price depends on days and resorts — not listed as one number.
- Ikon: final sales date not announced; Ikon Pass child discount amount not shown; refundable add-on fee shown only at checkout.
- Mountain Collective: teen/kids age bands and sales end date not shown. Indy: 2026/27 blackout list still being compiled; pass sold out.

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