

SUGARBUSH SKI RESORT

The Sugarbush and Mad River Glen ski resorts in the Mad River Valley have led to Vermont being dubbed the “Ski Capital of the East.”

The ski resorts are supported by the classic New England towns of Waitsfield and Warren with a wide range of options for accommodations, dining and shopping services that make a visit here a memorable one.

Sugarbush is one of Vermont’s premiere ski resorts and has seen considerable expansion over its half-century of existence.

It began in 1958, started by Damon and Sara Gadd, their partner Jack Murphy, and Lixi Fortna, who was hired to help run the mountain. At the time, lift tickets were just \$5.50!

Today, Sugarbush is spread across six mountains, and resort facilities include three base lodges and two mid-mountain lodges, two retail shops, two rental and repair shops, one snowboard shop and three lounges.

With its dozens of trails covering more than 54 miles, 11 gladed areas covering 40 acres, with a peak elevation of 4,083 ft and a vertical drop of 2,600 ft., there is skiing for everyone from novice to expert, and a ski school for beginners.

Sugarbush has 16 lifts, including 7 quads (5 high-speed), 2 triples, 4 doubles and 3 surface lifts, that are capable of moving more than 25,000 skiers an hour.

In addition to the Gate House and Valley House base areas, you’ll find Sugarbush Village. It includes popular restaurants, video arcade, day school, ski shop, and a health and racquet club.

MAD RIVER GLEN

Mad River Glen on General Stark Mountain (elevation 3,637 ft.) began in 1948 with the introduction of its now-famous Single Chair, and was started by Roland Palmedo, the founder and original investor in the Stowe ski area. He had become disenchanted with the commercial exploitation of the ski industry, and decided to establish a new ski area in the Mad River Valley, “dedicated to the enjoyment of the sport” and the local community that supported it.

The resort’s trails were cut along the natural terrain of the mountain, making skiing challenging for even expert skiers. It led to the coining of the now famous slogan: “Mad River Glen, Ski It If You Can.”

In 1972, Truxton Pratt led a group that purchased Mad River Glen, and his wife, Betsy Pratt, took over a controlling interest in the ski area upon his death in 1975. She continued to faithfully uphold the principles of a resort that caters exclusively to the interests of its patrons, avid loyal Mad River Glen skiers.

In 1995, a new chapter in the resort’s history saw the formation of the Mad River Glen Cooperative that remains dedicated to the roles of preserving the mountain’s ecosystem, providing recreational access, and maintaining the unique character of the area for future generations. Shares are sold to skiers interested in investing in the ideals and goals established nearly 50 years ago, and the resort is now wholly owned by skiers.

Mad River Glenn is also noted for its Naturalist Programs, dedicated to educating the public about the Co-op’s mission to protect and preserve the ecology of the mountain. Founded in 1996, the Naturalist Programs were awarded the 2000 Silver Eagle Award for Excellence in Environmental Education by the National Ski Areas Association. The new Kent Thomas Nature Center at the base of Slalom Hill will have interpretive displays of the geology, ecology and wildlife of General Stark Mountain.

Today, Mad River Glen is noted for its numerous ungroomed, natural trails down beautiful, often narrow trails through the woods, favored among expert skiers. It also has a range of beginner and intermediate trails, all terminating at a single base lodge, making this an ideal family resort. Although snowboarders were allowed on the slopes at Mad River Glen in 1986, they have been banned since 1991.

For information call the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce at **1-800-82VISIT**.