TRACKS TO TRY

CALIFORNIA

Kirkwood Cross Country Center

Above all the rest with a base elevation of 7,800 feet and 80 km of machine groomed trails, Kirkwood offers unsurpassed scenery and the most exciting terrain in the west. The day lodge houses the ski school, a retail and rental shop including standard track, skate and backcountry skis as well as snowshoes and pulks. Kirkwood Mountain Resort is a full service destination resort. Lodging: 800/967-7500,

Cross Country: 209/258-7248, www.kirkwood.com.

www.kiikwood.com.

Mammoth Lakes

While Mammoth is renowned for its world-class downhill skiing, its cross country skiing is also among the best in the West. Surrounded by the Inyo National Forest's winter trail system, visitors can explore tall Jeffrey Pine forests, meadows and fascinating geologic attractions like Inyo Craters, Obsidian Dome, and Hot Creek. Enjoy magnificent vistas of the High Sierra mountain range. Forty-five km of groomed track at Tamarack Ski Center plus 75,000 acres of surrounding National Forest. 888/GoMammoth.

www.VisitMammoth.com.

Sorensen's and Hope Valley Resorts

Your resort for all seasons in the Sierra Nevada. Sorensen's offers cozy housekeeping cabins, many with wood burning stoves, and delicious, homemade cuisine in the Country Café, serving 7 days per week. Located on the eastern edge of beautiful Hope Valley, a perfect spot for XC skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, hiking, biking or just plain relaxing. Conveniently close to Grover Hot Springs State Park, east of Kirkwood and 20 minutes South of Lake Tahoe. For reservations or more information, 800/423-9949,

www.sorensensresort.com.

COLORADO

Glen Eden Resort

Surrounded by high country cattle ranches and National Forest, this small resort north of Steamboat Springs offers the best lodging value in NW Colorado. More than 80 km of perfectly groomed skiing. Unlimited backcountry trails and world class deep powder Telemark skiing. Beautiful views and sunshine. Average snowfall 400 inches. Hot tubs, sleigh rides, snowshoeing and guide service available. Clean, quiet, modern two-bedroom, two-bath cabins with kitchen and all of the comforts of home. Experience a true Colorado Nordic secret. 800/882-0854;

www.glenedenresort.com.

Gunnison & Crested Butte

Gunnison & Crested Butte, Colorado is known for being one of the state's most popular year-round recreation destinations with a contagious local energy. For cross country skiers, it's a winter paradise. Start with over 300 inches of snowfall, 90 kilometers of groomed trails and an exceptional Nordic Center. Ski where Olympic and world-class athletes live and train for the quality and diversity of terrain, and glide into 22 cross country events this winter! 877/345-8926, GunnisonCrestedButte.com.

MINNESOTA

Boundary Country Trekking— Banadad Ski Trail

Ski the Gunflint's Banadad Trail—the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness' (BWCA) longest tracked trail and part of the 180km Gunflint Nordic Ski Trail System. Exclusive silent sport lodging along Banadad at Poplar Creek Guesthouse B&B, Ski-in Cabins and Wilderness Yurts. Snowshoeing and skijoring trails. Adventure trips including lodge to lodge and yurt skiing, dogsledding and other year round adventures. 800/322-8327, www.boundarycountry.com/portal.html.

Gunflint Trail Cross-Country Ski System

Expertly groomed and tracked trails of the legendary Gunflint Trail Area of northeastern Minnesota, winding through white and red pine forests, cedar stands, aspen ridges, and Boundary Waters Wilderness. Available lodging ranges from rustic cabins, to bed and breakfasts, to deluxe accommodations. Annual snowfall is over 100 inches, with consistent snow depths of 20+ inches.

SkiGunflint.com, 800/338-6932.

Lutsen Resort

Experience the beauty and wonder of Lake Superior in the winter. Nearly 200km XC ski trails nearby. Lakeside lodging includes historic lodge rooms, log cabins, and town homes/condos. In-room fireplaces & whirlpools available. Swimming pool/whirlpool, lakeside dining, pub, downhill skiing nearby also. XC ski instruction as well as guided XC ski tours and snowshoe tours. Two new winter adventure packages utilizing xc skiing and snowshoeing include a "Winter Photography Weekend" and a "Women's Winter Adventure weekend. 800/258-8736, www.lutsenresort.com.

VERMONT

The Mountain Top Inn & Resort Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Center

With a setting of "breathtaking natural beauty" the Mountain Top Inn boasts 80 km of Nordic ski trails with 40 km groomed, and 350 acres of pristine backcountry for skiing or snowshoeing. Varied terrain for all skill and age levels. Elevation up to 2,100 ft. Snowmaking on limited trails ensures great conditions. Private or group lessons, ski shop, rentals, café fare. Seasonal packages. Luxurious accommodations and great cuisine. Host site for the New England Women's Cross Country Ski Day on February 3, 2008. Only 11 miles from Killington. 800/445-2100, www.mountaintopinn.com/ccskiprogram.html.

TRACKS TO TRY

Trapp Family Lodge

Home to the country's first and finest cross country ski center and the family who inspired "The Sound of Music." Over 100 km of trails wind through 2,700 acres with magnificent mountain views.

700 Trapp Hill Road, Stowe, VT 05672, 800/826-7000, www.trappfamily.com.

WASHINGTON

Okanogan County Tourism Council

Home to nearly 300 km of machinegroomed, unrepeated trails surrounded by more than a million acres of national wilderness and forest lands. The Methow Valley comprises one of the largest Nordic centers in North America. From novice to expert, you will find skiing, lessons, lodging, competition or dining to suit your preferences. The secluded Highlands Trail in the North Central Okanogan offers 35 km of little used trails. Visit www. okanogancountry.com.

Sun Mountain Lodge

Spectacular mountaintop resort on 3,000 acres. Ski from your door on the famous Methow Valley trail system with 200 km of groomed magic. PSIA fully certified ski school. Full service ski shop with complete rentals. DiRoNA Award winning restaurant. Wine Spectator Award winning wine cellar. AAA Four Diamond Award winning guest rooms. Full-service spa. Two hot tubs, ice skating and sleigh rides. 800/572-0493, www.sunmountainlodge.com.

WISCONSIN

Telemark Resort & **Convention Center**

World-class cross country ski trails (classic, skate and combination skiing), comfortable lodging and terrific dining in Wisconsin's magnificent Northwoods. Man-made snow possibilities for early skiing. Direct access to the American Birkebeiner® race trail. Ski rentals and lessons available. Cross country skiing for

all abilities plus miles of marked snowshoe trails, ice skating, snowboarding and tubing. 129 lodge rooms, 64 condos & suites, restaurant, bar & grill, indoor pool, whirlpool and saunas. Cable, Wisconsin — Great Packages! Toll Free 877/798-4718, www. telemarkresort.com.

CANADA **ONTARIO**

Stokely Creek Lodge

Stokely Creek Lodge, located just north of Sault Ste.Marie, Ontario, has 135 km of wilderness trails and is one of the premier Nordic ski locations in North America. The well marked trails offer skiing challenges for all levels of skiers and are groomed for both classic and skate skiing. The lodge is noted for providing fantastic skiing, first class cuisine and excellent accommodation. 866/786-5359, stokelyc@soonet.ca, www.stokelycreek.com.

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