

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MOUNTAIN MEMORIES

Family Fun on the Slopes



Whoever says kids don't rule the roost sure doesn't know our family! When it comes to family vacations, the kids' needs are first on our priority list. Luckily, [New Hampshire Ski Resorts](#) specialize in family vacations and can offer something for every member of our family. It's no wonder we go back year after year for some family fun on the mountain.

With teenagers and pre-teens in tow, we always need to find slopes with attitude. Terrain parks are all the rage for both skiers and snowboarders and, for many New Hampshire ski areas, terrain parks are a pride and a specialty. Dedicated park rangers are devoted to developing, grooming and managing multiple terrain parks at the area, from beginner to expert. Many areas offer terrain park and ski/snowboard lessons especially designed to give older kids the chance to learn new skills and meet new friends at the same time.

Our first stop this year was [Attitash](#) - we just had to check out New Hampshire's only 500-foot superpipe and a terrain park. While the older kids carved in and out of the terrain park, the younger tots enjoyed the resort's [Adventure Kids & Buddy Bears](#) programs, which made it easy for them to start out right. We've been hearing great things about [Cannon's Huckerbrook Terrain Park](#)— a terrain park created especially for the younger crowd and terrain newbies to cut their teeth, or rather, edges, on. We're planning to head up there later this winter to check it out after the little ones get a few more lessons under their belts.

In fact, all Ski NH areas can accommodate pre-ski and pre-snowboard kids in snow play daycare programs. We loved being able to give our kids a head start by getting them into lessons by age 3 or 4 - our boys have certainly benefited from early slope time and they thank us for it now (well, maybe they don't thank us, per se, but they sure did benefit!). All Ski NH resorts offer [learn to ski programs](#) for young children. As any parent knows, kids learn better from teachers than from their own parents, so we knew we had to enroll them in children's ski school early on. While they were learning, we always took advantage of some adult only slope time. Thanks to its small size and affordable kids' programs, [King Pine](#) was a perfect spot for our family to learn to ski and ride. They even had kid-friendly programming on the TV in their base lodge!



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Special family nights made our ski trips even more fun for the kids (us included!). [Cranmore Mountain Resort](#) has [Cranapalooza](#) every Saturday night, a fun-filled event with skiing and riding, live music, kids' entertainment, arts and crafts, terrain park competitions under the lights and other fun activities. This year, the whole family loved heading to [Pats Peak](#) "[Saturday Nights Under the Lights Pay-One-Price](#)". From 3:00 -10:00 P.M., skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, rentals and lesson tips were all included for one price.

Lots of our favorite areas provide great family incentives that make it easy (and affordable) for us to head up to New Hampshire for some on-the-mountain fun. At [Black Mountain](#), a Family Passport helps us save money by providing tickets for two adults and two kids at a special package rate. At [Dartmouth Skiway](#), the Holiday Weekender Pass covers two days of weekend or holiday skiing at low prices for adults and children.

To keep everyone busy and excited, there's a never-ending calendar of [events](#) at most mountains, featuring everything from magicians and clowns to Olympic athletes. We've found that for family-perfect events, we can't do better than the [Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge](#). Everyone gets a chance in the race gates, and there are so many prizes that we almost always come home with something special.



After so much fun on the slopes, we always want to stay over and turn our family time into a true vacation. New Hampshire's ski areas offer a full array of [lodging](#) choices that make it so easy for us to ski and stay. They have everything from condominiums, resorts and hotels to cottages and homes all across ski country.

And to round out our winter vacation, we always make sure to take advantage of all the cool off-the-slopes activities that New Hampshire has to offer like [sleigh rides](#), [dog sledding](#) and [ziplining](#)! For this family, there's nothing better than a trip to the New Hampshire mountains in the winter.

Mileage & Drive Times

Boston, MA to Concord, NH — 70 Miles, 1.25 Hours
New York, NY to Concord, NH — 251 Miles, 4.25 Hours
Providence, RI to Concord, NH — 112 Miles, 2 Hours
Hartford, CT to Concord, NH — 142 Miles, 2.5 Hours
Philadelphia, PA to Concord, NH — 360 Miles, 6.5 Hours
Montreal, QC to Concord, NH — 243 Miles, 4.5 Hour

