



RESORT

The Snowboarder's Guide To The Best Parks, Pipes, And Overall Resorts In North America

For 12 years *TransWorld SNOWboarding's* Resort Poll has ranked the top spots across North America with your help. Once again, you told us which resorts killed it. We ran the numbers, and the results are in. But after you see this season's picks, the next step is planning your trip and getting the most out of it. That means rounding up crucial details on where you want to go. We're talking the absolute need-to-know info like when park features are at their peak, the best time of day to ride which park, where to head when the pow is deep, and, perhaps most importantly, where the cheap beers are. To get you to the goods we tapped pros like Sage Kotsenburg, Eric Willett, Luke Mitrani, Chris Bradshaw, and more, plus local up-and-comers, and terrain park managers at each resort. Then we added Editor's Picks, drawing on our team's extensive collection of core shots and bar tabs, sampled from east to west and up into Canada to present categories like Best Freeriding and Best Nightlife. Now it's simple: Read this guide and know before you go.

Running The Numbers

We took 8,600 responses on more than 140 resorts and crunched the data to find who came out on top. Each respondent filled out a survey for up to three resorts they rode last winter. That survey is made up of 28 categories including snow quality, grooming, and park layout. New for this year we added six extra categories covering park creativity, how current the features are, park staff, overall staff, lift lines, and crowds to help the poll evolve.

POLL

Blake Axelson takes it to the streetstyle setups at Snowmass. Just one ingredient that makes this all-terrain mountain number one.

PHOTO: AARON DODDS



BY MIKE SUDMEIER

1. Aspen/Snowmass/Highlands/Buttermilk

	Snowfall: 300"		Number of Lifts: 42
	Elevation: 12,510'		Hub: Denver, Colorado
	Vertical Drop: 4,406'		Website: aspensnowmass.com

With four distinct mountains, Aspen/Snowmass offers a buffet of terrain. We tapped Doran Laybourn for the lowdown. For years, he's called the area home because "Aspen/Snowmass really has it all." According to Doran, if you're in the mood for hot laps, Buttermilk is the spot for top-to-bottom park features, Superpipe hits, and plenty of groomers. On pow days, hit up Highlands Bowl or the Highlands Deep Temerity area. After that's tracked, you can usually find snow on Burnt Mountain at Snowmass. When the lifts close, get your après on at Sneaky's Tavern in Snowmass or Eric's Bar in Aspen. For dinner, snag sushi at Kenichi or a sandwich at Johnny McGuire's. Park perfection, blower pow, and an all-time après scene—you'll find it here.

2. Park City, Utah

	Snowfall: 365"		Number of Lifts: 16
	Elevation: 10,000'		Hub: Salt Lake City, Utah
	Vertical Drop: 3,100'		Website: parkcitymountain.com

Don't be deceived by the name—there's more to Park City than kickers and rails. Sage Kotsenburg grew up here, "and there's no reason to leave," he says. "It is my favorite park, an awesome town, and an amazing mountain." Sage suggests starting your day off with breakfast at Wasatch Bagel then warming up on Claim Jumper. If it's dumping, head to Scott's Bowl or the trees by Pinecone Ridge. For lunch, make your way to Cobra Dogs at the bottom of 3 Kings park. Then ply your park skills in the new Neff Land or throw down your A-game in King's Crown. At the end of the day, snag some cheap beer at O'Shucks or a killer pizza at Davanza's. If you still haven't gotten your fill, head back for night riding.

EDITOR'S PICKS Best Freeride Resorts

Mt. Baker

Loads of snow, crazy pitches, natty hits abound, and serious sidecountry. It's off the beaten path but worth it.

Jackson Hole

Vast sidecountry, loads of inbound action, a Burton Stash Park, and home mountain of Mr. Travis Rice.

Snowbird

Can't beat the cat tracks on Chip's. Trees on Gad 2 are good, so is anything on Baldy—especially Alta...

Dan Brisse not jumping a building.
Park City.
PHOTO: ROB MATHIS

Spencer Whiting, method in Mammoth.
PHOTO: PETER MORNING

10

3. Mammoth, California

 Snowfall: 400"	 Number of Lifts: 28
 Elevation: 11,053'	 Hub: Reno, Nevada
 Vertical Drop: 3,100'	 Website: mammothmountain.com

4. Bear Mountain, California

 Snowfall: 100"	 Number of Lifts: 9
 Elevation: 8,805'	 Hub: Los Angeles, California
 Vertical Drop: 1,665'	 Website: bearmountain.com

5. Whistler/Blackcomb, BC, Canada

 Snowfall: 470"	 Number of Lifts: 37
 Elevation: 7,494'	 Hub: Vancouver, BC, Canada
 Vertical Drop: 5,209'	 Website: whistlerblackcomb.com

Steeps to park, Mammoth has something for everyone. Despite its diverse terrain, Luke Mitrani maintains, "The best part about Mammoth is the sunshine. It can be the middle of winter and feel like spring." Do your day like Luke with an Early Riser breakfast from the Old New York Deli & Bakery Co. in the village. Then, to session some midsize kickers, head straight to South Park. Otherwise, "The best lap run is under Chair 12," Luke says. "When it snows, it's unreal. Tons of little bumps, backflip jumps, and side hits to have fun on all day." On pow days, seek out the Dragon's Tail. When the sun sets, head to Mammoth Brewing Company for drinks. Make plans to move here over dinner at Roberto's.

Bear is a park rat's dream. Just ask Chris Bradshaw. "Pretty much the whole mountain is a park," he says. "Everybody's all about having a good time—rain or shine you can find the locs shredding hard every day." Thanks to a killer park crew, you can enjoy top-to-bottom jib lines and manicured kickers throughout Park Run. And for street-inspired features, drop into the Red Bull Plaza. But there's more than just park. For natural banks and trannies, explore Geronimo Gulch, Bradshaw suggests. If you can't make it up midweek, Bear can be crowded on the weekends, but things usually quiet down by 1:00 p.m. After shredding, wind down at Murray's with a pitcher of PBR, then keep the fiesta going with some Mexican food at Sonora Cantina.

"Throughout my years of traveling, I always want to come home to ride Whistler," Leanne Pelosi confesses. We can't blame her—the area has more than 8,000 acres of cliff drops, tree runs, and parks. For hot laps Leanne recommends the hit runs off of Red Chair on Whistler. Lower down, look for bike trails with sick berms hidden among the trees. But if it's snowing, Peak to Creek is where it's at. The Blackcomb park is the go-to for jumping, while the Whistler park is best for jibbing. Switching mountains and parks is easy with an 11-minute ride on the Peak-2-Peak gondola. When your legs are spent, visit rider-owned El Furniture Warehouse for cheap beer, followed by Sushi Village for dinner.

RESORTS

6. Sierra-at-Tahoe, California

 Snowfall: 480"	 Number of Lifts: 14
 Elevation: 8,852'	 Hub: Reno, Nevada
 Vertical Drop: 2,212'	 Website: sierraattahoe.com

If the terrain at Sierra-at-Tahoe doesn't make you drool, study the scenery. Massive old growth forests surround the mountain and provide the perfect backdrop for its epic parks. Jamie Anderson grew up lapping them and continues to call Sierra-at-Tahoe her home. "I love Sugar N' Spice to The Alley then to West Bowl," Anderson says. "It's a big fun lap, and there are lots of side hits and log rides the whole way." When the snow falls, hit up Huckleberry Bowl—but bring your backcountry game—it's not patrolled. For good eats on the mountain, visit the Happy Hippy Café. Once you finally get those boots off, head to the Free Bird Café or Off The Hook Sushi for dinner.

7. Keystone, Colorado

 Snowfall: 235"	 Number of Lifts: 20
 Elevation: 12,408'	 Hub: Denver, Colorado
 Vertical Drop: 3,128'	 Website: keystoneresort.com

Listen to local ripper Josh Stock talk about Keystone and you'll want to drop everything and move there. "Keystone is one of those places where everybody knows your name," he says. In addition to a crew of welcoming locals, the mountain boasts epic terrain. To get things started, Josh points to Go Devil, the rollers on Jackwhacker or the banks and log jibs along Schoolmarm. When that dry, light Colorado snow flies, drop into The Windows, consider a cheap cat ride to Bergman or Ericson bowls, or explore the bowls in the Outback. The park is all about Area-51. Serviced by its own lift, it has plenty of kickers and skate-influenced jib lines. For cheap beer and grub, Stock offers, "Poor shred bums swear by Dos Locos."

• Best Nightlife •

EDITOR'S PICKS

Whistler

Mix with the pros at Garfinkel's or the newly opened, rider-owned, El Furniture Warehouse. The village is pure chaos (and entertainment) when the bars let out.

Aspen

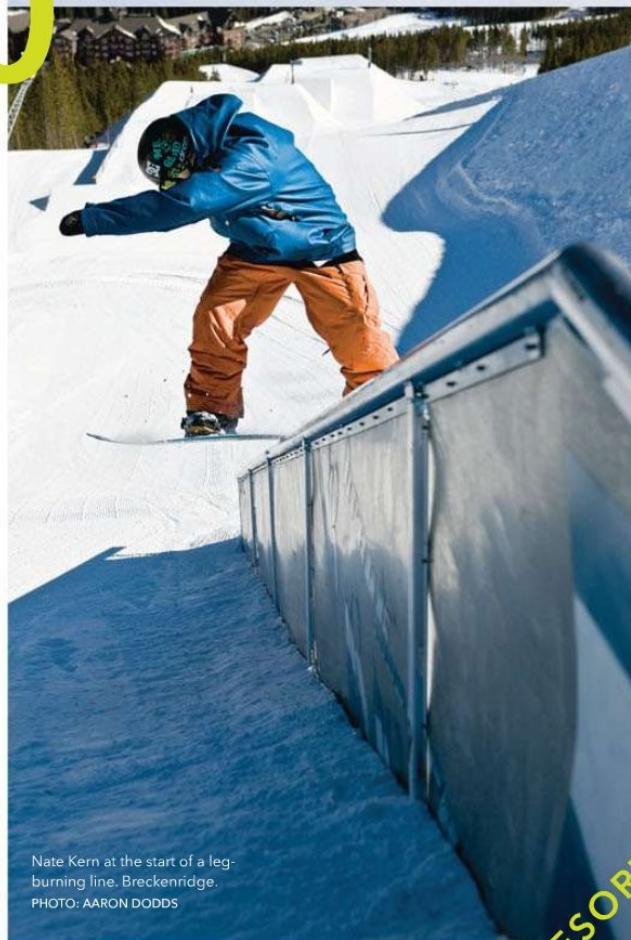
Late-night concerts at Belly Up, celebrity sightings, bangin' house parties during X Games, and a little dive called Woody Creek Tavern.

Park City

Start off with a PBR at Cobra Dogs. After that, Downstairs or Cisero's are worthy.



Whistler's trees hold many gems.
Adam Chuntz goes mining.
PHOTO: JUSSI GRZNAR



Nate Kern at the start of a leg-burning line. Breckenridge.
PHOTO: AARON DODDS

RESORTS



Everyone knows a bear shits in the woods, but this Bear dumps out some of SoCal's best riding. Zak Hale.

PHOTO: CHRIS WELLHAUSEN

8. Copper, Colorado

	Snowfall: 279"		Number of Lifts: 22
	Elevation: 12,313'		Hub: Denver, Colorado
	Vertical Drop: 2,601'		Website: coppercolorado.com

Despite its world-class shred scene, Copper lacks the crowds common elsewhere in Summit County. Woodward at Copper Head Coach Rick Shimpeno says Copper's tight-knit feel causes "many of the sessions to feel like family reunions." Here are some of the family secrets: Start by asking the way to Mario Land, a hidden zone filled with stumps, bumps, and pow stashes. Next, make your way to the Playground and Woodward Central parks before rolling into the Superpipe. Then top up by grabbing a slice of pizza at Jack's before hopping back on the chair. On pow days, make some slashes on the steep, rolling terrain by the A chair. For post-shred fun, snag a skate session at Woodward, drinks at Endo's, or grub at Alpinista.

9. Breckenridge, Colorado

	Snowfall: 350"		Number of Lifts: 20
	Elevation: 8,610'		Hub: Denver, Colorado
	Vertical Drop: 2,280'		Website: breckenridge.com

Whether you're a park rat or soul shredder, Breckenridge has got the goods. "The mountain has great flow and four different peaks to ride," Eric Willett says. He suggests kicking things off on Peak 9. "There are a couple hidden spots with some natural and manmade log jibs through the trees," he says. After a storm, enjoy deep snow off 6-Chair. Then hit up the rider's right of Peak 10 for lines through the trees, followed by T-Bar laps to North Bowl, where there are often pockets of pow. Finally, session Breck's precision-built parks. When night falls, hurry to Empire Burger or Downstairs at Eric's. For a month of insane fiestas and music, catch Breck Spring Fever.

10. Northstar, California

	Snowfall: 350"		Number of Lifts: 20
	Elevation: 8,610'		Hub: Reno, Nevada
	Vertical Drop: 2,280'		Website: northstarcalifornia.com

Eero Ettala calls Northstar home because of its "overall mellow Tahoe vibe and sunny California feeling." He gets his day going by taking the Zephyr Express then following Pioneer Trail to the Stash Park where you can session wooden jibs all the way to the lift. If you're craving more park, Eero recommends Pinball. It's got top-to-bottom jumps, rails, and jibs, followed by a pipe. Hitting so many features is bound to make you hungry, so snag lunch at the Zephyr Lodge. If it's snowing, however, explore the trees on The Backside or Martis Camp. For après head to TC's Pub for brews and grub, or over to Truckee and feast at Bill's or Tacos Jalisco. With Northstar enjoying more than 300 days of sunshine a year, you can toast to many more laps.



BY MIKE SUDMEIER



1. Snowmass, Colorado

 Parks:	4	 Jibs:	50
 Pipes:	12', 22'	 Peak Features:	Late December
 Jumps:	20	 Website:	aspensnowmass.com

With four parks, Snowmass provides the perfect canvas for progression. But it's not just the terrain that makes Snowmass so sick. "There's a great sense of community here," Snowmass loc Jordie Karlinski says. She breaks off some insider info on how to approach the park: With a row of kickers and smaller boxes and rails, Makaha Park offers quick warm-up laps off the Elk Camp Gondola. Once your game is dialed, hop on the Coney Glade Chair and roll into the Snowmass Main Park when it opens around 10:00 a.m. Enjoy the triple line or hit up the rails and boxes. If you need to catch your breath or gather courage, take a break and thank the park staff. The features at Snowmass receive around-the-clock attention—and it shows.

2. Keystone, Colorado

 Parks:	9	 Jibs:	100+
 Pipe:	13'	 Peak Features:	January
 Jumps:	20+	 Website:	keystone resort.com/a51/home

Keystone's A51 is stocked to capacity. Packed with kickers and jibs, each run rewards progression and creativity. Thanks to night riding and a dedicated chair, you can rack countless laps. Warm up in the Incubator and then hit the triple line on I-70. When it's time to throw down hammers, head to Main Street. Starting this year, Main Street will be a top-to-bottom slopestyle line to aid shreds training for the 2014 Olympics in Sochi. Keystone's jibs are also part of the draw. "It's a jib paradise," local Josh Stock says. "The whole park flows like a skate park, so you can combo features and pick weird, creative lines all day." Stock explains that the park crew often invents features that cause riders to ask, "What do you even call that thing?"



Blake Axelson pokes one at Snowmass.
PHOTO: AARON DODDS

3. Bear Mountain, California

P Parks:	Jibs:
1	80
Pipe:	Peak Features:
8', 13', 18'	January
Jumps:	Website:
105	bearmountain.com

Ask how many parks Bear rocks and you'll get a simple answer: one. More than 85 percent of the mountain is dedicated to park features. As Chris Bradshaw explains, "The park staff is always working hard to keep it fresh and constantly changing it up so it never gets old." When the setup is at full capacity in January, Bear boasts 45 jumps and 60 air features including quarterpipes, rollers, hips, and road step-downs. For jumps, Bradshaw suggests the double line on Central Park. "It's the best jump line in Southern California. Period." If that's not enough, Bear also runs three pipes and 80 jibs, including the street-inspired features in the Red Bull Plaza. The best part? With Bear's warm temps, you can rock a sweatshirt almost all winter.

4. Park City, Utah

P Parks:	Jibs:
4	65
Pipe:	Peak Features:
13', 22'	Mid-January
Jumps:	Website:
25	irideparkcity.tv

For years, Park City has pushed progression. This year is no different, as the mountain debuts a mini-pipe and new park, Neff Land. Loaded with Candy Land-inspired features, Neff Land is the place to get your tricks dialed. When it's time to up your game, head to 3 Kings or go extra large in the resort's premier park, King's Crown. Then, to satisfy cravings for tranny, drop into the Eagle Superpipe. If you're a workhorse, you can lap 3 Kings for 12 hours straight thanks to night riding, a dedicated triple chair, and a slope side Cobra Dogs to keep you fueled up. For newcomers to Park City, Sage Kotsenburg has simple advice: "Snake the skiers. If you don't snake them, they *will* snake you."

5. Sierra-at-Tahoe, California

P Parks:	Jibs:
5	40+
Pipe:	Peak Features:
18'	February
Jumps:	Website:
15-20	sierraatahove.com

With tons of features, Sierra-at-Tahoe will keep your head spinning long after you land your trick. As Jamie Anderson says, "Just come have a good time!" She recommends warming up in the Alley, which has the mountain's best jib line, and when it's time for some kickers, drop into Bashful. Sierra-at-Tahoe has also gained a strong following due to the consistency of its pipe. For those young ones in training, last season the mountain unveiled the Burton *Star Wars* Experience at Yoda's Riglet Park. The mini-park and training center is geared toward shreds ages six and under and features custom-wood carvings of R2-D2, C-3PO, and Chewbacca. But don't worry—there are plenty of down-flat-downs, wallrides, and boxes for the big kids.



Tim Humphreys takes a lap at Keystone where 2014 Olympic slopestyle hopefuls will train this winter. PHOTO: AARON DODDS



Suntans and C-rails. It's good livin' at Bear. Ian Sams. PHOTO: CHRIS WELLHAUSEN

10

PARKS



Backflip from Stevie "The Mamba" Bell
at Park City.
PHOTO: ROB MATHIS

6. Mammoth, California

P Parks:	8	J Jibs:	126
P Pipe:	12', 18', 22'	P Peak Features:	November
J Jumps:	95	W Website:	mammothunbound.com

When it comes to parks, the only thing Mammoth doesn't provide is a bigger set of nuts. Head to the South Park to warm yours up. As Luke Mitrani says, "It's just a great park to mess around with your friends. The jumps aren't too big or too small—they're the perfect size." Next, hit up Jamie Lynn's Art Park, which is filled with features painted by the legend. If you're ready to get sendy, drop into Main Park. According to Mitrani, the features are "always built and maintained to perfection." This year Mammoth debuts the beginner-friendly Unbound Playground Progression Park, as well as the Downtown Collection, which consists of serious street-style features. Did we mention Mammoth also rocks three perfect pipes?

7. Buttermilk, Colorado

P Parks:	2	J Jibs:	70
P Pipe:	22'	P Peak Features:	February, after X Games
J Jumps:	35	W Website:	aspensnowmass.com/buttermilk

There's a reason Buttermilk is home to the X Games: Its park is filled with perfectly sculpted terrain and progressive features. Doran Laybourn explains: "The park crew knows what's up and rides all the stuff they build like bosses." Things start rolling in early December, but be forewarned: Much of the park is closed throughout January in preparation for the X Games. But "When everything reopens following, it's on!" Greg Boyd, Terrain Parks Operations Director says. If you're not quite ready to throw down like McMorris or Kotsenburg, drop into the S3 Park on West Buttermilk. If, however, you are thinking about throwing doubles, you'll want the Main Park. Boyd promises that Buttermilk has "no lift lines, no attitudes, and great riding to be had everywhere."

8. Northstar, California

P Parks:	7	J Jibs:	100+
P Pipe:	18', 22'	P Peak Features:	January
J Jumps:	35	W Website:	northstarcalifornia.com/parks

Don't be fooled by the mellow vibes—the parks at Northstar pack a punch. Start your day on the little jumps in the Straits Park and then hit Pinball. According to Eero Ettala, "It has a real good flow through the whole park and loads of different obstacles to hit." After a few runs, string together Eero's favorite line: session the top of Pinball, cut over to the three small jumps on the Straits Park, and then snake through the woods back to Pinball. If you're hoping to get away from plastic and metal, get your jib on au naturel in the Burton Stash Parks or ride some pipe. Northstar sports both an 18-foot pipe and Shaun White's signature 22-foot Superpipe.



Anto Chamberland toasts some buttery style to this Mammoth pole jam.
PHOTO: PETER MORNING



Enni Rukajärvi works a jump line at Sierra at Tahoe.
PHOTO: CHRIS WELLHAUSEN

Top

1.0

PARKS

9. Copper, Colorado



Parks:
3



Pipe:
22'



Jumps:
12-15



Jibs:
50+



Peak Features:
November



Website:
woodwardatcopper.com

Copper gets the season going with a bang. Where else can you celebrate Thanksgiving with a Super-pipe and premium park features? But the party continues all winter, as the mountain builds and constantly maintains every feature. To get your groove on, head up the Union Creek lift and session the smaller features in the Playground Park. From there, roll right into Woodward Central, which sports bigger features and a variety of lines. Local ripper Rick Shimpeno recommends lapping the medium line, which provides the perfect blend of jibs and mid-sized jumps. If you still have some energy, head over to Woodward. "Don't forget your skateboard," Rick says. "You can shred Copper all day and then get a skate session in the Woodward at Copper Barn."

10. Breckenridge, Colorado



Parks:
5



Pipe:
22'



Jumps:
20



Jibs:
80



Peak Features:
January



Website:
breck1080.com

Breck's parks may cause butterflies, excessive levels of stoke, and occasional soggy underwear. "The park is a huge standout," Eric Willett says. "Every-one comes here to train early season because they get their park up fast, and it stays perfect all year." Despite having dozens of monster features, Breck's parks are also progression friendly. "Park Lane is the best place to start your day," Willett suggests. "There's a good triple line at the top and a ton of jibs and rails." Next, drop into Freeway to find four jumps between 50 and 70 feet in length. Willett recommends that you either "do it as a whole line or split it up two and two." Breck also rocks a killer pipe. Be careful—vacations here can cause permanent relocations.

EDITOR'S PICKS

• Best Snow •

Jackson

Light and deep. Jackson's one of the coldest places in the country, making it a refrigerator for pow.

Revelstoke

It's the kind of place you can show up to a week after it's snowed and still smash pillow stacks of tits deep, untracked Interior BC blower.

Snowbird

Little Cottonwood Canyon is cool. Most years the snow is light and there's a lot of it. Goes fast though...



BY JOHN POULIN



1. Seven Springs, Pennsylvania

Parks: 6	Jibs: 70+
Pipe: 22', 13'	Peak Features: Mid-January
Jumps: 10	Website: 7springs.com

It takes a lot of hard work. Not just to get here, but to stay here. Three years in a row at the top of our list should give you a clear picture. "The commitment to new concepts like The Streets really help us stand out from what others are doing," Terrain Park Manager Joel Rerko says. "We're getting more features in there, and we're in the process of working with Pat Moore and Nic Suave on the design." So what's a regular day like in this PA oasis? "Hot laps in The Alley are always the best warm-up," local ripper Chuck Lengle says. Then, hit The Streets. "So many fun lines," he says. "There are always people finding new, creative stuff to do in there. And don't miss opening day of the 22-foot pipe; it's like a holiday."

2. Mount Snow, Vermont

Parks: 10	Jibs: 150
Pipe: 18', 12'	Peak Features: Early January
Jumps: 45	Website: carinthiaparks.com

Even before Day Franzen became Freestyle Operations Manager at Mount Snow, he was laying ground for the direction they would take their parks. Founder of Kingvale—the former DIY park resort in Tahoe—and co-founder of the Cutter's Cup—a camp for park builders—Day's visions have guided park construction more than most people recognize. Now he's in charge of sculpting Carinthia Peak, the all-mountain park that 2012 US Open Rail Jam winner and Mount Snow Park Ranger Shaun Murphy calls home. Not a bad place to work and play. "My favorite jib line? Definitely the Junkyard," he says. "Creative rails, lift towers, redirects, spines, and lots and lots of propane tanks. There's a skatepark style flow to it."

3. Loon Mountain, New Hampshire

Parks: 8	Jibs: 50+
Pipe: 18', 10'	Peak Features: New Year's
Jumps: 24	Website: loonmtn.com

It's pretty hard to beat the park lap at Loon. First, you hop in the gondola and thaw yourself out. Then it's all about the side hits on the way to the park. "Just cruising with the group down Bear Claw is the best part," Capita rider Mike Rav says. Head into the LMP for the big-jump line, then find the Hubba at the bottom near the Shaping Shack. You'll likely find some weird concoction brewing there. Jay Scambio and the rest of the park staff are always experimenting and tweaking builds; the shack is almost a trial ground for these new setups. "Everyone's down, open to ideas," Mike says. "They put a lot of pride into their work here."

4. Waterville Valley, New Hampshire

Parks: 6	Jibs: 50+
Pipe: Mini Pipe	Peak Features: New Year's
Jumps: 16	Website: waterville.com

There's the ground lift running the length of the park and the iconic Hubba. These two things usually stand out when you think of Waterville. But then there's the consistent shuffling of rails in the park, dialed jumps, the influence of events like Pat Moore's Back To The Boneyard and our own TransAm. It's a shred-driven atmosphere, one led by former Think Thinker and current Park Supervisor Luke Mathison. It's all about snowboarding, the young guns riding with the old dogs, and it's casual. Tyler Davis rides Waterville whenever he's not teaching high-school English. "There's a lot of history here, like the Boneyard and Snow's Mountain," he says. "Even the younger generation of riders all respect that."

5. Sugarbush, Vermont

Parks: 4	Jibs: 50+
Pipe: None	Peak Features: Mid-January
Jumps: 5	Website: sugarbush.com

It's the jib mecca of Northern Vermont. They cover the basics, of course: You've got your flatbars, down bars, wallrides, and boxes. Then they get weird with the unique features, little rail islands with as many angles as you could dream. They make a lot from a little, and it's thanks to the energy of Park Supervisor Tony Chiuchiolo and his dedicated crew. Day in, day out, they're not doing it for themselves; it's for the local community. It's paying off. "All the kids are stoked," Vermonter Yale Cousino says. Yale has always called this place home, and he puts the rail setup at Sugarbush in elite company. "There's Bear, Keystone... It's top three, for sure," he says.



They call Kevin Kobasa the Bradshaw of Seven Springs. Poppin' off in The Streets.
PHOTO: DANTHOMPSON



• Best Jib Parks •

Bear

Like air is to breathing, jibbing is to Bear. For a double decade they've led the charge with innovative setups, and they're not slowing down.

Mountain High

The City of Angels is surreal as it is, but Mountain High took it one step further and transformed four LA landmarks into street setups on snow.

Seven Springs

They have The Streets, The Alley, and they've been number one on our Resort Poll for years. Check it out.



Maybe Loon's Mike Ravelson got so good because he's been taking the same park lap off the gondola for the past four years.
PHOTO: GREG FUREY



Ralph Kucharek keeps it proper between the bindings at Sugarbush.
PHOTO: DREW AMATO



Pat Milbery keeps his eye on the prize. Tyrol Basin.
PHOTO: CHRIS GARRISON



Brad Doren.
Cannonsburg.
PHOTO: MARC MOLINE



Corey Wissink. Granite Peak.
PHOTO: WYATT FRITZ



BY MIKE SUDMEIER



• Best Value •

Brighton

Good snow, fun rails, awesome sidecountry and hikeable lines. Great deals on passes and day tickets.

Whitewater

Forty feet of annual snowfall, 2,044 feet of vertical, and non-existent liftlines for just 64 bucks a ticket. Plus, some of the best affordable grub.

Sierra-at-Tahoe

The cheapest pass in Tahoe comes with some of the best parks, pillow stacks, and tree riding found around the Lake.

1. Tyrol Basin, Wisconsin

 Parks: 5	 Jibs: 30
 Pipe: 12"	 Peak Features: Early January
 Jumps: 4-8	 Website: tyrolbasin.com

2. Granite Peak, Wisconsin

 Parks: 5	 Jibs: 45
 Pipe: None	 Peak Features: January
 Jumps: 15	 Website: skigranitepeak.com

3. Cannonsburg, Michigan

 Parks: 7	 Jibs: 70
 Pipe: None	 Peak Features: Mid-January
 Jumps: 7	 Website: cannonsburg.com

For more than two decades, Tyrol has crafted premium parks. And thanks to serious snowmaking, Tyrol keeps riders shredding for six months straight. After warming up on Gentle Ben, head to the pipe or the Barnyard for lines filled with rails, kickers, and jibs. "Tyrol Basin's park crew does an awesome job of changing up the park weekly and maintaining all the features," local rider Calvin Connor says. The park also has at least one larger jump that gets up to 65 feet. Float a backside one over this monster kicker and then snap up some of Bartender Josh's legendary wings in the lodge. Keep it going into the night then roll into Mount Horeb for a milkshake and ButterBurger at Culver's or microbrews at The Grumpy Troll.

Granite Peak has got park building down to a science. Thanks to a dedicated crew that's constantly grooming and raking, every feature remains well maintained. "You can take lap after lap without having to land in a three-foot-deep rut," local ruler Corey Wissink says. After warming up in the Tyro Park, catch the high-speed Comet chair and lap Sugar Maple and Aspen. These park runs transfer into one another, creating lines filled with rails, boxes, and booters. If you're looking to catch some sky, head to the west side of the mountain and hit up the jump line. The booters run seven deep and are up to 60 feet in length. After a long day—or night—of shredding, hit up Polito's Pizza or Zhou's Mongolian BBQ.

With seven manicured parks, Cannonsburg makes a masterpiece out of a small canvas. "The people and staff are super friendly with just a good all-around vibe," up-and-coming ripper Jacob Visser explains. "What makes them stand out is their determination to provide an outstanding park and mountain." To see for yourself, hit up the jumps on Cannon Park and then cut over to the rails and jibs on City Park. Thanks to several new towropes and a new lighting system, lapping Cannonsburg's parks just got easier. With a series of events that keep riders amped all season, Cannonsburg also works hard to build a tight-knit shred scene. When the day is over, you just might find the locals celebrating over dinner at The Grist Mill.

MIDWEST