



Sun Peaks Ski Resort

Nestled in B.C.'s interior, Sun Peaks' quaint European-style village offers a warm and casual stay with a touch of luxury. Choose from numerous romantic accommodations, from the honeymoon suite with its own in-suite double Jacuzzi at the Sun Peaks Lodge to the stately Delta Sun Peaks Resort nearby featuring gorgeous slope-side views.

The area's unique location provides plenty of sunshine, dry snow and consistent temperatures. More than 30 kilometres of groomed Nordic ski trails accessed directly from the village plus 13 kilometres of ungroomed backcountry loops through the wilderness await skiers of all experience levels.

The most popular beginner trail is the McGillivray Lake Trail, which can be accessed on the eastern side of the village and is also the only dog-friendly trail at Sun Peaks. Those who plan their trip in accordance with the lunar calendar can take advantage of the Sun Peaks Nordic Ski and Chocolate Fondue event, which takes skiers to a warming hut at the edge of McGillivray Lake.

After making your way to the log cabin under the light of a full moon and a star-filled sky, you'll be treated to hot mulled cider, live acoustic-guitar performances from local musicians, hearty chili and chocolate fondue, with an astronomy lesson to test your knowledge of the constellations. You couldn't ask for a more romantic evening!

If fondue isn't your taste, why not enjoy a romantic horse-drawn sleigh ride through the forest before returning to the village for dinner, or soothe your tired muscles with a couples massage in the peaceful Sun Peaks Spa, located in the Kookaburra Lodge. With more than 20 restaurants and cafes in the village, there's no shortage of romantic dining options.

For a uniquely Canadian experience, try the Voyager Bistro in the Kookaburra Lodge. Its heritage-inspired cuisine features bison, bannock and local fish. Or for an intimate dining experience, the Mantles Lounge at the Delta Sun Peaks Resort offers a sophisticated adults-only lounge with dining in front of a lit fire that's sure to set a romantic mood. The rest of the night is up to you!

Just the Facts

Located 45 minutes from Kamloops, B.C.

30 kilometres of groomed trails accessible from the village

A variety of accommodation options from standard to luxury

Onsite activities include horse-drawn sleigh ride, ice skating, dog sled and snowmobile tours, massage, sports and aquatic centre and shopping at a wide variety of boutiques with everything from sports equipment to local art and fine chocolates

Events: the Nordic Ski and Chocolate Fondue event runs once a month in conjunction with the full moon (\$88/couple)

More than 20 restaurants and cafes in the village offer something for every taste
www.sunpeaksresort.com/, info@sunpeaktourism.com, 1-800-807-3257

Reinvigorate Your Love Life ROMANTIC ESCAPES

by Lisa Evans

What could be more romantic than curling up next to a roaring fire after a fine day of cross-country skiing? Whether you're looking to spice up your love life, propose to your partner, mark an anniversary or simply escape from the stresses of daily life, these fabulous love-inspired getaways have everything you need and more.

(opposite) Sun Peaks Lodge offers casual accommodation with a touch of luxury.

(above) Access more than 30 kilometres of groomed Nordic ski trails from the quaint village of Sun Peaks.

(right) The Snowflake Inn's candles-and-petals service can be ordered to create a romantic ambiance.



The Snowflake Inn

Located in the heart of this delightful New England village dedicated to Nordic skiing, The Snowflake Inn is one of the area's most charming and comfortable country inns, and it just screams "romantic." "Everything about Snowflake Inn was designed for quiet and relaxation," says owner Sue Methot. The 20 large suites all feature a



Turpin Meadow Ranch

(above) Turpin Meadow Ranch offers 15 kilometres of trails for all abilities
(right) The ranch cabins have every luxurious amenity
(below) The charming Snowflake Inn just screams romantic.

two-person Jacuzzi, a double shower and a king-sized bed.

Nordic skiing is ingrained in the local culture in Jackson Village. Some 150 kilometres of trails link many inns and restaurants surrounding White Mountain National Forest. Residents use the trails to ski to work, children ski to school and visitors are greeted by ski trails right at the front door to their inns. While skiing hand-in-hand with your sweetie is surely romantic, it's only the beginning of your lovers' getaway in Jackson Village.

A horse-drawn sleigh ride through Nestlenook Farm will start your romantic evening on the right track. Trails lined with gas lanterns lead through the forest and over bridges that overlook the groomed pond while background music serenades you over the rhythmic clatter of horse hooves. "It's just a magical place," says Methot, who adds the sleigh ride is a popular excursion for proposals.

Back at the Inn, a candles-and-petals service can be ordered to create a romantic ambiance upon your return to your suite. "While guests are at dinner, we go to their suite, put a dozen candles and petals from a dozen fresh roses around the room and a bottle of champagne or sparkling cider on ice. We light the candles, turn on the music and hit the lights," says Methot.

The romance doesn't stop there as the Snowflake Inn's candlelit indoor spa adds another dimension and opportunity with the perfect ambiance to get in the mood. The 18-jet swim spa is surrounded by cedar walls and a four-foot sheer-descent waterfall. This place is so romantic, Methot says she's seen guests come while dating and return for the proposal, the honeymoon, the anniversary and even the babymoon. Like I said, the skiing is just the beginning.

Just the Facts

Located in Jackson Village, N.H.
150 kilometres of groomed trails at the door
Accommodation from \$179/night
Onsite activities include Candlelit Badu Swim Spa, in-room massage, horse-drawn sleigh ride, fitness centre and infrared sauna for two
www.thesnowflakeinn.com, innkeeper@thesnowflakeinn.com, 1-888-383-1020



Turpin Meadow Ranch

Turpin Meadow Ranch

Wake up to the peace and serenity of Jackson Hole, Wy. With no cell service, limited WiFi and no televisions, Turpin Meadow Ranch is an ideal setting for a romantic winter escape. Owners Hans and Nancy Johnstone are former Olympic Nordic skiers who dreamt of finding a place like this to ski. Upon visiting the ranch, they fell in love with the property and decided to settle here and try their hand at ranching.



Snowflake Inn

The ranch opened for visitors in December 2013, but already has all the qualities of a lovers' retreat. Its 15 kilometres of groomed trails are suitable for all ability levels, from challenging uphill and downhill to scenic flats with breathtaking views of the Buffalo Fork River. A direct connection to the Continental Divide Trail provides an additional 600 kilometres of groomed trail for snowmobiling.

Cuddle up by the fireplace in the historic ranch and enjoy a meal prepared with food grown and raised onsite or sourced locally. Spend the night in one of eight fully restored 1932 one- or two-bedroom cozy cabins. "We kept the historic ambiance of the cabins, but we upgraded every amenity so they're very luxurious on the inside," says Alison Sehnert, sales and marketing manager.

Each of the cabins feature a king bed, a luxurious private bath with handcrafted bath products and a front porch overlooking the river. The Johnstones have plans to open a spa in the fall of 2014, as well as four chalets and a bunkhouse that will sleep up to 18 and will be ideal for family reunions and ski-club getaways.

Just the Facts

Located in Jackson, Wy.
15 kilometres of groomed ski trails
Accommodations in fully restored historic cabins
Onsite activities include snowmobiling on the Continental Divide Trail and snow biking when conditions allow
Packages start at \$150 per night per person
turpinmeadowranch.com, info@turpinmeadowranch.com, 307-543-2000

Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Resort

This snowbound village embraces you with spectacular vistas and warm hospitality. With 200 kilometres of groomed trails spanning 6,000 acres of pristine countryside, Royal Gorge is claimed to be the largest cross-country ski resort in North America. Six trail systems, including dog-friendly loops, offer something for everyone, from gliding around the Van Norden Meadow to challenging climbs to the Mariah Point lookout. No matter which path you choose, you'll be greeted by spectacular panoramic views.

Stay in the trailside Sugar Bowl Lodge, a quaint, comfortable 27-room historic lodge built in 1940. Once you arrive, you can park your car in the underground garage, have your luggage loaded onto a personal gondola and allow yourself to get lost in the beauty of the mountainous terrain. You'll ride over a high alpine meadow to North America's only slope-side snowbound village, where you'll be greeted by Sugar Bowl Lodge staff.



Daphne Hougaard



Sugar Bowl Lodge

(above) Built in 1940, the quaint Sugar Bowl Lodge has 27 comfortable rooms.

(below) Royal Gorge has six trail system, including dog-friendly loops.

Cross-country trails come right up to the front door of the Sugar Bowl Lodge. "I can't think of anything more romantic than stepping out the door and wandering off into the woods together," says John Monson, director of sales and marketing. Upon your return, relax in front of the wood-burning fireplace of the Great Room and admire the black-and-white photos depicting the history of skiing in the area. For those seeking even more relaxation, visit the Summit Spa for a deep-tissue, Swedish or sports massage to relax sore muscles from a day of snow play.

Enjoy a romantic meal in the dining room located in the classic high-alpine Lodge with postcard-worthy views of the summit below. Serving French-inspired California cuisine with selections such as Scottish seared salmon and elk tenderloin, the Lodge is an experience in elevated fine dining. After dinner, head to the Belt Room Bar to try its famous Bloody Mary, which Monson calls "the best Bloody Mary in Tahoe."

Just the Facts

Located in Soda Springs, Calif.
200 kilometres of groomed trails
Trailside accommodations in the Sugar Bowl Lodge start at \$234/night
Onsite activities include snowshoeing, massage at the Summit Spa and daily yoga classes
www.royalgorge.com, info@royalgorge.com, 1-800-500-3871