

## Take a Vacation at Crystal Mountain

If you are in or near Washington State, you should definitely consider a vacation at Crystal Mountain. With a maximum elevation of 7,004 feet and a vertical drop of 3,102 feet, Crystal Mountain sits in the shadow of Mount Rainier, which has a top elevation of 14,408 feet. Between the months of November and April, several feet of fresh powder falls on Crystal Mountain, due to the cold Cascade storms typical of the area.

Crystal Mountain had rough terrain, and there is little available to beginners as far as the ease of the trails go. But lessons are offered, as well as rentals for skis and other equipment. At Crystal Mountain, there are more than 2,300 acres and fifty trails, making this resort the largest ski area in Washington state. There are ten lifts available: two high-speed six passenger lifts, two high speed four passenger lifts, two triple chair lifts, three double chairs, and one children's surface lift.

The season runs from the middle of November to the middle of April, when the most amount of snow falls. There are several places to pick from for lodging, meals, and nightly entertainment, but the biggest attraction is by far the skiing.

The Crystal Mountain Express Bus service runs on the weekends from mid December to mid March. You will be picked up from your lodge and dropped off at the base plaza, where you can begin a full day of excitement on the slopes. After a fun day of skiing, you should head over to East Peak Massage and Fitness to take advantage of the showers, hot tub, sauna, and even the game room. Massages are also available with an appointment.

If your kids aren't quite ready for the black diamond trails but you are, you can enroll them in the Kid's Club. The Kid's Club is open from 8am to 4pm every day for children aged four to eleven years old. The children will be supervised while they ski on a 'kid appropriate' slope, and snowboarding is also available for children from seven to 11 years old. Your child will have fun while being closely supervised and taught. The cost of the care includes a four hour lesson, a lift ticket, lunch, and child care. Rental equipment is available for the kids for an additional expense.

Everyone can enjoy themselves at Crystal Mountain. It is a great place for a family vacation, but the slopes are more for intermediate and expert skiers, although beginners would have fun also. Just use good sense, and avoid trails that you don't feel like you can handle.