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Silver Mountain Resort, Kellogg, Idaho

BY SUSIE WALL

Those looking for easy access to a slew of winter adventures that the whole family will love need look no further than Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg, Idaho.

Begin by booking a stay at the Silver Mountain's Morning Star Lodge located at the base of the mountain just off I-90. Room options range from cozy studios equipped with small kitchens to two-bedroom condominiums perfect for family vacations. Couples hoping for a romantic getaway can take advantage of the suites that feature fireplaces and claw-foot tubs.

Be sure to take in all the amenities offered in the resort village. Take a soak in the outdoor hot tubs. Sit down to a satisfying meal at Noah's Canteen. End the evening roasting marshmallows around the crackling firepits using the s'more kits offered at the front desk.

Guests at the lodge also enjoy free admission to Silver Rapids, Idaho's largest indoor waterpark. Kids will spend hours playing in the giant fountains. Teens will want to try their hand surfing the FlowRider. Adults can relax in the kiddie-free hot tubs and sip on an umbrella drink at Trestles Surfside Bar. Everyone will get a thrill zooming down the waterslides or floating the Lazy River. For those looking to make a day of it, cabanas can be rented with special touches that include TV's, mini fridges and wet bars.

Once you are ready to head outdoors, hop aboard the longest gondola in North America for a scenic ride up the mountain. Settle in and enjoy the spectacular views. The journey lasts 25 minutes and covers 3.1 miles from the village at 2,300 feet to the Mountain House at 5,700 feet where an abundance of snowy adventures awaits.

With an average snowfall of 300 inches and 1,600 acres of downhill bliss, powder hounds can take their pick of 77 ski and snowboard runs accessed either steps from the Mountain House or by taking one of five lifts to 6,300-foot Kellogg Peak and 6,200-foot Wardner Peak.

If rocketing downhill isn't your thing, grab a snow tube. Four tubing runs provide a whooshing ride down rippling hills for a fast and fun adventure with zero chance of wiping out. Sessions last two hours so there's ample opportunity to try different positions and different hills. At the bottom, step aboard the Magic Carpet, a moving walkway that whisks tubers back to the top.

Those looking for an easygoing activity that still promises to get the blood pumping will want to follow the snowshoe trail. The trail begins just outside the Mountain House and leads a mile out and back through the solitude of the forest. The trail slopes downhill, so be prepared for the return trip to be more of a challenge. Feel free to bring your own snowshoes or rent them in the Mountain House.



No matter the level of adventure, you no doubt have worked up an appetite after a day on the mountain. Grab snacks, pizza and beverages at the Mountain House Grill for a quick bite. Or sit a spell at Moguls Bar and Grill, a full-service restaurant on the top floor of the Mountain House. Warm up with a whiskey-spiked hot chocolate or a huckleberry hot toddy, a steaming bowl of soup, and the Poutine Burger topped with fries and cheese curds all slathered in gravy. Enjoy the view from the picture windows as you relax at your table, but be warned. After watching everyone else having a ball outside, you may be tempted to zip up your jacket and hit the slopes to start your adventure all over again. 🏂

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