

# VERMONT SKI BESTIES WELCOME CANADIANS



**ROCHELLE LASH**  
Checking In

Northern Vermont's snow-sports resorts surely are Canada's best friends forever when it comes to dollar-deals.

Smugglers Notch, Jay Peak Resort, its affiliate Q Burke Mountain Resort and Stowe Mountain Lodge at Stowe, Vt., are accepting the loonie at par for some services.

"Quebec licence plates are the second-most popular we see around Stowe, after Vermont's, of course," said Jeff Wise, marketing and communications director at Stowe Mountain Resort, "so we value our visitors from north of the border."

Here's what's new for park sharks, downhillers and free-stylers at Canada's ski besties in Vermont and what's available to balance the lagging loonie.

## Q BURKE MOUNTAIN RESORT

Jay Peak's affiliated area in the snowy, woodsy Northeast Kingdom is opening a major slopeside hotel. Q Burke Hotel and Conference Center will have 116 one-, two- and three-bedroom suites, an outdoor heated pool and hot tub, a fitness centre, a games arcade, a fine-dining restaurant, a pub and meeting space.

Q Burke is the ultimate in family-friendly, but it has a rugged side. You're in good company. Burke Mountain Academy has launched more than 50 Olympians.

**The deal:** Q Burke accepts Canadian cash — not credit cards — at par for lifts, but not for food or shopping. Lodging is a mix: Deposits are paid in U.S. funds, and Canadians can pay the balance at-par at check-in, with cash, a certified cheque or a money order. Rates start at \$223 US per night for a family of four, including lifts.

## JAY PEAK RESORT

This hip, edgy area of steeps, chutes and glades recorded the most copious snowfall in North America, south of Alaska, last season — creating a winter wonderland blanketed in nearly 10 metres of snow.

Jay Peak Resort has transformed in recent years with new



The amazing Pump House indoor water park at Jay Peak Resort guarantees weatherproof fun. **JAY PEAK RESORT**

lodging, an ice arena, mountain enhancements and the wildly popular indoor Pump House water park. Jay operates three major slopeside hotels and is opening 36 cottages for 2015-2016. A new recycling program will divert 40 tons of food waste from landfill to compost.

**The deal:** Jay, a true BFF of Canadians, was the first supporter of the loonie-at-par, back in the 1980s. Payable in cash, the policy still is valid for lift tickets, the Pump House and vacation packages.

## SMUGGLERS' NOTCH

Voted the #1 Kid-Friendly Resort in the east by readers of Ski Magazine, Smuggs is adding a ski and snowboarding learning playground for kids ages 3-6, tubing, snow art and puppet-making to an already incomparable program that includes sledding on inflated air-boards and a nursery for babies.

**The deal:** Canadians have a 30-per-cent discount on packages of three nights or longer. Rates start at \$129 US per adult, per night, and \$99 US for ages 3 to 17 (except Dec. 26-Jan. 2) and include lifts, mountainside condo lodging, indoor pool and hot tubs, cross-country and snowshoe trails, outdoor skating, indoor FunZone and activities.

**Bonus:** Smugglers' Notch guarantees that guests will have fun, learn to ski or snowboard or



The Stowe Mountain Lodge is offering a discount to Canadians of up to 30 per cent — a ski-and-stay bargain. **STOWE MOUNTAIN LODGE**

improve their technique. If not, the resort will refund a portion of their vacation.

## STOWE MOUNTAIN RESORT

The most comprehensive sports and leisure vacation complex in the northeast continues to expand with a new children's Adventure Center at Spruce Peak featuring a ski-ride school, an activity centre, daycare and a skating rink. The new Stowe Mountain Club Alpine Clubhouse, for members of the exclusive slope-side community, also will open

with a gourmet market and the posh shop First Chair Alpine, for stylish winter wear from KJUS, Canada Goose and Fjallraven.

The Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center will present 'The Journey to Mystic India, Nov. 27, for the family; An Evening with Bettye LaVette, Dec. 5; and The McLean Avenue Band with Christmas In Ireland, Dec. 12.

Stowe is the first Eastern resort to join Mountain Collective, which offers pass-holders discounts at 10 world-class areas including Vail, Aspen-Snowmass

## IF YOU GO

**Vermont Ski Areas Association:** 802-223-2439, skivermont.com; approximately 20 Alpine and 29 Nordic areas.  
**Q Burke Mountain Resort:** 866-966-4820, qburke.com  
**Jay Peak Resort:** 800-451-4449, jaypeakresort.com  
**Smugglers Notch:** 877-327-2695, smuggs.com  
**Stowe Mountain Resort:** 800-253-4754, stowe.com; Stowe Mountain Lodge: 888-478-6938, stowemountainlodge.com.

and Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine Village.

**The deal:** The luxurious, architecturally bold Stowe Mountain Lodge is offering an exclusive discount to Canadians — as much as 30 per cent, depending on the day. The ski-and-stay steal starts at about \$176 US, per adult, double occupancy, per night, in a top-drawer hotel room with two lift tickets per day.

That's good value considering that Stowe's lifts range from \$72 to \$115 US per day, varying according to weekend or weekday, bought online or at the window, regular or holiday season.

Skiers and riders can register Stowe Evolution Cards online and sign up for Stowe ByPass, saving 15 per cent off the window rate for lift tickets and skipping the stop to buy them. The ByPass price hovers around \$92 US almost any day.

The Stowe Mountain Lodge is slopeside, but it's about much more than skiing and riding. It rocks with a year-round outdoor heated pool, fitness classes, guided activities, après-ski at Hourglass and two world-class wellness centres, The Spa and KidsSpa.

Entertaining new packages, at additional fees, include:

Snow Biking Adventure: an exhilarating fat-bike excursion, plus a campfire gathering and dinner at Solstice, which creates artisanal Vermont cuisine;

Girlfriends' Winter Package: snowshoeing, outdoor yoga, and a hot-bath spa ritual, plus pedicures, facials and massages;

Last Hurrah Digital Detox: a tasting of beer or wine and cheese, followed by a spa bath ritual, a detox body wrap, a de-stressing facial and a foot treatment.

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