

sky

DELTA

JANUARY 2020
1 CITY 5 WAYS: **BEIJING**
THE BEST WESTERN **SKI TOWNS**
FINN WOLFHARD SEES GHOSTS
BUYING INTO **COLOR THEORY**
TIME OUT IN **BERLIN**

STANDING UP FOR CHILDREN

Ricky Martin is one of the most influential Latin artists of our time—and he's committed to putting an end to human trafficking.

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HIGH

TERRAIN

■ Six ideal spots in North America to drop your bags and head out to the mountains—with plenty of options to satisfy the daily whims of even the pickiest skier or snowboarder. **BY JILL K. ROBINSON**



Bozeman

Tucked into a valley surrounded by mountains, Bozeman still has the laid-back, dusty feel of an Old West town. But don't let the historic appearance fool you. This recreation capital of the northern Rockies is one of the fastest-growing towns in Montana, and while relaxed locals may enjoy the benefits of the city without all the fuss, they're intense about snow sports. With easy access to two great ski resorts, it's no wonder.

About an hour's drive gets you from Bozeman to Big Sky Resort and its more than 5,850 skiable acres (and 4,350 vertical feet). The vast terrain—from wide-open green trails to extreme NIT (no fall terrain)—means that there's plenty to choose from between four mountains, more than 300 runs and nearly zero lift lines. Popular with families for the resort's 6-and-under-ski-free policy, Big Sky has an impressive Mountain Sports School with private and group lessons as well as guided experiences for skiers and riders who want to get to know the landscape quickly and perhaps find secret powder stashes.

The new Ramcharger 8 at Big Sky is the first eight-seat chairlift in North America, and it has ergonomically shaped, extra-wide heated seats and a weather-proof bubble. Use it when you sign up for the Headlamp Night Skiing program with headlamps as powerful as a car headlight to illuminate your way down freshly groomed runs under the night sky filled with stars. In the daytime, the Lone Peak Tram takes you to the top of Lone Mountain, where you'll have views of two national parks and mountain ranges as far as you can see.

Just a 16-mile drive from Bozeman, Bridger Bowl offers a big mountain experience with a friendly local's vibe. The nonprofit ski area's mission includes its goal to provide the "best possible skiing experience at a reasonable cost," and an adult single-day ticket will only set you back \$63 (kids from 7 to 12 are \$25). Beginners and those who want to polish skills can sign up for a snowsports class at Saddle Peak Lodge, while expert skiers can don a transceiver and head up Schlasman's Lift to ski the Ridge Terrain.

The mountains and meadows around Bozeman hold some of the best cross-country skiing in the country. The nonprofit Bridger Ski Foundation tends to some 70 kilometers of groomed ski trails—many of them in downtown Bozeman. The wealth of other Nordic trails includes Highland Glen, Hyalite Canyon, Lindley Park, Bridger Creek Golf Course, Sacajawea Middle School and Sunset Hills. For a great place to rest your muscles after all the snow adventures, head to Bozeman Hot Springs, with 12 different pools fed by natural hot springs.

✦ *Bozeman is about a 20-minute drive from Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN) via rental car, local bus or shuttle. Daily shuttle services run from Bozeman to Big Sky and Bridger Bowl. Snag your rental gear at Round House Ski and Sports Center in Bozeman or at the resorts. Stay in town at Element Bozeman or find your home-base at The Lark for an adventure-friendly environment. ▾*

