

Lift Off!

Tackle the slopes with this guide to Santa Fe-area skiing.

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SKI SANTA FE. PHOTO: MICHAEL DARTER

There's something about a fresh blanket of snow that makes us want to sink our feet—or our skis—in it, and there's no better place than right here in New Mexico. With seven mountain resorts so close to home, there's some skiing fun for everyone, whether you're still green on the bunny slopes or ready to tackle Angel Fire's award-winning terrain. And remember, park rails and half-pipes aren't just for skateboarders any more! Rip out this convenient ski chart and stick it to your fridge. When the flakes start falling, you can use it to compare lift-ticket prices and trails before you hit the mountain. Visit the resorts' Web sites for additional information on equipment rental, season passes, lessons and special events. Dust off your goggles and wax—the lifts are calling.

Ski Area	Contact Info	Distance from Santa Fe	Full Day Lift Price	Vertical Feet	Number of Runs (and Stats)	Lifts	Average Snowfall	Estimated Opening	Juicy Tidbits
Angel Fire Resort	NM 434, Angel Fire (575) 377-6401 angelfiresort.com 9am-4pm	95 miles	\$59 adults; \$52 teens; \$39 kids Seniors Free	2,077	74 runs: 26% beginning 50% intermediate 24% advanced	7	210 inches annually	Dec. 19	Voted No. 1 free-style terrain park in North America by onthesnow.com for 2008.
Pajarito Mountain Ski Area	NM 501, Los Alamos (505) 662-5725 www.skipajarito.com 9 am-4pm	45 miles	\$49 adults; \$40 teens; \$30 kids; \$40 seniors	1,400	40 runs: 20% beginning 50% intermediate 30% advanced	7	250 inches annually	Dec. 15	Pajarito hosts the only completely volunteer ski patrol in the state.
Red River	NM 38, Red River (575) 754-2223 redriverskiarea.com 9am-4pm	106 miles	\$58 adults; \$52 teens; \$43 kids; \$43 seniors	1,600	57 runs: 32% beginning 38% intermediate 30% advanced	7	218 inches annually	Nov. 26	Red River celebrates its 50 th anniversary this year with special events and discounts.
Sandia Peak Ski Area	NM 536 (505) 242-9052 sandiapeak.com 9am-4pm	60 miles	\$48 adults; \$38 teens; \$35 kids; \$35 seniors	1,700	35 runs: 35% beginning 55% intermediate 10% advanced	6	125 inches annually	Dec. 19	Sandia Peak opens the new Scrapyard terrain park this season with funboxes, rails and jumps.
Ski Santa Fe	Artist Road/Hyde Park Road (NM 475), (505) 982-4429 skisantafe.com 9am-4pm	16 miles	\$58 adults; \$46 teens; \$40 kids; \$40 seniors	1,725	69 runs: 20% beginning 40% intermediate 40% advanced	7	225 inches annually	Nov. 27	The new Millennium Triple Chairlift takes skiers to a height of 12,075 feet.
Sipapu Ski Area	Hwy. 518, Vadito (800) 587-2240 sipapunm.com 9am-4pm	65 miles	\$39 adults; \$34 teens; \$27 kids; \$26 seniors	1,055	39 runs: 20% beginning 50% intermediate 30% advanced	4	190 inches annually	Nov. 17	Sipapu has been family owned and operated since its opening in 1952.
Taos Ski Valley	NM 150 (866) 968-7386 skitaos.org 9am-4pm	72 miles	\$66 adults; \$55 teens; \$40 kids; \$50 seniors	2,612	110 runs: 24% beginning 25% intermediate 51% advanced	13	305 inches annually	Nov. 27	Taos Ski Valley will offer its first full season of snowboarding this year.