**Lake Louise**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Snow reliability

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

36

**Intermediate Runs**

65

**Advanced Runs**

44

**Total Runs**

145

**Lifts**

10

**Chairs**

5

**Drags**

4

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

4.27m (14ft).

**Overview**

One of the world’s great ski areas, Lake Louise ticks many boxes on the wish list of most snow sports connoisseurs.

The skiing itself is superb, on a vast mountain range - one of North America’s largest - and with one of the continent’s longest seasons, running six months from Early November to early May. World Cup competitions are held at the resort in late November, with the dramatic Canadian Rockies backdrop adding to the spectacle.

Lake Louise itself is an ideal choice for those looking for a quieter location but still seeking top-notch facilities and services. First-time visitors to Canada, expecting mountains, forests, lakes and wildlife, will find exactly that while skiing within the vast Banff National Park.

All is not lost for the party hungry however, with the bouncing resort of Banff just a 60km (36 mile) pilgrimage away along the freeway.

The slopes at Lake Louise look out across the valley to Lake Louise itself – which is frozen in winter – and are served by efficient, mostly high-speed lifts. These provide access to wide-open runs, powder bowls and steep chutes.

**Location**

Lake Louise is situated in the western Canadian province of Alberta, 184km (115 miles) west of Calgary and 60km (36 miles) west of Banff. The resort lies in the heart of Banff National Park in the Rocky Mountains.

**Website**

https://www.skilouise.com

**Piste Map**

https://www.skilouise.com/the-mountain/trail-maps.php

**Hit The Slopes**

The ski season in Lake Louise is one of the longest in North America, and indeed the whole world, with runs open from late November until early May. During this time the ski and snowboard school provides private and group lessons for all levels, while equipment hire is available at the base.

One of the largest ski areas in North America with one of the continent's biggest lift-served verticals, Lake Louise's slopes are spread over four mountain faces, with a large proportion of the skiing below the treeline. On the main south face, there are some wonderful wide, fast runs, as well as the beginners-only Wiwaxy run. More advanced skiers and boarders can tackle the Men's Downhill or Ladies' Downhill courses.

The Top of the World six-seater chairlift, the Grizzly Express gondola or the Summit Platter all access the famed back bowls, which offer a multitude of thigh-burning vertiginous black and double-black runs. Less confident skiers need not fear however, as there are a handful of easy routes down too. Alternatively, skiers can continue over to the Larch area for some fine cruisers and gladed runs.

Freestylers and boarders, meanwhile, have a huge terrain park under the Glacier Express chairlift to explore. Among the 30 features are massive jumps and a ski and boardercross circuit.

The Banff resorts of Sunshine Village and the smaller Mt. Norquay are also nearby (45 minutes and 50 minutes respectively), and are available along with Lake Louise on the Tri-area lift ticket.

**Lake Louise**

**Resort**

1540

**Base**

1646

**Top**

2637

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Lake Louise has no base slopeside village, and the main accommodation base a mile or so away is an intimate affair, with a scattering of a dozen or so shops and cafés. That said, there is an ample offering of off-slope activities to keep visitors entertained.

One of the resort’s most magical experiences is ice skating on frozen Lake Louise itself; while part of the lake is also cleared for hockey. Another memorable activity is the famous torchlight parade and dinner, held several times throughout the season.

On the snow, there are snowshoe walks from the top of the Grizzly Express Gondola, cross-country skiing trails, dog sledding, snowmobiling excursions and a snow-tubing park (open from January to April).

Heli-skiing trips are also available for advanced skiers, operated by a number of companies in the area.

For those who may feel a little underwhelmed by Lake Louise’s après-ski offering, the famous ski town of Banff, with its shops, restaurants and natural hot-springs, is about 45 minutes away by car.

**Family Fun**

Childcare is available at the daycare centre next to the main lodge for children up to six years; tots can also try a little skiing. Then, from age five (or seven for snowboarders) to 12 years, children can join ‘Kidski and Shreddies' classes, meeting at the Wilderness Adventure Park.

**Retail Therapy**

Shopaholics are better off in Banff, but there are a few places to flex the plastic in Lake Louise.

Shopping in the resort is mostly limited to ski stores, boutiques and gift shops – the majority of these shops are either in the compact Samson Mall at the heart of the village or at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise (tel: +1 403 522 3511; [www.fairmont.com/lakelouise](http://www.fairmont.com/lakelouise)).

**Splashing Out**

Stay in a luxurious secluded wilderness cabin at Emerald Lake Lodge (tel: +1 800 663 6336; [www.crmr.com/emerald](http://www.crmr.com/emerald)) in Yoho National Park, 40km (25 miles) west of Lake Louise. The first lodge was built here during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1902. Visitors can follow the cross-country skiing trails around the lake, ice skate, or try the more adventurous pursuit of waterfall ice climbing.

**Apres Ski**

Lake Louise is not the place for wild partying, but there are a few options for fun après-ski.

The Kokanee Kabin at the mountain base is usually a lively spot at the end of the day with cold beer, hot drinks, a barbecue and live music. Legends bar, below the Lake Louise Inn, can get pretty lively later in the evening, with bar games and a cosy fireplace.

For an après-ski activity with an Albertan twist, Brewster Lake Louise Stables (tel: +1 403 762 5454; [www.brewsteradventures.com](http://www.brewsteradventures.com/)) transfers customers in a horse-drawn sleigh and whisks them to a cowboy barbecue, complete with live country and western music and line dancing (departs from the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise).

**Eating Out**

Most dining options beyond the slopes are situated in the resort’s larger hotels, with a few small cafes in the Samson Mall, in the centre of the village. All in all there are roughly 20 places from which to choose.

For breakfast and snacks, both Laggan’s Mountain Bakery & Deli (tel: +1 403 522 2017) and the Trailhead Café (tel: +1 403 522 2006), located in the mall, are popular for freshly baked goods, sandwiches and wraps.

Other options include the Mount Fairview Dining Room in Deer Lodge (tel: +1 403 522 3991; [www.crmr.com/deer](http://www.crmr.com/deer)), which serves up such treats as buffalo and caribou, Timberwolf Pizza and Pasta Café in the Lake Louise Inn (tel: +1 403 522 3791; [www.lakelouiseinn.com](http://www.lakelouiseinn.com/)), a great choice for families, and for unique fine dining, The Station (tel: +1 403 522 2600), provides the opportunity for guests to dine in a 1910 railway station and vintage dining car.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Calgary International Airport (YYC).

Distance to resort: 196km (122 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours.

**Getting Around**

A free bus service connects the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Lake Louise Inn and Post Hotel with the ski area. Shuttles also run between Lake Louise and the nearby ski areas of Sunshine Village and Mt Norquay. Taxis are also available within the resort.

Those with a car can drive over to Kicking Horse ski resort in British Columbia, which makes a perfect day trip.

**Hotels**

There are a number of different accommodation options in Lake Louise to suit every budget. For those looking for self-catering facilities, Lake Louise has plenty of rustic cabins and chalets in quiet, secluded locations. Alternatively, the various lodges suit larger groups and often boast great amenities and communal relaxation areas. There are also numerous hotels in Lake Louise, from luxury 5-star offerings to cheap and cheerful motels.

**Mountaineer Lodge**

Well located in the main village close to the shops and petrol station, the Mountaineer Lodge benefits from large rooms with kitchenettes and houses an on-site sauna with hot tub.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

101 Village Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Lake Louise

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

T0L 1E0

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 855 556 8473

**Website**

www.mountaineerlodge.com

**Post Hotel and Spa**

The Post Hotel and Spa has an excellent standard of fixtures and fitting, a first rate spa and a highly regarded gourmet restaurant with extensive wine cellar.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

200 Pipestone Rd

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Lake Louise

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

T0L 1E0

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 800 661 1586

**Website**

www.posthotel.com

**Paradise Lodge & Bungalows**

This well situated, family-run facility offers charming wooden cabins to hire, based in the beautiful greenery surrounding the shores of Lake Louise.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

105 Lake Louise Drive

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Lake Louise

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

T0L 1E0

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 403 522 3595

**Website**

www.paradiselodge.com

**Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise**

The historic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise is set in a stunning location on the shores of Lake Louise. This luxury option boasts a choice of restaurants and a spa.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

111 Lake Louise Drive

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Lake Louise

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

T0L 1E0

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 403 522 3511

**Website**

www.fairmont.com/lake-louise

**Lake Louise Inn**

This modern and comfortable hotel features several room types catering to different budgets, and it has an indoor pool, hot tub and regular shuttle service to the slopes.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

210 Village Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Lake Louise

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

T0L 1E0

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 403 522 3791

**Website**

www.lakelouiseinn.com

**HI Lake Louise Alpine Centre**

This clean and airy Hostelling International accommodation offers low-cost private and shared rooms. Amenities here include free Wi-Fi, a well-equipped kitchen and an on-site café.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

203 Village Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Lake Louise

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

T0L1E0

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

+1 403 522 2201

**Website**

www.hihostels.ca