



LAKE TAHOE
VISITORS AUTHORITY
—
SOUTH SHORE

EL NINO FORECASTS HAVE LAKE TAHOE SOUTH SHORE AMPED FOR MAJOR WINTER

An [El Nino](#) winter is on its way to the High Sierra promising big snow and complementing Lake Tahoe South Shore's new attractions for the 2009-2010 season.

Lake Tahoe was voted the nation's No. 1 ski destination by *Orbitz, 2008*, and is recognized for its big snow, scenic beauty, value-added vacations, reasonable winter temperatures, blue skies, clear roads, and plethora of outdoor recreation, entertainment and dining options, combined with the natural beauty of the lake.

As anticipation grows for another epic winter season at South Shore, here are the top five reasons to get your winter vacation on at Lake Tahoe:

Reason No. 1: Epic Snow

South Lake Tahoe ski resorts receive, on average, more snow than any other destination in the U.S. with a standard 400 inches annually. With more than 300 days of sunshine a year, locals know it's a common occurrence for big snowstorms to be followed by blue bird conditions the next day. In addition, the destination offers unparalleled variety of terrain, high temperatures typically in the 30s and 40s along with breathtaking scenery.

Reason No. 2: Affordability

Everything needed for an affordable winter vacation is just a click away. Deals on activities, dining and lodging abound on www.BlueLakeTahoe.com, which can save travelers hundreds of dollars.

Many area hotels, resorts and vacation rental agencies offer stay-and-play packages that combine deep discounts on lodging with free tickets to many of South Lake Tahoe's bounty of activities. For instance, Embassy Suites' [Ultimate Ski Package](#) includes lodging, lift-tickets, and free daily breakfast and evening cocktail reception. Harrah's [Winter Getaway](#) package offers rates starting at \$84/night that include a \$25/day dining voucher and 2-for-1 tickets to the Improv comedy club.

A mid-week visit can unlock a world of dining deals. Happy Hours at local watering holes and restaurants make for a deliciously thrifty night out. Try [Off the Hook](#)'s sushi happy hour, Monday-Friday, 4:30-6 p.m.; or [Riva Grill](#)'s "Fish Taco Fridays" with some of the area's best drink specials for under \$5, Mahi Mahi tacos for \$3 and a snow-sports raffle. [Lakeside Inn and Casino](#) offers guests a \$10 dining credit with any two-night stay, valid at both of their restaurants, the Timber House and Latin Soul. Edgewood Tahoe's [Brooks' Bar & Deck](#) will host resort nights every Friday (Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort), Saturday (Heavenly Mountain Resort) and Sunday (Kirkwood Mountain Resort) throughout winter with food and drinks specials and giveaways.

Reason No. 3: There's Always Something New

New ski lifts, mountain terrain, trails and runs and on-mountain amenities await skiers and riders at South Lake Tahoe's three acclaimed ski resorts – Heavenly, Sierra-at-Tahoe and Kirkwood.

The facility improvements continue in year three of [Heavenly Mountain Resort's](#) ten-year master plan with the debut of its new tubing lift, which accesses a new four-lane tubing Mecca at Heavenly's Adventure Peak family recreation area. The Ski and Ride Schools of Heavenly have announced a new mountain guide program called the Adventure Sessions that bridges the gap between a private and group lesson. For \$119, advanced skiers and snowboarders can spend a day sharing a top guide with a small group, allowing quick access to the best terrain and conditions on the mountain. Skiheavenly.com will re-launch this fall with functionality that has everything to make booking a ski trip fun and easy.

[Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort](#) has taken a direct shot at the price barrier to learning a new sport in a tough economy with a \$35 Learn To Ski/Ride package that includes a limited access lift ticket, rental equipment and a 2.5 hour lesson. The \$35 beginner package will be available Sunday through Friday, all season long, not including restricted dates. Also new this season, Sierra Resort will offer expert skiers and snowboarders [Free Backcountry Tours](#) in [Huckleberry Canyon](#) on Fridays, when conditions allow. Huckleberry Canyon offers 320 acres of off-piste terrain featured in Warren Miller's new film, Dynasty. In addition, [Backcountry Lessons](#) are available Saturdays and Sundays and include an introductory experience in Huckleberry Canyon with a focus on equipment, route selection and skier/rider improvement. Lessons cost \$33 each with purchase of a 3-Pak.

[Kirkwood Mountain Resort](#) will offer new evening Snow Cat Tours, allowing guests to explore the scenic ridgelines of Kirkwood under the light of the moon and stars. The 90-minute tour will also include wine, sparkling cider, appetizers, cheese and crackers. Latest enhancements include two new lifts, providing access to 700 additional acres and over 1,350 vertical feet of skiing and snowboarding in the resort's legendary backside terrain, accessing the famed chutes of Thunder Saddle along with pristine powder stashes on Fawn Ridge.

Reason No. 4: Non-stop Activities

The winter months feature helicopter tours; horse-drawn sleigh rides with [Borges Sleigh Rides](#);

dog sled rides; boat cruises on the [Tahoe Queen](#) and [M.S. Dixie II](#); and ice skating at the Heavenly Village or indoors at the City of South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena.

There are also snowshoe and cross country trails around South Lake Tahoe, including Hope Valley, Fallen Leaf Lake and [Camp Richardson's](#) 35 kilometers of groomed trails through dense trees and snow-covered beaches.

[Zephyr Cove Snowmobile Center](#) includes tours from late November until mid-April, featuring lake views at 9,000 feet. [Lake Tahoe Adventures](#) offers unguided snowmobile rentals for seasoned riders into the heart of Tahoe's forest lands to the top of the mountain ridge and guided off-the-trail tours for less-experienced adventure seekers. Both locations feature moonlight snowmobile tours along with ride and dine options.

South Lake Tahoe also boasts a variety of shopping, spas, nightlife, entertainment and gaming. The South Shore's legendary nightclubs tempt visitors to kick up their heels into the wee hours. Signing up for a free players club membership at the six area casinos often provides free play to gamers as well as dining, lodging and entertainment discounts.

2009 wraps up the 50th anniversary celebration of the South Shore Room at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. The venue continues rocking with Legendary Rhythm & Blues Revue, Oct. 3; Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Oct. 10; Frank Sinatra, Jr., Oct. 24; Queensrÿche, Nov. 7; Jose Feliciano, Nov. 14; Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Nov. 21; Judy Collins, Nov. 28; Brian Wilson, Dec. 5; America, Dec. 12 and Al Jarreau, Dec. 19.

Enjoying all that Lake Tahoe has to offer can work up an appetite. Luckily, the South Shore is home to a variety of lakefront restaurants, cafés, sushi bars, nightclubs and watering holes.

The new [Wildman Coffee](#) at Ski Run Marina offers quick, fresh international favorites including Gyros, which are served on warm, thick flat bread with savory slices of seasoned lamb and just the right amount of Taziki sauce and fresh cucumber and tomato. It also offers a build-your-own frozen yogurt bar.

Adjacent to the Ski Run Marina is the new Ski Run Shopping Center is packed with art, wine and dining. The locally owned [Red Hut](#) brings a new twist to an old favorite with a new soda fountain and gift shop at the Hut's third location in town. [Après Wine Company](#) offers a unique tasting room with more than 300 fine wines, an innovative Enomatic wine dispensing machine, along with delicious appetizers.

Reason No. 5: Easy Accessibility

Last season, road conditions via Hwy 50, didn't prohibit winter enthusiasts from being able to access South Lake Tahoe resorts. In fact, a fleet of city and state snow removal vehicles around the Lake Tahoe Basin keep the roads clear and safe for travel. Caltrans has up-to-the-minute California road conditions at www.dot.ca.gov or 1-800-427-ROAD (7623) or 916-445-7623. For road conditions in Nevada, contact the Nevada Department of Transportation at

www.nevadadot.com or 877-687-6237. Travelers can also get up-to-the-minute online road information and more on their smart phones at NV.mobi.

The Reno/Tahoe International Airport provides more than 130 daily flights, is 55 miles from South Lake Tahoe and is accessible in 65 minutes via the non-stop South Tahoe Express, a luxury motor coach.

The Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority is on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/SouthShoreTahoe>, for real time updates on events, promotions, conditions and what's happening in South Lake Tahoe. For information about Lake Tahoe South Shore, contact the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority at 1-800-AT-TAHOE (1-800-288-2463) or www.BlueLakeTahoe.com.



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About the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority

Set at 6,300', South Lake Tahoe is the only destination in the country that combines two strikingly different worlds: spectacular natural beauty and desirable resort amenities with the combination of outdoor summer activities ranging from hiking, biking, kayaking, golfing, swimming, fishing and boat cruises along with 24-hour nightclubs, fine dining, gaming and entertainment. For information about lodging, recreation and family packages at South Shore Lake Tahoe, call the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, 1-800-AT-TAHOE (1-800-288-2463) or log onto www.BlueLakeTahoe.com.

Access to Blue Lake Tahoe

The Reno/Tahoe International Airport provides more than 130 daily flights. Non-stop destinations include Boise, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Oakland, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Seattle. The RTIA is just 55 miles from South Lake Tahoe and is accessible in 65 minutes via the non-stop South Tahoe Express, a luxury motor coach. Lake Tahoe Airport (TVL) is a year-round all-weather facility with professional services located in South Lake Tahoe, CA for general aviation and the corporate executive traveler.