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MASSACHUSETTS TRANSFORMS INTO A WINTER WONDERLAND FOR ALL TO EXPLORE

*With Skates, Skis, Sleds, Snowshoes or Snowboards
Discover All the Bay State Offers for Winter Outdoor Enthusiasts*

December 8, 2008 (Massachusetts) – As temperatures continue to drop and more snowfall is surely right around the corner, it's time to get revved up for all of the fun outdoor activities Massachusetts has to offer! Bundle up, keep healthy and stay fit while enjoying what promises to be another beautiful winter!

Whether you are pulling on your ice skates for that first glide over a frozen pond, or strapping on snowshoes to enjoy the pristine quiet of the deep, snowy woods, the Commonwealth has something for everyone who longs to take a deep breath of fresh outdoor air. The following is a sampling of Massachusetts' diverse range of winter attractions for all ages and activity levels.

For the most up-to-date and complete information, please be sure to visit www.massvacation.com.

Race the Wind: Downhill Skiing

Blue Hills Ski Area – Canton

Blue Hills Ski Area is conveniently located just south of Boston, making it easy for visitors to walk the Freedom Trail in the morning and be back in the city for dinner. The area has eight trails and four chair lifts, covering a vertical drop of approximately 300 feet.

Rates: Lift tickets range from \$18-\$36. Please visit web site for specific rate information.

781-828-5070

www.ski-bluehills.com

Bousquet Ski Area – Pittsfield

Located about an hour from Albany, New York, and three hours from New York City and Boston, Bousquet Ski Area is one of New England's most historic ski resorts. The ski area was the second ski resort in the United States to install a tow rope, the first to light the slopes for night skiing, and one of the first mountains in the world to install snowmaking equipment. Today, Bousquet provides 22 trails of varying difficulty to complement several different skill levels, as well as two large chair lifts and three surface lifts. The mountain also offers a snow tubing park, terrain park, ski school, and on-site rental shop.

Rates: Lift tickets range from \$20-\$40. Please visit web site for specific rate information.

413-442-8316

www.bousquets.com

Ski Bradford – Haverhill

Ski Bradford offers skiers north of Boston thirteen trails of varying terrain, three triple chair lifts, two T-bars, three rope tows and a terrain park.

Rates: Lift tickets range from \$12-\$39. Please visit web site for specific rate information.

978-373-0071

www.skibradford.com

Ski Butternut – Great Barrington

Ski Butternut aims is to give families a high-quality skiing, snowboarding and tubing experience at reasonable cost. The area features 110+ acres including 22 trails, 12 ski lifts, two terrain parks, a tubing area, eight miles (13 km) of Nordic/cross-country trails and a PSIA-affiliated ski school. Ski Butternut is located only one mile from the center of Great Barrington, so all of the town's lodging facilities, restaurants and shops are available to skiers, snowboarders and snowtubers.

Rates: Lift tickets range from \$20-\$55. Please visit web site for specific rate information.

413-528-2000

www.skibutternut.com

Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort – Hancock

Jiminy Peak is the largest ski and snowboard resort in southern New England, with 40 groomed trails, a high-speed six-passenger lift, children's programs, snowmaking and slope-side lodging. Jiminy also operates one of two Mountain Coasters in the nation, which is open on weekends and holidays. This winter season, much of Jiminy's power will come from Zephyr, a 1.5 MW GE wind turbine, which is a major investment for the resort to become more environmentally responsible.

Rates: Lift tickets range from \$35-\$62. Please visit web site for specific rate information.

413-738-5500

www.jiminypeak.com

Nashoba Valley Ski Area – Westford

Only 45 minutes from Boston, Nashoba Valley is open every day and night of the winter season, with extensive learning and race programs. With 17 trails and three triple chairs, Nashoba offers skiing and snowboarding, lessons, rental equipment, tubing and a terrain park.

Rates: Lift tickets range from \$20-\$44. Please visit web site for specific rate information.

978-692-3033

www.skinashoba.com

Wachusett Mountain Ski Area – Princeton

With a 1,000-foot vertical drop, eight lifts servicing 22 trails, and night lighting, Wachusett Mountain is a great option for beginners and experts alike. Snowboarders are welcome on all trails and a half-pipe.

Rates: Lift tickets range from \$7-\$52. Please visit web site for specific rate information.

978-464-2300

www.wachusett.com

Enjoy the Peace of Nature: Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing**Canterbury Farm Outdoor Center – Becket**

Canterbury Farm offers more than 13 miles of trails that are machine groomed daily, with tracks set for traditional skiing and skating lanes on some trails. A complete ski, snowshoe and skate rental shop is available and lessons are available for both skiing and skating.

Rates: Trail passes are \$12 on weekdays (non-holiday) and \$15 on weekends and holidays.

413-623-0100

www.canterbury-farms.com

Franklin Park Golf Course – Dorchester

With wide open fairways and hilly terrain, Franklin Park Golf Course is a wonderful place to enjoy the serenity of winter outdoors just a stones throw from the city. Although visitors must bring skis or snow shoes, the area offers plenty of parking and large open spaces for the entire family to enjoy.

617-265-4084

www.sterlinggolf.com/franklin/index2.htm

Great Brook Farm Ski Touring Center – Carlisle

Located only 25 miles from downtown Boston, Great Brook Ski Touring Center provides over 10 miles of machine-groomed trails of varying difficulty for cross country skiing. Skiers can stride past fields and a working dairy farm on the easy Lantern Loop, venture through the quiet woods around Meadow Pond on the Pine Point Loop, or test their strengths on the hills of the more difficult Woodchuck Trail. Return to the ski touring center's rustic lodge, a renovated cow barn, to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a seat beside the wood stove. If you have never cross country skied before, rest assured that Great Brook's many easy trails are perfect for beginners. Night skiing by lantern light is offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Rates: Trail passes range from \$7-\$12 for skiers 7 and older.

978-369-7486

www.greatbrookski.com

Northfield Mountain – Northfield

Northfield Mountain Cross Country Ski Area offers 25 miles of trails groomed for classical and free-style skiing. These carriage-width trails vary from rolling beginner trails, to scenic intermediate circuits, to the demanding 800-foot vertical climb of the Tenth Mountain Trail. Skis and snowshoes are available for rent on site, and visitors are welcome to take a break at the trailside snack shop or in the lounge.

Rates: Trail passes are \$12 per day.

800-859-2960

www.stumpsprouts.com/xcskimass/northfield.php

Stump Sprouts Ski Touring Center – West Hawley

At Stump Sprouts Ski Touring Center, more than 15 miles of trails ranging from gently rolling groomed and track-set loops to challenging back-country routes await skiers of all abilities. A favorite destination is the summit of Lone Boulder Hill, where a large glacial boulder stands guard near a breathtaking three-state vista. Stump Sprouts rents adult and children's snowshoes for those visitors seeking enjoyment in the winter woods at a slower pace.

Rates: Trail passes range from \$5-\$12 for skiers 6 and older.

413-339-4265

www.stumpsprouts.com

Wompatuck State Park – Hingham

Located just a 35-minute drive from downtown Boston, Wompatuck State Park offers 10 miles of wooded trails perfect for cross-country skiing. There is no rental shop on site, so visitors must bring skis. When in the park, help yourself to Mt. Blue Spring, a popular source of fresh drinking water.

781-749-7160

www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/womp.htm

Over the River and Through the Woods: Skating, Sledding and Sleigh Rides

Boston Common Frog Pond – Boston

Sharpen your Figure 8 at the Frog Pond skating rink on Boston Common, America's oldest public park. Located just minutes from Charles Street, Downtown Crossing, Back Bay and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, you can easily grab a bite to eat at one of Boston's finest restaurants or window shop along Newbury Street when you're done.

Rates: Admission is \$4 per person over skaters 13 and older.

www.bostoncommonfrogpond.org

Amesbury Sports Park – Amesbury

The Amesbury Sports Park is not your neighborhood sledding hill. Rather, it is a state of the art facility that makes its own snow, has three tubing lanes and has a rope lift to pull sledders and their tubes up the hill.

Rates: Passes are sold for 3-hour and 5-hour time periods and range from \$15-\$30.

978-388-5788

www.amesburysportspark.net

Yves-Lynn Horse and Carriage – Charlton

Travel back in time on a 10-minute sleigh ride across a five-acre field in a modern reproduction of a Victorian-era Robert carriage with velvet, tufted seats drawn by a Percheron horse.

Rates: Sleigh rides are \$5 per person.

508-248-6687

www.yves-lynnhorseandcarriageco.com

Arnold Arboretum - Boston

Although it's known for its great variety of trees and gardens in the spring, the Arnold Arboretum also offers incredible sledding options over wide expanses of rolling terrain during the winter months. Generally kept as land opened to public use, the Arboretum contains 265 acres of undeveloped land, including three large hills. From the top of Peter's Hill, the tallest of three, sledders can not only begin a great ride, but also catch an extraordinary view of some of the taller buildings of the Boston sky line.

Rates: Free

<http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/>

The Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT) is the state agency dedicated to promoting Massachusetts as a leisure-travel destination in order to stimulate the Massachusetts economy by generating state and local tax revenues, creating jobs, and supporting the growth of travel-related businesses. MOTT serves as a leader in the tourism industry, bringing together the public and private sectors to promote Massachusetts as a leisure travel destination. Tourism is an integral part of the state's economy, generating more than \$887.2 million in state and local taxes and \$14.2 billion in travel related expenditures. The industry supports 125,800 in-state jobs.

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