



Purgatory Resort

Winter 2025-26

Press Kit

Media Contact:
James Graven
james@treehousepr.com
+1 970 420 1409



Purgatory Resort Company Profile

Durango, Colo. (Winter 2025-26) — Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2025, Purgatory is known as one of Colorado's most family-friendly and best-value ski resorts. Purgatory is tucked away between Durango and Silverton on the San Juan Skyway Scenic and Historic Byway, on the southern edge of the San Juan Mountains. The resort offers 1,635 skiable acres, four terrain parks, 11 lifts, and 107 trails from wide-open cruisers to steep tree skiing.

For the 2025-26 season, Purgatory has expanded snowmaking, extending to the lower sections of Ray's Ridge, Blackburn's Bash, and Legends Bypass, to improve coverage and ensure more reliable access to the backside and Legends Express (Lift 8).

Purgatory is thrilled to continue offering [Power Kids](#), the only season pass in North America to offer unlimited free skiing and snowboarding for all children 12 and younger, with no blackout dates or purchase required. Lift tickets for the 2025-26 season are on sale now, with prices starting at \$9 on select dates. With Purgatory's demand-based pricing, lift ticket prices rise with demand. Purgatory's dynamic pricing strategy rewards guests who plan ahead and helps the resort manage the flow of visitors during peak periods, reducing lift lines and enhancing the guest experience.

Signature events and on-mountain activities include New Year's Eve fireworks, live music, pond skating, snowtubing, and the year-round mountain coaster. Visitors can dine at the Village Plaza base area or take in the views at one of Purgatory's mountain lodges. Overnight accommodations range from slopeside studios to luxurious penthouse suites. Purgatory Snowcat Adventures is Colorado's largest guided snowcat operation, with access to over 35,000 acres of expert terrain in the San Juan backcountry, plus snowcat dining excursions and scenic tours for the whole family.

Purgatory Resort's 2025-26 ski season is scheduled to begin on Saturday, November 22, 2025, with exclusive discounts for season passholders and guests. This winter, Purgatory Resort will be open for daily operations through April 5, 2026, and weekend operations will continue as conditions allow. Visit purgatory.ski.



Purgatory Resort Fact Sheet

2025-26 Winter Season Dates and Times

Open daily from November 22, 2025, to April 5, 2026, with weekend operations continuing as conditions allow. Lift hours of operation are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Ticket office hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Getting Here

Purgatory Resort is located in Southwest Colorado on the **San Juan Skyway** Scenic and Historic Byway (US Highway 550) between Durango and Silverton. The 236-mile Skyway loop connects Durango, Silverton, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, Cortez, and Mesa Verde National Park and is regarded as one of the most scenic drives in North America.

- ▼* **Durango, CO:** 25 miles / 30 mins
- ▼* **Durango-La Plata County Airport:** 40 miles / 55 mins
- ▼* **Montrose Regional Airport:** 83 miles / 2 hours
- ▼* **Denver, CO:** 370 miles / 7 hours
- ▼* **Albuquerque, NM:** 240 miles / 4 hours

Mountain Stats

- ▼* Base Elevation: 8,793 feet (2,680 meters)
- ▼* Summit Elevation: 10,822 feet (3,299 meters)
- ▼* Vertical Drop: 2,072 feet (632 meters)
- ▼* Skiable Area: 1,635 Acres (662 hectares)

Winter Activities

- ▼* Inferno Mountain Coaster
- ▼* Tubing Hill
- ▼* Guided Snowcat Skiing
- ▼* Snowcat Scenic Tours
- ▼* Snowcat Dining Excursions
- ▼* Snowshoe Tours
- ▼* Snowmobile Adventures
- ▼* Purgatory Nordic Center

11 Lifts Serving 107 Trails

- ▼* 1 High Speed Six Person
- ▼* 2 High Speed Quads
- ▼* 3 Triple Chairlifts
- ▼* 3 Double Chairlifts
- ▼* 2 Magic Carpets

Trail Ratings by Percentage

- 20% Beginner
- 45% Intermediate
- ◆ 35% Advanced/Expert

Terrain Parks

- ▼* Halo Terrain Park
- ▼* Horns Terrain Park
- ▼* Headwaters Terrain Park
- ▼* Pitchfork Terrain Park



Purgatory Announces 2025-26 Winter Operating Schedule

Durango, Colo. (September 9, 2025) — Purgatory Resort, one of Colorado’s most family-friendly and affordable ski resorts, will kick off its 60th ski season on Saturday, November 22, 2025. Daily operations are scheduled through April 5, 2026, with weekend operations continuing as conditions allow.

Purgatory Resort opened on December 4, 1965, with one double chairlift and a handful of trails. Lift tickets were \$4.50 for adults. Sixty years later, the resort features 1,635 acres of skiable terrain with 107 trails, 11 lifts, year-round activities, and signature events.

Lift tickets for the 2025-26 season are on sale now, starting at \$9 on select dates. Purgatory’s demand-based pricing rewards guests who plan ahead with the lowest rates, as prices increase with demand. In addition, Purgatory’s Power Kids program will continue to provide unlimited free skiing for all kids 12 and under this season, no purchase required and no blackout dates. Together, these programs underscore the resort’s commitment to making skiing more accessible for families and giving everyone the freedom to enjoy the mountain. Guests can view daily lift ticket rates by visiting the ticket calendar at purgatory.ski/mountain/lift-tickets.

“We are thrilled to invite skiers and snowboarders to celebrate 60 years of Purgatory,” said Dave Rathbun, Purgatory Resort’s general manager. “This achievement is a testament to the support of our community, the dedication of our amazing team, and our loyal guests who make Purgatory part of their winter traditions.”

—more—



—continued—

Winter 2025-26 Capital Improvements

The 2025-26 season brings a series of improvements designed to enhance the guest experience, including the following highlights:

- **Expanded snowmaking** extending to the lower sections of Ray's Ridge, Blackburn's Bash and Legends Bypass will improve coverage and ensure more reliable access to the backside and Legends Express (Lift 8). This upgrade enhances conditions and helps ensure great coverage on some of Purgatory's most enjoyed terrain.
- Purgatory will install a **Campbell Scientific SnowVue** system, a snow stake that provides real-time snow depth measurements. The new system will track 24-hour snow totals, storm totals, and cumulative snowfall, giving skiers and riders clear, consistent updates to plan their days on the mountain.
- Guests will also find **new HEAD rental equipment**, expanded Wi-Fi coverage throughout the resort, new HD streaming cameras for live mountain conditions, an improved Purgatory app, a refresh at Paradise Pizzeria, and ongoing trail work to clear brush and hazard trees.

About Purgatory Resort

Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2025, Purgatory is known as one of Colorado's most family-friendly and best-value ski resorts. Purgatory is located on the southern edge of the San Juan Mountains between Durango and Silverton. The resort offers 107 trails, four terrain parks, 11 lifts, and 1,635 skiable acres ranging from steep tree skiing to wide-open cruisers, plus year-round activities, lodging, dining, and signature events. Home to Colorado's largest guided snowcat operation, Purgatory Snowcat Adventures spans 35,000 acres of glades, bowls, cliffs, chutes, gullies, and trees. Purgatory Resort was ranked No. 23 in Condé Nast Traveler's 2025 Readers' Choice Awards and was named North America's No. 1 ski area for beginners by OnTheSnow.com in the 2024–25 Visitors' Choice Awards. For more information, visit [Purgatory.ski](https://www.purgatory.ski).



Recognized With Condé Nast Traveler's 2025 Readers' Choice Award "No. 23 Ski Resort in the USA"

The World's Best Hotels, Cruises, Countries, Cities, Resorts, Trains, Airlines, Airports, Spas, Islands and Luggage

Durango, Colo. (October 7, 2025) — *Condé Nast Traveler* today announced the results of its annual [Readers' Choice Awards](#), with Purgatory Resort recognized as the #23 ski resort in the USA.

Condé Nast Traveler received more than 757,000 survey responses from readers across the United States, rating their travel experiences across the globe to offer a comprehensive look at the places they eagerly anticipate revisiting. The Readers' Choice Awards, with their unparalleled legacy as the travel industry's longest-running and most prestigious accolades from our readers, remain the ultimate symbol and acknowledgment of excellence within the travel sector.

"We're grateful for this recognition and for the guests who choose Purgatory year after year," said Dave Rathbun, Purgatory Resort's general manager. "Our goal is straightforward: give people the freedom to ski, including more time on snow, less time in lines, and make snow sports accessible for families."

Regarded as one of Colorado's most family-friendly and affordable ski areas, Purgatory Resort will celebrate its 60th ski season beginning Saturday, November 22, 2025. Daily operations are scheduled through April 5, 2026, with weekend operations continuing as conditions allow. Purgatory continues to invest in guest experience heading into its 60th season, including improved snowmaking, affordable lift tickets, and free skiing for all kids ages 12 and younger.

The 2025 Readers' Choice Awards
Traveler's website at
cntraveler.com/rca.

are published on *Condé Nast*





Purgatory Snowcat Adventures Announces 2025-26 Winter Operating Schedule

New Snowcat Stay Packages and extended scenic tour dates make Colorado's largest snowcat operation more accessible than ever

Durango, Colo. (Nov. 2025) — Purgatory Snowcat Adventures (PSA), Colorado's largest snowcat-skiing operation, returns for the 2025-26 season with new lodging packages and expanded Scenic Snowcat Tour dates for the 2025–26 season.

Spanning more than 35,000 acres, an area larger than San Francisco and over twice the size of Manhattan, PSA provides guided access to untracked glades, bowls, and chutes for advanced and expert riders. Each trip includes a full day of guided skiing or snowboarding, lunch, rental gear and avalanche safety equipment. The operation runs daily from Jan. 1 through March 31, 2026, weather permitting.

Rates:

Early season (Jan. 1–21): \$500 per seat or \$5,000 for a private cat (up to 12 guests)

Peak Season (Jan. 22–March 31): \$700 per seat or \$7,000 private cat (up to 12 guests)

PSA has expanded its **Scenic Snowcat Tour** schedule this season, offering more opportunities for families and non-skiers to explore Purgatory's backcountry. The two-hour tours feature mountain views, photo stops, and complimentary hot cocoa and are open to ages three and older. Price: \$100 per person.

New **Snowcat Stay Packages** pair slope-side lodging at Purgatory Village with guided snowcat skiing or scenic tours.

- Cat Ski Stay Package: starting at \$1,625 for two
- Scenic Snowcat Stay Package: starting at \$539 for two
- Private Full Cat Stay Package: starting at \$9,749 for up to 12 guests

The popular **Snowcat Dining Excursions** return with moonlit rides leading to on-mountain dining overlooking the Needles Mountains. Each dinner includes a five-course tasting menu curated by Purgatory's executive chef and paired with select wines and beers. Dates: Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 28. Price: \$250 per person (tax and gratuity included).

Reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance at purgatory.ski. For last-minute bookings, email catskiing@purgatory.ski or call 970-385-2115.



Family-Friendly Winter Activities

Mountain Coaster

Purgatory's Inferno Mountain Coaster serves up extraordinary mountain views, thrilling twists and turns, and speedy descents. This gravity-powered ride travels down a track winding through the mountainside, while riders control their speed with hand brakes. Each car holds up to two guests.

Nordic Skiing

The Durango Nordic Center, located 1/3 mile north of Purgatory Ski Resort, offers guests more than 20 kilometers of scenic forest trails groomed for classic cross-country and skate skiing. The Durango Nordic Center operates daily from 9 am to 4 pm, subject to weather conditions, beginning in December.

Scenic Snowcat Tours

Scenic Snowcat Tours at Purgatory provide a fun outing for the entire family with spectacular views of the San Juan Mountains. The snowcat ride lasts about an hour and the tour lasts about two hours, with a mid-tour break for photos and hot cocoa. This family-friendly adventure is open to guests ages 3 and older.

Snow Tubing

The tubing hill serves up family fun with guests flying down high-speed, snow-covered tubing lanes. This adventure is open to guests ages 3 and older. Tubing is open from 4 pm to 8 pm on the following dates: December 2025 dates TBD, 1/1-1/3, 1/9-1/10, 1/16-1/18, 1/23-1/24, 1/30-1/31, 2/6-2/7, 2/13-2/15, 2/20-2/21, 2/27-2/28, 3/9-3/18.

Snowmobile Adventures

Enjoy a day of playing in the best snowmobiling terrain in Durango and the San Juan Mountains. Guests can explore over 35,000 acres and 75 miles of trail, from vast meadowy playgrounds and historic sites to mountain passes with scenic vistas. Snowmobile adventures are available daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., starting on December 5, 2025, through March 31, 2026.

Snowshoe Tours

Purgatory's guided snowshoe tours are a peaceful and breathtaking way to experience winter at 10,500 feet, near the top of Purgatory Resort. The tour starts with a ride up Lift 1, ascending 1,500 feet to the start of a 1-2 mile beginner loop. The tour ends with a ride down Lift 1 back to the base area. Guests ages 12 and older, including beginners, are welcome to join. Snowshoe tours are available Thursday through Sunday, starting on December 18, 2025.



Purgatory Resort's Schedule of Holiday Events

Durango, Colo. (Dec. 2025) — Purgatory Resort announces a full lineup of family-friendly events at the Village Plaza and on-mountain experiences across the resort. Seasonal highlights include visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, the annual Torchlight Parade and New Year's Eve fireworks, and scenic snowcat rides with sweeping vistas of the San Juan Mountains. Throughout the holiday season, the Village Plaza base area will serve as the hub for dining, shopping, and entertainment.

Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit the Mountain

Date: Sunday, December 21, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Families can stop by the base area to meet Santa and share their Christmas wishes. The day concludes with a Tree Lighting Celebration to mark the spirit of the season.

Whiskey Tasting at Hoody's

Date: Saturday, December 27, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Guests can enjoy a guided tasting of four high-end whiskeys representing a variety of regions and flavors. A handcrafted cocktail will also be served.

New Year's Eve Torchlight Parade and Fireworks

Date: Wednesday, December 31, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Purgatory Resort will celebrate New Year's Eve with its annual Torchlight Parade and fireworks display at the base area.

New Year's Eve Italian Buffet at Hoody's

Date: Wednesday, December 31, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Celebrate New Year's Eve with an Italian buffet at Hoody's featuring pastas, meat dishes, and desserts ahead of the midnight countdown.

Scenic Snowcat Tours

Dates: December 13, 14, and 18–31 at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m.

Guests can take in panoramic mountain views on a two-hour scenic snowcat tour with photo stops, and complimentary hot cocoa. Open to ages three and up.

Snowcat Dining Excursions

Dates: Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, and Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Take a moonlit ride leading to on-mountain dining overlooking the Needles Mountains. Each dinner includes a five-course tasting menu curated by Purgatory's executive chef and paired with select wines and beers.



2025-26 Signature Events

- **Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit the Mountain & Tree Lighting Celebration | Dec. 21:** Santa and Mrs. Claus visit Purgatory Resort to spread holiday cheer. The day concludes with a Tree Lighting Celebration to mark the spirit of the season.
- **New Year's Eve Fireworks & Torchlight Parade | Dec. 31:** Purgatory Resort celebrates New Year's Eve with its annual Torchlight Parade and fireworks display. Ski instructors and patrol members will descend the mountain with lit torches, followed by a fireworks display at the base area.
- **New Year's Eve Italian Buffet at Hoody's | Dec. 31**
Celebrate New Year's Eve with an Italian buffet at Hoody's featuring pastas, meat dishes, and desserts ahead of the midnight countdown.
- **First Tracks Brunch | Jan. 4, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Mar. 8 and Mar. 15:** Board Lift 1 at 7:30 am to enjoy first tracks on Lift 3 before the mountain opens to the public at 9 am.
- **Dave Spencer Ski Classic | Feb. 28:** An annual fundraiser for the Adaptive Sports Association of Durango, skiers with and without disabilities ski side-by-side to support ASA's mission to make outdoor recreation accessible to everyone.
- **Know the Snow Rando Race | Jan. 25:** This ski mountaineering race challenges participants to push their limits while navigating a dynamic course, and it's for a worthy cause.
- **Cardboard Derby | Mar. 7:** Build your derby racer out of cardboard and duct tape only, and pilot it down the slopes.
- **Hollywood Huckfest | Mar 22:** Witness gravity-defying stunts during this exhilarating freeride competition.
- **Annual Pond Skimming Contest | Apr. 5:** Skiers and snowboarders attempt to glide across a pond of water without falling.



Restaurants and Dining

From the base area to the mountaintop, Purgatory serves up a wide range of dining options, including European fare, hearty mountain meals and traditional family favorites.

Backside Bistro

Fine dining at 10,000 feet, the Backside Bistro pairs European alpine classics like wiener schnitzel, Parisian steak frites, and French onion soup with European wines and magnificent views of the San Juan Mountains. Located upstairs in Dante's Lodge, accessible via Lift 8, Legends Express, and via Lift 5, Grizzly Lift.

Dante's Lodge

With spectacular on-mountain views of the Needles Mountains and delicious food, Dante's is a popular lunch stop featuring cafeteria-style dining, a full-service bar, and a coffee bar. Dante's Lodge is conveniently accessible while skiing via Lift 8, Legends Express, and Lift 5 (Grizzly Lift).

Paradise Pizzeria

With an Italian menu featuring pizza, pasta, salads, a full-service bar, and an ice creamery, this is an easy stop to please the whole family. Located in the main Village Plaza next to Purgatory Sports.

Powderhouse

Purgatory's classic mountainside bar features casual café selections, draft beers, and cocktails. The view from the bar showcases the San Juan Mountains and skiers and riders taking on the Pitchfork terrain park below. Powderhouse is accessible via Lift 1, Purgatory Express, and Lift 2, Engineer.

Purgy's

Located at the foot of the Purgatory Village Express (Lift 1), Purge's provides a slopeside gastropub experience. Savor traditional resort fare for lunch, including salads, baked potatoes, Purgatory's famous beef chili, burgers, and sandwiches. Après features include light snacks and cocktails. In the evening, Purgy's serves hand-trimmed steaks, mountain-inspired appetizers, and a curated wine list.

—more—



—continued—

The Bear Bar

Purgatory's quintessential ski bar is the place to après and celebrate another wonderful day on the mountain. Enjoy your favorite beverages while taking in views of the San Juan Mountains and slopeside action at Purgatory's legendary "beach." The Bear Bar is located at the base of Purgatory Village Express (Lift 1).

Village Market & Deli

Start the day off right with a coffee, croissant, burrito, or fresh breakfast sandwich. Village Market & Deli offers lunch items, soups, and deli sandwiches, plus grab-and-go items, and a market with household essentials and personal care items. Located at Village Plaza's Kendall building.

The Waffle Cabin

The Waffle Cabin serves Belgian waffles with a variety of toppings and warm beverages, including hot chocolate and hot apple cider. Located slopeside at the Village Base Area near Twilight Lift (Lift 4).



SAN JUAN SKYWAY SCENIC BYWAY

