

Colorado Cross Country Ski Association

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CONTACT: Cara McDonald

PHONE: 303-912-7395

EMAIL: coloradocrosscountry@gmail.com

WEB: www.coloradocrosscountry.com

The Other Ski Vacation: Travelers Look to Cross Country Skiing in Colorado

COLORADO, December 14, 2010--The term "ski vacation" doesn't only apply to the slope-side variety these days: Cross country skiing in Colorado is attracting families as well as active and budget travelers looking for affordable winter getaways.

[The Colorado Cross Country Ski Association](#), with 17 member Nordic centers, clubs, and guest ranches, says this is shaping up to be one of their best years in a decade for destination skiers.

"Snow and trail conditions so far this season are incredible, and Nordic skiing is both beginner-friendly and affordable, which seems to be driving visitors in the last two years," says Igor Guziur, activities manager and Nordic program director at Devil's Thumb Ranch in Tabernash, Colorado. "We're also seeing serious Nordic skiers from New England and the Midwest plan vacations here; our conditions are some of the best in the country."

[Nordic resorts and guest ranches in Colorado](#) are offering attractive packages including lessons, rental, and meals, and Nordic centers are fast becoming "adventure concierges" for travelers, serving as the jumping off point for their outdoor adventures including cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, even sleigh rides and ski-joring (cross-country skiing while pulled by a harnessed dog).

Factors visitors consider when planing a Colorado cross country ski vacation:

- **Budget.** A family of four can buy trail passes and rent skis for around \$120 per day; that's about what a lift ticket and skis would cost for one downhill skier in Colorado.
- **Location.** Most of Colorado's Nordic centers are in mountain resort towns, with some of the most stunning terrain in the country. World-class shopping, lodging, dining, alpine skiing, and other winter sport opportunities abound.
- **Togetherness.** Ski, take in the scenery, talk, spend time with your kids...Nordic skiing lets travelers plan outings for all ages and fitness levels that are group friendly and encourage interaction.
- **Conditions.** Colorado Nordic centers are reporting the best opening conditions in 10 years; mountain areas have had an average of three feet of snowfall so far.

Travelers are also seeking out more inclusive cross country ski vacations at Colorado guest ranches. Latigo Ranch, Home Ranch, Devil's Thumb Ranch and Vista Verde all offer Nordic ski centers, groomed trails, instruction and rentals, as well as lodging, dining, family activities, horseback riding, and sleigh rides.

“Guest ranches with Nordic skiing programs are seeing a lot of families, even those with multiple generations and adult children, planning winter ranch vacations,” says Colorado Cross Country Ski Association president Randal George, of Latigo Ranch in Kremmling, Colorado. “Cross-country skiing allows for families to head out together, stop, talk, take lunch, absorb the scenery...it leads to interaction and togetherness.”

For more information about cross country skiing in Colorado, contact Cara McDonald, coloradocrosscountryski@gmail.com, 303-912-7395.

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