



Other Ways to Go on Ice & Snow

World class skiing is certainly a good reason to come to Steamboat Springs, but if it's the only activity you try while here, you've missed the 'Boat.

Let's face it, with so many ways to play in the snow, visitors can make an average ski vacation into a full on winter experience. Steamboat Springs and the Yampa and Elk River Valleys are well endowed with winter activities everyone will enjoy.

© Larry Pierce/Steamboat Ski Area



Tubing

Kids of all ages can share in the fun as they ride down Preview at the base of the **Steamboat Ski Area** under the lights. Open nightly 4:30 pm-10 pm (970-871-5359; Steamboat.com).

NEW THIS WINTER!

Yee-Haw Hill at Saddleback Ranch located 15 miles west of Steamboat Springs. 9:30 am.-6:30 pm

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday; 9:30 am-8:30pm Tuesday, Friday, Saturday. (970-879-3711, Saddlebackranch.net)

Snowshoe Tours

Almost anyone can enjoy the fresh air and exercise from snowshoeing, but in Steamboat Springs you can choose from a vigorous work out at 10,000 feet on Rabbit Ears Pass, or a more low-impact workout in the valley at 7,000 feet. With **Rocky Mountain Ventures**, you may also see Elk, Buffalo, and other wildlife. Rocky Mountain Ventures provides snowshoes and transportation (970-870-8448, VerticalGrip.com). Or, learn more about the flora and fauna with an interpretive guide from **Yampatika** (970-871-9151, Yampatika.org), Steamboat Springs' non-profit environmental education organization and try out the **Steamboat Touring Center's** (970-879-8180, Nordicski.net) snowshoe track, or head up to Rabbit Ears Pass. If you are interested in a reward, the **Steamboat Ski Area** offers a Guided Gourmet Snowshoe Tour, hike at 9,000 feet to a gourmet lunch with a glass of wine. (800-922-2722, Steamboat.com).

Ice Climbing

Get a grip! Climbing Fish Creek Falls, Steamboat Springs' 283-foot waterfall, can be a chilling thrill for ice climbers of all levels. **Rocky Mountain Ventures** provides the instruction or guides as well as equipment and transportation from your accommodation to the falls (970-870-8448, VerticalGrip.com).



© Rocky Mountain Ventures

Dog Sledding

And now for something really different... these are not your average pets. Meet a team of rAlaskan Huskies for a ride you cannot possibly forget. Learn about the sport of dog sledding while enjoying breathtaking views of the Yampa Valley or Stagecoach State Park. **Grizzle-T Dog & Sled Works** (970-870-1872), or **Red Runner Dog Sled Tours** (970-879-3647).

New this winter!

Yee-Haw Tubing Hill

Strap on your spurs, pull down your hat and get ready for a thrilling ride! YEE-HAW HILL at Saddleback Ranch, located just 15 miles west of Steamboat Springs, is sure to be the high-light of your vacation. The tubing hill is groomed and equipped with a state of the art tube-tow lift system that attaches itself to the tube to transport you back to the top. From there speed down the hill on a large inner tube provided by the ranch.

At the bottom, warm up in their brand new warming lodge, grab a bite to eat, a warm drink and hit the slope again. Snow tubing is a fun winter recreation suitable for kids and adults of all ages.

YEE-HAW HILL is open seven days a week throughout the regular winter season. Snow tubing is conducted in specified two-hour sessions. There are 120 tubes available for each two hour season. Free transportation is provided for those who are tubing. All children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Reservations are required!



www.saddlebackranch.net

Ice Driving School

Ever wanted to try driving on a closed track under the guide of a professional rally car driver? Make your fantasy come true and learn to gain control of your vehicle on snow and ice at the **Bridgestone Winter Driving School**. Half day and full-day programs as well as a two-day performance program and a corporate program are available. Their professional drivers and 1-mile track made of ice & snow will help you gain confidence driving and ensure safe arrival to all your winter activities (1-800-WHY-SKID, Winterdrive.com).



© Bridgestone Winter Driving School



© Vista Verde Ranch

Cross Country Skiing

Nordic or cross-country skiing traditions in Steamboat Springs date back to the 19th century. Whether delivering mail, babies, or the kids to school, cross country skiing was often the means to the desired end. Today the means include five Nordic Centers within a 30-mile radius and hundreds of miles of backcountry trails make Steamboat Springs the **Nordic Center of the Rockies**. **Season and multi-day visitors passes** allow skiers and snowshoers to enjoy Steamboat Springs' Nordic centers Steamboat Touring Center, Howelsen Hill Trails, Catamount Ranch, Vista and Verde Ranch. Steamboat Lake State Park Touring Center also welcomes skiers at their touring center. Whether you seek the solitude of the wilderness, or skiing in the company of local Olympians, Steamboat Springs is Colorado's mecca for those inclined to glide and slide. (steamboatxcski.org).

Fly Fishing

Summer isn't the only time the fish bite. In fact, standing in the river surrounded by ice and snow can be a peaceful retreat and a reward in itself, regardless of whether you catch the big one or not. Local outfitters are set to guide or instruct anglers of all levels for half-day or full day and provide all the necessary equipment. Try **Bucking Rainbow Outfitters** (888-810-8747, Buckingrainbow.com), or **Steamboat Fishers** (866-268-9295, Steamboatfishing.com). **High Meadows Ranch** (800-457-4453, Hmranch.com).

Ice Fishing

Ice fishermen can try their luck at one of three Steamboat Springs area ice fishing equipped Colorado State Parks: **Steamboat Lake**, **Pearl Lake** or **Stagecoach**. All three areas offer both scenic views and solitude, the perfect ingredients for getting back to nature.

Snowmobiling

Experience the deep powder of the backcountry with horsepower. Cruise open meadows and meander through pine forests on the Continental Divide. Snowmobiling enthusiasts from across the region claim some of the best terrain can be found in Routt County. Two hour, half day, full day, dinner rides and even overnight trips are available and convenient for any schedule. **Steamboat Snowmobile Tours** is based on Rabbit Ears Pass **High Mountain Snowmobile tours** is based off of Seedhouse Road in north Routt County. Both tours are operated by Steamboat Snowmobile tours, (877-879-6500, Stmbtsnowmobile.com).



© Larry Pierce/Steamboat Ski Area

Powdercat Skiing

Fresh tracks on every run and the only lines are the ones skiers and riders leave behind them. **Steamboat Powdercats'** red heated chariot awaits. Guides show powder hounds where to find the stash, then pick guests up in one of their heated cats for another round of freshies. Mid-day eat a scrumptious hot gourmet meal, then work it off before sunset. They also provide digital images and video on DVD (800-288-0543; Steamboatpowdercats.com/winter)



© Larry Pierce/Steamboat Ski Area

Sleigh Rides

Whether you seek a romantic dinner for two, or a memorable experience for the family, a horse-drawn sleigh ride is the way to go. **Blast in the Past Carriages** specializes in offering an intimate experience without the crowds. Their sleighs seat four comfortably, and customers can customize their ride (970-638-4696; carriage@springsips.com) or stop by the Steamboat Grand and let **Yampa Valley Carriage Company** take you for a ride (970-871-9409). Several ranches offer horse-drawn sleigh ride dinners including: **Bar Lazy L Family, Inc.** (970-879-0095; barlazyl@copper.net), **Big Rack Outfitters** (970-871-1427; Bigrack.com), **Dutch Creek Guest Ranch** (800-778-8519; Dutchcreek.net), **Elk River Guest Ranch** (800-750-6220; Elkrivergustranch.com), **Saddleback Ranch** (970-879-3711; Saddlebackranch.net), **Sunset Ranch** (970-879-0954;

Sunsetranchinc.com), **Windwalker Tours** (800-748-1642; Windwalkertours.com). For another unique winter ride, there's the snowcat-drawn sleigh ride dinner to **Ragnar's** for a gourmet meal atop the Steamboat Ski Area (800-922-2722; Steamboat.com).

Ice Skating

Built in the shadow of Colorado's longest operating ski area, the **Howelsen Ice Arena** bids for its piece of history in Ski Town USA®. Although many Winter Olympians (69 and counting) have hailed from Steamboat Springs, skaters have yet to make the roster, however some feel this is only a matter of time. Local ice lovers initiated a colossal fundraising effort in the late 80s to build a better rink, a five phase project that is more than half way completed. Most recently, Phase III added a new lobby and expansion of 1,500 square feet. Phase IV will be completed after funds are raised, but in the meantime local and visiting skaters alike can enjoy the biggest sheet of ice in Colorado, and dream of becoming the next Sarah Hughes, Patrick Roy, or Cammi Granato.

Hot Air Balloons

Take in all the beauty of the Yampa Valley by soaring high above with **Wild West Balloon Adventures**. Flights take off mornings only, weather permitting, for half-hour or full hour rides. Price includes continental breakfast, champagne toast and flight diploma. (970-879-9191, Wildwestballooning.com)



© Larry Pierce/Steamboat Ski Area



© Larry Pierce/Steamboat Ski Area

Hot Springs

Although technically this is not on the snow, Steamboat Springs' hot springs are open year round and a soak after a long day of outdoor activity is a relaxing way to end the day. **The Old Town Hot Springs** at the Steamboat Springs Health & Recreation Association in downtown Steamboat Springs offer three spring-fed hot mineral pools and a 350-foot waterslide. Plus there's

a complete fitness center, fitness classes, massage and a cafe. (970-879-1828, Sshra.org).

If you seek something more off the beaten path then a must do is the **Strawberry Park Hot Springs**, located 7 miles from downtown (970-879-0342, Strawberryhotsprings.com). Let one of the tour companies do the driving: Hot Springs Adventures (970-879-1873), Sweet Pea Tours (970-879-5820), or Windwalker Tours (800-748-1642, Windwalkertours.com)

Unique Dining Experiences:

Where getting there is half the fun!

❄️Horse Drawn

Sleigh Ride Dinners

Bar Lazy L Ranch
Big Rack
Dutch Creek Ranch
Elk River Guest Ranch
Saddleback Ranch
Sunset Ranch
Windwalker Tours

❄️Snowmobile

Dinners

Steamboat Snowmobile
Tours

❄️Moonlight Decents

Snowcat Skiing

Dinner

Steamboat Powder
Cats

❄️Gourmet Guided

X-country ski Lunch

Vista Verde Ranch

❄️Gourmet Guided

Snowshoe Lunch

Steamboat Ski Area