

SKI CLUBS: BRINGING THE SKIING LIFESTYLE TO ALL OF AMERICA

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VAIL ADDS JAPAN'S NISEKO TO EPIC PASS RESORT LIST

Vail Resorts has added Niseko, Japan to its list of Epic Pass resorts. Beginning in 2014-2015 Epic Pass holders can ski five free days at Niseko, Japan, as well as unlimited, unrestricted skiing in Vail Resorts properties in Colorado, Utah, and Tahoe, on the Epic Pass. The 2014-2015 The Epic Pass will be available for purchase beginning March 10, 2014, at epicpass.com.

In 2008, Forbes crowned Niseko one of the Top 10 International Ski Resorts, and more recently, National Geographic voted Niseko as the best powder snow resort in the world. The resort boasts an average 590 inches of snow per year. Niseko is located 100 kilometers south of Japan's fifth largest city, Sapporo, in the southwest corner of the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. Niseko Annupuri is a part of the Niseko-Shakotan-Otaru Kaigan Quasi-National Park and is the most eastern park of the Niseko Volcanic Group.

WHISTLER GONDOLA UPGRADE

Whistler Blackcomb's 26-year-old Village Gondola will be upgraded for the 2014-15 season with new eight-passenger cabins. The \$6 million transportation investment represents half of a \$12 million expansion program announced for next season. The new cabins will improve capacity by 12 percent through four additional cabins and greater loading efficiency. An additional \$5.9 million has been allocated to information technology initiatives, including a new radio-frequency identification (RFID) system with lift access control gates on most lifts.

NEW LIFTS DOWN UNDER

Australia's Perisher has announced a new \$4 million (Aus) chairlift and a superpipe located in Central Valley.

In New Zealand The Remarkables ski area has begun work on a high-speed six passenger chairlift, snowmaking, trail development program. The Curvey Basin lift will begin at the bottom of the expanded learners' slopes at 5,250 feet and rise to a top terminal at 6,224 feet above sea level, just below the ridgeline known as Curvey Basin.

LAKE LOUISE "WORLD'S MOST SCENIC"

Lake Louise ski resort near Banff in Alberta has been named the most scenic ski resort in the world by USA Today, which described the famous center in the Canadian Rockies as, "unsurpassed with postcard perfect beauty." Located in the Banff National Park UNESCO World Heritage Site, Lake Louise is renowned the world over for stunning panoramic views of endless, towering mountain peaks, sparkling glaciers and the shimmering lake itself.

VAIL AND FOREST SERVICE DESTROY SMOKE SHACKS

Vail Resorts and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have confirmed that a number of smoke shacks for marijuana use at Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone resorts have been destroyed over the past several weeks noting that, in spite of the passage of Amendment 64 last fall, public consumption of marijuana continues to be illegal under Colorado law and possession and consumption of marijuana continues to be illegal under federal law. Vail Resorts' four Colorado ski resorts – Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone – are located on U.S. Forest Service land, where possession and consumption of marijuana is illegal. In addition, using any ski lift or ski slope or trail while under the influence of drugs and alcohol is prohibited under the Colorado Ski Safety and there is also "no smoking" of any kind permitted in any Vail Resorts owned and operated facilities, including restaurants, lodges and hotels, and officials will continue to enforce that policy.

SUBMARINE APPEARS IN SWITZERLAND'S LAKE ST. MORITZ

Residents of the Swiss resort of St. Moritz woke up recently by the sound of sirens wailing. Opening their shutters, they saw that a submarine had broken through the ice of the land-locked frozen Lake St. Moritz -- at well over one mile above sea level. Closer inspection, however, revealed that all was not as it seemed. The submarine was actually an art installation-cum-pop up bar, created by the Swiss inventor Andreas Reinhard, who made his name by creating the first upside-down hot-air balloon in 1994. Reinhard had approached the powers that be in Engadin-St.Moritz, White Turf, and the Kulm Hotel of St. Moritz last autumn with the idea of the submarine and they all jumped at the chance to get involved. The Kulm Hotel St. Moritz is the main sponsor of the bar, which is serving sake and Champagne. The Kulm submarine bar, measures 131 feet in length and is 30 feet high by 13 feet across. Built over a two-week period in a warehouse near Zurich, in utmost secrecy, it was then transported in pieces to St Moritz and assembled overnight, so that its arrival was a complete surprise to local residents.

Skiers and other visitors to White Turf, the famous horse races on snow on the frozen lake, have been able to enjoy the hospitality of the submarine bar while sitting on padded torpedo segments and recordings of turbine generators and a real sub breaking through ice are played in the background for a complete sensory experience.

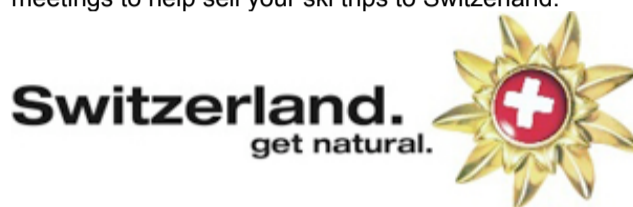
FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION'S NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

The Far West Ski Association has a new online registration system for trips that gives trip participants the option of using the traditional method of printing, completing and returning the hard copy of the registration form, signed liability waiver, payment by check and send a copy of their Valid Passport or they can registrar online using the new trip registration system which offers various payment methods using PayPal and credit card -- but they must also scan and e-mail or snail mail a copy of their Valid Passport for international trips.



The National Ski Club Officers' Newsflash is emailed each month to America's ski club officers by The National Ski Club Newsletter on a year-round basis to augment our four printed issues which published in November, January, March, and May. If you wish additional club officers to receive the Newsflash, please email their names, club name, their office within the club, and email addresses to wilbanks@ski-club.net.

Click on the logo below for a great video to play at meetings to help sell your ski trips to Switzerland.



<http://www.youtube.com/user/myswitzerland>



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