



Expert Expansion

Providing Quality Experiences for Expert Skiers

Durango, Colo. Purgatory at Durango Mountain Resort is the hub of winter activity with 1,360 acres of skiable terrain, 88 trails, 10 lifts, five terrain parks and a vertical drop of 2,029 feet. Averaging 260 inches of snow annually, Purgatory provides ski and ride enthusiasts with a quality experience and spectacular views.

In 2010, Purgatory opened “The Ambassadors,” which provides incredible tree skiing on the frontside of the mountain. The new black-diamond run adds 40 acres of new tree skiing and comes on the heels of the 2009 Legends’ expansion that extended the resort’s western boundary and added 125 acres of steep tree-skiing. Over the past two seasons, Durango Mountain Resort has increased its expert terrain offering by more than 35 percent.

The Ambassadors Glade is accessible from the trail “Mercy” or at the bottom of the trail “What.” The terrain in the new glade is varied and offers something for all expert-level skiers and snowboarders. The skier’s left side of the run is lower angle and provides the opportunity to work on tree-skiing skills in a more open setting. The skier’s right side of the run is much steeper and has small drops and tighter lines for more adventurous skiers and riders.

Other runs expert skiers enjoy include “Poets Glade” and “Paul’s Park” which offer gladed tree skiing and are accessible from the Legends Lift/Chair 8. “Elliott’s,” also off of Chair 8, provides a lot of vertical on challenging terrain. Chair 5 takes skiers to “Bull Run,” a true double black-diamond with some of the steepest terrain on the mountain. “Styx” off Chair 1 on the frontside is one of the classic trails at Purgatory and a must ski/ride.

For those who want to experience the steeps but prefer the sweetness of vertical corduroy, Durango Mountain Resort purchased a new winch cat in 2011 to achieve High Angle Grooming. Added to the mix of Purg’s grooming fleet is the Prinoth Bison X with Sherpa Winch that will allow grooming on steeper terrain. Experience Styx, Lower Hades, Catharsis and other trails groomed at different times throughout the season. Lovers of the ungroomed need not fret, as Purg’s crew will only be grooming a portion of the designated expert runs – keeping a portion of trail still in its natural, unmanicured state. Experts will now find groomed snow, powder and moguls all on the same run.

Durango Mountain Resort saw its earliest opening of its terrain parks starting with the 2010/2011 season due to newly created dirt features that require less snow to open and have better consistency and coverage. Purgatory’s terrain enhancements follow years of steady growth, including the recent \$50-million base area investment, anchored by Purgatory Lodge.

Durango Mountain Resort offers traditional skiing and snowboarding but also features other sports, including telemark skiing and snowbiking. In 2010/2011, the Resort improved its snowmaking capabilities, effectively doubling the resort’s ability to make snow on the mountain, ensuring the best possible early-season conditions.

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