



courtesy photo

Get Your Glide On

Exploring Mammoth's
Cross-Country Skiing Trail
—Jenna Blumenfeld

Situated on the free bus line several miles from the ski area, Tamarack Lodge and Resort's rustic charm gives way to an expansive trail network. In winter, summer's paved roads (which link five lakes and campgrounds) transform into 30 kilometers of perfectly groomed trails where you might cross paths with Olympic athletes—it's that good. Inside the lodge, an understated interior defies elk antler-chandelier clichés, relying instead on good bones. The place epitomizes the old-school Sierra vibe, thanks to exposed wood and rock, comfortable couches, a crackling fireplace—and absence of glitz. Plus, it's ground zero for a great workout.

"Cross-country skiing helps with balance and control, and can be extremely aerobic," says Heidi Vetter, manager of Tamarack XC Ski Center.

Learn: The Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center offers individual and multi-week packages. Book a day lesson for \$84, which includes instruction, trail pass, and rentals. Planning on return visits? Sign up for the four-week "Learn To Ski" clinic, available for both classic and skate styles.

Explore: For three nights during every full moon, ski (or snowshoe) with Tamarack's celebrated Full Moon Tours, a one and a half hour nighttime excursion solely illuminated by moonlight. The tour concludes with refreshments by the river rock fireplace.

Sleep: Spend the night in one of the lodge's 10 rustic rooms, or the two-bedroom suite (with pine-knobbed wood paneling and vintage quilts), or go upscale and rent a lakeside private cabin that can sleep up to 10.

Eat: The lodge's Lakefront Restaurant is one of the most intimate in Mammoth. Chef Bobby Brown combines locally sourced meats and vegetables with sophisticated preparation to create innovative and memorable meals, like roasted venison with mushrooms and Swiss chard, or grilled wild salmon with sautéed butter beans. (10 tables; reservations recommended)

Don't-miss events and races

TANNENBAUM 10K CLASSIC

December 13, 2015

Test yourself on this family-friendly classic course.

NATIONAL WINTER TRAILS DAYS

January 9, 2016

Demo the newest Nordic skis and snowshoes for free.

LAKES BASIN 15K SKATE

January 10, 2016

Skate your way to glory in multiple races with distances ranging from 1 to 15K.

ALLAN BARD 20K CLASSIC

February 7, 2016

This longer race pays homage to Allan Bard, a Mammoth mountaineer.

WORLD POLICE & FIRE WINTER GAMES

February 21–26, 2016

Watch current and retired police and firemen and women compete in events ranging from Nordic skiing to alpine skiing and snowboarding.

MAMMOTH WINTER BIATHLON

March 18–20, 2016

This high-octane race held at Reds Lake combines cross-country skiing with rifle shooting.

MAMMOTH MARATHON 42K

April 3, 2016

Test your endurance with the 38th annual marathon, in distances from 2 to 42K.

TAMARACK CHALLENGE

April 10, 2016

Don your silliest outfit and attempt to ski every groomed track on the last day of the season.