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CENTRAL OREGON'S SNOWY LANDSCAPE AND BLUEBIRD DAYS PAINT THE PERFECT BACKDROP TO YOUR NEXT WINTER VACATION

(BEND, Ore.) — Central Oregon's beloved outdoor adventures will be as inviting as ever this winter, with just a few modifications that make the region's wide open spaces feel even more secluded. For those who have never enjoyed a winter experience in the heart of the Cascades, the experience can be particularly rewarding.

Far from the gray skies and rain most commonly associated with Oregon winters, the Cascade Range of Central Oregon shifts from vibrant fall hues to an unfolding winter wonderland. The season's chill is welcomed — perfect for skiing, sledding, snowmobiling, snow shoeing, tubing, and more — but not too cold to enjoy an outdoor dining experience. With Bend as its cultural hub — and stretching to communities such as Sunriver, Redmond, and Sisters that put you just steps from the Cascades and adventure — Central Oregon teems with winter energy.

“Central Oregon has been the premier winter sports destination in the Pacific Northwest for more than a half century,” said Julia Theisen, president and CEO of Visit Central Oregon. “We are excited to once again see skiers and snowboarders enjoying the slopes of Mt. Bachelor and Hoodoo Ski Area, and embracing the après ski life at a local food cart lot, brewery, or restaurant. Winter is truly a special time in Central Oregon.”

With the health and safety of residents and visitors always at top of mind, Central Oregon's famed outdoor wonders will open for winter with a few modifications.

Iconic Mt. Bachelor — North America's sixth-largest ski resort — plans to open both Sunrise and West Village base areas on December 7. With an average of 462 inches of light, dry powder each year, and a season that typically extends into late May, the snowpack is among

the most reliable in North America. While the lodges will be open with limited access, skiers can expect to enjoy Egan's Outpost food cart, with the potential of other food cart vendors, in true Central Oregon fashion. Other changes to Mt. Bachelor's operating plan, which can be found [here](#), will ensure the safety of guests and the community. But most importantly, skiers and snowboarders will once again enjoy the premier ski experience in the Northwest.

For the young and the young at heart, Wanoga Sno-park about 15 miles west of Bend is perfect for an afternoon of sledding. The sno-park also provides winter access to 180 miles of both motorized and non motorized dog friendly trails.

With rolling terrain, sunshine and ample snowfall, Bend is a mecca for Nordic skiing and snowshoeing aficionados and a regular spring training ground for the U.S. Ski Team. Groomed and ungroomed Nordic trails between Bend and Mt. Bachelor zigzag through the Deschutes National Forest for all levels. Explore on your own, or book a guided tour with one of many outfitters.

Even in winter, safe outdoor dining is close at hand. Bend and the surrounding Central Oregon communities have developed a thriving food truck culture over the years. Popular lots such as General Duffy's, The Bite, The Lot, Podski, Crosscut Warming Hut No.5, or River's Place — just to name a few — are ideal for outdoor dining as you warm by the fire.

"We believe that it will be imperative this winter to embrace a change of scenery and to get outside, which makes Central Oregon a destination that will be particularly appealing," said Theisen. "I am proud of how this community has embraced social distancing and other safety measures to remain open for people to enjoy the area. This winter will bring challenges for all, but Central Oregon very much wants to do its part in helping people enjoy what they love." For more information or to begin planning a winter escape to Central Oregon, visit visitcentraloregon.com.

ABOUT CENTRAL OREGON:

Located on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Range, where vast forests give way to the arid high desert, Central Oregon is characterized by year-round adventure, authenticity, inspiration, and environment. From the towering peaks of the Cascades to the pristine waters of the Wild & Scenic Deschutes River, and from the more urban experiences of Bend and Redmond, to the rural charms of Sisters, La Pine, Prineville, Madras, Warm Springs, and Maupin, Central Oregon offers a perfect mix of recreation and sophistication. Barely three hours from Portland, and with daily direct flights from eight major markets, getting to Central Oregon is a breeze. For more information visit www.visitcentraloregon.com or call 800-800-8334.

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