

Sun Mountain Lodge

Winthrop, Washington

Sun Mountain Lodge is a 3,000-acre resort that's 2,000' above the floor of the Methow Valley and perched on a hill with 360-degree views of the Cascade mountains. Winter guests enjoy an extraordinary combination of great snow and deep sunshine.

Sun Mountain is the crown jewel of the Methow ski trails, literally standing above all the rest. Their ski school is headed by former Professional Ski Instructors of America Demo Team member Don Portman, a superb instructor as well as one of the founding fathers of the region's trails.



Jonathan says:

"Sun Mountain has it all — setting, service, fabulous food, great lodging, a major trail system linked to an even bigger one — and no weekday crowding."

location

North-central Washington

skiing

The resort snowcat-grooms 65 km on 22 trails (longest 8 km) through meadows, evergreens, and aspen. Most routes are single track with a skate lane, though perhaps 15% are double track with skating. Almost everything is two-way. Trail ratings are 31% Easier, 39% More Difficult, 30% Most Difficult.

There's a fairly tough and long connector with the valley. You'll also find 14 km of independent snowshoe trails.

Most routes have wonderful views of mountains that can rise over 6,000' above the valley floor. The ski school is excellent (classic, skating, and telemarking), as is the rental/retail selection. Altitude range is 2,000'-4,000'.

season

Early December—late March; average snowfall 84"

accommodations

The Lodge has 96 rooms, plus 16 housekeeping cabins in a nearby (lower) location at Patterson Lake. Huge Mt. Robinson guest rooms and suites have gas fireplaces, wet bars, and whirlpool baths with mountain views. Ski-in/ski-out. Smoke-free, with three-night minimum stays on holidays.

lodging rates

From \$\$ (multi-day stays can include breakfast, dinner, and trail fee for all Methow trails)

activities

On-site: Snowshoeing, sleigh rides, ice skating, exercise room, two outdoor hot tubs. Nearby: Alpine skiing (Loup Loup), snowmobiling, heli-skiing, dog sledding, and the rest of the Methow's groomed trails, including guided hut-to-hut trips

kids' programs

Equipment, instruction, pulks, daycare, snowplay

dining

Sun Mountain's award-winning cuisine emphasizes fresh local products, with entrées such as farmer's market vegetable Napoléon. There's also a 5,000-bottle wine cellar.

guest capacity

320 (including Patterson Lake cabins)

conference capacity

175

address

P.O. Box 1000, Winthrop, WA 98862

phone

(800) 572-0493

e-mail

sunmtn@sunmountainlodge.com

website

www.sunmountainlodge.com