

## **New South Wales Snowfields**

### **Thredbo**

#### **Long Runs**

Thredbo prides itself on the longest vertical in Australia (672m) with the longest run being 5.5km, of course this run winds down the mountain in broad sweeping turns and anyone with even skidded parallels would probably only ski it once.



#### **Super Trails**

Despite that the length of the runs at Thredbo are a great appeal to many people with 2 express quads accessing the "super trails" it has a lot going for it when it is truly top to bottom. The main problem that Thredbo has is its low base elevation of only 1365m resulting in the bottom of the runs often being slushy.

#### **SnowMaking**

To overcome the lack of natural stuff below about 1500m Thredbo has invested heavily in snowmaking with 380 guns capable of covering 60 hectares almost at will. This has allowed Thredbo to design a custom made beginners area (Friday Flat) and also run top to bottom for most of the season.



#### **Village**

The village at Thredbo has a true European feel and offers a broad range of accommodation. There is limited ski in ski out lodging at Thredbo (the Crackenback Ridge area) but the village is well laid out and you can be on snow with just a few minutes walk.

Apré skiing is excellent with a great range of restaurants and nightspots to round out the evening.

### **PerisherBlue**

#### **Resort Size**

The catch cry for Perisher Blue has to be "bigger is better". There is no doubt about it Perisher Blue is BIG, a whopping 1250 hectares of skiable terrain provides a huge amount of variety over a vertical drop of about 350m. Perisher Blue is serviced by 50 lifts which are both surface and chairs. Since Perisher Blue is spread over 7 peaks you can always find an uncrowded area.



#### **Accommodation**

There is on snow accommodation at Perisher Valley, Smiggin Holes, and some at Guthega. Not all the accommodation is ski in

ski out so if that is what you want just be careful, you may be getting oversnow home each night!

### Activities

Perisher Blue provides a wide range of activities with night skiing, cross country trails, and a dedicated snowboard park just to name a few. The limited snowmaking sometimes means that the resort is a little late in opening and you often can't link between the different peaks almost all the lifts are open.



### Access and Events

Perisher Blue can be accessed either by car or by the ski tube at Bullocks Flat, which costs a bit more than a day pass but saves on park entry fees and usually chain hire as well.

Perisher Blue is home to Channel 9's wild winter weekend each year which is usually in early August. This may be worth noting as an event not to miss or to avoid at all costs, its up to you!

## Charlotte Pass

### History

Charlotte Pass is Australia's first ski resort, established in the early 1900's, it is also Australia's highest resort with a base elevation of 1760m. Charlotte Pass is unique for a number of reasons, it is the only snowbound resort in Australia, with access during the season by oversnow transport from Perisher Valley the only way in! Charlotte Pass also owns the record for the lowest temperature ever recorded in Australia -23 degrees Celsius.



### Isolation

The isolation of the resort is its main appeal with a maximum of 607 guests at any given time there are rarely if ever major lift lines to worry about. With genuine on snow accommodation all lodges offer ski in ski out accommodation and magnificent views.



### Lifts

Despite only having 5 lifts (1 chair, 1 T bar, 2 pomas and a rope tow) there is a surprising amount of skiing to be had with 2 lifts to the main ridge line of the bowl you can choose from fast groomed trails, tree skiing or even some chutes!

### Main Range

Charlotte Pass offers unparalleled access to the main range and so is an excellent base for cross country skiing. During summer its position allows access to some of NSW's best high country walks, to Kosciusko, Blue Lake and a whole lot more.

## Selwyn Snowfields

### Family Resort

Selwyn Snowfields promote themselves as "Your Winter Playground" and they go a long way towards exactly that with a family orientation. Selwyn is undoubtedly good value with lift tickets about half of that of the major resorts. There is a definite family feel about the resort and unless you are an extreme skier/boarder you just can't help but feel right at home here. Selwyn Snowfields offers the best beginners skiing in NSW with a wide range of beginners/early intermediate slopes to choose from.



### First Timers

Selwyn offers the complete snow experience for first timers with the downhill skiing being complemented by a wide range of cross country trails, snowplay areas and even a dedicated toboggan run & tubing park - with its own lift! The main drawback for Selwyn is that there is no on snow accommodation so you have to stay 15 minutes or more from the slopes and drive in each day. If you consider yourself an advanced skier then Selwyn will be a bit light on challenging terrain, the black runs would be marked blue anywhere else, but even at the intermediate level Selwyn offers enough variety to keep you happy for a day or two.



### Snowmaking

In 1996 Selwyn Snowfields began investing in snowmaking which has made the cover a lot more reliable. This expansion has continued in 1998 with over 80% of the resort now covered by snowmaking. With the rock free base on which they operate Selwyn can open on low snow levels and you should expect them to operate almost at 100% for the nearly the whole season.

## Victorian Resorts

### Falls Creek

#### Village

A true alpine village with everything you need and true ski in ski out lodging throughout the resort, Falls Creek certainly has plenty of appeal. The village sits in an alpine bowl above the snowline and lifts allow you to access both sides of the mountain.

#### Snowmaking

Situated next to a large lake means that Falls has unlimited access to water for snowmaking, the result is an impressive cover even in marginal times, in fact many lodges offer a "snow guarantee".

#### Ski Trails

With a wide range of skiing and boarding available Falls Creek has a lot to offer. The playground region offers excellent beginners skiing while intermediates will revel in the variety of Sun Valley. While these runs aren't as long as some other resorts there is a fantastic range of intermediate skiing to suit most Australian skiers and boarders.

### **Snowboard Park**

A dedicated snowboard park is built each year and often has the largest half pipe in Australia.

### **Advanced Skiing**

Occasionally criticised for not having enough advanced skiing this comment is usually made by those who don't know the resort. Access to Wishing Well and Valley of the Moon off the top of the Summit Quad and International Poma provide a large area of usually unexplored skiing as does Kat skiing on Mt McKay.



## **Mt Buller**

### **Location**

Mt Buller is located just 230 km or about 3 hours from Melbourne, and as a result is very popular with Melbournites!

### **Ski Trails**

It is so popular that Bourke St (the beginners area) is the ski run in Australia. Buller is a large mountain with plenty everyone and has the longest vertical drop in Victoria. Mt also has the second largest lifting capacity in Australia (after Perisher Blue). To ensure good quality snow Mt Buller has installed extensive snow making facilities and is well prepared to help out mother nature.



busiest  
for  
Buller

### **Village**

An alpine village offers ski in ski out accommodation along with an ice rink to complete the alpine experience. A large range of lodging, restaurants, bars, in fact a large range of everything can be found at Mt. Buller!.

Mt Buller is working hard to promote themselves as a year round resort and so there are plenty of summer activities on offer such as horse riding, alpine walking, mountain biking, mountain safaris and of course the facilities of the Australian Alpine Institute.

## Mount Hotham

### Ski Trails

Mount Hotham has always been known as a "serious skiers" mountain, this was in part due to the roads into Hotham and in due to the nature of the runs at Hotham. Well the road has now improved and is sealed all the way to the village, and the runs, there are just more of them, lots more! Mt Hotham probably most variety of advanced and expert runs of any resort in Australia (40% of its total skiable area!).

### Development

Mt Hotham has undergone a transformation in recent years, a to carry skiers/boarder across the access road, three new quad more snowmaking and lots of village developments. There is, of a good range of beginners and intermediate skiing/boarding as and night skiing is offered on the Big D area.

### Accommodation

Accommodation is available on the mountain or just nearby at Dinner Plain, Australia's only village above the snowline but not in a national park. For something different there is always a helicopter flight across to Falls Creek for a day's skiing/boarding!



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