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Lure of the Lake

Lake Tahoe entices with outdoor excitement, lush beauty and plenty of pampering. **BY MARK CHESNUT**

DRAMATIC BEAUTY: (Left to right), Resort at Squaw Creek; The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe; Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe; and view of Lake Tahoe

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LOCATED IN THE PICTURESQUE Sierra Nevada mountain range on the border between northwestern Nevada and California, Lake Tahoe offers a postcard-perfect destination for nature lovers. And there's lots to love, from expansive ski resorts and luxurious hotels to gourmet cuisine and exciting outdoor activities that make the most of the region's lush natural beauty, year-round.

Winter sports prove a big draw in Lake Tahoe, and they can be enjoyed from December through June. Among the top choices for skiing and snowboarding, Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe wows visitors with the area's highest base elevation at 8,260 feet. Eight chair lifts and more than 60 trails assure no one will get bored. Diamond Peak Ski Resort packs in lots of excitement, too, with the longest vertical drop in the region. Two new bars opened this year to provide more refresh-

ment options near the slopes.

Nearby, Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows — yet another must-see for anyone looking to schuss the slopes — features more than 6,000 acres and two mountains filled with skiing opportunities. It's an especially good place for those still improving their skills since more than 65 percent of the terrain is ideal for beginner and intermediate skiers, and the resort's app makes it easy for guests to plan their visit. Via Ferrata, among the newest features at Squaw Valley, offers a protected climbing route with excellent settings for both beginners and experienced climbers.

For an expert guided overview of Squaw Valley, consider a visit with Alpenglow Expeditions, a company offering outdoor adventures including Lake Tahoe ski tours, Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows backcountry tours, private half-day Via Ferrata tours and

INFO TO GO

Reno/Tahoe International Airport, the main getaway to Lake Tahoe, services 130 daily flights from destinations around the country. Taxis and limousine service bring visitors to most Lake Tahoe hotels and attractions in less than an hour; an option is South Tahoe Airporth, departing from the airport's baggage claim area.

LODGING

RESORT AT SQUAW CREEK

Sitting at the base of Squaw Valley ski area, the resort is home to a

championship golf course, cross-country ski center and fly-fishing center. It offers ski-in, ski-out access to the nearby mountain.

400 Squaw Creek Road,
Olympic Valley, California
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TAHOE TEES:
Golf at Squaw Creek

PHOTO: © SQUAW CREEK