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Winter means snow in New England - and to thousands of rabid enthusiasts snow means just one thing - it's time to get out the boards for skiing expeditions to the north country.

Skiers say some of the finest skiing in the East is available in New England where natural and developed resources combine to give perfect conditions. Excellent ski centers dot the six-state area, particularly in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

There are hundreds of mountains in New England - more than 200 of them higher than 3000 feet and ten of them more than a mile high. On these mountains, there is snow -- a lot of it. In fact, many mountain areas in New England average over 100 inches of snowfall a year.

To lift the skier to the top of these peaks for the big swoop to the base are more than 300 lifts of all types from rope tows on practice slopes to tramways, chair lifts, T-bars and snowmobiles.

New England boasts well over 1500 miles of ski trails, from the championship courses to those that recent graduates from the novice class may tackle without qualms. Every year the developments are extended; every year skiing in New England gets bigger and better.

Skiers have their own geography of New England, a geography that lists in small print such points as Boston, Hartford and Portland and emblazons in capitals the Ravine, Cannon, Stowe, Hill Six, Mad River, Snow Valley, Cranmore, Pico, Jiminy Peak, Mohawk, Thunderbolt, Nosedive, Taft, Big Bromley, Belknap, Thorn Mountain, Mittersill, Wildcat, Snow Bowl and many more.

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Winter Carnivals at New England colleges include those at Dartmouth, Middlebury and the University of Massachusetts and a winter-long series of dog sled races which will be highlighted by the world's championship races at Lyndonville, Vt., on Feb. 3-5.

Newly-developed ski areas include the Blue Hills Reservation at Milton, Mass., just outside Boston where three electrically-driven tows have been installed and numerous ski trails and slopes have been cleared by the Metropolitan District Commission at a cost of \$65,000. The Mt. Mansfield area near Stowe, Vt., has been greatly enlarged and operators of other established ski centers throughout New England have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars during the summer to improve their facilities.

New England winter resort prices, in general, remain at about last year's level, according to an American Airlines survey. More and more areas are now offering "package rates" that include board and room, and in many cases, ski instructions and free use of ski lifts for rates ranging from \$55 to \$75 a week. In Manchester, Vt., for example, sixteen innkeepers and the operators for the Snow Valley and Big Bromley ski areas are offering a daily price of \$7.95 from Monday through Friday. This entitles the skier to use of all lifts, tows and ski instruction at both areas in addition to bunk, breakfast and supper.

Skiing in New England means white snow, black-green firs, blue sky, white houses and red barns nestled in rounded valleys, a song by the open fire and stories of the day's adventures. It means sleigh rides in the frosty night, square dances in a remodeled barn and seeing the world's top skiers competing in national races.

But most of all it means the unparalleled thrill of skimming over the snow-covered slopes, and maybe, feeling for a few days that everything is right with the world.

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New England skiers can shop around, ski in the morning on one mountain, in the afternoon 10 miles up the road or spend one day on Mount Washington and the next at any one of a score of developments. It's all ski country in New Hampshire's White Mountains and Vermont's Green Mountains.

All these areas are easily accessible. American Airlines, for instance, offers convenient daily flights from many parts of the country to Boston or Hartford with good connection to the northern ski country via commercial plane, "Snow Train" or bus. Skis may be carried as baggage on any American Airlines Flagship.

Ski country has to be more than just what the statistics indicate. While New England possesses all the fundamentals, it also possesses the extras that make it a center without challenge. Accommodations for skiers are easy to find in New England, partly because the area is a year-round vacation center, with hotels, inns, motor courts and lodges welcoming visitors to every corner of the region and partly because skiing in America got its start in New England.

Ski resorts in New England have been multiplying for a generation - until today the choice of accommodations ranges from luxurious hotels - with flagstone floors on the lobbies that ski boots must traverse - to cabins with snug bunkrooms and long tables for congenial and inexpensive vacationing.

The 1950 New England winter sports calendar lists nearly 100 ski races, winter carnivals, dog sled races, skating meets and other attractions for winter visitors. Among the many races to be conducted by the U.S. Amateur Ski Association are the Men's Giant Slalom Championship at Franconia, N.H., on Feb. 12; the Jumping, Cross-Country and Combined Championships at Laconia-Guilford, N.H., on Feb. 25-26 and the Men's Downhill Slalom and Combined Championships at Stowe, Vt., on March 18-19. Among the traditional races which attract the country's top competitors are the Fiske Trophy Race to be held this year at Woodstock, Vt., on Feb. 5 and Mt. Washington's American Inferno Race on April 1-2.

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