

Where to Get a Ski Slope to Yourself on Any Budget

Five ski resorts are making it easy to avoid crowded mountains this winter.





ou go skiing not just for the endorphin-boosting exercise and the promise of frothy microbrews near a fireplace, but for the moment of renewal achieved by standing on top of a hushed, steep-faced mountain dotted by snow-dusted birch trees that you will ultimately have to dodge in order to make it down alive. Which is why it's such a letdown to emerge from the lodge on the kind of chilly bluebird day when your breath still hangs in the air, only to be faced with snaking lift lines and groomers jam-packed with beginners in jeans and Jets puffers. But there's a way to reclaim that enviable solitude slopeside: Resorts across the country are figuring out how to keep crowds at bay and get solace seekers to more remote corners of the mountain.

East Coasters who want to make wide turns on some gentle groomers in peace should head to Vermont's Twin Farms. At your back door (literally), you'll find six private trails that involve zero hiking. Just hop on one of the high-powered snowmobiles to reach the top.