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The Best Girlfriend Getaway On A Skinny Budget: Ogden



Ogden City sign

Taking a powdery white mountain vacation with your girlfriends is one of life's greatest pleasures. And there is no better spot on the planet than the Wasatch Mountains of Utah. While skiing in the Park City area gets a lot of hype and celeb buzz (thank you Sundance), the resorts, restaurants and lodging in and around Ogden are equally as stunning, fun and tasty with less crowds and better prices. There are plenty of flights into the Salt Lake City airport, which is only 35 minutes from town.

DREAM

Named one of the 10 best hotels in Ogden by TripAdvisor, [Hampton Inn and Suites by Hilton](#) did not disappoint. The rooms are large with a sitting area, huge bathroom and comfortable beds. Cookies and coffee are available in the lobby all day. Sweet "happy day" brown bags were set out for the taking and the daily breakfast, included in the price of your stay, offers everything from omelets to make your own waffles. The property is set inside a historic landmark building centrally located to historic 25th Street and The Junction, which hosts indoor rock climbing, skydiving and a movie theater (on Tuesday tickets are \$5).

DO

You and your friends can get a great ski rental package from [Gear 30](#) on Washington Boulevard, and in 30 minutes or less, be at the top of one of the three resorts offering the \$157 Ski3 pass, which allows you one day of skiing at each property.

We started our long weekend adventure at [Nordic Valley](#). I learned from my incredibly patient ski instructor, Sarah Abney (I had not skied in 10+ years), that 80% of the population of skiers from Northern Utah have learned to ski at this quaint resort. It's "the way skiing started," said long-time instructor Dave Marianna. There are three lifts, which are never, ever busy (even on a Saturday), 23 trails and 140 skiable acres. Nordic Valley is the only resort to offer top to bottom night skiing. Though day skiing is cold enough, and I cannot imagine the night chill factor.

Kerri at Snowbasin Resort

[Snowbasin](#) is the second resort we visited and my personal favorite. There are five eateries, nine lifts and 3,000 skiable acres. Parking was easy, particularly if you are group, because you get preferential treatment closer to the lodge. The vibe is very elegant and the food upscale (I had a kale Caesar salad). While there, check out the two vibrantly colored Italian imported chandeliers inside Earl's Lodge. The apres-ski had great apps, live music (weekends and holidays) and draws a fun friendly local crowd. Do at least one shot ski. It'll take you right back to your college days.

Shotski at Earl's Lodge Snowbasin

Price tip: Purchase your lift tickets online versus at the resort day-of. The further in advance you buy, the cheaper it is. Groups of 20 or more can score an even better price.

Our last day was spent on [Powder Mountain](#). Interesting fun fact: It's an inverted mountain, which means you park at the top and ski to the bottom to catch a lift. To me the resort felt like a total throwback to its early 70's origins. The lodges are dark and woodsy. I learned that the tables and benches were hand made by the original owner from the trees he cut to make way for the ski runs. There are nine lifts, 8,500 skiable acres and three lodges serving food that isn't fancy but stick to your ribs filling for lots of downhill energy. The longest lift line wait is never more than four minutes, even at full capacity, which they limit to 1,500.

Pricing tip: Tuesday is Ladies Day with their "she ski's she shreds" program, which is just for women taught by women. It includes a three hour lesson, lunch and lift passes for \$125. Groups of 10 or more get a better rate and purchasing tickets online provides a deeper discount.

Social Axe Throwing

The most fun in Ogden is a visit to the latest sports entertainment craze, [Social Axe Throwing](#). We likened it to throwing darts on steroids. Paired with great music, you're led by a personal Axe Coach through a fun fast-paced hour of games.