



# THE ALMANAC

Recreation • Dining • Nightlife • And More  
 Road Conditions: (800) 427-ROAD [www.bigbeartoday.com](http://www.bigbeartoday.com)

## Recreation Guide

### Alpine Slide

Shoot down a tobogan-style ride at Magic Mountain, as a hand lever allows you to control the speed. After an exhilarating run, ride the chairlift back to the top for more fun. \$5/ride, 5-ride books \$20. There's also a snowplay area with Magic Carpet uphill ride, plus miniature golf, Go-Karts, family-priced snack bar, weekend outdoor barbecue and video games. Open daily. Big Bear Blvd., 1/4 mile west of the Village. **866-4626.**

### Bike Rentals

**Bear Valley Bikes** has rentals on top of Red Ant Hill, across from Alpine Slide. Front suspension \$10/hour, \$30/4 hours, \$40/all day. Full suspension \$20/hour, \$50/4 hours, \$70/all day. Full suspension demo \$25/hour, \$50/4 hours, \$85/all day. Call **866-8000.**

### Bingo

The **Elks Lodge** hosts stirring Bingo games each Friday night at 7 p.m. All are welcome ages 18 and over. \$10 buy-in for 12 regular games. 40611 Big Bear Blvd. west of the Village, across from Lakeview. **866-3557.**

### Bowling

The Bowling Barn offers new lanes with automated scoring for bowling enjoyment.

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Also arcade games and full-service cocktail lounge with pool. Glow Bowling after dark with black lights, sounds. Bowl 3 games for the price of 2 with coupon in this issue. Open daily. 40625 Big Bear Blvd. (enter on Bonanza). **878-BOWL.**

### Cross Country Skiing

All the great hiking trails in Big Bear make great destinations for winter cross country skiing, provided there's enough snow. Holcomb Valley is especially popular with skinny planks.

**Goldsmith's Boardhouse** has waxless, steel edge all-mountain wide touring skis, boots and poles for small child to large adult, \$15/day. Also telemark skis, \$22/ski-boot-pole. 42071 Big Bear Blvd. **866-2728.**

### Discovery Center

The Discovery Center on the north shore, two miles west of Stanfield Cutoff, is a breathtaking facility overlooking the lake and offering informational galleries, self and naturalist guided tours, gift store, Adventure passes and wilderness permits, and recreation programs. Winter guided tours feature view bald eagles, while in summer they visit mines, Grout Bay and the fire area. Open daily. **866-3437.**

### Fishing

Catch some fun with **Big Bear Charter Fishing** on a 22' fully loaded, super comfortable boat with a friendly, expert guide Aaron Armstrong. Open or private charters for individuals or groups of all ages. All gear provided—rods, reels, bait, lures, drinks and snacks. Bass fishing too aboard a Ranger Comanche. At Holloway's Marina; **866-2240.**

### Helicopter Tours

See Big Bear from above during new aerial tours by Helicopter Big Bear. See the lake, ski resorts, desert and surrounding mountains aboard a climate-controlled Robinson R44 helicopter with longtime pilot Roy Harding at the controls, departing daily out of Big Bear Airport. The helicopter seats



Take a spin on the Himalaya coaster for fast fun at Fun Plex; call 866-3866

up to four, pilot plus three passengers, and tours start at \$95 per person based on two passengers. **585-1200.**

### Hiking

There's dozens of trails and natural areas to enjoy the rugged beauty of the San Bernardino National Forest. From easy strolls along the lake to strenuous climbs into the mountains, there are trails for all abilities, including families, within a short drive of Big Bear. For information on all trails in the Valley and the required Adventure Pass, visit the Discovery Center on North Shore Dr., about two miles west of Stanfield Cutoff. **866-3437.**

**Alpine Pedal Path** is a very easy 3.5 mile (each way) paved trek following the lake on the north shore. Popular with hikers, bikers, skaters, strollers and wheelchairs as it passes Carol Morrison East Boat Launch, Discovery Center, Serrano campground, Solar Observatory and more.

**Castle Rock Trail** is a short but strenuous hike, that ends with a panoramic view of Big Bear Lake. Legend has it that a beautiful Indian maiden, jilted by her lover, took her life by leaping from this towering 100 ft. monolith. It's reached after a mostly uphill, .8 mile walk past a stream and featuring beautiful views. Located on Hwy. 18 between Boulder Bay and the dam; park on the lake side of the road. This is the only trail in the Valley not subject to the Forest Service's Adventure Pass.

**Cougar Crest Trail** is moderate two-mile (each way) hike. As it winds above the lake's north shore, it offers up great views of water and the surrounding mountains. Trailhead is on North Shore Dr. about two miles west of Stanfield Cutoff, .6 mile from the Discovery Center where you can park without an Adventure Pass.

**Woodland Interpretive Trail** is a short, scenic family stroll with minimal elevation gain, located on the north shore near Cougar Crest. Free trail maps (available at the trailhead or Discovery Center) identify markers along the route noting local vegetation, wildlife areas, etc.

**Pacific Crest Trail** comes through Big Bear from Onyx Summit through the East Valley to Hwy. 18 and then past Holcomb Valley Rd. and Cougar Crest through Holcomb Valley before continuing to Lake Arrowhead, as part of its 2,600 mile journey from Mexico to Canada. Call the Discovery Center to find out where to catch this famous international trail.

**Pine Knot Trail** from Aspen Glen picnic area climbs the southern ridge above Alpine Slide three miles (each way) to Skyline Dr. 2N10, through lush meadow and stands of white fir and Jeffrey Pine. Continue another 1/4 mile to Grand View Point for spectacular 180-degree vistas.

### Holcomb Valley

At one time, Big Bear Valley was thriving gold country. The last remaining signs of this historic chapter in Big Bear history are featured in a driving tour through what is known as Holcomb Valley. Totalling 11.6 miles over a dirt road, the tour offers stops at Two Gun Bill's Saloon, Hangman's Tree, Pigmy Cabin, Metzger Mine, and more. Free maps available at the Big Bear Discovery Center on the North Shore—call **866-3437.** Allow three hours for the drive. Adventure Pass not required unless you park to "recreate" (picnic, hike, etc.)

### Horseback Riding

**Baldwin Lake Stable** is open year-round for horseback riding. Rates are by the hour,

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Rental Packages • Rental Clothing

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