

# Tubing Under the Stars A Wild Ride After Dark

**A**s night arrives the stars come out, the lights go on, and the snow...well, everyone knows what happens to snow after dark. It gets fast!

Which suits guests enjoying night tubing sessions at Alpine Slide at Magic Mountain just fine. After inner tubers are done with the day session, Alpine Slide grooms the downhill runs with the snowcat, making the surface smooth and buff with corduroy which then firms up as temperatures go down. Perfect for those who prefer their inner tubing rides a bit on the wild side, as they shoot downhill, careening back and forth like pin-wheels, through the shadows and into the night.

Alpine Slide's famous twisting, turning "Snake" is open, and on faster snow after dark guests are really whipped back and forth. Kind of like a boardercross run at the resorts, the Snake takes extra grooming with the cat to create, as berms are strategically created by snowcat, but guests love the ride that's very different from the traditional downhill plunge. Tubing under the stars is offered each Friday and Saturday evening from 5-9 p.m. plus every night during holidays, including December 16, 2011 through January 7, 2012 (except Christmas Eve and Day).

Night tubing would be impossible without Alpine Slide's Magic Carpet uphill lift, which also happen to be very convenient during daytime operations too. Imagine scrambling uphill in your boots over icy snow! With Magic Carpet, on the other hand, just step on the moving conveyor belt and be whisked to the top in no time. The Carpet is even enclosed for guest comfort...especially nice on chillier evenings.

Alpine Slide fires its Lenko snowguns whenever conditions allow to make sure its guests find all the snow they want and the best possible tubing surface. Snow depths up to 30 feet high line the slopes during midwinter.—that's three stories of snow piled high, enough to ensure inner tubing through Easter and beyond.

Take a break from all the excitement in Alpine Slide's heated base lodge, the ideal refuge on cold nights. Enjoy hot coffee or cocoa, goodies from the family-

priced snack bar, plus video games. For parents who just want to let the kids play, it's the perfect spot to hang out and catch up on reading, while the kids go at it—and as always, parents who don't play at Alpine Slide never have to pay.

Oh, and one more reason night tubing is so popular: it's cheaper! Just \$15 buys four hours of snowplay fun and that includes tube rental and Magic Carpet lift... less than four bucks an hour for winter fun! Perfect for those who want to ski, snowboard or explore Big Bear's many other daytime activities, yet still want to play in the snow. Alpine Slide is also open daily for tubing sessions from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for those who don't want to be night owls. Bring your own lunch and make a day of it—guests can even come and go as they want since their ticket is valid all day. Day sessions are \$25.



Tubing isn't the only exhilarating ride at Alpine Slide, which is also home to the signature bobsleds of the same name. Each individually-controlled sled sports tefflon runners and ball-bearing wheels, as it zooms down two quarter-mile long cement tracks.

Lean into and out of each high-banked turn, then go into a tuck through the long straightaways. It's the closest any of us will ever get to Olympic bobsledding or luge, yet riders go as fast or slow as they want by simply applying the brake. Fun for young and old alike, Alpine Slide is a one-of-a-kind experience—there's not another Alpine Slide in California—and is much more than an amusement park ride since each driver is in complete control.

Big Bear Snow Play, located three miles east of Alpine Slide, offers Big Bear's other worldclass tubing experience daily from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. It's a former ski area which has the longest tubing runs in Southern California and has been a family favorite for years, with thrilling high-speed downhill descents on up to eight runs. Like Alpine Slide, it has every conceivable amenity— covered Magic Carpet, snowmaking, groomed runs, heated base lodge, paved parking. Little ones enjoy the adjacent "kiddie" hill and on busy days there's a second Magic Carpet (not covered) to ensure no waiting as guests get in all the runs they can handle for their \$25.

Alpine Slide is 1/4 mile west of the Village. Call (909) 866-4626. Big Bear Snow Play three miles east of Alpine Slide next to Motel 6. Call (909) 585-0075 ■

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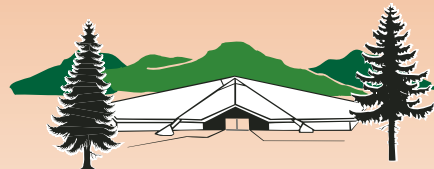
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