

# Trip to Tamarack

The Lodge on Twin Lakes is your target.

By Ann Shultz

In 1924, the Foy family discovered a mountain retreat nestled in a ridge of the Eastern Sierra Mountains and ringed by Twin Lakes. It was here they built the Tamarack Lodge as a resort for their socialite friends from the entertainment industry. In those days, the Lodge could only be accessed during the winter by skis or snowmobiles. A lot has changed since then. But the Lodge still offers a welcome break from the hustle and bustle of life.

It's less than a half-day's drive from Orange County. And although the Sierras are lovely anytime of the year, it's hard to beat the winter scenery – frosted mountains, crystal lakes and pine forests dusted with snow. Most days the weather is sunny and pleasant even during the winter months.

The modern-day Lodge has incorporated a cross country ski center run by Olympian Nancy Fiddler. Over 19 miles of groomed trails meander around and over Twin Lakes and the Mammoth Lakes Basin treating the skier, whether beginning or advanced, to a workout amid beautiful scenery.

Less than three miles down Lake Mary Road you'll find Mammoth Lakes Village, one of California's premier ski resorts. You can enjoy a variety of sights and activities in the village. Sporting goods stores abound with all kinds of ski

and winter wear and equipment ranging from chic to functional, and an outlet center includes shops that sell upscale designer brands. There are movie theaters, an arcade and a candy store with hand-dipped strawberries and homemade bon-bons. You can also catch breakfast, lunch or dinner at one of the area's many restaurants.

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### What to do

- **Hit the trails.** Nancy Fiddler and her able staff will teach you everything you need to know to get started cross-country skiing. If you're a beginner, purchase the package which includes a lesson, equipment and a trail pass. Equipment rentals and trail passes are available separately.

- **Strap on some snowshoes.** If skiing isn't your thing, then try snowshoeing. The Ski Center also rents snowshoes and poles. You'll see the scenery while ramping up your heart rate.

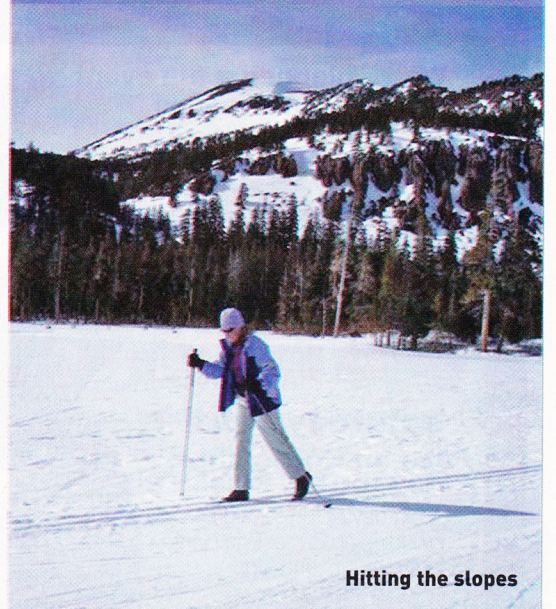
- **Catch the moon.** Join a naturalist guided tour on cross country skis or snowshoes during winter full moons capped off by dessert in the Lodge.

- **Relax fireside** with a game of chess or a good book while sipping a hot cocoa or Bailey's and coffee.

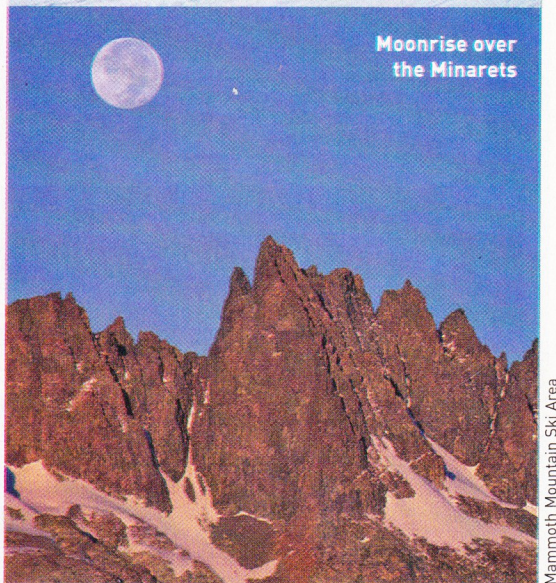
- **Go shopping.** There's lots to choose



Tamarack Lodge and Resort



Hitting the slopes

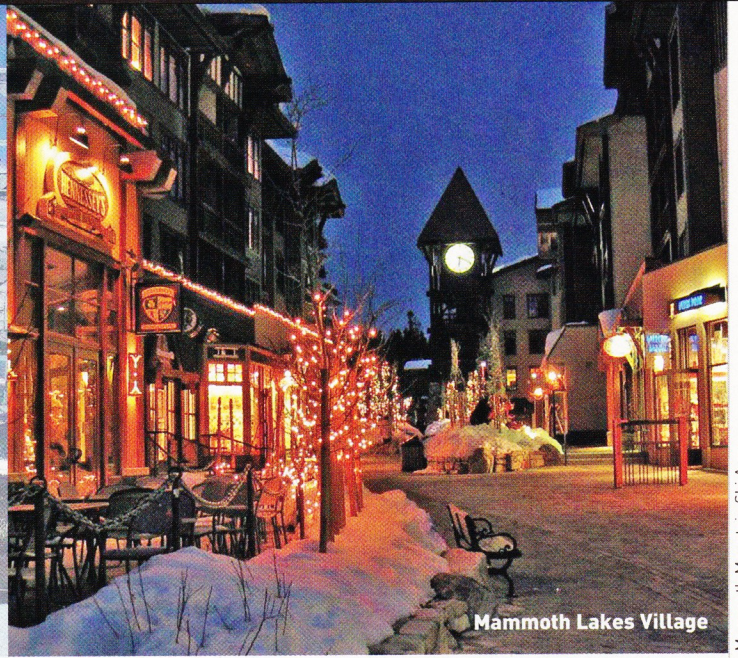


Moonrise over the Minarets

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area



The Village Gondola



Mammoth Lakes Village

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area

from whether you are looking for winter wear, skis for the slopes or trail, or unique alpine decorations for your home. A local artist sells carved wooden bears of all sizes.

• **Take to the sky.** The Village Gondola transports passengers from the town to the slopes in six minutes. At the top is Canyon Lodge where you can dine and drink. There's no charge and the scenery is not

be missed.

• **Go hiking and breathe in the fresh,** pine air. A bridge that spans Twin Lakes provides an unforgettable backdrop for a photo op. **OCM**

## Where to stay

**Tamarack Lodge** offers lodge rooms as well as 32 cabins ranging from cozy to spacious all within walking distance of the Ski Center. Nearby **Mammoth Lakes Village** has a variety of lodging options.

## Where to dine

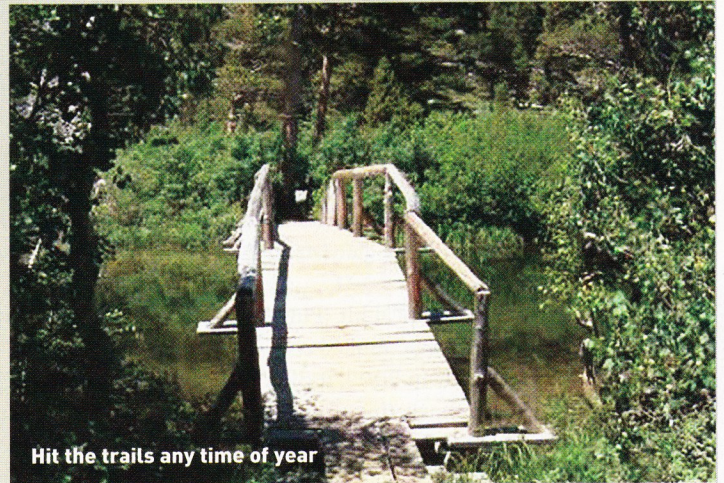
There are lots of coffee houses in the area. But the **Looney Bean** is a favorite with the locals. Start out your day with a cup of java. "The Bean" serves hot, chilled or blended coffee drinks and has a variety of mouth-watering pastries. Try the cinnamon scones accompanied by a latté or mocha or a cup of the "Black Diamond" blend.

Lunch on spicy chili rellenos, crisp tacos and enchiladas oozing with cheese at **Roberto's Café**. Newly renovated, the gaily decorated sec-

ond story bar offers a panoramic view of the mountains. Enjoy a pitcher of margaritas while picking up ski and outdoor tips from the locals.

**The Lodge's Lakefront Restaurant** has garnered praises from such noted publications as *Sunset* magazine and the *Los Angeles Times*. Chef Frederic Pierrel, trained at the *Institute Culinaire de Gerardmer* in France, blends classic French cuisine with regional influences from his native eastern France and the eastern Sierras. His signature dishes include a Wild Mushroom Strudel, Mixed Game Selection and Elk Medallions au Poivre.

For simpler but delicious fare, try the **Mogul**. Choices range from mountain trout to juicy steaks. The crab legs are excellent. All dinners are come with a trip to the salad bar and



Hit the trails any time of year

warm, baked bread from Schat's just down the street. The Mogul also serves "lite" dinners for the calorie conscious.

## Information

**The Looney Bean**  
www.looneybean.com

**Roberto's Café**  
Roberto'scafe@earthlink.com

**The Mogul Restaurant**  
www.themogul.com

**Tamarack Lodge and the Lakefront Restaurant**  
tamaracklodge.com

**Mammoth Lakes Visitors Bureau**  
visitmammoth.com

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