

# Tips and Tricks for Park City Mountain Village

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## Getting to Know Park City Mountain

Despite being only “half” of the entire ski resort (Canyon’s Village being the other half), the Park City Mountain Village side of the resort is the size of most resorts in and of itself (and operated as such until a handful of years ago.) With so much terrain it can be difficult to decide where to go first and which areas are best for your group. Here are a few pointers from us to hopefully help you narrow down your options and avoid some common pitfalls.

## Mountain Safety

Unlike the Canyon’s Village side of the mountain, which features primarily intermediate and advanced runs, the Park City Mountain Village side has beginner runs throughout the mountain and off many of the chairlifts. As a safety measure, green runs are designated slow zones. Basically keep with the flow of skier traffic, and save the hotdogging for more appropriate runs. Keep an eye out for the Mountain Safety Patrollers, they’re there for everyone’s safety, not just to nab unsuspecting skiers. Give them a high five, cause they’re job isn’t easy and certainly underappreciated.

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## **The Base Area**

Here is where most people will start their ski day and where you'll find Payday, Crescent, First Time, and the 3 Kings Terrain Park. On busy days it can seem pretty busy, but fortunately folks start getting spread out fairly quickly. The great thing about Payday and Crescent is the diversity of run options off these lifts, ranging from easier runs like Homerun, Drift, and Blanche to the more difficult black diamonds Crescent through Erica's Gold. This diversity allows your group to ride the chair together, then enjoy whatever difficulty is more appropriate for each person.

Tips: After the initial wave of people, the base tends to clear out until lunch, so you don't need to be in a huge rush to get elsewhere on the mountain. Also be aware that Silver Queen feeds right into Homerun, so check your speed towards the bottom of that particular run. King's Crown often gets overlooked, so keep an eye out for the turn off on the right side of Payday run.

## **Bonanza and Silverlode**

These are two of the more popular lifts on the mountain, as they too offer a diversity of runs for all ability levels. At the top of these lifts you'll also find the Summit House Restaurant, which offers some of the best views to enjoy a meal to.

At the base of Silverlode is also where you can ride the Quicksilver Gondola to the Canyon's Village side. As scenic as it gets, this lift is worth the ride just by itself. Be aware that there isn't any beginner terrain once you get to the Canyon's Village side.

Tips: The first wave of people that head up from the base area usually end up at one of these two lifts, so they can get crowded quickly. I would avoid Silverlode once the lunch

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hours start getting close, as the combination of restaurants at the top and bottom of the lift and the location of the Quicksilver Gondola draw a whole bunch of people to that area.

## **Escape to King Con and Motherlode**

These oft overlooked lifts are perfectly set up for intermediate riders, and can often serve as a reprieve from the busier lifts.

Tips: King Con has a magic carpet system to help with loading the chair. Just don't overthink it, slowly slide onto the carpet, and let it do the work for you! Motherlode Meadows off of the Motherlode Chair is one of my favorite areas on the mountain as it is never crowded, has nicely spaced trees, and generally has more pockets of fresh snow. While marked as a double black diamond, it's on the easier end of that sort of terrain.

## **The Upper Mountain**

While I don't want to give away too many things about the advanced terrain, here are a few things I wish I had known before exploring around these areas. McConkey's has fun terrain and McConkey's Bowl is super fun, but it can get skied out alarmingly fast. So unless you're on one of the first chairs, you'll most likely be navigating a steep mogul field. The trees on lookers left of Pioneer are steep and fun, and don't get skied out as quickly and Blueslip Bowl doesn't have much vert but is fun and steep for what you do get.

The best terrain is a bit of a hike from either the top of the Jupiter chair or McConkey's, which will take you to the top of Jupiter Peak. Be cautious in these areas, which include navigating through cliff bands, chutes, and steep trees. Don't hesitate to ask a ski patroller which lines they think are best that particular day, they know their stuff and are some of the most knowledgeable people on mountain.

Tip: Pay attention to what the sun is doing. If you carefully look at the map you'll see some sections (such as the right side of Jupiter Peak) are more shaded, and others (such as Pinecone Ridge) are more sunny. Snow that's in the shade stays chalkier for longer, and

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snow that's in the sun turns to mashed potatoes much quicker. So if you're going to venture to Pinecone Ridge go earlier in the day, and if you're looking for good snow a few days after a storm, poke around north facing slopes

We hope these pointers are helpful, and as always, if you want more advice don't hesitate to ask one of our guides!