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Discover Skiing, Snowboarding and Snowshoeing in Benzie County, Michigan

Benzonia, Mich. (Updated March 25, 2013) – Skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing are fun wintertime activities that many people wish they could do – if only they knew how. [Benzie County](#) is a perfect destination to experience all three! Winter activities in Benzie County are among the best in Northern Michigan. There’s never a better time than this winter season to take to the snow and the slopes to learn these fun recreational activities that allow you to see the wide-open spaces and enjoy the fresh air.

Located in the heart of Benzie County, [Crystal Mountain](#) is the Midwest’s premier four-season family resort featuring some of the finest accommodations northern Michigan has to offer – with wintertime amenities including 45 downhill slopes, 40km of cross-country trails, the award-winning Crystal Spa, the Michigan Legacy Art Park, and IACC-approved conference facilities.

Skiing and Snowboarding Classes

Learn to ski and snowboard over a weekend at Crystal Mountain’s certified ski-school and training center. Adults and kids get expert instruction with a PSIA/AASI-certified ski instructor. Novice skiers and riders can learn at their own pace with Crystal’s “Learn to Turn” program, while those who are more seasoned can buff up on their skills and learn new techniques. During a basics class, students are introduced to equipment, basic movements gliding, stopping, turning, and riding a surface lift. Private and group lessons are available. Special clinics for women are also available. More information is available at www.crystallmountain.com/snowsports/overview - Adult-Lessons

At Crystal Mountain there are a variety of kids group lessons for all ages from 3 year olds on up. Full day sessions and 2-hour sessions include rentals and snacks (lunch, as well, for all day sessions.) Morning and afternoon sessions are also available. Kids are grouped according to age and experience levels. See more about the variety of kids ski school programs at Crystal Mountain at www.crystallmountain.com/snowsports/overview - Kids-Lessons.

Cross Country Skiing & Lessons

If you have your own cross-country skis, there are miles of trails running throughout Benzie County on the Betsie Valley Trail and other groomed free trails. Contact Benzie County Visitors Bureau for more information at 800-882-5801.

Private lessons for cross-country skiing are also offered daily by appointment at Crystal Mountain. For a one-hour timeframe including a two-hour trail pass after the lesson, the cost is \$35 for the first person with \$15 for an additional person to participate. Equipment rental is \$10. For more information see www.crystallmountain.com/activities/cross-country-skiing - Cross-Country-Lessons or call 800-968-7686 ext. 4000 for advance reservations.

Crystal Mountain also has access to 40 kilometers of groomed cross country trails with 4 kilometers lit for night skiing. Trail passes at Crystal Mountain run \$15 for 24 hours, \$12 for 4 hours and \$8 for 2 hours after 5 p.m. See [www.crystalmountain.com/activities/cross-country-skiing - Trail-Pass-and-Rental-Rates](http://www.crystalmountain.com/activities/cross-country-skiing-Trail-Pass-and-Rental-Rates) more information.

Snowshoeing in Benzie County

In Benzie County at a number of places you can take up snowshoeing without a lot of training. Snowshoeing is fun, easy and great exercise and an activity that can be enjoyed by all ages. For a simple guide on how to snow shoe, there are many online guides that talk about the [techniques of snowshoeing](#). For many people this is all they may need in order to try out this growing recreational sport.

A fun spot for snowshoeing, just 30 minutes north of Benzie County's numerous lodging locations, is the majestic [Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park](#). Every Saturday in the winter visitors can explore the park with a park ranger on a snowshoe or hiking tour. Each week the ranger will explore a different topic and location within the park. The hikes last one to 1 ½ hours and are no longer than 1.5 miles. The park will also loan out snowshoes at no cost for those who participate in the tours.

Another location for snowshoeing is the [Michigan Legacy Art Park](#) on the grounds of Crystal Mountain. Michigan Legacy Art Park offers an unparalleled experience of art, nature and history. Forty-five major works of art line 1.6 miles of hiking trails that wind through a 30-acre preserve of wooded hills. The Art Park includes works by artists who create sculptures that interpret Michigan's history, making it is a unique cultural and recreation destination. Through February 10 visitors can enjoy [Sunday guided tours of the Art Park](#) across hilly terrain to view most of the major works of art in the snow.

Crystal Mountain offers snowshoe rental and access to their entire property (except downhill slopes and cross country trails) for snowshoeing. [Snowshoe tours](#) with the resort's Mountain Adventure staff are offered on Saturdays and Sunday through March 29, 2013 for a small fee. Private tours are also available with advanced registration. On Friday nights through March 27, 2013 there is also a guided snowshoeing tour to explore wildlife in the moonlight. Private tours are also available with advanced registration.

Benzie County offers a variety of lodging choices from a world-class resort to bed and breakfasts and inns to cottages, cabins and apartments. See all of the lodging choices available at www.visitbenzie.com or call 800-882-5801 for more information.

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