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Skiing a car-trip away, with Las Vegas on the side

Dashing through the snow at Utah's Brian Head Resort, which has just opened for the season. (Brian Head Resort)

By Chris Erskine
Los Angeles Times Deputy Travel Editor
12:26 p.m. CST, December 8, 2010

Looking for a ski resort that's a little different, but still a car ride away? Check out Brian Head Resort, up Interstate 15, between Las Vegas and Salt Lake City. It's an off-the-radar place that's eager to find a bigger Southern California audience. And this may be its year, with the resort enjoying sensational early snowfall.

With 80 inches on the ground, and 23 inches of fresh Utah powder, Brian Head opened its 65 runs and nine lifts to skiers and snowboarders over the weekend. It also offers a terrain park with 11 features, rails and boxes.

Brian Head, a longtime favorite of families, is attracting a growing following from advanced and expert skiers and boarders. About 20% of its runs are advanced, including a dozen-plus black-diamond runs on the generally sunny, northwest-facing Giant Steps Mountain.

Lifts will be open all season from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Regular daily ticket prices are \$45 for adults and \$32 for children ages 12 and under.

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