

**Because the Family that Skis Together, Enjoys Life Together.**

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# Pico Mountain: Killington's Local Sister

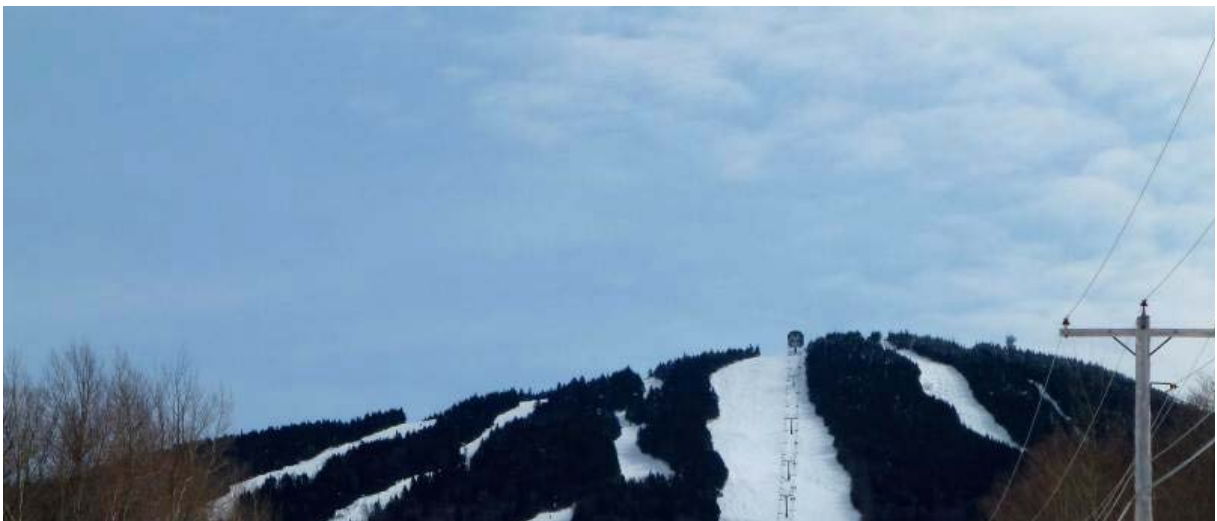
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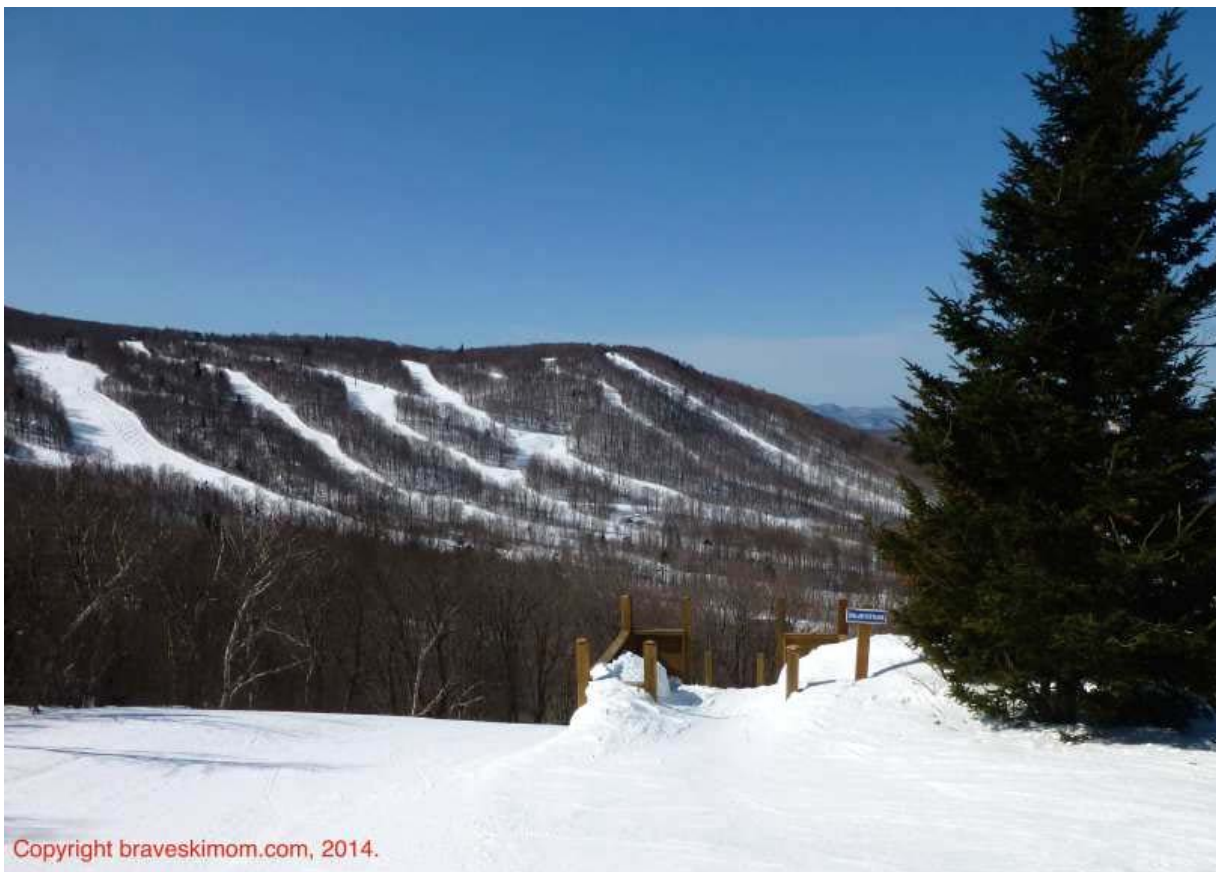




If [Killington](#) is the big mountain with a cosmopolitan reputation that draws skiers and tourists, then [Pico Mountain is the resort with a casual, local vibe](#). Linked since Killington acquired Pico in 1997, the two resorts make an unlikely, yet perfect, duo.

Significantly smaller than Killington, **with 468 acres, 57 trails over 19 miles and 7 lifts**, [Pico Mountain is an historic Vermont locale](#). [Andrea Mead Lawrence](#), a local alpine racing legend and the first American to win two Olympic gold medals.





It's also the home of the combined **resorts' race teams** and **adaptive skiing programs**.

And while these programs are suitably noteworthy and locally popular, you don't have to live in the area to enjoy skiing or riding Pico Mountain.

## **Easy Access**

Centered around a small, cohesive and quite lovely base village, Pico is the kind of place where you drive up, park, unload and get on the lift within all of five minutes.



At the center of the village, you'll find the **Pico Lodge** with lockers, dining and surprisingly spacious restrooms.

And while racers congregate in their lodge at the base of the **Little Pico Triple Chair** and [V6 Adaptive Ski and Sports](#) can be found in the adjacent Andrea Mead Lawrence Lodge (which share with the Pico Ski Education Foundation), most visitors will begin their day on the **Golden Express Quad**.



***This about sums up the friendly atmosphere at Pico.***

One of five lifts serving the base area, the **Golden Express** is your ticket to the mountain top two-thirds of the way up Pico with runs connecting partway down to the **Summit Express C**

As at Killington, the views from the summit are stunning. Only this time, it's Killington, itself, in foreground. Some of the runs atop the summit, like **Forty Niner**, are narrow and tree-lined. T an absolute joy to ski.





Others are straight-down, Vermont steep. Why build a winding run, when you just want speed? The steeps don't last long and connect back onto gentle blues, before returning skiers to the mid-mountain lift.

And while there are some green runs at Pico, for instance **Bushwacker** and **Swinger**, a long combination that cuts from the top of the **Little Pico Triple Chair** back over to the base of the **Golden Express Quad**, the mountain is solidly intermediate.

The exception is the **Outpost Double Chair**, a historic chair from the 1960s, with Erector set towers, that serves steeper, bumped up runs and the **Doozie glades**.



*The Outpost Double Chair.*

## **When You Go...**

Getting to Killington and Pico is not easy unless you have a car. Luckily, since most of their guests are from the East, driving is usually an option.

If you do find yourself flying to Killington, you actually have lots of choices, including Boston, Hartford, Burlington and Albany. And the drive is fun, down two-lane roads, through the rolling countryside, and finally, up the resort access road to the base area.

Finally, for some local insight, I got tips from two moms who ski both Killington and Pico frequently.



One mom, [Sarah Pinneo](#), author of the [Ski House Cookbook](#), offers this nugget: If you're not at Killington, **park at Bear Mountain or Skyship (both East of the main base area) and the crowds.**

Sarah is also an advocate for Pico.

She likes the smaller scale, and the ease of getting around, skiing all the way, with no traversi

Another mom, [Jen Roe](#), has tons of tips for eating out. She recommends the bar at **Garlic (c table if you're with kids)** for yummy and family friendly tapas, the **Pancake House** for all y eat pancakes (!) and the **Wobbly Barn, a Killington tradition, with it's famous salad bar steaks, as well as old-school atmosphere.**



When it comes to lodging, I stayed at the [Killington Grand Resort Hotel](#), just across a skia bridge from Snowshed. With traditional rooms, as well as condo-style units, the location is pr the outdoor pool and hot tubs are both fantastically warm and perfectly positioned to watch r over the mountain.

Enjoy!

For more on Killington, please check out [The Beast and the Best: Learn to Ski, Build Your Ski Enjoy Killington, Vermont's Biggest Resort](#), November 3, 2014.

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***Looking back at Killington from Pico Mountain.***

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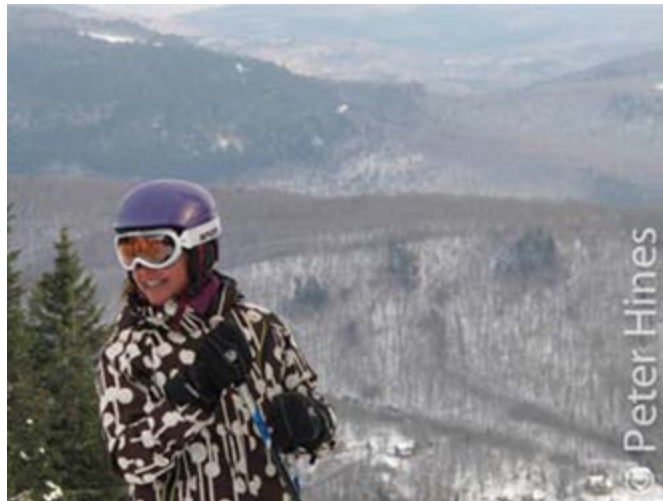
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When my kids were in grade school, they obsessively watched Warren Miller ski movies. DVD after DVD would find its way into our home and [More about me.](#)

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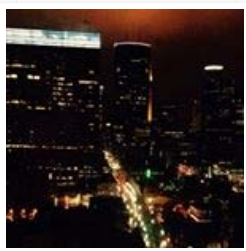


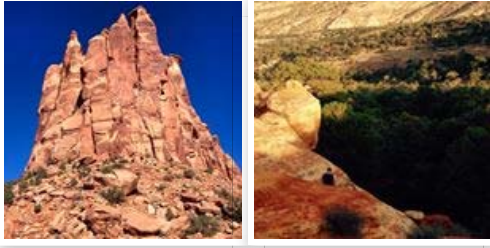
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