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YANKEE WEEKEND

Killington, Vermont

*Skiers know March offers the most snow—
and Killington gives more of everything.*

SKIERS HAVE BEEN POUNDING DOWN Killington's slopes since October 25, when New England's biggest ski resort welcomed anxious snow bunnies chasing the first runs of the season. But sometimes the tortoise—not the hare—wins the race.

Skiers who wait to hit the slopes in March enjoy Vermont's snowiest month. An additional plus: It is usually warmer than early- and midwinter ski days. So go to Killington now, and congratulate yourself for procrastinating.

That's not to say Killington is solely a skier's domain (more on that later), though with seven mountain peaks and 200 trails adding up to nearly 1,200 acres of skiing, it's the largest—and most diverse—skiing experience east of the Rockies. Diversity of terrain leads to diversity of skiers: at Killington, flannel-clad farmers and carpenters bump

elbows with fur-swaddled weekenders who in turn are sharing chairlift rides with budding racers from the nearby Killington Mountain School. And, weaving among them all, legions of kids, bobbing down and across the slope like Weebles that wobble and *do* fall down. More than any other Eastern resort, Killington delivers on the promise of the old cliché "something for everyone."

That promise remains true if you'd rather not ski all day, every day, or even if you don't ski at all. In fact, with a diversity of off-slope activities rivaling the on-hill possibilities, it's obvious that those who focus solely on skiing are the ones missing out. They're not exploring the cross-country ski trails at nearby Mountain Meadows, they're not snowshoeing along the wilderness trails of Gifford Woods State Park, and they're certainly not following the weaving valley



With the most trails, the longest season, the greatest vertical, Killington remains our #1 ski attraction.

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path of Route 4 to the eclectic Bridgewater
Mill Marketplace.

If Killington wants for anything, it's a
quaint New England hamlet like that of its
northern neighbor Stowe. Plans for a base-
area village are on indefinite hold, and al-
though the mountain's access road is lined
with shops, inns, and restaurants, there is a
dearth of strollable sidewalks and walk-to
dining. But maybe that's a good thing.
Consider it your invitation to explore be-
yond the resort boundaries, where you're
sure to turn up some gems like these.

SUGAR & SPICE, MENDON

If you subscribe to the old adage "breakfast
is the most important meal of the day," then
you'd be remiss not to greet the morning at
Sugar & Spice in nearby Mendon. Time
your visit right (late March), and you'll be

scooping hot maple syrup straight from the
evaporator onto your buckwheat pancakes.
This plank-walled eatery doubles as an op-
erating sugarhouse (don't forget a quart or
two for home). It's the sort of unpretentious
place where an alert diner might overhear a
waitress saying, "I've never gutted a doe be-
fore," to the griddle cook as he leans on the
swinging barn-board kitchen doors.

BIRCH RIDGE INN, KILLINGTON ACCESS ROAD

Set above and off the road, the slate-roofed
Birch Ridge Inn is separated from Killington's
base lodge by a mere mile (and the
slope shuttle means you don't have to dig
out your car on snowy mornings). Part of
the Birch Ridge experience (how signifi-
cant a part depends largely on your age) is
driving through the long wooden tunnel

JERRY LEBLOND

