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A Warm Welcome to Summer at Alta

As the final patches of snow melt into Little Cottonwood Creek, summer recreation at Alta will arrive a few weeks early this year. Rise above Salt Lake City's hot summer days to savor cooler temperatures and stunning vistas. Expect vibrant wildflowers, scenic exploration on the trails and monthly educational and community volunteer events throughout the summer. With tremendous growth in summer visitation, we remind Little Cottonwood Canyon visitors to recreate responsibly by respecting roped-off areas, wildlife and sensitive alpine vegetation. We urge you to join us in enjoying, protecting and preserving this special landscape. In the coming months, the ski area will be working on a handful of improvement projects in addition to ongoing construction on the Albion Day Lodge expansion.

The Summer Road, providing access to Albion Basin, will open June 20th with an amenity fee of \$12 per vehicle.

Free parking for trail access is available in the Wildcat and Albion parking lots as well as the Town of Alta. Please respect roped-off areas and construction boundaries within the parking lots and around the ski area. We appreciate your cooperation as our crews work to accomplish ski area improvements and we attempt to reduce the impact of thousands of visitors on our sensitive alpine vegetation and wildflowers.

Summer Projects at Alta

This summer, Alta Ski Area employees will be busy tackling a number of projects that will enhance the Alta skiing experience. Temporary trail closures and trail detours may be necessary throughout the summer to complete various ski area projects.

Offseason projects include:

- Hand-cutting and widening of the High Traverse
- Continuing construction on the Albion Day Lodge expansion—slated for winter 2026 completion
- Replacing aging snowmaking lines between Watson Shelter and the Corkscrew ski run
- Regrading of the Big Dipper ski run to optimize early-season grooming and coverage
- Rocky Mountain Power will be burying power/utility lines through the Town of Alta, along the Summer Road and within Albion Basin—brief road closures are anticipated
- Addition of a handful of new parking spaces along the north side of the Wildcat parking lot
- Big D Construction will be generously donating resources/labor for the construction of a heated, year-round public restroom near the Grizzly Gulch trailhead
- Installation of one additional Wyssen Tower (RACS) for avalanche mitigation in the Devil's Castle area

Events and Stewardship at Alta

After winning the National Ski Area Association's prestigious **Golden Eagle Award for Overall Environmental Excellence** in May, the Alta Environmental Center (AEC) team turns its sights toward a summer full of stewardship, restoration and community education. Visit the **Alta Events** webpage for all information, dates and registration details.

Free, monthly **AEC events** are already underway with Alta Birding Hikes and our HawkWatch Bird of Prey shows. The annual **Wasatch Wildflower Festival** with the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is slated for Sunday, July 19th to be followed by an action-packed **Kids' Day** on Friday, August 7th. For a memorable night at Alta, don't miss Bat Night to catch, tag and study bats with the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources on July 31st.

Consider joining one of the AEC's **Community Volunteer Days** this summer to connect with your community and give back to the place that provides so much joy and inspiration. Help us maintain trails, mitigate invasive weeds or dig in with us during **Alta Tree Planting Day**, where we aim to plant over 1,000 Engelmann spruce saplings across Alta's slopes.

Food and Drink

The **Alta Store**, located near the Secret Lake Trailhead at the Albion Basin Campground, offers Alta logo gear, ice cream, cold drinks and snacks. The Alta Store will open for the weekend of June 20th from 11am–5:30pm. Daily operations will commence June 27th through August, followed by reduced hours in September.

Sunday Brunch at the **Alta Lodge** is a decades-old tradition. Savor alpine temperatures alongside a hearty brunch with stellar patio views. From now through September 27th, treat yourself on Sundays from 9:30am–2pm. Indoor and outdoor patio seating is available and reservations are recommended. The popular menu features over 40 buffet selections and indulgent classics like cooked-to-order Belgian waffles, eggs Florentine, grilled salmon, homemade baked goods and decadent desserts.

For fine dining and an upscale atmosphere, the Snowpine Lodge's Swen's Restaurant is serving breakfast daily from 8–11am. Be sure to make reservations for Father's Day Brunch, served June 21st and 22nd. Catch a romantic dinner at Swen's, crafted by the restaurant's culinary team alongside an extensive wine and beer list on Fridays and Saturdays from 5–8pm. Swen's will also be hosting monthly wine dinners with a three-course meal and wine pairings—find further information on the **Snowpine Lodge** website. Grab a casual meal or a refreshing beverage after exploring the trails at the Snowpine's Gulch Pub, open daily from 11am–8pm. Additional dining options, ranging from deli sandwiches and grocery store staples to fast-casual and fine dining, can be found nearby at Snowbird.

Lodging

For an overnight adventure and some stargazing at Alta, the Albion Basin Campground will open on June 26th for first-come, first-served camping. From July 11th onward, reservations for camping are required via **recreation.gov**.

Book a luxe lodge stay and indulge in a few more amenities such as fine dining, an outdoor pool and the Stillwell Spa at the Snowpine Lodge. The Stillwell Spa is open daily from 9am–6pm for relaxation and luxurious treatments or grab a day pass to enjoy the amenities and the pool. Summer spa and lodging reservations are available now.

Alta's Underrated Trails

It's no secret that the majority of summer visitors to Alta make the trek into Albion Basin to witness the profusion of colorful wildflowers via the Secret Lake Trail. However, there are **additional trails** to explore around Alta that offer equally expansive views and wildflower viewing. We recommend:

- **Lower Albion Meadows:** This 0.25-mile trail, accessible from the Wildcat base area, features a relatively gentle grade with an eye-popping view of Alta's most famous ski run: High Rustler. Ideal for families with young children or grandparents, partial shade provides shelter and abundant wildflowers frame views of Mount Superior. Be sure to peer down into the willows and wetlands below for the chance to see a moose.
- **Snake Pit:** Accessible from the Wildcat lot via the Lower Albion Meadows trail or from the Albion parking lot, Snake Pit is a steeper trail that meanders for 0.7 miles before linking up with popular trails in Albion Basin. Wind through aspen groves before reaching a scenic resting spot with a waterfall cascading into the Snake Pit ravine. This is a photogenic alternate route to a water feature if you wish to avoid the fee booth and are keen to access Albion Basin on foot.
- **Twin Lakes Pass:** This trailhead is located across the highway from the Snowpine Lodge. The intermediate-rated trail starts off with a steep climb through a thick aspen grove. The trail spans 1.8 miles to Twin Lakes Pass with the option to choose trail spurs to Davenport Hill or the Prince of Wales Mine. Marvel at unique views of Alta and dive into the area's rich mining history while passing relics of the extraction industry dating back to the late 1800s.

Recreation and Responsible Practices

We encourage visitors to Alta to enjoy our fragile alpine environment responsibly by sticking to designated trails and respecting the watershed, wildlife, wildflowers and fellow trail users.

We believe every Alta visitor plays a crucial role in environmental conservation and we ask everyone to practice Leave No Trace principles to protect and preserve Little Cottonwood Canyon. Please pack out trash and refrain from picking or trampling wildflowers. For photographers seeking the perfect shot, check out the **photography pull-outs** we've established along the Albion Meadows Trail that provide a unique perspective—framed by flowers—without harming sensitive sub-alpine vegetation.

Little Cottonwood Canyon serves as a vital watershed that provides drinking water to the residents of Salt Lake City. As such, swimming or wading is prohibited in creeks, ponds or lakes. Salt Lake County prohibits dogs, horses and other domestic animals in protected watershed areas to preserve the city's drinking water quality.

Alta's wildflowers typically peak from late June through July. We hope you join us in making summer mountain memories while we anticipate the arrival of Alta's 89th ski season in November.

Learn More About Summer at Alta

Summer Trail Information

Summer FAQs

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SUMMER AT ALTA SKI AREA



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Originally a silver mining town, Alta was the first ski area in Utah to install a chairlift in 1938 and served as the birthplace of the modern powder skiing technique. Alta is a skiers-only mountain with majestic scenery, diverse terrain and a legendary average snowfall of 543 inches. The 2026–27 season will mark 89 years of skiing at Alta. There is a feeling at Alta we call

#AltaMagic.

Alta Ski Area—Since 1938.
Come for the skiing. Stay for the skiing.

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