

SHAPE®

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Head For The Hills

THESE THREE RESORTS MIGHT NOT BE AT THE TIP OF YOUR TONGUE, BUT THEY TOP OUR LIST WHEN IT COMES TO ATTITUDE-FREE CLINICS, SHORT LINES AND CHEAP TICKETS.

Nub's Nob, Harbor Springs, Michigan

Powder play Nub's Nob boasts 427 vertical feet and 53 runs suited for beginner and intermediate skiers, including the gently winding, birch- and pine-tree-lined runs on Pintail Peak (elevation: 1,338 feet). There are expert runs, too (with halfpipe and superpipe terrain for snowboarders), but they're no more difficult than runs ranked intermediate in the Rockies (they are equally steep, just smaller). Nub's Nob also features a free beginner area with a chairlift, so if you're unsure about the sport, you can try it before buying a lift ticket (from \$40 for full park access).

Hone your board or ski skills with a 90-minute private lesson (\$50). You can also glide over 14 miles of groomed cross-country ski trails or hoof it on snowshoes (equipment rentals \$15).

Hunker down Just 15 minutes south of the slopes in the historic Gaslight district of Petoskey, Mich., Stafford's Perry Hotel (from \$79 a night, 800-737-1899, theperryhotel.com) is one of the few remaining late-Victorian-era inns

that once dotted the shoreline of Lake Michigan's 47-mile Little Traverse Bay. Its sunny yellow exterior reflects the warm, cozy atmosphere within: Each charming room has its own turn-of-the-century touches, including antique dressers, sleigh beds, old photographs and floral wallpaper. Curl up in front of the wood-burning fireplace in the lobby or melt into complete relaxation with an in-suite deep-tissue massage (\$75 for one hour; 231-347-4000).

Fuel Start the day with tasty cherry-swirl French toast (\$10) and a Northern Michigan omelet with sautéed Michigan morels and smoked whitefish (\$10) at the Perry. Feast après ski across the street at the 95-year-old City Park Grill (231-347-0101, cityparkgrill.com), a favorite watering hole of author Ernest Hemingway, who summered here for two decades. Try the fresh asparagus and wild mushroom lasagna (\$12).

– *Karen Asp*

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