



Travel

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Ski Guide 2011

Resorts Offer Apps for Maps, Live Views and More

This winter, powder hounds who want to enhance their overall mountain experience should look to their smartphones.

A number of resorts — including Killington, Vt., Jackson Hole, Wyo., Aspen/Snowmass, Colo., and Smugglers' Notch, N.H. — have introduced or are creating mobile phone applications that help you plan your runs by offering trail maps, live views and the latest grooming reports.

A few resorts offer more than the bare bones. iPhone apps from Jackson Hole, Smugglers' Notch and others keep a record of your time on the mountain, including vertical feet skied and your speed, information that you can share on social networking sites. EpicMix (available to guests at Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone in Colorado, and Heavenly in California) has similar features but works with a range of smartphones. The apps also help others track your progress, allowing parents, for example, to see where their children are on the slopes.

If you locate your children but you're still lost, some apps can help you find

your footing. The iTrailMap 3D app for iPhones displays your on-mountain location, along with 3-D views of the landscape. The app can be used at more than 750 resorts. The RealSki app 8 helps orient skiers at more than 100 resorts: users scan the horizon with their



iPhone, and the names of mountain landmarks like lifts and runs pop up on the screen.

And if all the technology gives you a headache, you can relax to your own tunes on the 14-minute ride to the top of Aspen Mountain. Solar-powered speakers in select gondolas connect to the headphone jack of your smartphone, MP3 player or iPad to pipe in music.

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