

## **A SKI RESORT DESCRIPTION ...**

### **JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT, WYOMING**

#### **Overview**

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is very accessible through the local airport, with good domestic connections to and from international gateway airports. This is a huge skiing area, with dependable, powdery snow, but it's at high altitude – up to 10,000 feet - and for the most part very challenging skiing - country and back-country. The resort is also a gateway for the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks – superb destinations for those who love the outdoors and wilderness. And both Jackson Hole and Teton Village are friendly, welcoming and lively.

#### **Currency**

The currency of the USA is the US Dollar

#### **Transfer Time**

From Jackson Hole Mountain Resort to Jackson Hole Airport, approximately 15 minutes

#### **Apres Ski**

Jackson Hole downtown is a lively and welcoming nightlife centre – the micro-brewery, and the Mangy Moose Western Saloon in Teton Village at the heart of activities. Visitors can dance until dawn, sip beer or wine and play pool or listen to some fine Western music.

#### **Ski Overview**

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort – with its hallmark, almost vertical run of more than 1,250 metres – is really a resort for expert skiers, and along with the immediately accessible slopes, there are also many acres of back-country skiing to be enjoyed. Rendezvous Mountain and Apres Vous Mountain are at the epicentre, and it's mostly steep and challenging terrain. Nonetheless, for families and novice skiers venturing here, there are nursery slopes at the foot of Apres Vous Mountain, and the Mountain View Ports School has lots of expert instructors on duty. The top of Rendezvous Mountain is reached on the Aerial Tram Car – an experience in itself.

#### **Snowboarding Overview**

This is a resort for serious and accomplished snowboarders – challenging and memorable, almost vertical, slopes - but with lots of expert guiding and instruction available.

## **Non-skiing Activities**

Jackson Hole's summer attractions are rather limited, although nearby Teton Village offers walking and mountain biking, and for sightseeing the Aerial Tram which runs to the peak of Rendezvous Mountain is open all year round. In the winter, visitors can pause from their high-powered skiing to enjoy hot air ballooning, heli-skiing and para-gliding. Also on offer are sledging and sleigh-rides; snow-mobiling and dog-sledging, and throughout the year Yellowstone Park and Grand Teton National Park attract huge numbers of outdoors-lovers.

## **Shopping**

Around the square in downtown Jackson Hole, an eclectic mix of shops markets western gear, winter sports equipment and clothing, arts and crafts and quirky souvenirs. Teton Village, too, has great shopping to offer – elk antler work and Indian handywork; Oriental art and cowboy boots.

## **Restaurants**

Jackson Hole offers the whole range of eating experiences – from fine dining to barbeque - many of these high up the mountain and with fine views across the resort. Visitors love to take an evening sleigh-ride up to Alpine-style restaurants offering long and hearty dinner service. No matter how big the post-skiing appetite is, theres a dining option to suit all tastes, and the resort's Snake River Brewing Company has local beers to match the food. Western cooking is very popular, and a range of wines is on offer to enhance the dining experience.

## **The Downside**

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is very much for expert skiers and snowboarders, so it's not the best venue for families or skiers of limited ability.

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## A CRUISE SHIP DESCRIPTION ...

**ORIANA** With the classic lines of a traditional ocean liner (in fact, the fastest liner built in a generation), Oriana was conceived, designed and built to offer world voyages. Evocative of cruising's golden age – from her authentic ambience to her tiered stern; from her broad decks to her open bow – Oriana is timeless yet modern, offering welcoming and entertaining facilities for families, couples and single cruise passengers. Kids' clubs and lots of casual eating places sit comfortably beside sophisticated watering holes and energetic nightlife. Live music, comedy and cabaret are all on offer, and Oriana's lifestyle, health and sports facilities are always popular, as is her programme of dance lessons, art auctions and galley tours. To be on Oriana is to experience a mix of activity and relaxation, in an atmosphere which has a little of the formality of cruises past, presented in a most welcoming way.

**Itineraries** Oriana offers a wide range of itineraries spanning the globe, from a short break cruise of 4 nights – to her 101 night World Voyage, with its shorter segments featuring Australasia and Southern Africa. Heading into the Summer months, she cruises to Scandinavia including Greenland; the Baltic; the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Islands, before heading across the Atlantic to visit the Caribbean in the Autumn, and back, to return to the Canaries before preparing, once again, to circumnavigate the world.

**Cabins** Oriana has 914 cabins - including 8 wheelchair access cabins – served by 10 lifts. Accommodation is a good balance of Ocean View and Balcony suites and cabins, and inside cabins – some with bathtub.

**Dining Options** The ship's main Peninsular and Oriental Restaurants are augmented by two informal dining venues - The Conservatory, for buffet style dining, and the Al Fresco Pizzeria. Oriana Rhodes – the concept of Gary Rhodes – presents fine dining in a light and airy atmosphere, and it's perfect for a special celebration.

**Leisure + Fitness** Oriana has lots of external deck space, including a promenade; three swimming pools; jacuzzis; sauna and steamroom; gymnasium and spa, and all the customary deck sports facilities – plus golf nets.

**Entertainment** Oriana's Theatre Royal show lounge (featuring a revolving stage); Pacific Lounge Nightclub; Chaplin's Cinema and Casino produce a wide variety of entertainment - whilst her art gallery, library, writing room and Internet facilities provide culture aplenty.

### **Vital Statistics :**

Tonnage	69,153
Speed	24 knots
Crew	794
Passengers (min / max)	1,822 / 1,928
Cabins	914

## **A CRUISE PORT DESCRIPTION ...**

**Cape Verde** An intoxicating blend of West African and Portuguese influences, the Cape Verde Islands combine deserted beaches with magnificent mountain ranges. Each of the beautiful islands boasts its own character, from the quiet and calm Boa Vista, to the cultural capital of St. Vincent - home to myriad quirky musicians, artists and intellectuals. The islands offer a true aquatic playground, host to some of the finest windsurfing conditions in the world, and also boast interesting European-style architecture, which enjoys a backdrop of breathtaking African scenery. Friendly, welcoming and spectacularly beautiful, Cape Verde is a port of call not to be missed!

**History** The first known visitors to the islands were the Portuguese in 1455, who arrived to an uninhabited region. In later years it would become an important supply station for passing ships, selling them food and fresh water after Cape Verde's dry climate made sugar growing impractical. The North Americans in particular made good use of this, and a special connection was made. Portugal held control of the islands until 1975, when Cape Verde gained independence; however its leading political party still holds strong ties with Cape Verdean emigrates in the USA.

**Location** Cape Verde is an archipelago situated on the west coast of Africa, and boasts 10 main islands and 8 islets. These lie in two different chains - the Southern Ilhas do Sotavento and the Northern Ilhas do Barlavento. A mixture of greenery, mountains and barren wasteland can be found on the islands, ranging from flat and sandy to luscious and hilly.

**Enjoy your Day ...** by taking a stroll around Ciudad Velha in Santiago, home to the first European settlement in the tropics; or why not dot across the islands to Fogo - boasting a spectacular volcanic peak - or to St. Vincent, where the streets buzz with music and life. Be sure to partake in a spot of bird watching, as Cape Verde is famed for its rare exotic birds - such as the red-billed tropic bird, grey-headed kingfisher and the Cape Verde petrel. Alternatively, enjoy a spot of relaxation on Cape Verde's pristine beaches; be it at the white sandy shores of Sal, or the black sand coast of Sao Nicolau.

**Eat Out ...** An exotic mix of Creole, African and Portuguese flavours - Cape Verde cuisine is fresh, colourful and delicious. Seafood is the speciality, and the Aquarium Santa Maria is perfect for sampling local dishes. Alternatively, head to Restaurant Farolim at the Hotel Odjo D'Agua for spectacular native cuisine. Dine Italian style at Ristorante Pizzeria Bar Ca Luisa, or at Chez Pastis.

**Shop ...** The cobbled streets across Cape Verde hold some hidden gems for shopping enthusiasts. The island of Sal boasts several rustic market shops which sell souvenirs such as wooden masks and locally created artwork, whilst Boa Vista offers a multitude of indigenous handicrafts such as mosaics, clay figures and straw hats.

**Enjoy the Nightlife ...** Upbeat Latin rhythms fill the streets, especially around Pirata in Santa Maria, a favourite for dancing. However, many low-key bars are also on offer, filled with lively local spirit. Be sure to visit Bar Naida in Boa Vista, a traditional bar offering drinks with a kick; as well as La Tortue at Hotel Morabeza, where you can drink under the stars.

**Weather** Typical low / high daytime temperatures in January and July are :  
January : 20dC (68dF) / 25dC (77dF)  
July : 24dC (75dF) / 28dC (82dF)

## **A BEACH RESORT DESCRIPTION ...**

**LAS PALMAS.** Capital of Gran Canaria, Las Palmas is an expansive and vibrant town and port; its renowned, laid-back Southern European temperament ensuring a relaxed and fun atmosphere. The original, but restored, colonial style architecture of Barrio de la Vegueta, famed for its whitewashed appearance, mingles with the contemporary apartments that rest on the Seafront; and alongside these sit numerous open-air restaurants that make for relaxed dining and people-watching. With a feast of cultural offerings – not least the Atlantic Centre of Modern Art, and a calendar of lively festivities, Las Palmas is an unmissable destination.

**History** The origins of Gran Canaria date back to 2000BC, and through history its occupants have ranged from Phoenicians and Romans to Carthaginians. Over the following years the fair skinned Guanche people would inhabit the island, staying there until it was colonised by the Spanish in 1748. Locals say that it was ravaged by water and fire over the years, perhaps contributing to its curiously shaped hills and mountains, and its exotic, colourful foliage.

**Location** Situated on the North East tip of Gran Canaria - one of the Canary Islands - Las Palmas is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, and neighbours smaller islands such as Trina, Arucas and Santa Catalina. As the largest city in Gran Canaria, the port is an enduringly popular embarkation point for cruise passengers.

**Enjoy your day ...** by exploring the rich history of Las Palmas; take in a tour at the Museo Canario, the main museum, whose exhibits represent a timeline exploring the lives of the city's inhabitants. Visit one of the original churches of the island - the Santa Ana church; or take the short walk to Pueblo Canario - a square which rings with live folk dancing and music, particularly at weekends. Alternatively, play a round of golf at one of Las Palmas' four world-class golf courses – perhaps at El Cortijo, home to the Spanish Open Championship in 2002.

**Eat Out ...** at one of Las Palmas' numerous seaside restaurants, situated on Plaza Santa Catalina, where many eating places are open air. Or perhaps enjoy some true Canarian cuisine at one of the many tapas bars dotted across the island.

**Shop ...** in the port's – and Spain's - largest department store, El Corte Ingles, situated in Mesa y Lopez. Here you will find 13 floors of shops, offering myriad merchandise. For a more sedate shopping experience, visit one of the many street markets across the island, a cornucopia of souvenirs and gifts.

**Enjoy the Nightlife ...** of the Mesa y Lopez district - particularly in Plaza de España – where rum cocktails, live music and sultry salsa dancing are on offer. Enjoy a spell at one of the island's casinos or, head out of town to Playa del Inglés and Maspalomas, both of which are alive with bars and clubs.

**Weather** Typical low / high daytime temperatures in January and July are :  
January : 14dC (57dF) / 21dC (69dF)  
July : 19dC (66dF) / 25dC (77dF)