



# Mammoth

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**F**OR DECADES, MAMMOTH LAKES has been a bit of a hidden jewel tucked away in central California, between Yosemite and Sequoia national parks, a tough-to-reach stepsister to more celebrated Lake Tahoe. Spurred on by the recent debut of Horizon Air flights into the area, Mammoth and its majestic mountain are poised to lure big numbers of snow-season fans from around the U.S. and abroad. This is particularly true because a trek to Mammoth—most often undertaken by nature-lovers in the greater Los Angeles area—no longer means five hours—plus in a car and, in winter, highway conditions that can halt a family road trip in a few snowflakes flat.

“Besides being a tremendously beautiful place with lovely

wooded areas and scenic lakes, Mammoth for Southern Californians has always had the added appeal of being closer to home than most other ski destinations,” says John McMonigle, founder of Newport Beach, Calif.-based real estate giant McMonigle Group, which has nearly \$50 million in luxury listings in the Mammoth area. “Much of the recent investment, both in residential and commercial sectors, is due to the anticipation of economic growth provided by direct commercial flights.”

Those lured to Mammoth who might otherwise consider the Lake Tahoe area are in for a nice surprise. Although its sun-and-snow neighbor to the north offers preposterously blue Lake Tahoe as a backdrop, Mammoth parries with