

ROADTRIP | Go on an Olympic Adventure

WHERE: Wintergreen, Va.

WHY: A slew of sports, including skiing and snowboarding, plus prosciutto-wrapped pears.

HOW FAR: About 140 miles, or 3 hours from Reston.

You don't have to score a spot on Team USA to make like an Olympian during the Turin Games. Pry yourself from the TV — Bob Costas isn't going anywhere — and head to Wintergreen Resort in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Admittedly, it's not the Italian Alps. But for the mid-Atlantic, the 11,000-acre retreat has snow sports covered (and plenty of fake fluff when temperatures climb). With grounds geared to all skill levels, even beginners can play gold medalist for a day.

Start with some old-school skiing, a sport that's been around since the first Winter Games in 1924. You'll have your choice of 24 trails, including Potato Patch, where many a newbie has learned the wedge, and the recently opened Outer Limits, a black diamond to push the edge like Bode Miller. Next, trek over to the Terrain Park, where skiers and snowboarders (aka riders) show off their freestyle skills. If you don't know how to catch air or ride the rail, sign up for a private lesson (\$65 an hour). For an easier high, head to the Plunge, a 900-foot tubing hill. Coasting on a rubber tube at speeds of 25 to 40 mph is the everyman's answer to the bobsled and luge.

Stops along the way to Wintergreen round out your mock Games. In Reston, SkateQuest houses two rinks, including one that's Olympic-size. Master that quadruple axel during the public sessions or, if hockey's more your style, join the weekly pick-up games. Biathlon fans can pull the trigger at Centreville's Bull Run Shooting Center (\$25, gun provided), then drive to Manassas National Battlefield Park for some cross-country skiing (bring your own equipment, and, um, your own snow).

Lunch is at Palladio, *naturalmente* — the restaurant at Barbourville Vineyards specializes in northern Italian cuisine such as prosciutto-wrapped pears. And top off the salute to this year's host of the Winter Games with a macchiato from Charlottesville's Milano Espresso Gelato.

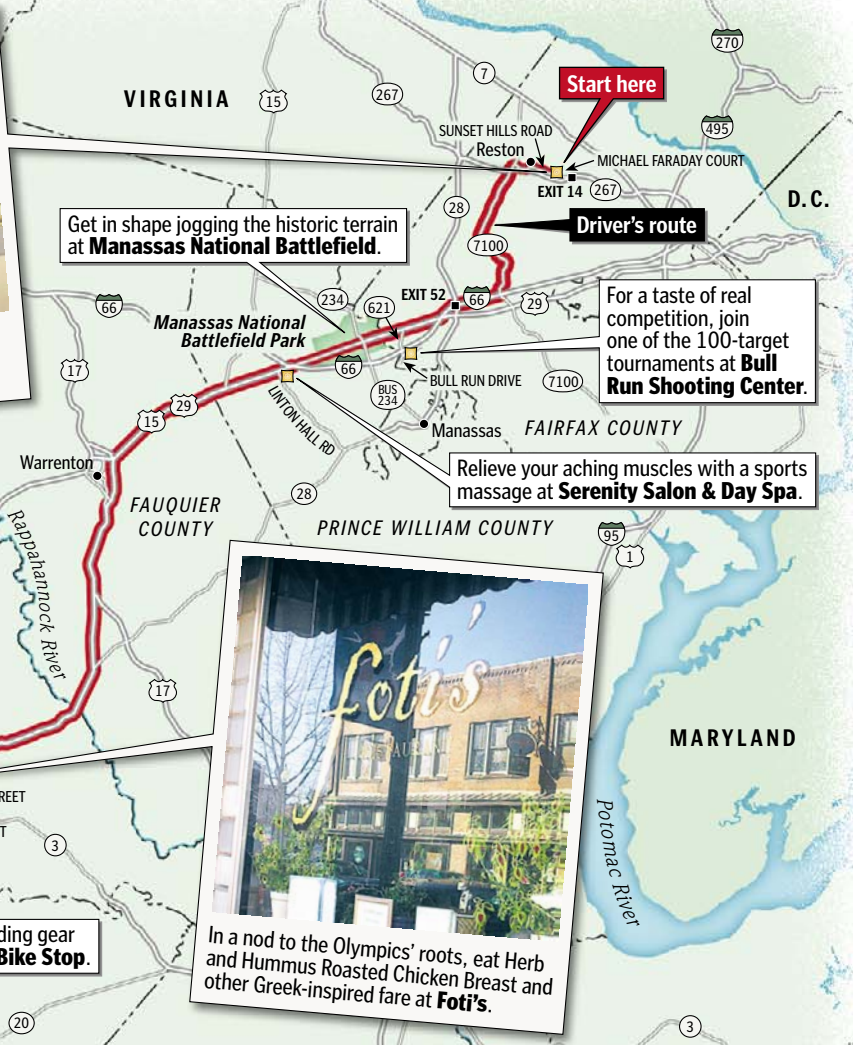
Once you've given your all, let your inner-Olympian rest. Go ahead and tune the TV to NBC and its sister networks. They've promised about 400 hours of coverage. Costas awaits. — **Megan Lisagor**

Wintergreen Resort, Route 664, Wintergreen, Va., 434-325-2200, www.wintergreenresort.com. Open for skiing and snowboarding Sunday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. \$26-\$59. Tubing: Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 2-9 p.m.; Friday, noon-11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. \$18-\$22.

Road Trip maps are available online at www.washingtonpost.com/roadtrip, as are addresses and hours of operation (be sure to check before you go). Have an idea for a trip? E-mail roadtrip@washpost.com.



From SkateQuest's mezzanine, watch the action on the larger Olympic-size rink, which (like those used in the Games) measures 60 by 30 meters.



Start here
Driver's route
Get in shape jogging the historic terrain at **Manassas National Battlefield**.

For a taste of real competition, join one of the 100-target tournaments at **Bull Run Shooting Center**.

Relieve your aching muscles with a sports massage at **Serenity Salon & Day Spa**.

Stock up on snowboarding gear at **Mountain's Edge Bike Stop**.



In a nod to the Olympics' roots, eat Herb and Hummus Roasted Chicken Breast and other Greek-inspired fare at **Foti's**.

At **Palladio Restaurant**, see what Executive Chef Melissa Close and her team learned on a recent cooking trip to Italy.

Another taste of Italy: Finish off a meal with a glass of limoncello at **Vivace**.



Unwind at the **Edge at Wintergreen** while catching the latest news from Turin on the restaurant's TVs.

Lace up some rental skates (\$1.50 or 25 cents for ages 5 and younger) and take a spin at the indoor **Charlottesville Ice Park**.

Pack a picnic with wine, olives, cheese and bread from **Basic Necessities**, "a taste of Europe in the Blue Ridge!"



Dig into the sweet stuff at **Milano Espresso Gelato**, and you'll never go back to ice cream.



Lee Beamon readies for another ride at **Wintergreen Resort**, where you don't have to feel bad if you end up spending more time on your rear than in the air.

0 15 MILES