

ESCAPE



FOUR SEASONS

Wyoming Wonderland



FOUR SEASONS

Bask in the state's all-season splendor while luxuriating in the heart of the WILD WEST in Jackson Hole

By Paul Rubio

A natural paradise of mountains, meadows, geysers, and hot springs, Wyoming's northwest parklands are arguably the nation's most magnificent. At the core of this extreme majesty lies Jackson Hole, the famed valley carved between the Teton and Gros Ventre mountain ranges. This gateway to the unspoiled Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks is peppered with all the trappings coveted in modern Wild West exploration: craft breweries, farm-to-table restaurants, world-class accommodations, and alfresco activities. Here we spotlight ample reasons to make Wyoming your next American adventure.

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IN BETWEEN LUXURIATING AT THE FOUR SEASONS RESORT AND RESIDENCES JACKSON HOLE (RIGHT), VENTURE INTO YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS, WHERE AMERICAN BUFFALO AND VARI- OUS BEARS ROAM FREE, AND VIBRANT PANORAMAS ARE COMMONPLACE.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Skyscraping, snowcapped mountains carved by glacial retreat; the colorful and steaming fury of North America's largest supervolcano; exposed rock from inner earth painted by the geological time clock over millions of years; the arboreal reach of classic subalpine forest juxtaposed against upper-altitude emerald lakes. Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park have rightfully earned status as some of the world's most stunning parklands.

Add to the mix the prolific wildlife that thrives in these environs—from grizzly and black bears to bison and wolves—and the result is a region that's as topographically and ecologically diverse as it is visually exciting. Indeed, this is America's nucleus for mind-blowing photo safaris and scenic drives.

But these parklands and the areas beyond aren't just for observing; they're also for playing. Regard-

less of the time of year, northwestern Wyoming flourishes as a center for outdoor enthusiasm. As autumn's falling leaves make way for winter's magical white panoramas, blanketed mountains transform into award-winning ski slopes where sledding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing abound. As colors explode in spring and summer, swimming, hiking, and fly-fishing rule the land under brilliant blue skies.

Naturally, the balance between physical pursuits and picturesque journeys varies by season and personal preference. While both national parks remain open year-round, the majority of entrance points and interior roads close during the harsh winter months and reopen in late spring. For most visitors, winter tends to be all about skiing and après-ski fun in and around Jackson Hole, perhaps with a brief jaunt into Grand Teton National Park. However, come May, the land once again grows verdant and welcomes newborn wildlife. By summer, flora and fauna reclaim center stage across both parks as furry residents frolic and fraternize in what feels like extended recess.

This is also prime time to view Yellowstone's extraordinary geysers and hot springs. The park's active volcanic turf is home to half of the world's geysers, none more predictable than Old Faithful, which erupts like clockwork every 91 minutes. At the Grand Prismatic Spring, gawk at the got-to-see-it-to-believe-it natural pool painted in every hue of the rainbow thanks to the ethereal bacteria living in it. Farther north in the park, Yellowstone's own "Grand Canyon," a 1,000-foot-deep depression, wows onlookers with its towering waterfalls.



ROOMS AT THE FOUR SEASONS RESORT AND RESIDENCES JACKSON HOLE FEATURE PRIVATE BALCONIES. OTHER RESORT AMENITIES INCLUDE A FULL-SERVICE SPA (ABOVE) AND THE ON-SITE WESTBANK GRILL (BELOW).

THE GREAT INDOORS

The Four Seasons Resort and Residences Jackson Hole (fourseasons.com/jacksonhole) capitalizes on the multiple dimensions of Wyoming's great outdoors. Nestled in Teton Village, one of the valley's many idyllic micro-towns, the property boasts rustic-chic, lodge-style rooms, each with a private balcony overlooking the mountainous terrain. A Native American design motif pays homage to regional heritage, underscored by wood, stone, and leather accents.

The resort's location translates to immediate access to the best ski slopes as it's steps away from the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort tram, which delivers riders to the mountaintop in nine minutes. Getting into Grand Teton National Park is also a breeze, with the Granite Canyon entrance a three-minute drive away. All-season hiking trails dot the property's perimeter, and an in-house outfitter provides naturalist-led safaris (typically by vehicle in spring, summer, and fall, and by small aircraft and snowmobile in winter). A full-service spa, heated swimming pool, and three bars and restaurants—including the sublime mountain steak house Westbank Grill—mean that even during the most inclement weather, days at the Four Seasons Resort and Residences Jackson Hole are never short of glorious.

Beyond Teton Village, the charming town of Jackson offers a cocktail and dining scene that rivals most big cities, complete with a laid-back, Western twist. In the early evening, kick back over seasonal beers in the tap room at Roadhouse Brewing Co. (roadhousebrewery.com), sampling an ever-changing selection of ales, hazy IPAs, and stouts. Afterward, enjoy some live music and contemporary gastropub fare at sister establishment Roadhouse Pub & Eatery, which also features a five-barrel brew house with 30-plus beers on tap.



THE FOUR SEASONS' WESTBANK GRILL SPECIALIZES IN HEARTY YET HIGH-END FARE, SUCH AS DRY-AGED WAGYU TOMAHAWK STEAKS AND A HAZELNUT SOUFFLÉ WITH CHOCOLATE GRAND MARNIER SAUCE.

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Oenophiles should consider a night at Bin 22 (*bin22jacksonhole.com*), a small wine shop with an intimate Italian restaurant tucked into the back. Snack on *salmi*, house-made mozzarella, and charred octopus over flights of Italian and Spanish wines. Bonus: It's possible to buy a bottle of wine in the shop and drink it at the table with no corkage fee.

Reserve in advance to dine at Asian-influenced, farm-to-table restaurant The Kitchen (*thekitchenjacksonhole.com*). Here, dishes like duck breast over a ginger-scallion crepe and buffalo ribeye with a Korean chili-garlic sauce headline the menu. Cap off any—or every—night with Jackson Hole's famous Cream + Sugar ice cream sandwich, made of seasonal artisan ice cream layered between miniature chocolate chip cookies and coated in sprinkles. Another bonus: These local delicacies are on the dessert menu of all the aforementioned restaurants.

Whether seeking an active or languid vacation, Wyoming is a sure bet. Between the state's iconic parklands and Jackson Hole's cosmopolitan amenities, visitors are in for a quintessential Western excursion with luxury appeal. ◀◀



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: SAMPLE CRAFT BEER AT ROADHOUSE BREWING CO.; INDULGE IN A CREAM + SUGAR ICE CREAM SANDWICH AND OTHER DELICACIES AT THE KITCHEN.



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