

WINTER PARK SUMMER VILLAGE



Covered in *Cool*

This summer, Colorado ski resorts are all uphill. STORY BY DAVID M. BROWN

WHEN THE SKIS GET STOWED, the Rockies offer numerous summer opportunities at and around world-famous resorts and areas like Winter Park, Powderhorn Mountain Resort, Purgatory Resort, Aspen Snowmass and Telluride.

Quality accommodations are available at the resorts and in the nearby cities and towns, restaurants of every kind are a draw themselves, all areas have nearby airports and are easily accessible from the Valley by direct or scenic routes.

Winter Park Ski Resort, about an hour-and-20-minute drive from Denver, is celebrating its 75th season and the 100th anniversary of nearby Rocky Mountain National Park, whose west entrance, and famed Trail Ridge Road, is 45 minutes from Winter Park and nearby Fraser.

The 3,000-acre resort—in an area monikered Mountain Bike Capital USA for its 600 miles of trails—has the fastest growing lift-serviced mountain

bike park in the United States, Trestle Bike Park at Winter Park Resort. Other activities await: Colorado's longest Alpine Slide, hiking, children's zip-line, human maze, scenic chairlift rides, putting course, bungee-trampoline jump and a kids' bouncy house, says Steve Hurlbert, director of public relations.

Purgatory Resort, the former Durango Mountain Resort, is celebrating its 50th anniversary season this winter, 2015/2016, in the sublime San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, just 20 minutes from historic Durango, which offers many vernal activities and a diversity of accommodations and dining.

New for this summer at the resort is Purgatory Park, with stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, peddle boats and fishing in the lake and an ADA-accessible playground and trail system, just across Highway 550 from the resort, says Kim Oyler, director of communications.

Two hours from Durango, and

about an hour from Montrose, Telluride Ski & Golf Resort is set in the highest concentration of 13,000- and 14,000-foot peaks in the state, so hiking, biking, paddle boarding, trail rides, fly-fishing and white-water rafting are extremely popular. "Telluride's unique setting allows for hiking right out of town, or even your hotel door, eliminating the need to drive to a trailhead," says C. Pepper Raper, assistant communications manager for the resort. "A favorite activity is the 4x4 or Jeep tours offered throughout the old mining roads crisscrossing the Northern San Juans. They offer a glimpse into Telluride's rich mining history and lead to some of the most beautiful vistas in the state."

Mountain biking is big, as is wine, in the Powderhorn Mountain Resort area: It's Colorado's wine country with 22 wineries. Here, enjoy 300 lakes; golf at five beautiful public courses; and shopping in downtown Grand Junction, says Dusti Reimer, marketing and sales coordinator for the resort.

TELLURIDE

EAT UP!

For the ins and outs of the Colorado dining scene, check out "Food at the Peak" on AZFoothills.com.

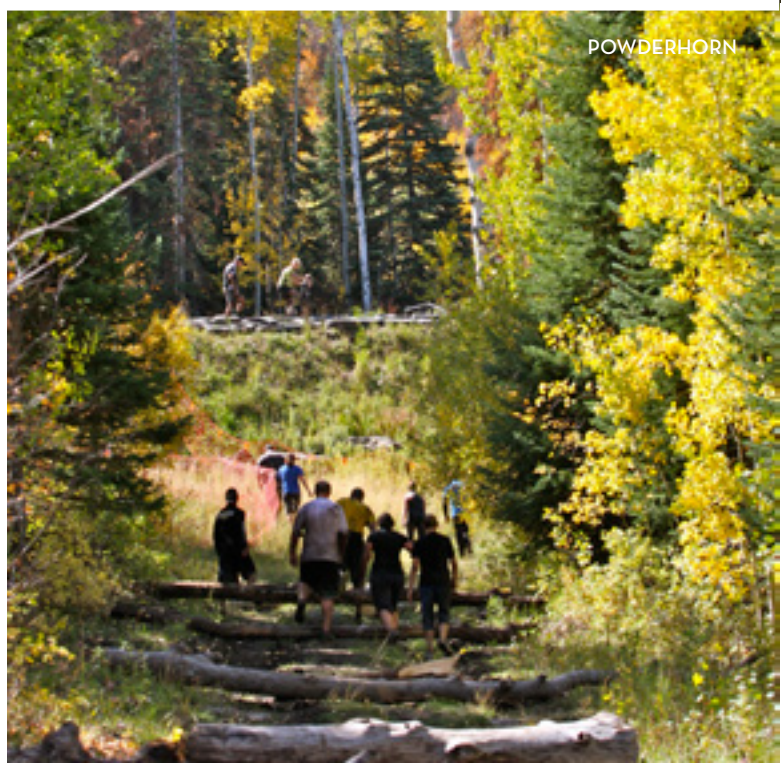
"There's art, food, wine, adventure and the simple enjoyment of the outdoors in the heart of one of the most beautiful settings in the country."



TELLURIDE



WINTER PARK



POWDERHORN

Colorado National Monument features the remarkable 23-mile-long Rim Rock Drive, and Grand Mesa Scenic Byway, over Grand Mesa, is the largest flattop mountain in the world at 10,000 feet and the home of Powderhorn Mountain Resort.

And, at Aspen Snowmass, events and activities include scenic gondola and lift rides, ballooning and paragliding, golf, tennis, rafting, free outdoor music and yoga and more. And, the glam town of Aspen offers cultural events like the Aspen Santa Fe ballet, the summer music festival and Aspen Ideas Festival.

Near Glenwood Springs, Aspen Snowmass comprises the town of Aspen, the four mountain ski areas of Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Snowmass and Buttermilk as well as Snowmass Village. “We honestly have more going on in the summer compared to the winter,” says Tucker Vest Burton, public relations assistant manager for the Aspen Skiing Company.

FUN FOR FAMILIES, RENEWAL FOR ADULTS

“I think what makes Aspen so special is the concept ‘Mind, Body, Spirit’ that was introduced by Walter Paepcke back in the 1940’s,” Burton says. “It’s the idea that when visitors come to Aspen their whole daily life and routine is thrown out the door and replaced with a deeper sense of self and in a place that brings out pure happiness.”

Mind? “That could mean attending a local film at the Wheeler Opera House meant to spur discussion or enjoying a play at Theatre Aspen.” Body? “That could mean mountaintop yoga or participating in mountain biking for the first time.” And spirit? “That means enjoying the outdoors on a deeper level that renews the spirit. It all ties together to make Aspen a special place as we still believe in imbibing the mantra of Mind, Body, Spirit every day. It’s what makes this place so special.”

Summer offerings include the Pro Cycling Challenge, Aug. 19–20 (for the Aspen Stages); Wanderlust, July 2–5; JAS Aspen Snowmass, Sept. 4–6; and Tough Mudder, Sept. 12–13. Families will also enjoy activities like Camp Aspen Snowmass, private camping trips, climbing wall, horseback riding and mountainboarding. “My favorites are

the free mountaintop yoga on Aspen Mountain, visiting the iconic Maroon Bells [two fourteeners in the Elk Mountains, about 12 miles southwest of Aspen], free Snowmass music concerts and classical concerts on top of Aspen Mountain and mountain biking at Bike Snowmass,” Burton says.

Telluride is small, with an all-year population fewer than 3,000, but every summer weekend is a festival, many involving music. These include the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and Telluride Jazz Celebration, both 35-plus years running, as well as the 21st Annual Telluride Blues & Brews Festival, the Telluride Art + Architecture weekend, July 18 and 19, and, new this year, the Telluride Festival of Cars and Colors, Sept. 24–27.

Connected by a free gondola, the area consists of Mountain Village, where visitors can play Telluride Ski & Golf Club’s 18-hole public course and the historic town of Telluride. “Coming from Phoenix, it’s easy to get to via direct flight and is a great place to beat the heat, enjoy some of your favorite activities, and try some new ones,” Raper says. “There’s art, food, wine, adventure and the simple enjoyment of the outdoors in the heart of one of the most beautiful settings in the country.”

BIKING, ZIPLINING, AND THE LINKS, TOO

Overlooking the Grand Valley near Grand Junction, Powderhorn has just started building a high-speed quad chair lift that will take skiers, mountain bikers and hikers to the top of the mountain in six and a half minutes as well as cutting mountain biking trails. “Grand Junction is a different side of Colorado, a land of majestic mesas and soaring sandstone monuments shaped by geology, wind, and water,” Reimer says.

In July, events include the Webe Dirt Bike Race Series, July 11 and 12; The Mud, The Bands & The Beers Festival, July 25; Western Slope Uncorked, a wine and music event, Aug. 1 at the resort; the 24th annual Colorado Mountain Winefest in Palisade, Sept. 17–20; and Color Sunday, Sept. 27.

Summer activities at Purgatory Resort started in the late 1960’s with a scenic chairlift ride, and today Purgatory Resort is known for its family-friendly

activities. And the Durango area offers hiking and mountain bike trails, river sports, the historic train ride from Durango to Silverton, downtown shopping, restaurants and galleries, scenic byway, and more.

Purgatory Resort features exciting events all summer: Music in the Mountains Festival, July 18–Aug. 2; Muck & Mire Mud Adventure 10k, 5k and Kids Mud Run, Aug. 8; and the Mushroom Festival, Aug. 22.

And, at Winter Park Resort and the town of Winter Park, visitors can enjoy Fraser Tuesdays Picnic in the Park, through August; High-Note Thursdays, through August; Mountain Bike Capital USA Weekend concerts, July 11 and 12; Winter Park Jazz Festival, July 18 and 19; Colorado Freeride Festival and Village Bike Fest, July 23–July 26; SolShine, Aug. 1; and Winter Park Music Festival, Aug. 15.

Winter Park is the only resort in North America with three lifts dedicated to mountain bikers. With a summit of 10,800 feet, Trestle Bike Park offers 1,800 feet of vertical drop. In addition, Winter Park Resort also offers family-friendly activities like the two-track Alpine Slide, Colorado’s longest, and the Zephyr Express Scenic Chairlift: Ride to the 10,700-foot summit. And, at Granby Ranch, the scenic 18-hole golf course accommodates players of all abilities. “The weather is absolutely perfect,” Hurlbert says. “Highs during the day range in the mid-70’s and nights are cool and clear. The scenery is beautiful. There is a great saying locals have here in Colorado: ‘They came for the winter and stayed for the summer.’”



FOR MORE ON THE UPHILL LIFE IN COLORADO, VISIT ASPENSNOWMASS.COM; PURGATORYRESORT.COM; WINTERPARKRESORT.COM; TELLURIDESKIRESORT.COM; POWDERHORN.COM; AND COLORADOSKI.COM.