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CAME FOR THE WINTER, BUT STAYED FOR THE SUMMER” IS A COMMON SENTIMENT AMONG MANY PARK CITY TRANSPLANTS. AND AFTER JUST ONE DAY OF THIS FUNKY MOUNTAIN TOWN’S BLUE SKIES, MILD TEMPERATURES AND FUN, LAID-BACK GESTALT, YOU’LL SEE WHY SUMMER IS A DEAL MAKER.

Hiking, mountain biking, trail running, golf, fly fishing, hot air ballooning, river running, tennis and rock climbing are just a few of the dozens of things to do in Park City during the summer months. The town’s three resorts—Deer Valley, Park City Mountain Resort and The Canyons, as well as the Utah Olympic Park—transform from winter destinations to summer activity centers with lift-served mountain biking and hiking, alpine slide rides, zip line rides and packed event schedules. And not a weekend goes by when the town isn’t abuzz with a festival, outdoor concert, parade or sporting event.

Though the summertime tempo has stepped up dramatically from just

10 years ago, the pace in Park City from May to November is more sedate than in the busy winter months. In the summer, it’s a little easier to get a dinner reservation, lodging rates are about half of what they are in the winter and, rather than the searing heat much of the U.S. suffers through in July and August, Park City’s average high temps hover around a pleasant 80 degrees.

Regardless of what you’re after—whether it’s pedaling to the top of Guardsman Pass followed by a spa treatment, or gallery hopping and having lunch in Old Town—a visit to Park City is a much-needed reprieve, sure to leave you with a newfound appreciation for summer in the mountains.

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BY MELISSA FIELDS



Park City's lodging ranges from world-class hotels to home-away-from-home vacation rentals that offer space to enjoy your vacation in the mountains.

WHERE TO STAY

If you're going to stay in Park City, you may as well go all the way. Earlier this year, **Stein Eriksen Lodge** (from \$167 per person, per night; steinlodge.com) received the ultimate thumbs up: the Mobil Travel Guide's Five Star Award. As soon as you enter this opulent hotel's lobby, replete with big timbers, genuine stone, plush carpets and inviting oversized furniture, it's easy to see why. In the guest rooms, Egyptian cotton robes, jetted tubs and twice-daily maid service are all standard. If you choose to stay in one of the luxury rooms, expect a gourmet-quality kitchen, stone fireplace and separate master bedroom.

Taking the elegance factor up a notch, **The Chateaux at Silver Lake** (from \$205 per night, chateaux-deer-valley.com), is an unforgettable condominium hotel located mid-mountain at Deer Valley Resort. Here, each guest room, decorated akin to a bedroom at

an old European estate, is outfitted with a wet bar, fireplace and feather bed. If you're looking for a romantic getaway, this is the place. The hotel also includes a full-service spa, fitness center and gourmet restaurant, **Bistro Toudjors**.

One of Park City's newest and most talked-about hotels is **The Sky Lodge** (from \$375, theskylodge.com). This mod, Soho-meets-the-mountains sanctuary gives Park City's Old Town an urban kick in the pants. No expense was spared in the property's 33 rooms, which all include plasma televisions, slab granite countertops and luxurious tubs with cascading water spouts. The hotel abuts two of Park City's most renowned restaurants: **Robert Redford's Zoom** and the **Easy Street Brasserie**. Your stay also includes complimentary cocktails and appetizers in the **Sky Club**, the hotel's fourth-floor ultra-chic bar, which includes an outdoor patio and 12-person hot tub.

Park City's newest resort, **The Canyons**,

ECO-BOUTIQUE IN THE HEART OF OLD TOWN

Built in 1963, just as Park City was on the cusp of transforming itself from mining town to winter recreation destination, the **Treasure Mountain Inn** (from \$115 per night; treasuremountaininn.com) was the first condominium-style hotel built in the U.S. Today, though the inn retains much of its historical character, its personality has taken a modern turn.

As the first hotel to join 1% For The Planet, Treasure Mountain Inn (TMI) was green long before it was cool. In addition to giving one percent of every sale to support environmental causes, TMI is also Utah's only 100-percent carbon-neutral hotel. And they don't stop there. Other Earth-friendly practices employed by TMI include recycling containers in all rooms and hallways, a pool with saline-based sanitation rather than chlorine, bio-friendly toiletries, water-conserving fixtures and laundry facilities, low-energy lighting and high-efficiency heat and air systems. The hotel was also named Utah Recycler of the Year two years in a row (2005 and 2006). In addition, TMI's top-of-Main Street location is within steps of world-class restaurants, night clubs, galleries and Park City Mountain Resort. So a car is obsolete.

And if you think all this means fewer amenities, think again. TMI maintains its original format with 56 newly remodeled studio, one- and two-bedroom units. Deluxe rooms feature granite countertops, travertine baths, LCD televisions and leather furniture. Other extras include the private outdoor patio with a Jacuzzi tub and gas firepit, wireless Internet service and more.