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PARK CITY—FOR ALL SEASONS

By Susan B. Barnes

Think of Park City, Utah, and you may instantly conjure thoughts of Robert Redford’s famed Sundance Film Festival held each January. (In fact, VIP packages are available during the film festival—everyone’s welcome to participate!) But when the celebrity cache dissipates like freshly fallen snow on a warm, late-spring day, Park City is left in all its glory.

GET OUT AND PLAY!

With all of its outdoor activities—biking, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, sailing, kayaking and river rafting in spring, summer and fall, and skiing, snowboarding, show shoeing and all sorts of powder-soft snowy fun, Park City certainly is filled with a vast array of pursuits. What truly makes it unique, though, is the number of exclusive activities that can only be found in the area.

If you’re an avid skier or snowboarder, you’ll want to take advantage of First Tracks at Canyons—you’ll be part of an elite group that takes to the mountain to lay down its first tracks, (as its name implies) before it opens to the general public. Oh, and you’ll be accompanied by

an Olympic skier who’ll show you the best trails! Or, make reservations for a three-day Ultimate Mountain Experience package at Canyons and learn from the best in the world—Olympians and professionals. A similar package is available at Deer Valley: the Mahre Training Ski Camp offers three- and five-day sessions, conducted in part by Olympians Phil and Steve Mahre.

For even fresher powder, book a heliski trip with Wasatch Powderbird Guides and be whisked via helicopter into the Wasatch Mountains’ backcountry, where you’ll be the first to ski on acres of untracked snow.

Whatever time of year you visit, Utah Olympic Park is not to be missed. Elite athletes train and compete year-round at the park, the venue of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. For a truly exhilarating experience, take a ride in a public passenger bobsled—you’ll reach speeds of up to 80 mph and experience 5 Gs of force as your professional driver guides you down the Olympic course. What’s more, Utah Olympic Park is the only site in the world where you’ll traverse an entire Olympic course.

REFUEL AND RECHARGE

For such an intimate setting, the town of Park City offers myriad dining options, from casual, slope-side to fine dining. In fact, there are more than 100 restaurants to whet your appetite. The menu at The Farm, named “Best New Restaurant in Utah” in February 2012 by *Salt Lake Magazine*, showcases locally-sourced ingredients from farms and artisans within 200 miles of Park City. You’ll definitely want to order the house cured charcuterie board, the chef’s specialty.


To get a taste of the flavors of Park City, plan your trip around Savor the Summit (June 22)—the largest dinner party with food, drinks and live music, all presented on Main Street in downtown Park City. Menus range from \$40 to \$150 per person; reservations are recommended. If you’re visiting in July, don’t miss the Park City Food and Wine Classic (July 10-14)—four days filled with food and wine events, including a wine kickoff celebration and the Toast of Park City VIP Experience.

For a quieter experience, the tasting menu by Chef Briar at Talisker on Main—

named Park City's Best Restaurant three consecutive years—is exquisite, showcasing the chef's creative culinary expertise. Reservations are required, and prices start at \$150 per person for six courses with wine pairings.

The Waldorf Astoria Park City offers an even more intimate experience. "Be Your Own Chef Menu" pairs you with a chef to create a gourmet meal prepared and served right in your guest room. Or, join Chef Clement in late-summer/early-fall for a true foodie culinary adventure! You'll join Chef on a foraging excursion to discover and harvest local Utah ingredients for a private meal that will be prepared upon your return to the resort. While out on the mountainside, you'll enjoy a private picnic, complete with wine and locally brewed craft beer.

Speaking of the Waldorf Astoria Park City, it is one of the preferred places to stay—accommodations range from one-bedroom suites to the 5,000 square foot Presidential Suite, not to mention the onsite Golden Door Spa. Just a short gondola ride away is the Grand Summit Hotel, a AAA Four-Diamond resort featuring suites and luxury penthouses, sits in the heart of the Resort Village. Both properties are part of Canyons Resort, which has a total of five properties from which to choose.

Whenever you decide to visit Park City is the best time. With myriad activities and ways to simply relax, Park City certainly is a destination for all seasons. 



WHEN YOU GO

Park City is a 30-minute drive from Salt Lake City International Airport. Visit visitparkcity.com.

Canyons, thecanyons.com

Deer Valley, deervalley.com

The Farm, canyonsresort.com/dining

Park City Food and Wine Classic,
parkcityfoodandwineclassic.com

Savor the Summit, savorthesummit.com

Sundance Film Festival, sundance.org

Talisker on Main, taliskeronmain.com

Utah Olympic Park, utaholympiclegacy.com

Waldorf Astoria Park City,
parkcitywaldorfastoria.com

Wasatch Powderbird Guides,
www.powderbird.com

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Photo courtesy of Canyons Resort

Photo courtesy of ScottMarkewitz

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Photo courtesy of Talisker