

colorado

TRAVELER

WINTER 2020

STAY IN STYLE

Vacation spots you won't want to miss

APRÈS RACE

Olympian

Lindsey Vonn

Stays on the Fast Track



Steamboat Story

Experience authentic mountain charm

Southern Exposure

Eat, Sleep and Play in the Denver Tech Center



“The problem with winter sports is that
- follow me closely here -
they generally take place in winter.”
— Dave Barry

Baby It's Cold Outside

By Eric Elkins

We all have it — the one thing that warms us when winter settles in on Colorado. We asked some of our favorite locals to share their go-to winter warmers.



Kendra Anderson, Owner of Bar Helix

My ultimate winter warmer is a hot toddy ... but not made with the traditional whisky. I prefer to use mezcal instead — that extra boost of smokiness is perfect for sipping on a chilly evening.

Kim DeVigil, Senior Director of Communications, Leprino Foods

We love to hit Jax Fish House in LoDo. Good oysters are tough to find. Their happy hour is a good time to sneak in. And we live in the foothills so we get out on the trails, even in the worst of weather. People can get on a trail just a short drive to Genesee or Evergreen, Golden, any town in the foothills. It doesn't take long to find yourself in complete silence on a trail in the foothills in the fresh snow.



Governor Jared Polis

My late-grandmother June's noodle kugel along with oven-roasted chestnuts.



Alan Gionet, Anchor, CBS4 This Morning

I like to be out in the cold. I grew up playing hockey and still prefer to play outside in the crisp air, even in the middle of a snowstorm. I'm almost always at Evergreen Lake on weekends. But getting to some other iconic spots will be on my list this year. Keystone has great skating. Breckenridge, Silverthorne. There's nothing better than searing cold air in the lungs. And Evergreen Lake is cheap. I pay less than 75 bucks for a yearly pass, but a one-day pass is less than \$10.



Adam Cayton-Holland, Comic/Writer, and winner of the Colorado Book Award for Best Non-Fiction for "Tragedy + Time"

Pho 95. Filet special. On a cold day? Nothing better. Warms you right down to your soul. Federal Boulevard is a treasure-trove culinarily, and there's plenty of great pho spots. Which is best is the subject of great debate. Pho 95 is my favorite. Hands down.



Liliana Myers, Head Pastry Chef at Safta Restaurant

My go-to warmer in the winter is a hot toddy. I love whisky and warm drinks. Arcana always has a really great hot toddy on the menu. I am not much of a skier but I love snowshoeing and I always make one for my treks. I also make a lot of soup in the winter. I work at Aspen Moon Farm in Hygiene in the summer and they pay me in their CSA. I always get overwhelmed by the amount of vegetables, so I make soups, curries, and stews and freeze them in pint containers. This way in the winter when I know it will be crazy at the restaurant, I can have a home-cooked meal without much effort. They always taste better in front of my fireplace with a good book.



Lucy Beaugard

Justin Brunson, Chef/Owner of Old Major, Masterpiece Deli, Culture Meat & Cheese, River Bear American Meats, Royal Rooster, Folsom Foods
Sitting next to the fireplace at Thin Man on 17th Avenue, drinking a glass of Buffalo Trace!



Jasper Schneider, Executive Chef at Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch

I like to warm up next to the fire in the Great Room of The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch with a glass of Balvenie 12-year-old whisky, enjoying the views of the ski slopes and the live entertainment with my family.



Andrea Frizzi, Chef/Owner of Il Posto

My number one go-to in the winter is risotto funghi. It's so comforting — I always make it for myself and my staff on super-chilly days. I love vin brulé (mulled wine from the alpine region of Italy) when it is super cold and snowy! For a cozy spot, I love the way Finn's Manor bar feels during the winter night. And I have a Russian fur hat that I love to wear when I smoke cigars outside or when it snows; it is like a little baby bear embracing your head!



Jeff Nelson

Jeff Osaka, Chef/Owner of Pig & Chicken Hospitality (Osaka Ramen, Sushi-Rama, 12@Madison)

My family and I go to a place on South Federal called Tony Pho. The vegetables are always fresh, the broth isn't too sweet, and the service is friendly. Most of the time I'll get a bowl of pho with just brisket, it's cooked for a long time in the broth, which makes it so flavorful and tender.



Ryan Warner, Sr. Host of Colorado Matters from CPR News

My go-to warmer is a scarf. Well, not A scarf. I have two drawers of them. Striped and hounds-toothed and fringed and infinity and cotton and silk and on and on ...



Josh Wolkon, owner of Secret Sauce Food & Beverage (Ace, Vesta, Steuben's)

It takes about 45 minutes in the chilly early morning to get to Belle's Cabin at the top of Blue Sky Basin (11,480 ft.) in Vail's legendary back bowls. I prefer a little winter warm-up with a steaming hot chocolate by the fire in this no-frills, rustic outpost to prepare for one of the freshest powdery runs of the day. The views are spectacular and if the sun is shining the outdoor grills are ideal for an on-mountain lunchtime BBQ.



Patrick Williams, National Beverage Director at Punch Bowl Social

Hot Buttered Rum! The classic rich, warming drink with two of my favorite ingredients — butter and rum. I make a batter with vanilla bean ice cream, ground baking spices (my addition), ground cardamom and Kerrygold butter. Add a scoop of that to hot black tea (preferred over hot water) and Pusser's British Navy Rum (super rich and caramelly) and you have the perfect winter warmer!

Settle in and Stay

Colorado's hotel packages have it all

By **Eric Elkins**



Hotel Indigo

For as much fun as you can have wandering around downtown Denver or making the most of a mountain town, sometimes you just want to settle in and leave the outside world behind. And in many of Colorado's plush hotels, you don't have to brave the elements to find yourself a stellar meal or a mess of delicious cocktails, because everything you need is right there in the building with you.

Station Staycations

For a fun urban escape, take the light rail to Union Station and stay at the Kimpton Hotel Born. Between the classic rooms with a modern touch, a staff that's dedicated to making sure you feel welcome and appreciated, and one of the best steak restaurants in the city, the hotel offers the perfect indulgence. Package your stay with a chef's counter dinner at Citizen Rail, with its steak aging room right there in the restaurant, and buckle up for a pampered experience you won't forget. Be sure to hit up Tavernetta next door for the best happy hour, including the perfect \$6 negroni.

For a true staycation experience, you can't go wrong at Hotel Indigo, a three-minute walk from Union Station.

Order up a whiskey flight at Hearth & Dram, known for its massive wall of spirits from all over the world, then "take the elevator home" to your room for the night. Be sure to wake up in time for Hearth & Dram's Rock 'n Roll brunch, a curated concert of delights designed by Chef Adam Vero.

Literally *in* Union Station is real estate pioneer and beloved developer Dana Crawford's namesake hotel. An oasis of calm in the bustling train and transportation station, with fun rooms spanning the entire building, you can up-scale your stay at The Crawford with the full Pullman-era experience in the elegant Cooper Lounge, yuck it up with the locals at Terminal Bar, or eat one of the best meals of your life at Mercantile (and of course eat oysters and the best burger in Denver at Stoic & Genuine). For a true local experience, get in on the Family Jones Spirit House Tour & Tasting package, where you ride in the Crawford's own Tesla to the nearby LoHi neighborhood and tour the Family Jones Spirit House, a local distillery. You'll get to taste all seven of their signature spirits and head back to the hotel with your personal bottle of their special edition Crawford Rock & Rye Cocktail.



The Maven Hotel

Downtown Delights

For real historic charm, make a reso at The Oxford Hotel and book the Relax and Romance package, where you'll be welcomed with sparkling wine and house-made chocolates before you walk down to the Oxford Club — an in-house health club, spa, and salon for the services of your choice. Also downstairs, the historic Cruise Room is known for its martinis and bar fare.

And as much fun as a romantic urban staycation can be, The Maven Hotel at Dairy Block knows that bringing the kids along can have its own charms. That's why they've launched their Urban Glamping package, which includes, get this, an in-room tent for the kids in their guestroom, hot cocoa, and a customized Maven flannel picnic blanket to keep. The best thing about the hotel (besides truly stunning art on every floor and in every room) is easy access to Poka Lola Social Club, a lively bar with inventive cocktails. Gather the kids in the lobby to play board games while you sip your drinks, and of course grab a snack from Chef Frank Bonanno's Denver Milk Market. You won't feel much reason to leave the cozy mini-district, with so many restaurants and shops lining the alleyway behind the hotel.

Right in the heart of Denver's theatre district is Hotel Teatro, in the Tramway Building, a national registered landmark. The structure may be old, but the rooms aren't fussy or dated. Spoil yourself and a guest with the Teatro package, a celebration of their 20-year anniversary, with a bottle of Bouvet Rose and accoutrements for an indulgent bubble bath. Their charcuterie concierge will assemble the perfect in-room board of meats and cheeses from The Nickel restaurant downstairs. I highly recommend you order a couple of their barrel-aged boulevardier cocktails as an accompaniment.

Just across from Hotel Teatro is the Four Seasons Denver, which is a very different experience from the vintage boutique inn. Time your visit to coincide with one of Opera Colorado's performances and opt into their "A Night at the Opera" package, which doesn't include tickets to a show but does feature champagne during intermission in the Chambers Grant Donor Lounge at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. You also get a credit at EDGE Restaurant downstairs, which means tasty bites before the performance or something sweet at the end of the evening. Live in-state? Check out the Colorado residents' package.



Four Seasons Denver



Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Guch



River North Nights

The Source Hotel, home to several delicious restaurants, including the epic Safta, which is owned by award-winning chef Alon Shaya, is just outside downtown on the edge of the RiNo Art District. The A Line from the airport stops just a short walk (or free shuttle ride) to the hotel, and when you get there, you're immediately greeted with a beer from the in-house New Belgium Brewery. The Artisan Market Hall in the lobby hosts an eclectic mix of goods and snacks. Their Avant Ski package includes dinner for two at The Woods, a stunning rooftop restaurant with views of the city and mountains (and a couple of hearty fireplaces), and even a canister of oxygen in the room in case you're feeling a little woozy from all the altitude. Be sure to grab brunch at Safta before you check out.

Also in RiNo is The Ramble, which feels like a modern take on an old west hotel. New York's legendary Death & Co has posted up in the lobby, with massive chandeliers and Old World charm, while Chef Dana Rodriguez's Super Mega Bien restaurant delivers on the promise of Latin-inspired dim sum.

The super-cool thing about The Guild, which hosts collections of condo rooms around the city, is that you can pay to have them fill your fridge in advance. The rooms are spacious and homey, with stylish furniture and full kitchens. Once you settle in, take a bath in a giant tub, wrap yourself in a plush robe so you can eat a bowl of local ice cream on the couch, and you'll realize you never want to leave.

Want to spoil yourself with an upscale experience in Denver's most-exclusive shopping district? Stay at the Jacquard Hotel & Rooftop, the newest hotel in the neighborhood, and reserve their In Vogue Vacation package. With 200-plus retailers nearby (and more than two-thirds independently owned and operated), you'll be happy for the included \$100 gift card. Start your shopping staycation right with a bottle of Veuve at check-in, and tool around the area in a Tesla Model X.

The Origin Hotel has its own unique experience, just a short shuttle ride away from the legendary Red Rocks Amphitheatre in the foothills. The mashup of a western and rock 'n roll vibe carries through the hotel, with memorabilia and décor that feel both modern and vintage. During concert season, packages include tickets to a show and a shuttle up to the historic venue, but wintertime brings its own charms, like a walk up to Dinosaur Ridge or just a warm afternoon of drinking and dining at the in-house restaurant, Nomad Taqueria + Beer Garden.

The Source Hotel

Mountain Mayhem

Up in them thar hills, you can find more to do than ski and snowboard! The historic Hotel Colorado (which opened in 1893) is an après paradise in Glenwood Springs. With their Ski Swim Stay package, you get lift tickets and a free shuttle to nearby Sunlight Mountain Resort, and then much-needed recovery in the world-renowned (and all-natural) Glenwood Hot Springs at the foot of the hotel.

You can read more about Gravity Haus elsewhere in this issue, but if you want the full snow and social experience, with a side of elegance and fun in Breckenridge, this brand-new "campus" is the place to stay.

Drive past Vail and up to Beaver Creek to stay at the Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch for ski-in, ski-out lodging and chef-driven sushi from their new restaurant, Sakaba. As you'd expect, a stay at the Ritz-Carlton is a truly indulgent, luxe experience. The ski valets have your equipment ready to go on the mountainside every morning and give it the necessary TLC at the end of every day. And talk about après — from the 21,000-square-foot spa to the multiple bars with both indoor and outdoor seating, to the kid-friendly s'mores, your body will thank you after a full day on the mountain. Don't forget to make a reso for dinner at WYLD, for some of Executive Chef Jasper Schneider's seasonal dishes.

And no rundown of epic staycations would be complete without including The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, which just celebrated 100 years in business last year, with its very own ski hill, golf course and spa, lakes, plenty of onsite restaurants, and plush rooms all in one place. You can experience the resort's classic alpine charm without having to drive up to the mountains, and the beauty of the place is only surpassed by the level of service you can expect from the moment you arrive. A range of packages, from romantic to family-friendly to adventurous, will suit just about any mood you're in.

Whether you just need a fun place to stay or are looking to cocoon for a weekend, Colorado's hotel packages are sure to make you feel right at home.

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CHECKING IN

This Haus Rules

The newest
lodging in
Breckenridge
is more than
a hotel



By **Eric Elkins**

“It’s a direct reflection of how we eat, how we play, and how we live.”

For Gravity Haus founder and owner Jim Deters, merely opening a gorgeous hotel at the foot of Peak 9 in Breckenridge wasn’t going to be enough. “It’s not just a boutique hotel, it’s a full community asset,” he tells me.

We’re sitting at Unravel coffee shop in Denver, a stylish spot Deters just happens to own, and he’s showing me photos and plans on his phone, ridiculously excited about what his team is bringing to the funky cool ski town in Summit County, Colorado.

“It’s community-inspired first,” he says. “We call it a campus, not a hotel. Everything else out there now is either super fancy and expensive or corporate-y crap. We asked ourselves, where’s the authentic thing? How can you seamlessly move from work to play to activities — a sort of choose your own adventure, where Mom, Dad, and the kids can all do things and be happy?”

At Gravity Haus Breckenridge, the first of several ski town locations, choosing your own adventure is just the beginning. The 60-room epicenter of mountain experiences is just 30 feet from Main Street, with its many shops, bars, and fun restaurants, and 30 feet from the Quicksilver Super 6 lift, which takes you right up to Peak Nine.

But with so much going on inside the hotel, you may never want to leave.

“The lobby is mountain modern with soft, comfortable touches to make you feel cozy and at home,” Deters says. Not only can you settle in alongside a massive fireplace for caffeine-fueled beverages at the new Unravel, but you can also drift downstairs to the après bar for a low-ABV cocktail made up from fresh juices. Speaking of juice, Cabin Juice is the hotel restaurant designed by acclaimed restaurateur Bryan Dayton (Oak on 14th, Acorn, Brider, Corrida) and the Breck Haus culinary team. Casually refined family-style dishes by Gravity Haus’ Executive Chef, Salvatore Proia, are simple and delicious, and just the thing to help you recover after a day on the slopes.

In fact, the hotel is as much about enjoying your time on the mountain as it is about recovery afterward.



With the Japanese-style onsen baths overlooking the Blue River and a Dryland Sports functional sports and recovery gym in the building, your post-downhill evenings can be spent soaking, sipping, or stretching. Get yourself some time in the hyperbaric chamber or work with the pros at the gym to give your muscles the help they need before another day on the hill. Too much effort? Check your ski equipment at the hotel and plop yourself down at Cabin Juice to share your exploits with the other enthusiasts who are still shaking the snow off their boots.

“Where do you go to share your stories after you throw off your gear and start warming?” Deters asks. He envisions people sitting around at midnight, so enamored by the vibe that they still have their ski boots on.

Maybe you need to knock out some emails or finish up a proposal before you get out on the slopes. Not a problem, because StarterHaus is a coworking space right on the river, with a 12-person conference room and fiber-fueled internet. Work, take a meeting, drink an Unravel flat white, and grind out some work before you grind a rail in Breckenridge’s terrain park.

Rather watch snowbound stunts than do them yourself? Gravity Haus has a MaxAir supertramp in the backyard, where pro skiers and snowboarders practice their big air exploits before taking them to the mountain.

With whimsical names like Powder Hound, Gnarnia, and Crash Pad, the hotel rooms themselves are part of the experience.

“They’re designed for families, teams, groups, buddies, corporate retreats,” Deters says, showing me floorplans of the array of arrangements. With hostel-style lodging that includes shared common area and keyed individual spaces, 10-person bunk rooms with queen bunks and a living room, family friendly configurations like a king bed and attached bunk room for the kids, you’ll find the right setup for your crew.

Membership means more

And Gravity Haus extends beyond the hotel in Breckenridge. It’s “a social club for the modern adventurer.” You can join the club for additional annual benefits, including free use of Dryland in Denver and in the hotel (including small group classes, the spa and onsen tubs, seasonal storage), unlimited coworking, access to backcountry gear if you’re going out with a guide, member discounts at the hotel and even members-only events and travel experiences.

“The best places I’ve stayed were not the most fancy, but they anticipated my needs before I thought of them,” Deters says when talking about his vision for his new series of lodges. “We’re in the experience business, not the hotel business.”

He pauses for a second, looking back at a photo on his phone. “If there was ever a hotel for front range families, we built it.”

Ready to see for yourself? Go to gravityhaus.com for more info and reservations.

