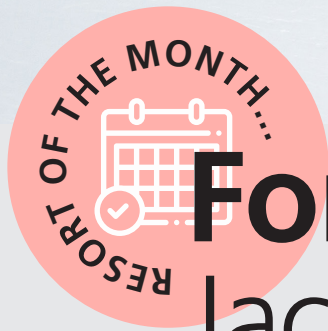


▼ Lapping up Jackson Hole's fabled powder



For the wild at heart Jackson Hole

Alf Alderson heads Stateside for a taste of the Wild West

WHERE IS IT?

Jackson Hole is in Wyoming, situated between the Teton Mountains and the Gros Ventre range: it gets its name from a term used by early mountain men for a large mountain valley. The skiing here is some of the most scenically spectacular in North America, but it can also be some of the most challenging.

WHY IS IT SO GOOD FOR THE 'WILD AT HEART'?

Whether you like wild skiing, wild landscapes, wild animals or the Wild West, Jackson Hole serves up the goods. There's the infamous Corbet's Couloir off the top of 10,450ft Rendezvous Mountain, for example (mandatory air to get into it followed by a steep, narrow descent); some epic backcountry, and, once you get on to the piste, don't be surprised to encounter the odd moose ambling by. The surrounding mountain landscapes are a geography

teacher's dream, and if you head into the satellite town of Jackson, you'll soon realise that cowboy boots, Stetson hats and big trucks are *de rigueur* for the locals.

WHY GO NOW?

The USA has ditched almost all Covid protocols so you can enjoy skiing one of the country's biggest and best ski hills without wearing a mask. Despite its reputation as an expert's mountain, there's still a good selection of intermediate terrain accessed by a fast and efficient network of lifts. These include the famous Jackson Hole Tram up Rendezvous Mountain, which you can ride down as well as up if you decide the slopes off the top are too steep.

If you want a break from skiing, take a trip to nearby Yellowstone National Park, where there's a good chance of spotting wolves in winter. The National Elk Reserve is even closer and home to thousands of these stately creatures, which can be viewed from sleigh rides.

People watching in downtown Jackson is equally entertaining - if you don't spot a movie star or two (Harrison Ford, Sandra Bullock and Brad Pitt are just three



RESORT STATS

Altitude: 6311ft / Pistes: 2500 acres
in-bound terrain / Ski lifts: 16
jacksonhole.com

Hollywood 'A' listers who have second homes here), you'll see plenty of genuine cowboys and cowgirls strutting their stuff.

DON'T MISS...

If you're looking for something a little less scary than Corbet's Couloir, you'll find plenty of steep blacks off Rendezvous Mountain, below which are more black chutes, bumps and glades in Cheyenne Bowl and the Hobacks.

There are yet more chutes off the Sublette Chair and in Tensleep Bowl, not to mention the exciting terrain of the Craggs, and over 3000 acres of glorious backcountry which can be explored with a guide.

As for après, the lively Mangy Moose beneath the slopes and the Silver Dollar Saloon and Million Dollar Cowboy bar in downtown Jackson shouldn't be missed.