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Wyoming

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING IS A SPARKLING JEWEL IN THE ADVENTURE SKIING CROWN, BUT THERE'S EVEN MORE TO THIS BIG SHINING DIAMOND, IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE SMALLER GEMS ON EITHER SIDE.



Jackson Hole

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK

*Words and photos by
Tony Harrington & Rhylla Morgan*

Resort ambassador and backcountry guide, Lynsey in an open letter to Jackson Hole sums it up intriguingly, "If you were a breakfast, you'd be a bowl of nails with ice cream on top."

We take in the drama of the Cirque and Headwall above us as we ride up Thunder and I'm reminded this will be one of the last times I ride this chair. There'll still be Thunder laps next year, but a new detachable quad is going to cut the journey time in half.

Jackson lives up to the hype. It's big, bold and is absolutely a skier's mountain. But the resort and the town is in a battle to make sure the combination of tourism and billionaires pouring into the Hole doesn't kill the very thing everyone loves about this wild place.

So you'll notice a few shifts taking place. There will be days the resort simply won't sell tickets to curb capacity. The consensus seems to be that everyone wins when caps mean more manageable lift lines, hill space for your turns and staff and venues not getting swamped. You'll also see a footnote on your menu about minimum pay and tips for staff. Locals are under incredible rent strain and many are already doing two jobs just to live here, so paying people a living wage seems overdue.

The resort is also breaking ground to build more affordable housing – all steps in the right direction. Without these changes there's the depressing possibility that the core locals, the people that run lifts, make coffee, nurse the injured, clean hotels and teach people to ski – the very fabric of this community – won't be able to live here anymore.


Previous page: My first day back in the valley, she threw in something unexpectedly spicy. It's cold and bluebird and instead of finding my ski legs in resort, I'm headed 13 miles south of town and about to spend an unforgettable day skiing untracked pow. Guide Andy Brookes leads the way. High Mountain Heli promise you'll make six drops and hit après with a minimum of 12,000 feet of vertical under your belt by the end of the day. Right: If a heli doesn't fit your budget, grab a guide and hit the backcountry. Lynsey Dyer and Bobby Thomson fossicking through white gold.



There's a fierce, defiant local flavour still to be found at the Stagecoach, in the belly of the Moose and riding the START bus to and fro each day that gives that kick to this place. It would suck to lose that.

Lynsey Dyer has been a professional skier for over a decade. Originally from Sun Valley, she moved across to Jackson Hole and honed her skills in the powder-filled mountains of the Teton mountains.

Knowing she charges (she was the first female to hit the infamous Fat Bastard and Cave air cliffs in the Jackson Hole backcountry) and after a good deal of powder turns warming up, I asked if she'd care to hit a cliff for some airtime.

She looked down for a moment down, and then up and smiled. "I can't... I'm pregnant" something that at the time was being kept under wraps. There was a round of congratulations and smiles and I could see from the sparkle in her eyes that another journey of adventure is right around the corner for this go-getter. 

This page: Lynsey Dyer is a skiing addict, entrepreneur and mum-to-be, wallowing here in the powder fields of the Jackson Hole backcountry.

Next page: Marni Walsh is one of those 'under the radar' locals who skis better than you and embodies the hustle it takes for so many people who live and ski in Jackson. She's just wrapped up working on the video production for the Natural Selection event and rips apart Hoback laps between lining up her next work project and taking her dog for a run along the skin track.







than a
MOUNTAIN

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Your adventure doesn't end on the slopes. Relax, après and dine at one of our on-mountain restaurants or visit Teton Village shops for technical outerwear and Western chic fashion trends. This is more than a mountain — it's the complete Jackson Hole experience.

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