



SNOWMASS SIDE TRIPS: GET AWAY FOR THE DAY

From historic mines to museums to hot springs, Snowmass is an ideal home base for a wealth of regional adventures

Snowmass Village, CO (Spring 2008) – In the summer, Snowmass Village has enough going on that visitors would be hard pressed to call home and complain they're bored. With 95 percent bike-in/bike-out, hike-in/hike-out lodging, a massive mountain filled with adventures, and the Snowmass Mall filled with shopping and dining, the days are ruled by fun and adventure. But every now and then it's nice to take a break and just get out of town for a day. Snowmass Village offers an ideal home base to explore a region filled with a wealth of unique features, arts, and entertainment:

- **Historic downtown Aspen.** From an art museum to ice skating to historic walking tours to dining and shopping, Aspen offers an enormous roster of activities. Aspen Center for Environmental Studies is an excellent place to bring kids to learn about the local wildlife, while the famed Aspen Music Festival and Aspen Institute offer concerts and events all summer long. Don't miss the Aspen Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings. (www.aspenchamber.org)
- **Aspen Recreation Center.** Located up Maroon Creek Road, the ARC is an 83,000-square-foot multi-use sports facility that includes an aquatic center (with 2-story slide, lazy river, fountains, lap and kid's pools), an NHL-size hockey rink, a 32-foot climbing tower, cardio and weight rooms, and fitness classes. (www.aspenrecreation.com)
- **Glenwood Springs.** Just 40 minutes west on Highway 82, Glenwood boasts the world's largest man-made pool of natural mineral hot springs and vapor caves. A therapy pool, spa treatments, an athletic club, and lap lanes also are available. Kids under 3 are free. In the summer, bring a bike and travel into the stunning Glenwood Canyon along the paved bike path or take the gondola up to tour the impressive natural caverns and adventure park. Kayaking and boating are also local favorites and was recently named the country's top fly fishing town by Field & Stream magazine. (www.glenwoodchamber.com)
- **Downtown Basalt/Downtown Carbondale.** These up-and-coming historic restored downtowns offer boutique shops and diverse dining options just a half an hour from Snowmass. Carbondale boasts an active artist community and an arts theater, while Basalt is the gateway to a beautiful drive up to Ruedi Reservoir along the Frying Pan River, which is renowned for its gold medal fishing. Three Colorado certified gold medal trout streams, in fact, fill the Roaring Fork Valley. (www.basaltchamber.org and www.carbondalechamber.com)
- **Old Snowmass.** Take a scenic drive up through Old Snowmass (accessible via Hwy 82 in the winter and up over the Snowmass Divide from Snowmass in the summer). This large valley with sprawling vistas and spectacular mountain views once was used primarily for agriculture, but now is home to St. Benedict's Monastery (www.snowmass.org), a Cistercian (Trappist) community founded in 1956, and the Rocky Mountain Institute (www.rmi.org), a

distinguished and broad-based institute focusing on resource issues. At RMI, you can either hike on almost 1,000 acres of its Windstar Conservancy lands (which John Denver helped set up) or take tours of the headquarters and founder Amory B. Lovins' home, which is a fascinating self-sustaining structure including a green house where he grows bananas.

- Independence Pass. Three out of four seasons, Independence Pass (accessed by driving straight through downtown Aspen) heads to historic Leadville over a spectacularly scenic and narrow, winding mountain road. Bring a picnic and your hiking shoes and you'll be set for a day of adventure. Don't miss the grottos and ice caves. Independence Pass is closed in the winter.
- Ashcroft. Take a drive up through the Castle Creek Valley and back in time into them thar hills, where a wealth of adventure, ranging from a tour of the historic ghost town of Ashcroft to cross country skiing in the winter to a fabulous meal at the Pine Creek Cookhouse await.
- The Maroon Bells. This stunning, jagged range is one of the most photographed mountains in North America and is located one drainage over from Castle Creek up Maroon Creek Road in the 4th largest wilderness area in Colorado. Buses shuttle people up in the summer from Aspen Highlands for a nominal fee. At the top, several trails ranging from a few yards long to see the breathtaking Maroon Lake to more challenging trails into the high country create diverse ways to spend the day. In the summer, Blazing Adventures runs tours here as well.
- Rock Bottom Ranch. This 113-acre environmental education facility and sustainable farm & wildlife preserve is located in mid-valley tucked between soaring Mt. Sopris and the Roaring Fork River and is a project of the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies. Visitors can check out the rare breeds of goats, chickens, turkeys, cows and ducks or hike/snowshoe the property to look for signs of elk, deer, and heron. The preserve and Field Study Center are open to the public year-round with naturalists on site to answer questions and guide visitors through the property (www.aspennature.org).
- Marble and Redstone. The Redstone-Marble area is off the beaten path but well-worth the trip. Redstone, a former model housing community founded by coal mining baron John Cleveland Osgood at the turn of the last century is now an artist community with quaint Victorians, art galleries and shops. You can also tour Redstone Castle, Osgood's extravagant mansion still furnished with Tiffany chandeliers and Italian paintings. Marble is best known for its quarries that produced marble rivaling Italy's Carrerra marble and which was used in the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Take a hike up to look down into the quarry or tour the quarry itself during special peak times. (www.redstonecolorado.com and www.marbletourismassociation.org)

At the end of the day, it's back to your home base in Snowmass to relax with a new appreciation for the beauty and diversity of both Snowmass and the Roaring Fork Valley.

For more information, visit the official Snowmass Village website at www.snowmassvillage.com or call 1-800-SNOWMASS.

Media Contact: Allison Johnson, aj@snowmasspress.com or (970) 309-5485.

#