



# Summer Guide

# JACKSON HOLE



Few places are more glorious in summer than Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Adjacent to Grand Teton National Park, this valley between the Teton and Gros Ventre mountain ranges is blessed with some of the most majestic scenery in the lower 48. Warm sunny days and chilly nights make for an outdoor adventure paradise, while the once quaint cowboy town of Jackson offers a host of sophisticated dining and shopping. Whether you have just a few days or a whole month to spare, you'll never run out of things to do and you'll likely start planning your next visit to the Tetons before you leave.

While winter sport enthusiasts revere Jackson Hole for cold weather recreation, I prefer Jackson Hole in summer, when the bitter cold has abated, wildflowers bloom on the mountainsides, and trout jump in the rivers. Hiking trails abound in Jackson, Wilson and Teton Village, before you even enter Grand Teton National Park and explore its vast trail network. The Snake River swells with the runoff of melted snow, yielding opportunities to fly fish, whitewater raft, or simply float along and enjoy the views. Wildlife is everywhere, particularly in the national park, and you'll see creatures great and small, from bison to mountain goats to grizzly bears.

In the town of Jackson, with its landmark antler arches framing the square, enough cowboy culture remains

that summer brings the rodeo – a can't miss event on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Snow King Mountain rises behind the fairgrounds and offers hiking and biking trails, a scenic gondola and the lightning fast Cowboy Coaster. Shoppers will enjoy the walkable Old West style downtown and its wonderful collection of art galleries, fashion boutiques, and home décor stores. And of course, you can't find a better place to shop for outdoor apparel and gear. The culinary scene in Jackson has continued to grow with the tastes of wealthy residents and visitors, and high quality casual and fine dining options are a welcome end to active days.



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No visit to Jackson Hole is complete without a trip to Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Teton Village. Ride the signature red gondola to the top of the mountain and appreciate the epic scenery. The village also offers an expansive array of activities, including mountain biking, hiking, bungee jumping and rock climbing. This is a great place to rent a bike to start exploring the 56+ paved miles of biking trails connect Jackson, Teton Village, Wilson, and Grand Teton National Park. Kids and adults alike will love the ropes course, while the more adventurous among you (and definitely not yours truly) can try paragliding.

The accessibility of Grand Teton National Park from the communities in Jackson Hole makes for a fantastic national park vacation experience. After purchasing your park pass at any entrance, you can come and go freely. The hiking options are plentiful and the scenery is breathtaking. While the area is known for its challenging terrain, there are trails for every level of fitness. At Jenny Lake and Jackson Lake, rent a canoe and paddle where views of the Tetons reflect on the water. If you're staying for a longer visit, Yellowstone National Park is just about an hour up the road and is easily visited from a home base in Jackson Hole.



## When to Go

This is a summer guide, and summer in Jackson Hole is blissful but short! To experience the best of the season, plan your trip between late June and early September. Expect daytime highs in the 70s and 80s, and nighttime lows in the upper 30s to low 40s.



## What to Do

### Grand Teton National Park

For my clients, I'll create a comprehensive park itinerary. My go-to recommendations for first timers are:

- **Jenny Lake Boat Shuttle + Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point Hike** Ideal for younger children, older adults, or a low impact day. Hop on a shuttle boat across the lake, hike 1 mile to Hidden Falls and continue 1/2 a mile to Inspiration Point.
- **Phelps Lake Hike + the Jumping Rock Hike** a moderate, 7 mile loop around a beautiful alpine lake, punctuated with a thrilling cliff jump. Bring a towel! I recommend parking at the Laurence D. Rockefeller Preserve to access this hike.
- **Taggart Lake Loop** Close to the southernmost park entrance in Moose, this roughly 4 mile scenic loop around is a great half-day activity or picnic trek.



## **Snake River Float Trip / White Water Rafting**

A float trip on the Snake River is a beautiful and relaxing way to experience this gorgeous area. You'll meander through stunning scenery and see wildlife along the way. Several outfitters offer this experience, including [Teton Floats](#) and [Dave Hansen Whitewater](#). For those looking for a little more adrenaline on the water, Jackson Hole is well known for epic whitewater rafting adventures. [Teton Whitewater](#) and [Mad River](#) are among the most experienced whitewater outfitters.



## **Fly Fishing**

Jackson Hole summer lures fly fishermen from around the globe. Whether you're an expert angler or a newbie, I'd be happy to connect you with the right choice of vetted guides for your trip and experience level. A great place to start for kids and first timers is the [Jackson Hole Fly Fishing School](#). I've also had several terrific days on the water with [World Cast Anglers](#).

## **Jackson Hole Rodeo**

The West is Still Wild is the slogan for this [local rodeo](#) that has been doing strong since 1890. 8pm Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from Memorial Day weekend – Labor Day.



## **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort**

Ride the red aerial tram and have a waffle at the top, head out on the Sky Walk at the summit of Rendezvous Mountain, then have fun with all the typical ski village activities – ropes course, bungee jumping, rock wall. There's plenty to do here to fill up an afternoon.



## **Snow King Mountain**

Ride the cowboy coaster, enjoy views from the ski lift, and pick a hiking trail. Snow King sits at the edge of downtown Jackson and is a popular summer activity zone, especially for families.



## **National Museum of Wildlife Art**

The only museum in the country exclusively focused on wildlife art, exhibits range from life sized bronze sculptures, to photography, to abstract and realistic paintings. The permanent collection includes pieces by Carl Rungius, Georgia O'Keefe, and Andy Warhol.

## **Teton Raptor Center**

I had a blast taking my kids to the Raptor Center in Wilson. The educational programs are an interactive and fun way to learn about these magnificent creatures. Program reservations required.

# Where to Eat and Drink

## **Persephone**

Elevated bakery with 3 locations, offering breakfast and lunch. A great to go option!

## **The Bunnery**

Breakfast at the Bunnery is a JH tradition, and gives the energy you need for a day of hiking and biking.

## **Blue Lion**

One of Jackson's original and best fine dining institutions. The elk tenderloin is a top dining memory.

## **Trio**

Sophisticated contemporary menu in a relaxed yet setting. Also consider their sister steakhouse, [Local](#).

## **Kampai**

The latest addition to Jackson's surprisingly excellent upscale sushi scene.

## **Snake River Brewing**

Serving local beers and terrific food for 30 years, in downtown Jackson.

## **The Bird**

Just south of town, this is a favorite casual spot for burgers and beers after a hike or day on the water.

## **Million Dollar Cowboy Bar**

You didn't really hit the town in Jackson if you didn't go to this OG saloon and music venue.

# Where to Stay

## **Amangani**

### *Curated Castaway Perks*

- Room upgrade on arrival, subject to availability
- Daily breakfast for up to two guests per bedroom
- \$100 USD equivalent Food & Beverage credit, to be utilized during stay
- Early Check-In / Late Check-Out, if available
- Complimentary Wi-Fi

## **Four Seasons Resort and Residences Jackson Hole**

### *Curated Castaway Perks*

- Daily breakfast for two guests per room
- \$100 hotel credit for rooms / \$200 hotel credit for suites and private retreats
- Room upgrade to next category, if available
- Early check-in/Late Checkout, whenever available

## **The Cloudveil, Autograph Collection**

### *Curated Castaway Perks*

- Welcome amenity
- Complimentary daily breakfast for two guests per room
- Complimentary basic Wi-Fi
- Early check-in and late checkout when available
- Complimentary room upgrade if available at check-in

## **Hotel Jackson**

### *Curated Castaway Perks*

- Room upgrade on arrival if available
- Daily full breakfast in the restaurant for two guests per bedroom
- \$100 Food & Beverage credit to be used during stay
- Custom gift of seasonal and local items
- Upgraded L'Occitane amenities
- Expanded house car range up to 3 miles
- Early Check-in/Late Checkout, subject to availability
- Complimentary Wi-Fi

*For longer visits or large groups, please contact me about a personalized selection of vetted private home and condo rentals.*

