



# Jackson Hole's Summer Side

written by **Emily McCluhan** • photos courtesy of **Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce**

**WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF JACKSON HOLE, WYO., VISIONS** of strapping on boards or sticks come to mind, followed by an adrenaline-pumping career down Rendezvous Mountain. But, when the snow melts and the temperature rises, Jackson turns into an outdoor enthusiast's paradise and welcomes more tourists than any other season.

## **Home Base**

Jackson is filled with quaint bed-and-breakfasts like the Sassy Moose Inn, Teton Treehouse and Trail Creek Ranch, affordable hotels in downtown Jackson, and full-scale resorts such as Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and Snow King Resort. But the Alpine House Country Inn & Spa falls right in the middle. Two blocks from Jackson's town square, this Scandinavian-themed hotel has 22 rooms with down comforters and plush robes, and will fit any adventurer's budget.

Be sure to leave time each morning before venturing out to indulge in chef Eric Bartle's breakfast, included with every room rate. You can do the buffet of house-baked pastries and fruit, but you may need more fuel than that. Try the crispy buttermilk waffles with strawberries and Grand Marnier whipped cream or eggs benedict with applewood smoked bacon and savory herb hollandaise sauce.

If you're not staying at the Alpine House, breakfast won't be hard to find elsewhere. It seems to be a meal that the folks in Jackson have perfected. Hit Jedediah's Original House of Sourdough, a local favorite at 135 E. Broadway for waffles, wheat cakes and the legendary sourjack (sourdough pancakes). Rumor has it that the batter hasn't changed in over 100 years, and if you buy that story, you can also buy the dough to make your own jacks and bread.

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### Hitting the Trails

Access to thousands of acres of backcountry lures hikers and bikers to Jackson every year. Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park, the National Elk Refuge and Bridger-Teton National Forest all offer one or multiday trips for backpackers and day-trippers of all ability levels.

For something different, let a llama lug your gear along the trails for a great family experience. Or try anything from a pampered one- or two-day hiking excursion with Flat Creek Ranch guides who offer propane-powered warm showers at night with wine and rib eye for dinner, to a biologist-guided trek with Hole Hiking Experience to learn about the flora and fauna of the area.

If you'd rather ride the trails, most outfitters, like Teton Mountain Bike Tours, provide bikes, helmets and meals, depending on the length of your pedaling adventure. Ride through Antelope Flats or along the Snake River, never losing sight of the majestic Teton Mountains.

### On the water

The Snake River offers rafting experiences for all ability levels. First-time floaters will want to take the upper river for a calmer trip through Grand Teton National Park with the whole family. Or hop on board on the lower section for crashing waves and white knuckle paddling through Snake River Canyon and rapids like Rodeo, Lunch Counter and the Rope. For a workout where the only drama is the breathtaking scenery, try kayaking on the tranquil waters of Jackson Lake.



Easy access to Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park, the National Elk Refuge and Bridger-Teton National Forest offers endless vistas and the chance to view native wildlife.

### Jackson by air

For a different kind of float trip, take a hot air balloon ride with companies such as Teton Balloon Flights in Driggs, Idaho, or Wyoming Balloon Co. in Jackson. Begin the day with the rising sun as it bathes the Tetons and valley in pastel hues. Float in front of the mountains for one of the best views of the area with your well-trained pilot as he maneuvers the basket and balloon through the sky. Land by 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. and you're off to another adventure.

Yet another unique float trip available is an air tour in a glider or motorized plane. After powering up to almost 12,000 feet with Glider Dan Adventures, the engine is turned off and you're soaring on silent wings, face-to-face with the Grand, the highest Teton peak. Over Teton Village and the Snake River and you're ready to land back at the starting point, Jackson Hole Airport. Other gliding trips are available through the airport in Driggs, Idaho.

### For the sore and sunburned

After two or three days of hiking, biking and floating, you may feel as if Mother Nature has gotten the best of you. For a fun day without too much exertion, try the alpine slide at Snow King Mountain, about six blocks from Jackson's



Elk antler arches adorn the entrances to Jackson Hole's historic Town Square.

town square. Ride the double chair lift to the top of the mountain and wind your way down 2,500 feet of woods and wildflowers, making it as relaxing or exhilarating as you like.

The end of your trip is also a good time to visit the Little Spa at Alpine House. A detoxifying facial or a customized massage is the perfect fit after a few days on the trail. For complete indulgence, try a bubbling mud wrap or dewdrop therapy. Complete the treatment in the Finnish sauna or outdoor hot tub. For pampering on a grander scale, visit the Avanyu Spa at Snake River Lodge in Teton Village, a breathtaking haven for the weary traveler. This five-story, 17,000-square-foot spa offers treatments to refresh the mind and body and, most importantly, work out the kinks from pedaling and paddling. ■

## Summer Sure-Bets in Jackson

- June 7-11** Jackson Hole Film Festival
- June 22-24** Grand Teton Music Festival and Wine Auction
- July 1-4** Hot Air Balloon Festival, Teton Valley, Idaho
- July 4** Grand Teton Music Festival, Outdoor Concert at Alpine Field, Jackson Hole Jaycees Fireworks Celebration at Snow King Resort
- July 14-16** Art Fair Jackson Hole, Teton Village Antique Show and Sale
- July 22** Snow King Runners Hill Climb
- August 5-6** Annual Micro-Brew Festival
- August 18-20** Art Fair Jackson Hole
- August 26** Grand Teton Music Festival, final summer performance at Walker Festival Hall

For more information, contact the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce at 307.733.3316, or [www.jacksonholechamber.com](http://www.jacksonholechamber.com).



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