



BE RIGHT THERE

NEW MEXICO • ARIZONA • UTAH • WYOMING

Colorado's neighbors invite you to choose your own adventure. Be wild at a luxe dude ranch in Wyoming. Be wowed by Utah's otherworldly landscapes. Be well at Arizona's destination spas, and be wise to the rich history of New Mexico. Whatever you want to be, you can be right there.

BY STEPHANIE WILSON & SAHALE GREENWOOD



IT'S ONLY NATURAL

Palm-fringed Bolariums
frame the pool at
El Monte Sagrado in Taos.





COWBOY COUTURE

At Brush Creek Ranch's private ski mountain, ski edges are tuned with a Western twang as the 21st-century cowboys descend on the newest frontier: the slopes.



This is skiing at its absolute finest: no lines, no waiting, no crowds, no over-skied terrain. Just wide-open trails and a fat layer of powder between the trees—private powder, all for me. It's just me, my guide, and a half-dozen or so other people zigzagging down the trails, plus the snowcat driver who's waiting at the base to whisk us back up for the next run. Oh, and the chef who's preparing a lunch of hearty ski day fare for us to enjoy in the heated mountaintop yurt. I could get used to this. A private ski mountain is a luxury most don't even know to dream about. And it's right in our backyard. Well, kinda—it's about 3.5 hours north of Denver in south-central Wyoming, not too far from the posh-rustic Brush Creek Ranch—an authentic, all-inclusive destination dude ranch resort with all the Western charm you can shake a boot at. And not just the cowboy kind. You can shake a ski or snowboard boot here, too—although the staff would be happy to shake it for you.

THE PRADA OF POWDER

Welcome to Green Mountain, a private mountain retreat open exclusively to guests of Brush Creek Ranch—and only to a max of 18 guests at any given time. Brush Creek acquired the 600-

acre mountain in 2019, expanding the already robust program of winter activities to include downhill skiing and snowboarding, plus 20 miles of cross-country skiing and snowmobiling trails, endless snowshoeing, and a separate tubing hill. There's both groomed and backcountry terrain to explore, from mile-long beginner's runs to black diamond drops, plus 25 acres of powdery glades. It's surrounded by national forest land in an area so remote, the only way to get here is via a four-mile side-by-side ride. Once you arrive, your gear awaits, your boots nice and warmed. And if you didn't pack your gear, that's no matter—top-of-the-line rentals are part of the draw. Because here, the service is as epic as the powder.

The ski mountain is one of the bigger moves Brush Creek's made recently to enhance its year-round appeal. During summer, when the ranch is at capacity and in full swing, families, couples, and groups of friends buzz around doing busy summer things: fly-fishing, horseback riding, shooting at the range, hiking, climbing, hunting, and, maybe, in more contemplative moments, forest bathing. It's the luxe dude ranch of choice for everyone from Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos to Josh Kushner and Karlie Kloss, who celebrated their nuptials at Brush Creek. While the ranch consistent-

BE WILD. WYOMING



HOME ON THE RANGE

Left page: Green Mountain's pristine corduroy; Above: Kinta's 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom cabin and farm-to-fine-dining plates from the Cheyenne Club

ly tops national “Best of” lists, it hasn’t forgotten its roots as an authentic working ranch with two herds of cattle, including 200 heads of American Wagyu. Saddle up and help wrangle them on a cattle drive, then head to The Farm at Brush Creek. Home to a luxury restaurant, greenhouse, distillery, creamery, bakery, spirit vault, and massive wine cellar, the farm is a culinary complex that lassos flavors from every corner, rounding up the spirit of the entire property.

Whiskey mash from the Brush Creek Distillery is repurposed into the “spent grain bread” served at the Cheyenne Club restaurant, which grills cuts of wagyu over barrel staves used to age bourbon and rye. Char from the emptied barrels is fused into the chevre made at the creamery using milk from the dairy goat herd. Those goats snack on leftover plant waste from the greenhouses that harvest 500 pounds of produce per week to supply the resort’s restaurants. It’s truly full-circle.

To see it all in action, educational experiences and all-inclusive retreats take you behind the scenes to learn about the inner workings of a sustainable cattle ranch where farm-to-table isn’t just a trendy term—it’s the honest truth.

The robust lineup delves into culinary topics from distilling to butchery, hydroponic gardening, farmstead cheesemaking,

scratch baking, and more. The Wagyu & Whiskey epicurean retreat imparts the art of raising, butchering, and preparing the magnificently marbled meat then dives into how to distill, blend, ferment, barrel, thief, and bottle whiskey—with plenty of pairings and tastings along the way.

The epicurean retreats are new additions to the activity lineup, introduced as part of larger efforts to enhance the resort’s year-round appeal. Brush Creek Ranch’s winters are much quieter than the warmer months. When I visited the property, I was one of only two dozen or so guests at the Lodge & Spa, the main and longest-running resort on the property, which is also home to the adults-only Magee Homestead (which skews ultra-luxury), and the French Creek Sportsmen’s Club. But despite the sparse population, the Lodge & Spa didn’t feel empty. It felt exclusive. Cozy, even, made all the more so by its rugged-posh decor—stone

fireplaces, knotty wood furniture, dark leather couches, cowhide chairs, fur throws, antler chandeliers—all creating a seamless blend of rustic ambiance and luxe comfort, which is further elevated by attentive staff. There are fewer people working on the property during winter than when things are in full summer swing, but it’s still a ton of people. As the saying goes, it takes a village ... and this village is well-run, tight-knit, thoughtfully integrated, authentic, and almost fully self-sustaining.

Not to mention the service is impeccable. Which is all the more impressive when you consider that gratuities are included in the price of the stay. Here, people adhere to a cowboy code. “This is a place where a handshake means more,” says Brush Creek’s COO Mike Williams over drinks one evening. We’re in the Spirit Vault beneath the Cheyenne Club, accessible via a secret entrance near the 30,000-bottle wine cellar that’s just six yards shy of a football field in length. The walls are lined with exceptionally rare small-batch whiskeys and bourbons, the highlight of which is a 1950 Macallan Exceptional Single Cask, offered at \$5,700 for a double pour.

But what a fitting way to toast to an exceptional resort. Brush Creek Ranch is a place where the West comes alive as more than mere landscape—it’s a heartfelt lifestyle waiting to welcome you.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF BRUSH CREEK RANCH



WILD & STYLED

When you want a little more luxe in your luxury vacation, hop on a flight into the only airport within a national park in the U.S. and explore the best that Jackson has to offer.



Jackson is having a moment, and it's not just because of its legendary slopes at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, where the snow is deep, the slopes are steep, and the backcountry terrain is epic. The town of Jackson, Wyoming, is an increasingly chic place with a decidedly chill veneer—the sort that comes from being ruggedly itself.

The real buzz in Jackson is its evolution—a transformation that's put it on the map for more than just its snow. It might not have the glitz or the glam of Aspen or Vail, but it's got increasingly luxe offerings enhancing its Wild Western appeal. Think hip boutiques, great restaurants, lavish hotels drawing even more star power to town, and an après-ski scene to start the party, while heritage cowboy hotspots keep it going long after dark.

So, if you haven't been to Jackson lately, or ever, now's the time. It's the mountain town for those who appreciate the finer things in life, served without the side of pretense. Come for the slopes, stay for the vibe, and discover why Jackson is fast becoming the go-to spot for those in the know.



Stay

Caldera House

Six years and \$100 million in the making, this unapologetically opulent ski-in boutique hotel located right in Teton Village spared no expense in becoming the buzziest destination for the well-heeled. Think Lindsey Adelman chandeliers, original Ansel Adams photographs, and a fur throw on every seatback on the hotel's terrace. Even the excursions are extra: join Shaun White on the mountain, or have a sports photographer document your backcountry heli-ski adventure. calderahouse.com

The Cloudveil

Arriving on the scene in 2021, this boutique hotel right on Town Square instantly became Jackson's novel classic. A soaring three-story granite wall, a fireplace you could camp by, and a 3,000-pound Montana boulder

BE WILD. WYOMING



JACKSON'S FINEST

Clockwise from top left: Terrace firepit at Caldera House in Teton Village; downtown Jackson's Million Dollar Cowboy Bar; Coelette's "snow-line" cuisine

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY VISIT JACKSON; COELETTE

masquerading as a front desk set the scene in the lobby, where savvy travelers gather for cocktail hour on the regular. This Marriott Autograph Collection standout charms with its intimate vibe (private fireplaces, anyone?) and panoramic rooftop views that'll make you swear you're eagle-eyed. Need more? The Pathfinders—read: outdoor concierges—dispense in-the-know intel about the valley's hidden secrets. thecloudveil.com

Four Seasons Jackson Hole

Slope-size access to Jackson Hole Mountain Resort has made this Teton Village property a preferred playground for two decades. Guests at the newly renovated property can go on a day-long excursion tracking the elusive gray wolf in Yellowstone National Park, reached by private flight. A pop-up omakase residency from NYC's Taikun

Sushi unfolds at Ascent Lounge this winter through a partnership with restaurateur Ryan Chadwick, whose concepts like Nakazawa and Escobar in Aspen we love.

fourseasons.com/jacksonhole

Drink

The Million Dollar Cowboy Bar

This is where nights in Jackson become legendary. Under its neon-lit bronco, saddle up on bar stools for live tunes and local lore. A haunt for everyone from Harrison Ford to Kevin Costner, this spot is an authentic slice of the Wild West. milliondollarcowboybar.com

Stagecoach Bar

Sunday nights transform into "church" at the Stagecoach Bar in nearby Wilson, where locals and visitors alike in their cowboy best swirl to tunes by a legendary house band that's been

jamming religiously for a half-century. Ask anyone and they'll tell you: this is an essential Jackson experience, complete with the valley's best burger. Don't miss it. stagecoachbar.net

Dine

Corbet's Cabin

Start your day sky-high. A 12-minute tram ride takes you to gourmet waffles at 10,450 feet, paired with breathtaking Teton views. @corbetscabin

Persephone Bakery

Cozy up in this shingle-style cottage for French pastries, Instagram-worthy quinoa bowls, and bison sausage amidst chic rustic decor. persephonebakery.com

Coelette

Elevate your palate with "snow-line" cuisine. Ingredients sourced from 6,000 feet and above meet culinary traditions from Japan to Peru, creating a high-altitude dining experience. coelette.com

Kampai

Jackson's sushi pinnacle. Enjoy contemporary Japanese cuisine in an intimate setting—a favorite of discerning diners like Ryan Gosling. kampaij.com

Bin 22

More than a wine bar, it's a European-style escape. Savor Italian wines and Mediterranean tapas in a setting that transforms from bottle shop to gastronomic haven. bin22jacksonhole.com

Shop

Kemo Sabe

Your first stop for cowboy couture: Kemo Sabe, the fifth outpost from the Aspen-based brand for luxe western wear. Go here for top-of-the-line vintage and custom cowboy clothing and accessories that have helped the likes of Jeff Bezos, Beyoncé, and Rihanna find their swagger. Almost everything you see in the museum-like store is for sale, from the taxidermied moose head on the wall to the knife with a handle made out of a 4.6 billion-year-old meteorite. kemosabe.com

Encounter Hat Co.

Tip your hat to Denver style with a Jackson twist at Encounter Hat Co., where hat-making is an art and whiskey is on the house. Owner Kyle Theret's shop in Jackson is a haven for bespoke headwear, offering personalized hats that are as much a statement piece as they are a nod to local fashion. encounterhatco.com

Grit General

Just a stone's throw from Town Square is a distinct call back to the frontier days of haberdashery. Here amid oversized leather chairs and couches, you'll find Harrison Ford's go-to spot for heirloom brands like RRL and Freenote Cloth alongside made-to-order Cone Mills jeans and bison leather-wrapped copper flasks. gritgeneral.com

Lela Rose Ranch

For a taste of designer Lela Rose's "every day is an occasion" ethos, her Lela Rose Ranch flagship in nearby Wilson marries high fashion with Western charm. The shop's hand-hewn cabin is replete with a collection of the Rose's handmade pieces with embellished beadwork, elevated chambray and poplin, vintage kimonos upcycled into fringe skirts, and a curated collection of heirloom-caliber vintage silver and turquoise pieces—buckles, bolos, and belts. lelarose.com

Mountain Dandy

The locally owned design store Mountain Dandy on West Pearl Ave. leans heavily into the masculine aesthetic, with vintage and artisanal home goods like hand-blown rocks glasses, sheepskin rugs, and antler wine corkscrews from small-batch makers. madejacksonhole.com

EXPERT TIP

Flying into Jackson? Book a window seat on the right side of the plane for the best views of the stunning Grand Tetons on arrival and departure.





A WORLD AWAY

The rich culture of Taos, New Mexico, invites you venture a bit deeper and discover a rich mosaic of local creatives, entrepreneurs, and artists that create a vibrant blend of high and low, old and new. By Stephanie Wilson



Taos, New Mexico, a gem nestled in the mountains, packs a punch well beyond its modest size. This town, a fusion of ancient heritage and contemporary culture, invites more than a fleeting glance. This enchanting locale, with its high-altitude clarity and cobalt horizon that stretches into eternity, has long been a haven for artists.

In the late 19th century, the town, already steeped in Native American and Spanish heritage, turned into a magnet for artists when two East Coast painters, Ernest Blumenschein and Bert Phillips, stumbled upon it in 1898. Mesmerized by the ethereal light and kaleidoscopic skies set against the lofty Sangre de Cristo Mountains, they found their muse in this remote town. They were soon joined by others—Mabel Dodge Luhan, an influential socialite and patron of the arts, and her circle of avant-garde friends, including D.H. Lawrence and Georgia O’Keeffe—forming the Taos Society of Artists in 1915.

These artistic trailblazers laid the foundation of what would become the Taos art colony—a haven for creatives seeking inspiration away from the conventional art scenes of Europe and the East Coast. Influenced by Native American and Hispanic cultures, artists here began experimenting with bold colors, indigenous themes, and raw, emotive landscapes. Fast forward



to the present, Taos remains a creative nexus. More than just an artist colony, Taos is a cultural touchstone. The town is a testament to the enduring power of art to forge community, identity, and sense of place. A five-hour drive from Denver, Taos makes a perfect weekend getaway when you’re in need of a creative spark. Find it at El Monte Sagrado. Meaning “Sacred Mountain,” the resort is a stone’s throw from Taos’ historic plaza and a serene world unto itself. The retreat is dotted with waterfalls, ponds, and lush cottonwood and willow trees, centered around

DUCK DISH, JAKE HOLSCHUH; TAOS PUEBLO, ISTOCK.COM



WHERE THE DESERT PLAYS THERAPIST

Denver Life Magazine picks the best Arizona wellness retreats to reset, reboot, and recharge mind, body, and soul for 2024.

By Stephanie Wilson



In the grand tapestry of travel destinations, Arizona stands out like a mirage of wellness—and not just the kind that involves cucumber water and fluffy robes. This is where the desert, in its infinite wisdom, whispers secrets of well-being to those savvy enough to listen. It's not just a state; it's a state of mind.

Think of Arizona as your unconventional therapist, with the sun as your lightbox and the red rocks as your couch. In places like Sedona, the red-hued terrain doesn't just dazzle; it practical-

ly conducts therapy sessions. The energy vortexes here are the real deal—and they don't charge by the hour.

Let's talk resorts, because, let's face it, that's why you're reading this. Arizona's spa scene is as varied as its landscapes. You've got the Hotel Valley Ho, oozing with mid-century glam, making you feel like a Hollywood star on a digital detox. Then there's Miraval, where the equine therapy is as groundbreaking as its sounds. And don't even get us started on Canyon Ranch—the genesis for the concept of a destination wellness resort.

CASTLE HOT SPRINGS, MORRISTOWN

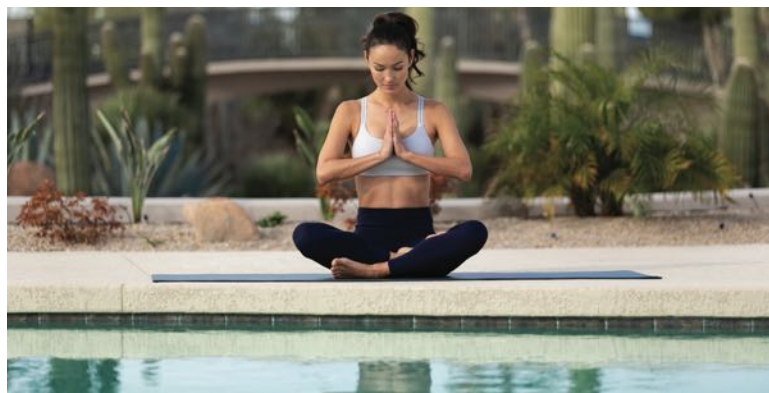
Set down a dirt road about an hour outside of Phoenix and Scottsdale but a world away in Morristown, Castle Hot Springs is a place where the term “middle of nowhere”

is a badge of honor, not a drawback. Established in 1896, Castle Hot Springs is a true oasis in the Sonoran Desert. The spring water that flows from the surrounding Bradshaw Mountains provides neon-green lawns, thriving citrus trees, and a garden that

helps feed hotel guests. The water is filtered and piped in for showers and drinking water, and it can be enjoyed in the three, tiered soaking pools set in the canyon above the resort (the hottest of which is 104 degrees Fahrenheit). Towering palm trees line the

driveway to the main yellow house, and streams of spring water run between guest rooms, bungalows, cabins, and hillside cottages offering amenities like private spring-fed tubs, indoor-outdoor fireplaces, and telescopes for stargazing. castlehotsprings.com

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY CASTLE HOT SPRINGS



CANYON RANCH, TUCSON

To describe this as a mere all-inclusive spa and wellness resort would be selling the experience short. This isn't a spa and wellness resort—it's *the* spa and wellness resort. First introduced in 1970 and perfected over four decades, The vibe is less “retreat” and more “reawakening.” This grande dame of the spa world is a magnet for those seeking the best—the best treatments, the best experts, the best experiences, and some 300 of them at that, overseen by a comprehensive team of expert guides—not only spa therapists and yoga instructors but also fitness trainers, physicians, behavioral therapists, nutritionists, and

TRAVEL WELL

Opposite: The tiered soaking pools at Castle Hot Springs. Above, clockwise from left: A firepit at Canyon Ranch; hiking in the Sonoran Desert; yoga by Civana Wellness Resort's pool.

more. From high desert hikes to an 80,000-square-foot spa, every moment here is a step towards rejuvenation. The High Ropes Adventure Course is not just an activity; it's a metaphor for the Canyon Ranch experience—pushing boundaries, reaching new heights, and finding joy in the journey. canyonranch.com

CIVANA WELLNESS RESORT & SPA, CAREFREE

A hop and a skip from Scottsdale, in the heart of Carefree, Civana stands as a testament to the idea that

wellness can be whimsical, luxurious, and downright fun. This new, no-kids-allowed resort focuses its wellness programs on four pillars: movement, spa, nourishment, and discovery.

Dive into the experience—sound healing sessions for the soulful, Sonoran rain dances for the adventurous, and marine superfoods wraps for the skin-conscious. You could start your day with an aerial yoga class, suspending disbelief (and yourself) in a hammock, or opt for a more grounded approach

with myofascial release. The sprawling 22,000-square-foot spa, a world unto itself, is designed to maximize the healing power of water. One wing is devoted entirely to hydrotherapy, complete with a range of sundecks, pools, and showers, including the Klafs Sanarium, a unique steam-sauna hybrid that is the only one of its kind in the continental U.S. In another wing, an array of treatments, from rejuvenating CBD facials to massages inspired by the property's medicine-wheel garden,

Civana's approach to wellness is refreshingly non-judgmental. Yes, there are classes galore, from Kriya breathwork to walking meditations, but if you'd

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY CANYON RANCH, CIVANA WELLNESS RESORT & SPA



rather lounge in your plush bathrobe sipping a hibiscus margarita, you'll find no side-eyes here. The only requirement: Come as you are, leave as you wish to be. civanacarefree.com

MIRAVAL ARIZONA RESORT & SPA, TUSCAN

A masterclass in the art of zen with a side of luxe. Perched with a view of the Santa Catalina Mountains, Miraval is less a resort and more a life-size vision board for mindful living. Your stay here comes with a nightly \$175 resort credit, and oh,

the ways to spend it! Fancy floating in a pool during a weightless Vasudhara bodywork session? Or maybe you're intrigued by the idea of unraveling the mysteries of your being with Discover Your Doshā sessions.

Whatever you're into, this isn't a place for run-of-the-mill spa treatments. Miraval offers an extensive menu of daily workshops, classes, lectures, and activities, many of which are complimentary. With over 120 options on the schedule each week, boredom is a concept left at the door. Whether you're scaling a rock

wall, exploring the art of beekeeping, trying therapeutic drumming, or finding time to be still, you'll find ample ways to get your life in balance. At the recently expanded Challenge Course, you're not just facing obstacles; you're unraveling life's metaphors, from zip lines to rope courses, each element an opportunity to grow, to challenge, to emerge stronger. Have you ever painted a horse? Here, you can. It's part equine therapy, part art class—and entirely Miraval. Life isn't about deprivation; it's about finding balance. miravalresorts.com

AMBIENTE, A LANDSCAPE HOTEL, SEDONA

Ambiente takes the landscape hotel concept—a European luxury so rare in the States—and plants it firmly in the American Southwest. The result: a fusion of old-world charm and new-world audacity that set a new standard for luxury travel when it opened just over a year ago.

So, what exactly is a landscape hotel? It's an innovative design trend where each accommodation is crafted to immerse its guests into the landscape as seamlessly as possible. At Ambiente, this

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY CIVANA



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY MIRAVAL, AMBIENTE SEDONA

concept is brought to life through its collection of 40 cube-shaped glass suites. Each “Atrium,” as they are affectionately known, is a marvel of modern architecture, with glass expanses wrapping around to offer unobstructed 360-degree views of Sedona’s iconic red rocks and verdant landscapes. Unlike some European counterparts with a single glass wall, Ambiente pushes boundaries, enveloping guests in a near-transparent cocoon while maintaining privacy where it counts. These Atriums redefine the concept of a room with a

view. At the touch of a button, blackout curtains retreat, and—boom!—Sedona on IMAX streaming through the windows right into your room. The design ingeniously blends indoor luxury with the raw beauty of the desert, ensuring that whether you’re lounging inside or basking on your private rooftop deck, you’re always in clear eyeshot of the stunning scenery. And you always have access to the in-room on-demand chilled wine dispensers so you can raise a glass and toast to your view of the rugged red sandstone hills illuminated at sunset.



Escape from Everywhere
A remote gateway to the blue-green waters of Havasupai, Supai is a small village a world away from the usual tourist traps.

The village of Supai, Arizona, is an enigma wrapped in the Grand Canyon’s depths—and it demands effort to reach. Your choice: an eight-mile hike, a horse or mule ride, or a helicopter descent over 3,000 feet to a tiny community on Havasupai Tribe land. Once there, you’re in one of Earth’s most stunning landscapes a world away from the usual tourist traps.

Access demands luck and timing—secure a coveted permit through an annual February lottery for Havasu Falls. Visitors must stay overnight, either camping or at Havasupai Lodge. From Supai, the journey unfolds as a scenic parade past Navajo, Rock, and Havasu Falls, with Mooney Falls just beyond. For the intrepid, the trail extends to Beaver Falls and the Colorado River confluence.

Cultural enrichment abounds at the Havasupai Museum of Culture, offering insights into the tribe’s rich history and traditions. The museum’s annual festivals, like the Havasupai Peach Festival in August and Grandmother Canyon in the fall, provide a deeper connection to the land and its people.

Dining here is cash-only, save for the Sinyella Store. Indulge in their famous Supai Tacos or a hearty breakfast burrito, perfect for the trail. And for a unique memento, send a postcard via “Mule Train Mail” from one of America’s most remote USPS locations. havasupaireservations.com

THE TRAVEL CURE

Clockwise from opposite: horseback riding through the Sonoran Desert; the meditation labyrinth at Miraval Arizona; view of Sedona landscape from an Ambiente Atrium.

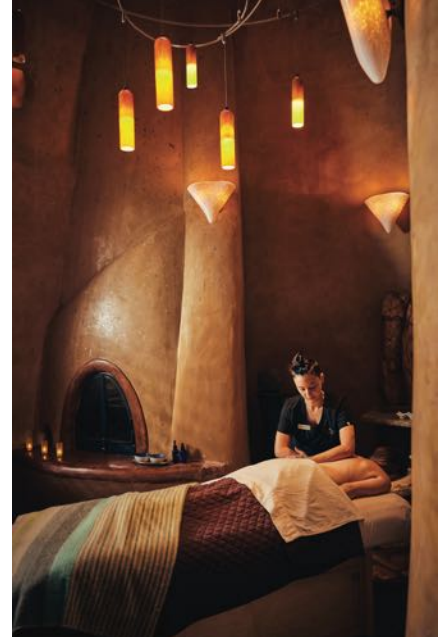
The Velvet Spa at Ambiente is an extension of this immersive experience. Here, your journey begins with selecting a scent blend, turning each treatment into a personalized olfactory and tactile adventure. Intertwining traditional spa elements with the earthy textures of the desert. Treatments include energetic experiences, natural flow reiki, and celestial chakra therapies—even ear seeding, which draws from the depths of Chinese medicine and uses tiny gems strategically placed on acupressure points, unlocking relief from a spectrum of ailments—be it physical pain, sleep disturbances, weight issues, migraines, or emotional and mental challenges. ambientesedona.com

BE WISE. NEW MEXICO



the meditative Sacred Circle and flanked by the adobe casitas nestled in the resort. The Sculpture Garden showcases impressive basalt rock waterfalls, offering a picturesque view of the pools, waterfalls, and the distant Sangre de Cristo mountains. The Biolariums, elegant greenhouses beside the pool, provide a verdant, year-round retreat for guests. The Living Spa enhances relaxation with sunlit showers, accompanied by a saltwater pool and hydrotherapy tubs.

The resort's circular lobby, with its domed ceiling and stone walls, draws inspiration from the Pueblo Indians' sacred Kivas. The ceiling's swirl design symbolizes life's journey, centered around a rare Brazilian Citrine crystal, with glass panes strategically placed to capture its brilliance throughout the day. The Anaconda Bar, with its infinite serpentine sculpture, and the award-winning De La Tierra restaurant, led by chef Cristina Martinez, features a chandelier paying homage to the Cathedral at Reims and tables of Absolute black granite from India. El Monte Sagrado's global theme is evident in the materials of its decor, from Japanese mica, and African ebony to Portuguese cork and Colorado slate. As for accommodations,



A SENSE OF PLACE

Clockwise from top left: The Toas Pueblo; the manicured grounds of El Monte Sagrado; a treatment at The Living Spa; globally sourced and inspired decor in El Monte Sagrado; and a duck dish from De La Tierra restaurant.

they range from the cozy Taos Mountain rooms to luxurious two-bedroom Global Hot Tub Suites, including The Marrakech Global Suite, with its opulent teak furnishings.

JAKE HOLSCHUH

BEYOND THE RESORT



While the tranquility of the resort might be tempting, Taos's streets are alive with culture. Begin your exploration along **Paseo del Pueblo**, where **Taxonomy**, an eclectic haven owned by LGBTQ+ and veteran entrepreneurs, offers an array of nature-inspired curiosities, from taxidermy to handcrafted jewelry.

Strolling through the area surrounding **Taos Plaza** and **Kit Carson Street**, you'll find the heart of Taos, best experienced on foot. **Lun+Ojo**, a gallery on Paseo, showcases a medley of prints, pottery, and jewelry from both rising and established artists, including textile creations by Laurel Taylor. This space doubles as a hub for artistic gatherings and musical evenings. Head into **Reneaux** consignment for unique finds, and explore ArrowSoul Trading Post, a Native-owned collective showcasing custom apparel and art. **OmniHum**, a woman-owned space, regularly hosts installations and workshops. Just around the corner on Kit Carson, **teo.o.graphy** awaits with its artisanal, small-batch teas. A few steps further, **Untitled Fine Art Gallery** presents a blend of traditional artistry and avant-garde techniques, where "quantum luminism" reigns supreme. Visit the **Harwood Museum** and **Sage Fine Art Gallery**, where Birgit Gutsche's photography as a highlight.

Book lovers will find a haven in **Op.cit Books**, with its extensive collection, including local authors and history. For a touch of local flair, **Mudd N Floor** on Bent Street offers a curated selection of tees and totes crafted by local artists.

The unwind with a glass of wine at **Barra Vino** or **Corner Office**.

Despite its modest population, Taos boasts a vibrant dinner and nightlife scene. Notable spots include the James Beard semi-finalist **Love Apple**, **Medley**, **Aceq**, and the **New American Byzantium Kitchen** and **Bazaar**. **Rolling Still**, with its craft cocktails made from locally distilled spirits, is a perfect spot for evening entertainment with live music and DJs.



If El Monte Sagrado isn't available during your visit, consider **Desert Flower Hotel**, a nascent farm-to-table inn that offers a cozy stay. For a quirkier experience, Luna Mystica beckons with its array of vintage trailers and campsites, adjacent to the famed **Taos Mesa Brewery** and **The Mothership** music venue. Just across the **Gorge Bridge**, the **Earthship Biotecture** community manifests as an eco-odyssey that complements the artistic spirit of Taos.

There, in this desert enclave of 79 unique homes, visionary architect Michael Reynolds' commitment to radically sustainable living emerges from the rugged terrain, offering a bold architectural statement on sustainable living that began in 1969. The Earthships, each distinct in design, are constructed from repurposed materials like tires and bottles, illustrating Reynolds' commitment to eco-conscious construction. The ingenuity of Earthship architecture doesn't end with its materials; it extends to its self-sufficient systems for water harvesting, sewage treatment, and food production. Select Earthships are available for nightly rentals, offering a chance to explore the intersection of art and environmental consciousness. But if you're in it for the luxury, El Monte Sagrado is your destination.



CREATIVE OASIS

Above: Exploring an Earthship. Top: Untitled artwork by Fine Art Gallery artist Norval Morrissau.

IMAGE: FINE ART GALLERY NORVAL MORRISSAU; EARTHSHIP, JAKE HOLSCHUH



ARTISTIC ODDESY



A brief 15-minute journey north of Taos, via US-64/Paseo Del Pueblo Norte, leads to the adobe studio of Dean Pulver, a master wood sculptor, and his wife Abby Salisbury, a talented ceramicist. In this self-built, solar-powered haven, they are developing Taos Mesa Arts, a future hub for exhibitions, workshops, and artistic residencies.

Salisbury says she was drawn to the Taos area when she visited while attending the University of Colorado Boulder and discovered its intimate community with support for the arts. She and Pulver moved to Snowmass Village in 1996 to work at the Anderson Arts Center. “This gave me a month or two of clay-working intensives, reinspiring my love for experimentation and development of ideas. When our summer work and studies ended, we made our way south, and with fond memories of my earlier southwest explorations, we settled in Taos,” she says. Since then, Salisbury has concentrated on her clay

business, Butterpie Productions. Her work is varied and multilayered, encompassing many techniques, materials, and processes. Along with Butterpie Production’s tableware line, she’s making prints and combining printmaking with her ceramics, just to keep things interesting.

Pulver says he is interested in making pieces that are resonant and reflective. He has an ability to manipulate wood with a master’s touch, and his work transcends the material: wood seeming to float in midair, a play of space and light, mass and void. His 2019–20 exhibition at Taos’s The Harwood Museum of Art

shared a variety of three-dimensional works in wood, from wall-hung sculptures to smaller-scale objects. Some pieces are Jurassic in spirit and scale—ribbed bones and ancient spinal cords, scientific models deconstructed. Others are cellular, finite models: an amplified image of DNA, jewelry writ large.

“I find that in using forms that are basic and elemental, there becomes an openness for the viewer to creating multi-referential relationships to the pieces,” Pulver says. His works seduce the senses through the opposition and balance of forms, textures, and content. Layered with reference to nature, culture, creativity, life, and living, they are, he says “meant to be monuments to our existence.”

butterpieproductions.com
deanpulver.com

THE HIGH ROAD TO TAOS

Take the High Road to (or from) Taos, and elevate your journey from (or to!) Santa Fe in more ways than one. This isn’t just any scenic byway; it’s a corridor to New Mexico’s soul. With the Sangre de Cristo Mountains standing sentinel to the east and the Jemez to the west, prepare for a visual feast of the badlands and a cornucopia of culture at every turn.

After Tesuque, make your first pitstop at the **Nambé Trading Post and Museum of Western Film and Costume**. Here, Emmy award-winner Jennifer Jesse Smith has turned her keen eye for style into a treasure trove for exquisite home decor, art, books, and a show-stopping array of rugs and blankets. Here, you’ll find a slice of Hollywood in New Mexico, with costumes and props from Smith’s illustrious career.

Next, immerse yourself in the mystical aura of the **Santuario de Chimayó**. Dubbed “the Lourdes of America,” this site has been revered as a healing sanctuary long before the Spaniards set foot here. Wander the hallowed grounds, absorb the aura of the chapels, and don’t shy away from the local vendors peddling the famed Chimayó chile. Dive into samples and when you find your fiery favorite, stock up. This is the epicenter for New Mexico’s piquant pride.

At **Eight Million Goods** in Truchas, owner Hayward Simoneaux curates a kaleidoscope of global folk art, collectibles, and kitsch. It’s a global bazaar tucked away in New Mexican highlands that you should definitely explore.

As you wind down the road, Peñasco awaits with the artistic haven of **MAH Creative**. Spearheaded by Mary Arose, alongside artists like Hannah Heaton and Nancy Davis, it’s a gallery where creativity knows no bounds.

Cap off your High Road adventure at **Sugar Nymphs Bistro**. Since 2001, it’s been more than a restaurant; it’s Peñasco’s living room. Here, the pulled pork sandwich and green chile cheeseburger are legendary, and the carrot cake is simply divine.



THE DESERT MIRAGE

A five-star resort set against a moonlike expanse of the Utah desert. Amangiri is an enclave of luxury in the most unexpected place. By Stephanie Wilson



Set in a place where the idea of a world-class hotel seems almost implausible, Amangiri defies expectations amid the raw beauty of the desert. This pinnacle of luxury by Aman, the global hotel company known for its minimalist temples of moneyed zen, rises from the desert amid the wild, arid expanse of Utah's Canyon Point to become one of the world's most wanderlust-inducing hotels, globally celebrated for its almost mystically remote appeal.

Since its inception in 2009, Amangiri has not just occupied space; it has commanded attention. Almost fully isolated from the rest of the world in Southern Utah's Canyon Point on 600 acres that Aman needed Congressional approval to secure, Amangiri's network of cubic concrete suites and pavilions are backed by a lofty 165-million-year-

old rock escarpment. The resort's architecture is a celebration of the desert, with suites and pavilions that seem to emerge organically from the sandstone. It took seven years to construct the buildings, which boast clean lines, stone floors, and natural timbers. In Amangiri's suites, complete with private courtyards, king-sized beds, and deep-soaking tubs, the

line between indoors and outdoors blurs.

Yet, despite its remote location, Amangiri pulsates with an energy that attracts the global elite.

Wellness is a center point of Amangiri, where the landscape itself inspires wonder and awe. The expansive high desert, the scale of the mesas and buttes, and the vast sky above widen one's periph-

eral vision, inspiring a sense of place and encouraging opening within. Attention to sensations and the present moment becomes a portal to enriched, deeper appreciation and awareness. Ranging from mindfulness walks, butte-top yoga, and wild outdoor wellness experiences to aquatic fitness and holistic therapies, Amangiri's spa activities aim to strengthen and support this natural connection.

Extending over 25,000 square feet, the spa looks out over the tranquility of Canyon Country. Here, every

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY AMAN



treatment starts with a smudging ceremony—a nod to the Navajo who have lived in this canyon for centuries. Amangiri’s expert therapists offer treatments that draw on the elements of earth, wind, fire and water; the

Utah Salt & Clay treatment uses ancient sea salt and bentonite desert clay rich in trace materials to exfoliate and cleanse.

The resort boasts two restaurants, including one at Camp Sarika, a new tented

UTAH’S HIGH DESERT

Clockwise from opposite left The sun sets at Amangiri; the suites at Amangiri reflect the qualities of the surrounding Utah desert; the menu takes inspiration from Native American cuisine, tempered with modern global influences.

retreat just a short walk or ride down the juniper-and-wild-sage-scented road away from the main resort. Although Camp Sarika has nothing in common with basic camping beyond its name, Amangiri’s camp makes glamping look downright primitive. Yes, the canvas-topped pavilions are technically tents, but they’re all-weather, built to withstand both ends of the extremes that desert weather

conditions can deliver, and they’re luxe as can be. Each pavilion offers both indoor and outdoor dining areas as well as terraces with fire pits and private plunge pools, and each suite has an outdoor lounge and fireplace, expansive desert views, and some feature a private pool or roof terrace. All the accommodations are designed with white stone floors, concrete walls, natural timbers, and fittings in blackened steel. This may be “camping” but this is the opposite of roughing it.

The essence of Amangiri, however, lies in the unique experiences it offers. Thousands of square miles of untouched scenery surround Amangiri, which lies at the gateway to major national parks in the Colorado Plateau like Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park. Long-standing relationships with local experts allow the resort to arrange tailor-made itineraries—a bespoke approach that guarantees a creative, adventurous, and fulfilling experience. Horseback riding, hot-air ballooning, helicopter tours, adventure boating, backcountry hiking, tours of the slot canyon: it’s up to you. Amangiri also offers an ever-expanding collection of cultural experiences delivering insight into the ecology, geology, and human history of the area, as well as the rich traditions of the Native American tribes. aman.com

THE ROAD TO AMANGIRI The path to Amangiri is as much a part of its charm as the destination itself. The quickest route involves flying to Page Municipal Airport, just 25 minutes from the resort, with a typical connection in Phoenix through Contour Airlines’ Public Charter. Alternatively, you can fly into St. George, Utah, or Flagstaff, Arizona, each approximately a 2.5-hour scenic drive from Amangiri. Fly into Phoenix

or Las Vegas, and your journey takes around 4.5 hours, passing through national parks and breathtaking landscapes. Or you could employ this expert travel hack: Aerial sightseeing tours departing from Vegas often stop at the Page airport to refuel. Book a spot and let the tour be your chauffeur—an economical and convenient approach. But for the utmost convenience, of course, a private jet is the way to go.

ALTERNATIVE STAYS

In an area where the landscape is otherworldly, you can expect your accommodations to break the mold as well. Historically, luxury accommodations have not been the norm around here but that's changing as more upscale glamping spots pop up to cater to the increasingly discerning crowds.

LaFave Zion: In the heart of Springdale, the gateway town into Zion, LaFave sits just 1 mile from the main entrance to the national park. 31 newly built villas with an average size of 1,252 square feet. All villas include European glass door walk-in showers, private bedrooms, washer/dryer, and an outdoor grill. Each unit features a private patio or deck with stunning views of the soaring red sandstone cliffs of Zion. lafavezion.com

Yonder Escalante: Located near Bryce Canyon National Park and within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, on the grounds of an old Drive-In movie theater, Yonder offers unique accommodations in the form of cabins and vintage Airstreams transformed into luxe living quarters inspired by the great American road trip. stayyonder.com

Under Canvas: With locations near Lake Powell's Grand Staircase, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion, this luxury glamping brand offers safari-style tents in secluded locations with exceptional views, a host of activities, and more. undercanvas.com

East Zion Resort: Located just 25 miles from the namesake national park, East Zion Resort has you covered in yurts, glamping tents, treehouses, or tiny houses. eastzionresort.com



AMANGIRI'S BACKYARD

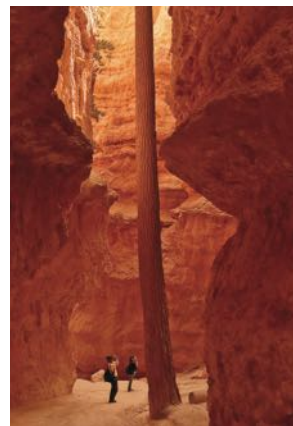
The Aman Resorts gem serves as a gateway to the natural wonders of the Colorado Plateau. Even if you're not staying at Amangiri, the region beckons with its untouched scenery and a myriad of activities. Here's a guide to exploring this majestic area.



Grand Canyon National Park, North Rim

Distance: Just under 2.5 hours from Amangiri

Activities: With two billion years of history hidden in its striking erosional forms and layers of geologic color, the Grand Canyon—one of the deepest gorges on Earth—never fails to overwhelm the senses.



Bryce Canyon National Park

Distance: 2.5 hours from Amangiri

Highlights: Known for its distinctive hoodoos, Bryce Canyon offers breathtaking vistas and hiking trails. The park's higher altitude provides a cooler climate, ideal for summer visits. Consider a scenic flight for a bird's-eye view of Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park in one unforgettable journey.



Lake Powell

Distance: 30 minutes from Amangiri

Activities: Lake Powell is perfect for boating and water sports, with its expansive shoreline and secluded bays. Winter offers a serene, unspoiled view of the lake. Private tours can be arranged to explore the lake's side canyons and the impressive Rainbow Bridge.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY GRAND CANYON, LAKE POWELL, ISTOCK.COM



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX AZABACHE. UNSPLASH

Zion National Park Distance: 1.5 hours from Amangiri

Highlights: Zion, with its deep canyons and sandstone walls, is the third most-visited in our national park system. Home to fabulous red rock vistas, thousand-foot-tall canyons, and the serpentine curve of the Virgin River, it's a park that should be on every adventure-seeker's list.