



PARK CITY, UTAH

AN UNPARALLELED WINTER GETAWAY

By Mackinn Freeman

The historic winter 2015-2016 ski season is upon us, and there's never been a better time to experience Park City. With limitless options for luxurious dining and activities abound, there's sure to be something to excite every kind of traveler—even if you've never set foot on the slopes.

Just a short 35-minute drive from Salt Lake City International Airport, Park City is a surprisingly easy mountain town to navigate. My first stop was to check out the recently opened Park City, the largest single ski and snowboard resort in the United States, combining the former Park City Mountain Resort with Canyons. The vast, new Park City did not disappoint, as it boasts an insane 300+ trails spanning over 7,300 unblemished acres. Thrill seekers will also want to experience the new high speed one-way gondola, Quickclimb, which can zip guests from the base of the Silverlode Lift at Park City over to the Flatiron Lift area at Canyons. Believe me when I say that it's easy to lose track of time out here exploring the majestic trails and slopes that are Park City, but that doesn't necessarily mean that you should spend all of your time marveling at the beauty outdoors, when there's plenty to be found indoors as well.

While there's no denying that the great outdoors is one of the most obvious allures of Park City, you might not realize all of the luxuries that this ski town has to offer. The world-renowned Stein Eriksen Lodge Deer Valley is just as cozy as it is elegant with

a blend of beautiful wood, big bay windows, high ceilings and plush fabrics – a true first-class experience all the way. A roaring stone fireplace in the luxurious lobby welcomes you in from the cold conditions outside before you make your way over to the stable deck that boasts unprecedented views. As impressive as The Stein Eriksen is, its grandeur is unsurprising. After all, it's been whispered that this is the lodge where many Hollywood A-listers set up-camp during the annual Sundance Film Festival, which draws celebs, journalists, and media to this gorgeous mountain town every January.

After a long day of hitting (or, rather, falling down) the slopes, I can't think of a better reason to treat myself to an hour or two of stress-free relaxation at the only Forbes five-star spa in Utah, The Spa at Stein Eriksen Lodge. The extensive massage menu offers deep tissue, stone, aromatic, and Swedish massages



to pamper your sore muscles and dry skin after tearing up the trails all day (the Swedish massage was an especially relaxing treat).

The culinary scene in Park City is also thriving right now with equally artful and mouth-watering dishes



from a range of wildly popular restaurants. The recently opened Tupele is the newest addition to the dining scene giving guests the opportunity to indulge in even more gastronomical delights this winter.

This fine dining restaurant is the creation of Matt Harris, critically acclaimed celebrity chef and, now, executive chef/owner of the trendy new spot. Located on historic Main Street, Tupele is conveniently nestled among over 100 charming boutiques and just steps away from the spirited nightlife that Park City has to offer. Be sure to try the buffalo ribeye for a delicious taste of authentic Western cuisine, but call ahead if you can – this place fills up fast.

Next, head on over to High West Distillery & Saloon, Utah's only legal distillery since the 1870's. Located just one block from historic Main Street (which was affectionately known as Whiskey Street in the mid 1800's), this saloon has a delightfully old-timely feel matched with all the modern day elegance I've come to expect of Park City.

High West is also the world's only ski-in gastro-distillery, which certainly makes for a one-of-a-kind experience exclusive to Park City alone. You can even

sign up for an hour-long distillery tour during weekdays to sample signature spirits and see how they are crafted today. While taking in the experience that is High West, whiskey connoisseurs should be sure not to miss Valley Tan, the brand's own first aged whiskey to be distilled in Park City. This medium bodied spirit is delightfully fruity, and the perfect way to warm up on a cold mountain night.

If you have another night and your appetite for adventure (and elegant dining) still isn't satisfied, be sure to book a sleigh dinner with The Viking Yurt, a fine dining mountain adventure unlike anything you've ever experienced.

The magical 20-minute sleigh ride 1,800 feet up the mountain is worth the price itself, let alone the exquisite six-course meal that awaits at the top. Sepulchrican exudes from inside the yurt, where live piano music and a Norwegian candlelight dinner is served—a perfect ending to an even better Park City winter getaway.

Whether you're looking to enjoy an action-packed ski vacation, indulge in world-class dining experiences, or pamper during a luxurious weekend retreat, Park City has everything and more to offer.

For more information on Park City getaway, please visit www.visitparkcity.com.

1. Much more than a ski resort town, the night is just getting started in Park City, Utah.
2. Treat yourself to dinner and a sleigh ride with The Viking Yurt.
3. The new, combined Park City recently opened by Vail Resorts offers 41 ski lifts on over 7,300 acres.
4. The deck of The Stein Eriksen Lodge Deer Valley boasts breathtaking views from every angle.
5. Soak in the heated outdoor pool at the Stein Eriksen Lodge Deer Valley after a long day of exploring.
6. The opportunities for adventure are endless in Park City.
7. With over 100 boutiques and 50 fine dining options, there's always something happening on historic Main Street.