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PICS: ALAMY/DAN CAMPBELL PHOTOGRAPHY



America's ultimate PARK AND RIDE

The new super-sized gondola at Utah's Park City resort has created the largest ski area in the United States. **Jane Mulkerrens** hops on for a look

SINCE prospecting soldiers seeking their fortune first found rich veins of silver in the hills above Park City in the 1860s, there's been money in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah. The silver boom that followed made millionaires of

the likes of George Hearst, founder of the publishing empire. When mineral prices tumbled, however, mine after local mine shut.

In 1963, one of Park City's last surviving mining companies looked once again to the mountains to revive the town's flagging fortunes

— this time through winter sports. At Treasure Mountain, as it was then known, the first skiers rode specially constructed carts through the old mining tunnels to a hoist that hauled them 1,750

Unparalleled fun: **Pages 30-31** »



New Year's resolution: Sleep around more.



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on Earth'



GETTING THERE

Ski Safari (skisafari.com) offers a seven-night stay at the Park City Peaks Hotel from £1,175 per person, B&B including flights from the UK with United, resort transfers/car hire, lift passes and ski hire from concierge-style equipment delivery service **Black Tie Ski Rental** (blacktieskis.com). For further information, see parkcity.com and visitutah.com



All a-board: Park City's famous slopes are a mecca for snowboarding fanatics



Colourful: The city's main street



Warm up: The pool at Peaks Hotel

ranks among the most expensive in the whole county.

Two days later, we awake to thickly falling snow and excitedly head to Canyons Village to explore the piste from the opposite direction. In the fresh snow, it looks and feels like a different mountain – festive and magical. Yet

I discover, a little too late, some blue runs remain closed.

I head to a trail called Tranquility only to find it cordoned off with orange tape, leaving me no option but to fling myself down a steep black, aptly named The Drop.

However, thanks to the fresh powder and sprawling piste network, even on

this, the first snowy Sunday of the season, there is plenty of tranquillity to be found.

As I enjoy my final, practically solitary run to Park City Mountain Resort, I speculate on the one fly in the ointment: five more days of heavy snow are forecast, while I have to catch a flight home.

VEUVE CLICQUOT YURT, DEER VALLEY



OVER the past decade, Deer Valley, the ski-only resort (sorry, snowboarders) close to Park City, has built a reputation for swankiness. And this season one of its three super-luxe hotels, the Montage, is taking things up a notch with its own champagne yurt. The Veuve Clicquot Après Lounge offers a stylish spin on the après-ski scene.

Decorated in Veuve's signature orange, there are deck chairs and blankets outside

with armchairs and a roaring fire inside – a cross between an Alpine lodge and a flashy beach club.

It's certainly not a budget option with glasses of fizz at £22. But there is no snobbery here. My dad's vintage onesie (which first saw snow around the time of the Falklands) gets a raft of compliments from the high-end hipsters, while he declares himself delighted with his new branded, bright orange 'Veuve Cliché' sunglasses.

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PARIS



THERE'S so much more to Paris than the Champs-Élysées and a certain very tall tower, lovely though both those things are. Discover Le Marais, a vibrant gay neighbourhood with, oddly enough, a rich Jewish heritage. Kosher restaurant L'As Du Falafel is regarded by many Parisians as serving up the best falafel in the city and has the lunchtime queues to prove it. The good news is that Rue des Rosiers,

where it's located, has an abundance of cafés, shops and bars producing Middle East-standard falafel, so you're spoilt for choice. Later on, enjoy an unpretentious night out on Rue Oberkampf, where institutions like Café Charbon and newcomers including L'Entrée des Artistes attract laid-back locals, or check out the listings at L'Alimentation Générale, which regularly plays host to the city's hottest DJs and bands.

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BARCELONA



WHEN you've soaked up some rays on the beach and had your fill of surrealist architecture, take a few days to explore Barcelona's food scene. Nestled between the Picasso museums and modern art exhibitions in Cuitat Vella is La Boqueria, an awe-inspiring food market where you can buy pretty much anything. Just make sure you're not too full for dinner, because the city is bursting with tiny little

tapas bars serving up delicious delicacies. Book ahead for a table at critically acclaimed Tickets on Av. del Paral·lel, or for a truly local experience, head to Quimet & Quimet, a standing-only restaurant where you can't see the walls for wine bottles. Wherever you choose to eat, burn off the excesses with a short walk to Jamboree, arguably Barcelona's best jazz club, which sits snugly in the city's historic Gothic Quarter.

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