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(continued)



# SNOW DAYS

With freshly groomed powder, cozy accommodations and a plethora of delicious après-ski options, Park City, Utah, is a charming winter escape.

By Sarah Ryan

**O**n my recent visit to Park City, Utah ([visitparkcity.com](http://visitparkcity.com)), as I was gearing up for a morning on the slopes in sunny yet crisp 15-degree weather, the locals cheerfully commented that as a Chicagoan, the weather must make me feel right at home. And while I didn't balk at the temperature, that assumption sells the sheer beauty of Park City a bit short—winter in this mountain town provides all of the season's charm with none of the dreary detractions, making it an ideal spot for a last-minute getaway (situated about 40 miles from the Salt Lake City airport, which has daily direct flights in from Chicago on Delta, Park City is a breeze to get to).

As a ski destination, Park City has plenty to offer with both Deer Valley Resort and Park City Mountain Resort. Each resort has a distinct personality—Deer Valley is for skiing only—and top-notch runs, as well as expert private instruction that will make even novice skiers feel ready to tackle a challenge (my two instructors had nearly 50 years of ski experience between them and the patience to match).

Off the slopes, the town is an expert in relaxation. The Alpine Body Rescue massage at the Spa Montage ([montagehotels.com](http://montagehotels.com)) eliminates any post-ski tension (as does the breathtaking view from the indoor pool), while the signature massage at the Waldorf Astoria Spa ([waldorfastoriaparkcity.com](http://waldorfastoriaparkcity.com)) is all about blissful relaxation. Be sure to plan for leisurely dinners—Mariposa, with its inventive small plates and international flavors, and The Farm, with elegant, locally sourced dishes, are two standouts—and pop in for après-ski cocktails at High West Distillery and Saloon (the world's only ski-in distillery).

And of course, with such eventful days, the most relaxing moment may be when your head hits the pillow on a plush king bed. The Goldener Hirsch Inn (peak season rooms from \$665, [goldenerhirschinn.com](http://goldenerhirschinn.com)), an intimate luxury boutique hotel inspired by the Hotel Goldener Hirsch in Salzburg, Austria, has Old World charm with modern amenities, plus a top-rated restaurant helmed by executive chef Ryan Burnham (with to-die-for fondue, among other delicious dishes). It's enough to make you feel at home.



Clockwise from top: The Goldener Hirsch Inn is a cozy ski-in/ski-out boutique lodge in Deer Valley Resort; the hot tub at Spa Montage at the Montage Deer Valley offers stunning views; the Park City Sour is one of many inventive cocktails at The Farm.