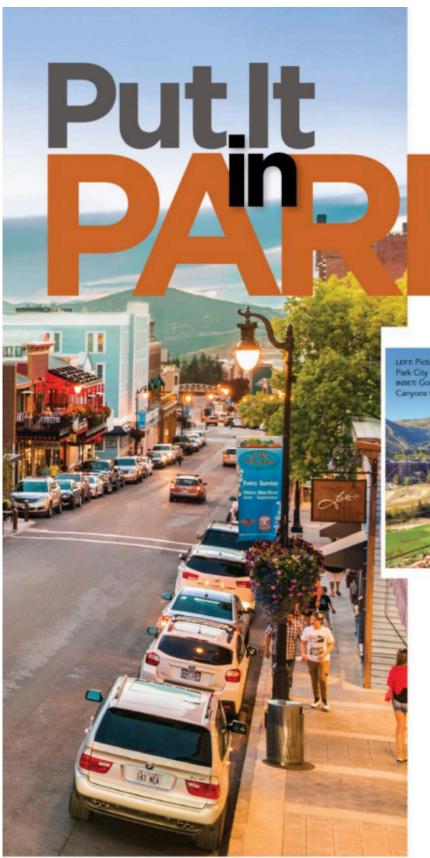






THE Z!MMERMAN AGENCY (continued)



Pass on the powder and winter crowds and soak up summer in America's historic mountain town: Park City, Utah.

By Angela Caraway-Carlton

Park City sans the winter crowds.
INSET: Golfers ride their carts at
Canyons Golf Course.

As our golf cart swiftly

winds down green slopes that are normally swathed in glistening snow and brimming with seasoned skiers and snowboarders, my preconceived notion of Park City, Utah, morphs from a one-hit-wonder ski spot into a surprisingly dreamy summer destination. It's July and everything is so green, apart from the rows of brightly colored wildflowers that tempt you to bend down and greet them; a stark contrast to the postcard-worthy photos we often see of the city awash in winter white.

It's well known that crowds rush the world-class slopes during prime powder season, and more than 45,000 celebs and film enthusiasts pack the streets every January for the see-and-be-seen Sundance Film Festival, but this alpine stunner is often mistakenly overlooked by vacationers in summer. While

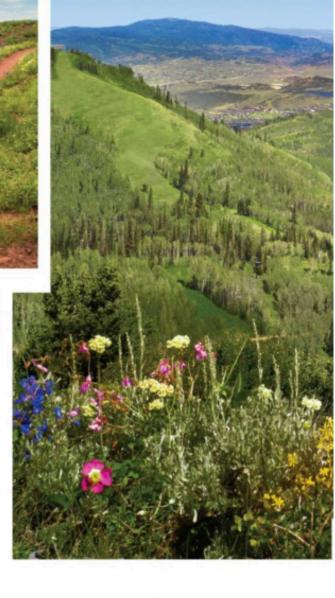


CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: One of the most popular activities in Park City is mountain biking, and the trails don't disappoint; a view of Montage Deer Valley; Stein Ericson Residences; indulge in the tranquil art of fly fishing.

much of the country, including South Florida, is suffocating in the oppressive heat, summer is the ideal time to breathe in the cool, crisp mountain air of Park City, where daytime temps hover in the 70s and nights dip into the 50s. Unlike most mountain retreats, it's a quick 35-minute drive from the Salt Lake City International Airport to Park City, and once you've arrived, you'll feel as if you have the city to yourself. You can leisurely walk down the silver-mining town's historic Main Street without being elbow-to-elbow with people bundled into ski jackets, easily find a spot for morning coffee and breakfast at one of the many cafes, like The Bridge Café & Grill, located at the bottom of Park City Mountain's Town Lift, and engage in endless high-altitude adventures from scenic gondola rides under clear blue skies to adrenaline-pumping mountain biking down steep trails to careening around an actual Olympic bobsled track.

One thing you will see everywhere during summer and beyond: dogs, and lots of them. Remarkably, almost every resident here owns a dog, which has led to Park City becoming affectionately known as "Bark City." The area boasts more than 30 dog-friendly lodging options, many with their own canine ambassadors to greet guests and special restaurant menus for

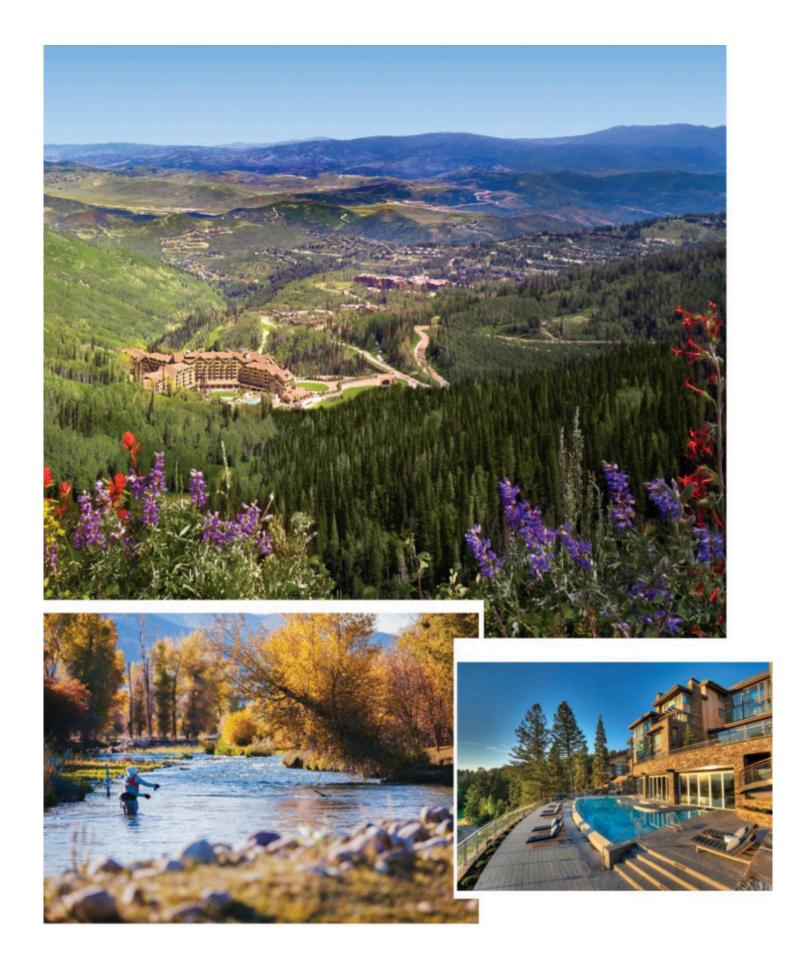
"Park City offers more than 100 lodging properties, with any type of stay that suits your style and budget."



dogs; numerous dog-friendly patios providing water bowls; three world-class dog parks, including one with a puppy pond; and miles of outdoor trails to explore together.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Everything in Park City revolves around the outdoors, and summer offers the opportunity to see what's hiding under all that snow. To reconnect with nature, hire experienced guides like those at All Seasons Adventures (allseasonsadventures. com), who will shuttle you to the pristine Provo River, which is loaded with trout and considered a top spot for fly-fishing. After you slide on waders and push your way into the chilly river, you'll receive a lesson on casting a fly rod to snag a trophy trout. While I was one of the few on my fishing trip who didn't catch anything due to what my guide jokingly called a "tennis-style" approach to casting, there's nothing like the refreshing feeling of the cold water rushing around you as you fall into a peaceful





picnic while taking in the Deer Valley Music Festival.

rhythm of casting and re-casting. If you're lucky, the competitive spirit of trying to land a fish will fade away and, instead, you'll soak up the solitude and become lost in the beauty of the surrounding snow-capped mountains and the pink and yellow wildflowers sprouting on the banks.

Golf enthusiasts can take their game to an entirely different altitude-try 550 feet in elevation-at Canyons Golf Course, an 18-hole, par-70 golfing experience situated within the greater Park City Mountain, which offers spectacular vistas of the Wasatch and Uinta Mountains and surrounding valleys. With a vertical design, this is a tricky course, but the views and the stunning drops are worth it. If you'd rather watch the golfers play, hop on a scenic gondola ride at the base area of nearby Canyons Village where you'll glide above towering pine trees and aspens.

Those same assisted lifts can also be used in one of the most popular summer activities, mountain biking and hiking. With more than 450 miles of gold-level public trails, you and your bike can catch a ride up the slopes on a chair lift and then descend the rigorous trails while keeping an eye out for wildlife like moose and deer.

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE WITH MUSIC

While others are spending vacation wandering museums and cathedrals, culture in Park City is about wide-open spaces and open-air concerts. The city is the summer home of the Utah Symphony/Utah Opera and during the annual Deer Valley Music Festival (deervalleymusicfestival.org) listeners can take in concerts under the stars featuring every musical style, from classic rock to country, and classical arrangements at the stunning Snow Park Amphitheater at Deer Valley Resort. This is

COOL FOR THE SUMMER

Park Silly Market

Every Sunday during the summer, locals descend on historic Main Street for an open-air market filled with scores of vendors selling everything from art to gourmet foods and fresh vegetables, along with bands and other family-friendly activities.

Savor the Summit

Visit in June for the largest dinner party in Utah, as you sit with other locals at a grand table in the middle of Main Street to sample a variety of the area's top restaurants.

Fourth of July

Find the perfect spot to watch the annual 4th of July Parade down Main Street, then close out the day with fireworks after sunset at Park City Mountain.

where you'll truly fall in love with summer in PC. As the sun sets and temperatures drop, you'll slip into a lightweight jacket to watch the surrounding, picturesque hills change colors with the light, while listening to the music float through the air (and the clicking of the funicular sliding up and down at the nearby St. Regis). You can bring along a picnic basket and a cooler stocked with wine or pick up a fancy Deer Valley gourmet basket neatly packed with salmon, cheese and chocolate when you arrive.

PARK IT HERE

Park City offers more than 100 lodging properties, with any type of stay that suits your style and budget from high-end mammoth family homes to condos, and many of them offer complimentary rides around town. You're far from roughing it at Montage Deer Valley (montagehotels.com/deervalley), where guests are greeted by the resident Canine Ambassadors, two Bernese Mountain dogs named Monty and Parker, and immediately sink into luxury. Don't miss the property's elaborate spa, the largest in Utah, fitted with an indoor mosaic lap pool, separate his-and-her relaxation rooms with crackling fires, and breathtaking views. The resort offers five dining options including a pub with its own bowling alley, and don't miss the s'mores and hot cocoa in the evening (yes, even in summer). Another new opulent option is Stein Eriksen Residences (steineriksenresidences.com), where you can rent an over-thetop home or condo that offer direct mountain access along with the best views in the area for spectacular sunsets. M