

TEN REASONS TO RIDE

PARK CITY, UT

FINDING GOLD IN THE WASACH

From man-made flow trails to natural raw singletrack, Deer Valley has it all.

Photo courtesy Deer Valley Resort



DEER VALLEY

Park City has a lot to offer mountain bikers, but Deer Valley's bike park (www.deervalley.com) is arguably its crown jewel for most riders. The bike park was established 30 years ago—that's older than Whistler's—and its bike school just one year after that, making it one of the older (if not the oldest) bike parks in North America. It is home to 70 miles of Park City's 400 and growing miles of trail. Four of those are flow trails designed and built by

Gravity Logic. There are routes ranging from mellow and beginner-friendly to steep, gnarly downhill trails, many of which were used for downhill racing. The best part about Deer Valley is that they keep adding great new trails without disturbing the classic older stuff that has made it a favorite. Plus, they regularly maintain even the older trails so nothing gets beat up.

PARK CITY MUSEUM

One of the best things to see in downtown Park City when you're too tired to ride is its museum where you can see the town's fascinating history. The scale of mining that built the town is simply mind-blowing. You'll also learn about the great fire in 1898 that wiped out much of the town. It's mostly a story of mining that built the town, but the transition to skiing and outdoor recreation formed its next chapter. It seems inevitable that one day mountain biking will be a part of the displays and Park City's story (www.parkcityhistory.org).



You do not need to be a history buff to enjoy Park City's museum. Its past is truly fascinating.



After a few hard days on the bike the chill of standing in a cool river or stream feels good on tired legs. It's pretty darn fun too.

LODGING

With a vast network of lodging to support its massive winter snowsports traffic, Park City has a wide variety of places to stay. Those who want the ultimate experience should check out the Stein Eriksen Lodge (www.steinlodge.com), located right next to the slopes of Deer Valley. You can literally roll out of the hotel and straight to the lift line. It's pricey but you might be surprised by the relative affordability of the summer rates. At the opposite end of the spectrum you'll find more affordable but still quite nice options through Park City Lodging (www.parkcitylodging.com), starting at \$85 a night.

YOU'LL NEVER BE BORED

In case you've ridden so much your arms feel like they might fall off, Park City has an abundance of activities to keep your mind entertained while your body recuperates. Highest on our list is taking a trip down to the Olympic bobsled course (www.utaholympiclegacy.org) that the athletes competed on in 2002. The only difference is, in the summer, it's on wheels instead of runners. If 60 miles per hour is too fast for you, check out the Alpine Coaster, where you get to control your speed as you race down the track. Or, try horseback riding, fly fishing (www.jans.com), or rent an SUP and paddle around the ponds at the base of Deer Valley.

DESTINATIONS



Ask any of the locals and they will likely tell you that fall is their favorite time of the year in Park City. The fall foliage is often as stunning as the high-traction moist dirt.

Photo by Eric Schramm

WASATCH CREST TRAIL

One of the most classic trails in the Park City area is the Wasatch Crest, which is high on the ridge south and west of town. It starts at Guardsman Pass and traverses the top of the Wasatch Crest. This isn't necessarily a trail you ride for its quality, but rather the stunning views make it unforgettable. And so does the section called "Puke Hill". However, your efforts will be rewarded, especially if you choose to ride this as a point-to-point descent down Mill Creek Canyon on Pipeline and Rattlesnake Gulch trails. These trails will take you all the way to the edge of Salt Lake City. (Note: The Wasatch Crest Trail allows mountain bikers on even days only, so plan ahead). This route requires a shuttle, so check in with Fox 'N Rox (www.foxnroxshuttle.com) or Big Rack (www.bigrackshuttle.com) to make this ride happen.

SLC

What, an airport? Yes, SLC's proximity to Park City makes it one of the easiest bike parks to get to in North America. In just over half an hour, you can get from the airport to some of the best trails we have ever ridden. And, since SLC is an international airport and Delta's hub, it's easy to get inexpensive and direct flights from all over the world. Once in Park City, it's possible to never need a car, too, thanks to a vast network of hotel shuttles and a regional transportation system. All you really need to bring is your bike, gear and an appetite for great trails.



Eric Porter's son Milo shows his dad the fast way through Slate Creek.

DESTINATIONS

Trailside Bike Park has a wide variety of trails suited for riding abilities from beginner to pro.



TRAILSIDE BIKE PARK

Trailside is a free-to-the-public bike park located on the edge of the Round Valley Trail network. It's a self-serve (pedal-to-the-top)-style park with trails for all abilities. There are wood features, lots of jumps and rock gardens—and everything is professionally built with tons of flow. There is also a pump track and dual-slalom course to hone your skills on. The trails are regularly maintained, too, so it's a surprisingly great experience all the time. This bike park, the surrounding trails and a new one in the Uintas (below right) are all part of Park City's plan to spread out, use and maintain the premium trail experience that Park City is known for in a sustainable way.

RIDE FUEL

There are more restaurant options in Park City than you can shake a fork at. The hardest part isn't finding a good place to eat, it's choosing where to eat. If you are looking for a high-end dining experience, you can't go wrong with Firewood (www.firewoodonmain.com) where everything they cook is touched by real wood fire. Another incredible experience lies at Butcher's Chop House and Bar (www.butcherschophouse.com) where we had the best steak ever; it also happened to be bison. For a more casual and affordable experience, Salt Box (www.saltboxpc.com) is hard to beat, and we always hit El Chubasco (www.elchubascoparkcity.com) at least once for quick and tasty Mexican food.

GREAT SHOPS

If you need a rental bike, break something on your visit or just want some trail advice, White Pine Touring (www.whitepinetouring.com) has you covered. They also offer riding lessons and guided tours. They carry brands such as Santa Cruz, Specialized and Rocky Mountain. Located in Kimball Junction, a short drive away is Storm Cycles (www.stormcycles.net) where you can get anything you need and bikes from Trek, Pivot and Yeti.

UINTAS

East of Park City is a pristine mountain range with trails that offer more of a

backcountry feel than those surrounding the town. The Uintas are the highest east-west-oriented mountain range in the lower 48 and home to the newly constructed Slate Creek Trail. This five-mile-long, purpose-built mountain bike trail is the first of its kind built here. It's a one-way clockwise trail to enhance the rider experience and make even crowded days feel isolated. More is being added every day, so this will soon become a must-ride destination of its own. There is also good camping nearby, making this a great area to camp, ride and make day trips into Park City. ☐



You'll probably see more cows than people on the Slate Creek Trail in the Uintas.