

# First Look

MARCH/APRIL WHAT'S NEW. WHAT'S NEXT.



ERIC SEYMOUR/COURTESY JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT

TRAVEL

## JACKSON GOAL

A celebration of the great (and socially distant) outdoors, Jackson Hole has something for every skier, hiker, biker, fisherman, and tourist.

BY DINA MISHEV



COURTESY CONTINUUM

Skiing at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (left); the pool at the resort's new Continuum hotel (above).

# W

ith world-class skiing and wildlife watching,

a no-fuss cosmopolitan cowboy vibe, and two nearby national parks (Grand Teton and Yellowstone), Jackson Hole is more than just some winter wonderland tucked away into the remote northwest corner of Wyoming. (The entire alpine valley is Jackson Hole; its main town is Jackson.) Here, "winter" lasts well into April, with many locals acknowledging that the best part of a Wyoming winter is after the calendar says it's spring. In March and April, the

days are longer, temperatures are up, animals (including bears) that have been hibernating reemerge, and restaurants aren't as busy as they are in the heart of winter.

This year, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort will offer skiing and snowboarding through April 11 (weather permitting), when it closes for the season. The resort usually reopens for the summer season just before Memorial Day, when mountain biking, hiking, and tram rides are available. Most hotels and restaurants at the base area, in Teton Village, also close for a few weeks at the end of the winter season. (Properties and restaurants in Jackson remain open, however.)

Wyoming's wide-open spaces are even more appealing if you're concerned about maintaining social distancing. Jackson Hole may be in the least populated state in the country,

but hotels and businesses there are taking COVID-19 seriously. As we went to press, there was a countywide mandate to wear masks indoors. Check [jacksonholechamber.com](http://jacksonholechamber.com) for updates before you go.

### Stay

The newest hotel at the base of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, **Continuum**, celebrates the hard-charging ski-bum lifestyle featured in the many movies made by local action-sports media powerhouse Teton Gravity Research (TGR). Named for the ski film that launched TGR in 1996, Continuum features 83 rooms, each adorned with photographs of athletes from the 40-plus movies TGR has now made. (King rooms from \$169; [continuumjh.com](http://continuumjh.com).) For the ultimate in ski-in/ski-out luxury, book one of the eight suites at **Caldera House**. Here, modern design meets



mountain chic—think Boffi kitchens and furniture from B&B Italia, John Pawson, and Vincent Van Duysen. (Two-bedroom suites from \$2,700; [calderahouse.com](http://calderahouse.com).) Don't want to be at the base of the slopes? Opt for **Hotel Jackson**, a stylish yet folksy, family-owned boutique hotel with 55 rooms and suites—all with their own gas fireplaces—just one block from the iconic elk-antler arches in downtown Jackson's Town Square. From here, **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort** is a 12-mile drive, but cafés, restaurants, shops, and art galleries are just a short walk from the front door. (King rooms from \$399; [hoteljackson.com](http://hoteljackson.com).) All three hotels offer contactless check-in.

## Eat

The rustic-French **Persephone Bakery Cafe** in downtown Jackson often has a line snaking well beyond the front door. And for good reason: Co-owners Ali and

Kevin Cohane (he's the café's Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef) were semifinalists in the Outstanding Pastry Chef category of the 2020 James Beard Foundation Awards ([persephonebakery.com](http://persephonebakery.com)). Order takeout via their app ("Persephone—Locals Line"), or sit outdoors by the fireplace or under the heat lamps. Just around the corner from Persephone (and conceived and run by the same couple), **Coelette** serves lunch, dinner, and brunch in a recently restored log cabin that, a century ago, was a blacksmithy. Today, it has a cozy-sexy vibe, imaginative cocktails, and a menu that highlights cuisine from alpine areas around the world ([coelette.com](http://coelette.com)), with outdoor dining but no takeout. Jackson Hole might have more sushi restaurants per capita than any other mountain town, and **Sudachi**—which offers takeout—is one of the oldest and most innovative. Because

you're in Wyoming, try a roll that combines raw fish with steak tartare ([sudachijh.com](http://sudachijh.com)).

## Shop

Founded, designed, and tested in Jackson Hole, **Stio's** classic clothing originates in the brand's flagship store in downtown Jackson; there's also an outpost in Teton Village ([stio.com](http://stio.com)). Jackson Hole is one of the country's most vibrant small arts communities; pop into **Diehl Gallery**, which represents a particularly well curated roster of contemporary and western fine artists including Miya Ando and Donald Martiny ([diehlgallery.com](http://diehlgallery.com)). You never know what you'll find when you walk into the **Mountain Dandy Showroom**, which has a wide variety of home and lifestyle accessories—including many one-of-a-kind vintage pieces—chosen by the founders on their regular buying trips across the country.

Clockwise from top left: A canoe trip on the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park; the Caldera House lobby; the Diehl Gallery at night; the National Museum of Wildlife Art; the local wildlife on a tour led by Jackson Hole Eco-Tour Adventures; the restaurant Coelette.

RIGHT: OFFSET; LEFT: COURTESY CALDERA HOUSE

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DAVID J. SWIFT/COURTESY DIEHL GALLERY; COURTESY NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART; COURTESY JACKSON HOLE ECOTOUR ADVENTURES; COURTESY COELETTE

They had a hand in the design of the aforementioned restaurant Coelette and a Persephone outpost in nearby Wilson ([mountaindandy.com](http://mountaindandy.com)).

## Do

If the timing is right, get in a few days of skiing or snowboarding on the slopes of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, consistently rated one of the best in North America ([jacksonhole.com](http://jacksonhole.com)). When you've had enough powder, head for the **National Museum of Wildlife Art**, which has a permanent collection of more than 5,000 works and interprets the term broadly—its collection includes pieces by Russell and Remington, as well as Picasso and Warhol ([wildlifeart.org](http://wildlifeart.org)). Take a half- or full-day private wildlife-watching tour with **Jackson Hole EcoTour Adventures** and you might see the valley's true locals: wolves, elk, bison, moose, bighorn sheep, and eagles. Special-interest tours

for snowshoeing, photography, and cross-country skiing are also available ([jhecotouradventures.com](http://jhecotouradventures.com)).

## Summer

Can't make it to Jackson before the ski lifts close? Once the snow melts, in late May or early June, there are even more things to do, including mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, SUPing (stand-up paddle boarding), kayaking, and horseback riding. Between May and October, outfitters offer all of these activities, as well as scenic and whitewater rafting trips on the **Snake River** and sightseeing cruises on **Jackson** and **Yellowstone lakes**. The arts and culture scene is at its most robust from July through September, with the **Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra** in residence for seven weeks, new art shows and exhibits opening almost daily, and numerous concerts and performances at the Center for the Arts ([visitjacksonhole.com](http://visitjacksonhole.com)).

