



Park City Mountain Resort, Utah

or leg-burning powder, head to the Ninety-Nine 90 Express lift to Red Pine Chutes. Ski far, far left on Red Pines Bowl to find the chutes. At the gully, watch for a double black and a single black—both lead to the Red Pine Lodge for a much-needed break.

Off McConkey's express, skip McConkey's Bowl and head for Molly's to ski the glades and watch the classically trained skiers do jump turns on the really steep parts. Off the Tombstone lift, look for the Deschutes gate and head to Grande for powdery glades skiing. Late in the day, find stashes of pow between the trees.

On powder days, take Thaynes Lift to Jupiter Access and ride the Jupiter lift (an old-school double chair) up to the Jupiter Bowl for pure double black runs. The best snow is found on Indicator: It drops in above the tree line as it turns into a steep and beautiful glades run. Super Condor Express is another lift serving expert-only terrain. It requires a hike to the ridge line to drop into Murdock Bowl for wide-open terrain with a few glades thrown in for fun. Pull some hard-g turns dropping into Lower Boa.

Shred the bumps under the Peak 5 lift and then (literally) drop into The Abyss. Backcountry safety gear gains access to even more vertical feet of off-piste powder and glade skiing.

Don't be fooled by all the blues surrounding the Dreamcatcher lift: On powder days, head to Specter and ski between the trees. Or, head to Thaynes Lift and hit The Hoist. Powder stays hidden there for days. *parkcitymountain.com*

A New Park City

This mining town turned ski haven strikes it hot with upgrades and openings worthy of its transformation.

by Larry Olmsted

When the adjacent Park City Mountain Resort and Canyons Resort merged under new ownership in 2015, a gondola was built connecting the two sides into the largest single ski and snowboard resort in the United States, with 7,300 acres, over 330 trails, 43 lifts, and 7 terrain parks. It was one of the biggest resort transformations in ski history, but the renamed Park City Mountain has not rested on its laurels, and neither has the surrounding region, with several notable new enhancements making this winter season better than ever.



The Talisker Club, Park City's toniest private golf community, purchased and renovated the historic Coal & Lumber building on Main Street and turned it into something the town was lacking: a fine dining French restaurant (open to the public). The chef at the new Courchevel Bistro (courchevelbistro.com) hails from the Rhone Valley and uses the freshest local and sustainable ingredients. Imagine Utah free-range chicken as coq au vin or Rocky Mountain trout bouillabaisse.







Counterclockwise from top: Powderbird Helicopter Adventures; Cloud Dine orange creamsicle donuts and the eatery's modern exterior; cocktails around the fire pit at Mid-Mountain Lodge; a Creek House suite at The Lodge at Blue Sky.

In June the Auberge Resorts Collection opened The Lodge at Blue Sky (aubergeresorts.com)—46 decadent rooms and villa-style suites set on a 3,500-acre ranch located 16 miles from the lifts at Park City Mountain (where The Lodge has a private club lounge and locker room). Guests can also heli-ski or cat-ski right from the hotel to over 200,000 acres of terrain in the Wasatch Mountains or take private, backcountryskiing courses with expert guides. Born in California wine country, Auberge Resorts is known for its superlative food, wine, and spa offerings. Other winter ranch activities on-site include horseback riding, flyfishing, dogsledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, shooting sporting clays, and practicing yoga and meditation.

Several on-mountain dining and drinking improvements at Park City Mountain will make the guest experience better this season. The very popular **Cloud Dine** eatery atop the resort was always hard to get into, with high demand for its picturesque setting and upscale, from-scratch cooking. Now a major renovation and expansion has greatly increased capacity. An all-new restaurant replaces and expands the popular Tombstone BBQ food truck. It still makes great barbecue, but the improved Tombstone adds indoor seating, a craft beer bar, and an all-new slow smoked meat pit to the existing picnic tables. Park City's iconic Mid-Mountain Lodge, set in a 19th-century miner's boarding house, has undergone an extensive and historically sensitive restoration, adding a new eatery and one of Utah's only on-mountain, full-service, ski-in/ski-out cocktail bars, The Public House.

On the slopes, Park City Mountain debuts the new Over and Out quad chairlift, significantly reducing the travel time needed to get from the center of the resort (the base of Tombstone Lift) back to the Canyons Village (a trip that became far busier after the new interconnect gondola opened). Since the whole point of the mega-resort is to offer all the skiable terrain to those staying in either Canyons Village or charming Park City proper, this is a big improvement toward improving skier flow and the ability to begin on the Main Street side of the resort. For the truly adventurous, the resort's **Peak to Peak Experience** with local guide Jeremy Greenberg (jeremygreenberg@gmail.com) traverses 16,000 vertical feet, which equals about 6 miles as the crow flies.