



7 THINGS YOU HAVEN'T DONE ON A COLORADO SKI VACATION

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Droves of visitors journey from near and far to frolic in Colorado's universally adored snow-blanketed utopia every year, making it a priority for ski areas and resorts and attractions to continually keep things fresh. That means there are new things to see and do here every time you visit. Have you tried these recent additions to our winter menu?

UPHILL SKIING LANES AT MONARCH MOUNTAIN

Uphill skiing — the process of skipping the lift and climbing to the top of each run before schussing back down — has gained a solid following in Colorado (sometimes we prefer to do things the hard way), and the state's ski areas and resorts are following suit by redefining their alpine-mountaineering policies and procedures. Monarch near **Salida** recently added designated uphill routes to their trail map, so skiers can earn their turns on the finest freshies with a valid lift ticket. And outside of operating hours, uphill travel is allowed on all trails within the ski area's boundaries (exceptions apply).

For more, go to [COLORADO.com/UphillSkiing](https://colorado.com/UphillSkiing).

MISTY BLISS ON THE HISTORIC HOT SPRINGS LOOP

Soaking in hot natural mineral waters amid clouds of steam as the snow falls and the mountains loom above is one of Colorado's most quintessential winter experiences, and the Historic Hot Springs Loop makes it easier to experience multiple alpine oases in one trip. The 720-mile drive connects the cities of **Steamboat Springs, Glenwood Springs, Ridgway, Ouray, Pagosa Springs, Salida, Buena Vista** and **Nathrop** — offering easy access to 19 different hot springs. Let the waterslides distract the wee ones for hours at Salida's **Hot Springs Aquatic Center** or take a dip in your birthday suit at Ridgway's **Orvis Hot Springs**.

Download the map and brochure at [COLORADO.com/HotSpringsLoop](https://colorado.com/HotSpringsLoop).

INDOOR SKIING AT SNÖBAHN INDOOR SKI + SNOWBOARD CENTER

While downhill at SNÖBAHN in **Centennial** might not feel like the real deal, one hour of continuous skiing or boarding on their revolving nylon-fiber slopes is equivalent to skiing about 20,000 vertical feet on the real slopes — enhancing your body's muscle memory and perfecting your posture. Without the lift lines, interruptions and embarrassing falls, the center's easy lessons allow you to develop the skills to make future visits to ski areas and resorts more fun. It's also a great way to get a fix during the summer months when you're pining for powder play.

COUNTER CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MONARCH SKI AREA; ORVIS HOT SPRINGS; SNÖBAHN INDOOR SKI + SNOWBOARD CENTER.

▼ **APRÈS-SKI SHINDIGS AT LYNN BRITT CABIN**

After you've covered as much ground on **Snowmass'** 3,332 skiable acres as possible, ski into Lynn Britt Cabin at the end of the Velvet Falls run to party with other frosty-faced rippers and shredders. The bash takes place every Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon during the ski season and feature a DJ, drink and food specials, a fire pit and outdoor lounge, where you can share tales of your solid day on the mountain. Feelin' fancy? Book a snowcat dinner at the cabin instead, a life-list-worthy endeavor where you'll be whisked up to the mountain-top in a snowcat for a four-course dinner with live music.



◀ **SPIRITS AT ON THE ROCKIES WHISKEY AT COPPER MOUNTAIN**

Copper's newest bar has an impressive selection of whiskeys, including several distilled-in-Colorado varieties. Pop into the Center Village locale between runs for a warming whiskey flight; or stop in for some barbecue from their sister restaurant, Eagle BBQ, where the Texas-style brisket will boost your calorie count and energize you for a few more trips down the mountain.



◀ **SUMMER FLASHBACKS AT GREAT WOLF LODGE**

While you won't be able to sunbathe, the 50,000-square-foot indoor water paradise at the new Great Wolf Lodge in **Colorado Springs** has everything you need to swim, splash and slide during the wintertime. Tykes and toddlers can wade in the Cub Paw Pool, while swimmers of all ages can zoom down multiple water slides, including a raceway with a four-story drop. Guests at the lodge receive exclusive unlimited access to the water park; we recommend booking one of the tricked-out themed suites.

▶ **PINT-SIZE AMUSEMENTS AT KEYSTONE'S KIDTOPIA MOUNTAINTOP SPECTACULAR**

Nightly firework displays, a torchlight parade led by **Keystone's** Ski & Ride School and a celebration with snowtubing and live music make this second-annual weekend affair (Dec. TBA, 2017) a no-brainer for families. Other fun includes opportunities to give back rubs to Keystone's adorable ski-patrol dogs, adventure walks and the lighting of the world's largest snow fort. Kidtopia also offers daily programming for kids — check their schedule for activities like snowball launches and winter movie matinees.

Discover more kid-approved ski resort activities at COLORADO.com/BeyondtheBunnyHill.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: ON THE ROCKIES WHISKEY; GREAT WOLF LODGE; KEYSTONE KIDTOPIA, VAIL RESORTS; LYNN BRITT CABIN.