

SPRING IN A *ski town*

Beaver Creek Lodge: Where there is no such thing as an off season.

BY LESLIE K. HUGHES

KOWN PRIMARILY FOR ITS IDEAL WINTERS.

Colorado's Beaver Creek Lodge is giving ski season a run for its money with the Lodge's summer options. From horseback riding, to zip lining, to guided hikes and much more, summer at Beaver Creek Lodge is a must. Lodge owner, Richard Kessler, has worked to create an experience for Lodge visitors that is truly unlike any other.

Immediately upon walking through the spinning doors of Beaver Creek Lodge, you know you have stepped out of the ordinary and into a resort experience unlike any other. A self-proclaimed "bohemian" boutique hotel, Beaver Creek Lodge is certainly not your typical mountain resort. With colors bursting from every corner, this vibrant lodge has created a vibe that transforms any preconceived ideas of a standard mountain lodge stay to an exciting adventure through the great outdoors of Beaver Creek, Colo. Be sure to bring your cowboy boots, ski boots, hiking boots and a pair of heels along with you—all of them are necessary here at Beaver Creek Lodge.

When current Beaver Creek Lodge owner and visionary Kessler purchased the lodge, he recognized that "it was an excellent location with a good exterior design but needed a major renovation to achieve a four-star quality level." And Kessler was just the man for this challenge. With an entire gallery of successful hotels that make up The Kessler Collection, Kessler had the ideas, the resources and the drive to make Beaver Creek Lodge into the perfect Colorado extension of his collection. As the only all-suite resort in the area, Beaver Creek Lodge is the ideal launching point for all of the area's adventures.

Possibly the most noticeable part of Beaver Creek Lodge is its gorgeous art collection. Scattered around the entire resort (including within the suites) are stunning pieces of art that put standard hotel art to shame. A point of pride in the Beaver Creek Lodge's art collection is the Grand Bohemian Art Gallery. Home to more than 150 local, regional and international works, the Grand Bohemian Gallery hosts exhibitions and receptions where guests have the opportunity to mingle with some of the resort's famed artists. Nearly every piece in the lodge is for sale, so if you find yourself attached to the art above your suite's bed, you can take it home with you.

Another aspect of Beaver Creek Lodge that Kessler

has taken special care to perfect is its service. Beaver Creek Lodge is known for its excellent management team that, as Kessler put it, "delivers intuitive service." After adventuring around all that Beaver Creek has to offer, you feel excited to return to the comforts of the Lodge.

The perfectly crafted ambience of Beaver Creek Lodge's interior is the ideal complement to the spectacular wonders of nature that lie right outside its doors. Nearly every adventure imaginable lies waiting in the mountain town of Beaver Creek. Though known primarily as a ski community, spring and summer in Beaver Creek certainly rival its winters for most enjoyable time of the year.

Trips up one of the many gondolas of Beaver Creek are even more stunning in the summertime when the lush, green mountains of Colorado are looking their best. Wildlife is also aplenty in the spring and summer, opening up the likely chance for a run in with a deer or two, and possibly even a bear.

After climbing the gondola to approximately 11,000 feet, your arrival atop the mountains of Beaver Creek opens the door to a seemingly endless number of exhilarating activities. You will struggle to fit all the possibilities into your time in Beaver Creek. One activity that cannot be missed is horseback riding in the mountains. Forget meditation—sitting on the back of a gorgeous horse trotting through the trails of Colorado's magnificent mountains is the new definition of Zen. The guides are incredibly knowledgeable and have wonderful information about the area to share.

A nice, calm ride through the mountains is the perfect prerequisite for a guided hike on one of the most gorgeous trails. From more technical trails up one of Colorado's "14ers" (14,000-ft. peaks), to a Hike and Wine Excursion where a short hike is followed by wine, cheese and meat pairings, there is a hiking adventure for everyone. Mountain biking is also a popular activity here, as well as kayaking, fishing, white-water rafting and more. With all of the activities at your feet, it is easy to see that Beaver Creek is certainly not just a winter ski destination.

According to Kessler, the greatest thing guests of Beaver Creek Lodge can take away from their time here is the "natural beauty of Beaver Creek and the inspiring experiences at Beaver Creek Lodge." It is impossible to not be inspired by this incredible place and the effort that The Kessler Collection has put into building the ultimate Beaver Creek experience. *




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