snowmass bucket list

WORDS BY katie shapiro ANDERSON RANCH IMAGE COURTESY OF tyler stableford; ICE AGE IMAGE COURTESY OF denver nature & science musuem











anderson

5263 OWL CREEK ROAD 970.923.3181

Unleash your inner artist and spend a day or a few at Anderson Ranch Arts Center. A learning community focused on visual arts, the historic Anderson Ranch is a preeminent destination for thousands of artists, students, art lovers and patrons year-round. From workshops and lectures to exhibits and residencies—all housed in their state-of-theart studios and galleriesthere truly is something inspiring for everyone. The Anderson Ranch on-site store, ArtWorks, showcases Ranch artists' works, selling their ceramic and wood pieces, photographs, prints and paintings and also carries art supplies, clothing and books. Go for this more sophisticated souvenir option rather than a "How's your Aspen?" t-shirt. Although, those are sort of awesome, too.

vicerov

130 WOOD ROAD 970.923.8000 viceroyhotelsandresorts.

The arrival of the Viceroy in 2009 upped the hip factor in Snowmass. Big time. It's the first on-mountain property of Viceroy's luxe property portfolio and is totally on-point when it comes to slope-side style. If your budget thinks five stars are a few too many, think again. Save on room rates when you book during the off season and still experience this modern mountain retreat to the fullest. The Viceroy Snowmass is LEED* certified and features oversized guest rooms, an all-season heated saline pool, terrace with cabanas and on Ute Indian-inspired wellness spa. Don't miss the hotel's signature restaurant, Eight K, whose own chef de cuisine Will Nolan is up for FOOD & WINE People's Best New Chef award this year.

above it all balloon company

970.963.6148

Dangling thousands of feet in the air from a basket may not sound like your ideal Saturday, but hot air ballooning is a mountain getaway must. Above It All Balloon Company is family-owned and operated and has taken visitors to new heights for over twenty-five years. Balloon flights depart at sunrise every morning (the safest time to fly) and float you over the mountain ranges between Snowmass and Aspen. Flights are about one hour and include a champagne brunch once you hit solid ground. The wake-up call is way early, but way worth it.

krabloonik

4250 DIVIDE ROAD 970.923.4342

krabloonik.com

The Iditarod it is not, but it's the closest you'll ever come to the infamous dog sled race. Just past Snowmass Mountain lies Krabloonik, the largest dog kennel in the United States (excluding Alaska, of course). Born and bred to run, over two hundred resident Alaskan sled dogs howl in anticipation as you're paired up with an expert musher (a.k.a. human sled driver). Rides are offered each morning, afternoon or at twilight, where teams of ten dogs take you on a wild two-hour trip through the wilderness. The handcrafted sleds can carry two adults, and each trip includes a gourmet lunch or dinner in a cozy, award-winning restaurant housed in a log-cabin. A day at Krabloonik is about as rustic as you're going to get.

ice age

SNOWMASS VILLAGE MALL 970.922.2277

snowmassiceage.com

So, apparently, Snowmass is home to one of the best high elevation Ice Age site anywhere in the world. Who knew? No one did until October 2010, when a bulldozer driver unearthed a tusk during expansion of the Ziegler Reservoir near Snowmass Village. Now, in partnership with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, close to five thousand bones have been pulled from the site and twenty-six different species have been identified. Swing by the Snowmass Ice Age Discovery Center to check out bones, skeletons, educational panels and videos ... it's not just for kids.