



Wyoming wonderland

Jackson Hole is not just about world-class skiing, with the delights of the town of Jackson and the natural beauty of Yellowstone National Park on the doorstep, writes [DAN AVILA](#).

It's a place of cowboys and characters with sensational skiing and an inspiring landscape brimming with wildlife. **Wyoming** is a special destination and, with a bit of planning, this seemingly quiet US state has all the ingredients for the perfect family snow sports holiday, with some wildlife encounters that can be as exciting as a perfect powder run.

The winter air is cold and crisp in the **Town of Jackson**, Wyoming. It is bone-dry with almost no humidity in the air. My family is eager to put a foot in

the snow and explore before the intense skiing and snowboarding starts. Driving through the picture-perfect town, we head north to the outskirts and take a wander up Blacktail Butte, a modest hill that is powdered in fresh snow. Standing in the gently falling snow and breathing in the crisp air, a couple of wolves let off a piercing howl. My son looks at me with a wide-eyed, nervous smile: "Wow, that is too cool." It doesn't take long to realise that there is more to **Jackson Hole Ski Resort** than just world-class skiing

and snowboarding; it is nestled in a pristine natural environment that will have the whole family in awe.

Joy in Jackson

Jackson Hole Resort is about a 20-minute drive from town and many families opt to stay in Teton Village lodging when focusing on skiing as the primary activity. Adjacent to the main village is a neighbourhood of alpine apartments perfectly set up to be the family base for the duration of the stay. We choose to stay here and when we're ready to hit the slopes, a courtesy bus collects us from the apartments and delivers us to the main village. There are also ski-in, ski-out hotels and lodges if you really want to squeeze every last minute out of your ski experience.

Jackson Hole's Teton Village is small enough to be friendly and easy to get around, yet big enough to provide the services that a family needs for a week or more on the slopes. Great restaurants (including **Teton Thai**, one of the best Thai restaurants in the state), as well as pubs and fine dining, and all necessary amenities means that there is no need to leave the village for days on end.

Planning a family snow holiday always comes with a concern about the weather: will there be snow? That is one of Jackson Hole's trump cards, with 10–12 metres of snow per year ensuring it has some of the best and most reliable snow in North America. There are slopes for all abilities, with guides available for the more adventurous and some of the world's best backcountry skiing. Let's not forget that scenery, with the town boasting the spectacular backdrop of those meringue-covered mountains.

Memories made at Targhee

To mix it up a little, **Grand Targhee** is a smaller resort that accesses the other side of the Teton Mountains. The drive is quite adventurous, with a steep mountain pass and often icy roads, so go slow or arrange a day tour from Jackson Hole. The route takes you across the border into Idaho, before slipping back into Wyoming where the resort is situated. Grand Targhee Resort is smaller than Jackson Hole with no crowds and a relaxed feel. The very young are trained by certified instructors with fab facilities, ensuring that even their very first experience on the white stuff is enjoyable.

Natural discovery

In close proximity to the glorious slopes and beautiful town are some of the most magnificent and enchanting landscapes on the planet. **Yellowstone National Park** in winter is like Narnia on steroids and only about a 90-minute drive from Jackson along the base of the Teton Range, with a view that will make a mountain-lover out of the anyone. This really is Wyoming at its best.

If ever there was a place to inspire kids to be nature-lovers, it's Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone is no passive national park experience and there is little risk of even the most technology-addicted kid getting



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01 Bison encounters in Yellowstone 02 The scenery around Jackson Hole is breathtaking 03 Jackson Hole is a great place for kids to start shredding 04 Doing some extra lessons with mum 05 The famous Jackson Hole tram. All images © Dan Avila



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– which will ensure the whole family's enduring love of glorious Wyoming. ●

Wyoming Resort Report



Ski jacksonhole.com
grandtarghee.com

Info jacksonholechamber.com

Getting there Jackson Hole Airport is serviced by United, Delta and American Airlines.

Stay Teton Village at Jackson Hole Resort jhrl.com
Old Faithful Snow Cabins at Yellowstone National Park
yellowstonenationalparklodges.com

Eat Teton Thai tetonthavillage.com
The Kitchen at Jackson Hole
thekitchenjacksonhole.com

Il Villaggio Osteria jhosteria.com
Silver Dollar Grill at the Historic Wort Hotel worthotel.com

Do scenic-safaris.com

bored. The park is a constant source of thermal activity with a landscape created by several volcanic eruptions over thousands of years. The whole place is steaming and bubbling and there are active geysers everywhere, with Old Faithful going off with an impressive blast every 90 minutes, give or take 10 minutes.

Visiting the park's interior in winter requires a guide and special oversnow vehicle, essentially a monster truck. The millions of tourists that visit Yellowstone each year are nowhere to be seen in winter, so you'll feel like you almost have the park to yourselves – along with the coyotes, bison, wolves and mountain lions