

Summer In Aspen/Snowmass



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Tour Summary

The twin mountain towns of Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado have been called the 'Playground of the Rocky Mountains' because the well-to-do like to come here for a myriad of cultural activities. Beyond the glitz and glamour of Aspen is a charming old silver rush town, nestled in a beautiful valley. Snowmass is only 15 miles away. The amount of hiking and biking trails, combined with several music festivals, off-the-beaten-track activities, and even hot-air ballooning make Aspen/Snowmass in the summer one of the most attractive travel destinations in the USA. Another name for this tour could be 'Adventures Unlimited!'

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Summer in Aspen/Snowmass





The summer season in Aspen/Snowmass is a time to take in the abundant Colorado sunshine, and to enjoy the fresh mountain air in the great outdoors. Some of the best summer activities include biking, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, jeep tours, and numerous other fun outdoor activities.



Aspen and Snowmass are located at the upper end of the Roaring Fork Valley, with the Roaring Fork River, a superb trout stream, running through town. It offers an interesting history, challenging outdoor recreation opportunities, many miles of bike trails, abundant cultural activities, pleasant climate and beautiful natural scenery.



The resort founders of Aspen and Snowmass were determined to develop the twin mountain towns not only as world-class ski resorts, but also as centers for numerous cultural events, festivals, outdoor activities, and as a showcase of intellectual debates and learning.



By the late 1940s, both the sport of skiing and Aspen's modern-day founders, Walter and Elizabeth Paepcke arrived to town. The Paepcke's had a vision for a community that embodied body, mind, and spirit, helping Aspen to begin a civic and cultural renaissance which is still evolving at places like the Aspen Institute.



For those who prefer a country state of mind, Snowmass hosts the Village Rodeo from late June until late August near the Roundabout, featuring a whole range of rodeo events as well as children's activities and food stalls.



Gondola rides at Snowmass and Aspen Mountain treat you to panoramic views of the Elk Mountains. Pack a picnic lunch, hike among wildflowers, or take a guided nature walk. Both gondolas are centrally located in the downtown area.



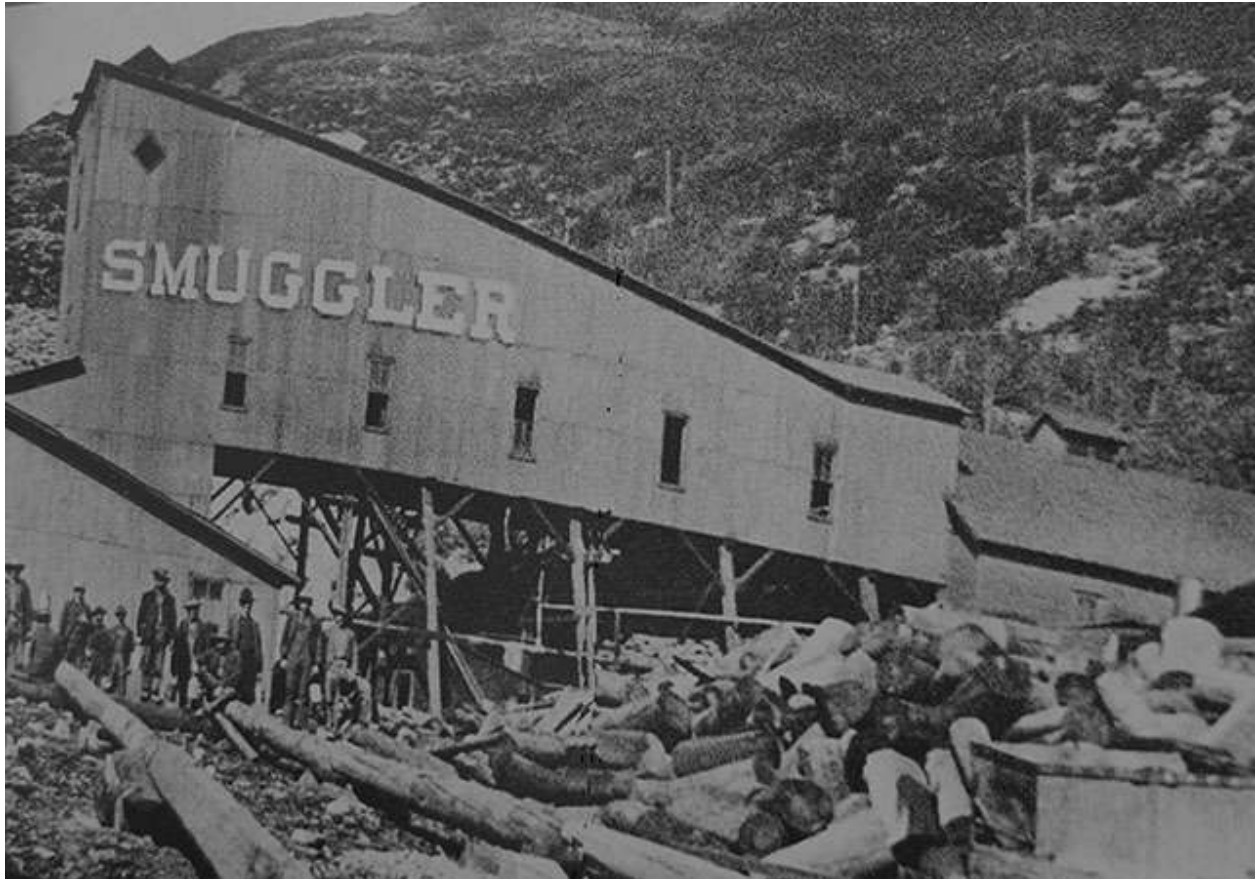
At the top of the Aspen gondola, a number of outdoor activities await the visitor, and we will explore them in this tour. If your timing is right you can enjoy free performances by top bluegrass musicians from around Colorado and the country. Concerts are often held on Sundays.



Founded in 1979, the Aspen Art Museum (AAM) is a non-collecting contemporary art museum located in Aspen, Colorado. The AAM is located at 637 East Hyman Avenue.



And for the kids, miniature golf fills the space where the ice skating rink is in the winter. The miniature golf course is located across the street from the Rubey Park bus station.



Aspen has a long and glorious history as a mining town. The Smuggler Mine is located on the slopes of Smuggler Mountain, on the north edge of Aspen. It is the oldest operating silver mine in the Aspen district, and one of the few still operating from Aspen's early boom years. In 1987 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Vestiges of Aspen's mining past can be found all across town. Although few people realize it, there is an extensive tunnel system extending under the city of Aspen, although most of the lower tunnels are presently flooded. There are summer tours available to the Smugglers and Compromise mines.



As we will see in the chapters on jeep tours and great hikes around Snowmass and Aspen, there are also mining remnants scattered all around the upper elevations in the mountain ranges surrounding these famous mountain towns. We hope you'll come along for the ride!

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