

Aspen And Snowmass In The Winter



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

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Tour Summary

Aspen was founded as a mining camp in the late 1880s during the Colorado silver boom. We'll explore some of the buildings and relics of this bygone era, including the ghost town of Ashcroft, only 12 miles away. We'll take a ski tour of all four mountains, visit some ski shrines, attend the best après-ski parties, and cross-country ski to a winter hut. Aspen was named for the abundance of aspen trees in the area, but today the name is synonymous with colorful characters, movie stars, and the extremely wealthy. Oh, and let's not forget the stunning mountain beauty.

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Aspen in the Winter





Originally named Ute City, this small community was renamed Aspen in 1880. It surpassed Leadville as the United States' most productive silver-mining district in its peak production years of 1891-92.



In this tour we will discover the area's old mining roots, which some say give Aspen the enduring charm we still see today. It would be hard to believe that the miners of old were living in the same town which now ranks among the wealthiest in America.



We'll take a downtown tour, and have a look at some of the most historic and unique buildings in Aspen. We'll also take a journey to the ghost town of Ashcroft, where we'll begin a cross-country trip up to a mountain hut.



When the Aspen Skiing Company was founded in 1946, Aspen quickly became a well-known ski resort town. This one-seat chairlift is no longer in operation but it is

preserved as a historic monument,
memorializing the first chairlift on Aspen
Mountain.



The greater Aspen area would continue to grow with the development of three additional ski areas. Buttermilk opened in 1958, Aspen Highlands also in 1958, and Snowmass in 1969. Here on Buttermilk there are great views of the other three ski mountains.



Snowmass is now its own town. We'll take a whole chapter to explore this exciting extension of Aspen. A true ski town, about 95% of all accommodations in Snowmass are considered "ski in, ski out."



For skiers and snowboarders, Aspen and Snowmass have something for everyone. With four mountains and more than 5,000 acres of terrain, there are plenty of options to challenge every skill level, including hiking to the top of Highlands Bowl for the extreme skier.



But there is also a quirky side to Aspen and Snowmass. Posted on many of the trees in the four ski mountain areas (especially on Aspen Mountain), you can find dozens of hidden “shrines” made by locals in homage to John Denver, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, and The Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia, among others.



You won't find them on any trail map, but hidden in the trees are tributes to many famous deceased luminaries. We'll take a whole chapter to discover the “shrines and mines” that are best seen on skis! Ask an

ambassador, ski patroller, or a local to point them out to you, such as this John Denver shrine.



And after a day of skiing, we'll take you to the best après-ski party in Aspen. Truly a local's secret, where dancing on the tables is encouraged!



Finally, we'll go deep into the wilderness on an overnight hut trip. This is Aspen, where most residents are either super-wealthy or in extremely good shape.



Aspen is a fun destination for the whole family to visit in the wintertime. So jump on the gondola with us for a comprehensive tour of the most storied mountain town in North America!

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