NORTHWEST RETREAT

There’s Luxury to be Found in Jackson Hole, Wyoming

By Marie Look

Wyoming’s state motto — “Equal Rights” — isn’t a reference to the vacation possibilities available in Jackson Hole, but the phrase certainly seems to fit. Just because visitors who possess a taste for the finer things in life venture into the 10th largest state — and one largely comprised of untouched wilderness at that — doesn’t mean they have to resolve to “roughing it” (unless, of course, that’s the idea). In fact, visitors’ time in Jackson Hole can be just as luxe or as casual as they want; think of it as a “choose your own adventure” kind of hideaway. Here, we share some of the top hotspots a jetsetter will want to check out during a stay in the charming area, including places beloved by tourists and locals alike — all equally varied and noteworthy.
Amangani

The first Aman resort in North America, Amangani has been impressing locals and visitors alike since 1998. Tucked away on the western edge of East Gros Ventre Butte, the property overlooks the town of Jackson from its picturesque perch some 7,000 feet above sea level. To get there, guests wind through serene valley meadows and ranch land during the 20-minute drive from the Jackson Hole Airport before finally catching a glimpse of the grand three-story resort. With interior and exterior elements of Oklahoma sandstone, Douglas fir, cedar and Pacific redwood, the resort’s aesthetic seamlessly blends modern sophistication with the look and feel of the surroundings for which Jackson Hole is so famous.

Among the 40 suites, guests will discover spacious quarters; fireplaces; window-side daybeds for lounging; double closets; and balconies featuring mountain and valley vistas, among other fine points. (Spring for an Amangani Home, one of the free-standing residences, for even more space and privacy.)

Guests can also enjoy world-class fare at the property’s restaurants, The Grill and The Bar, as well as lighter dining in the Lounge.

Amangani boasts such well-maintained amenities as an on-site library, health center (complete with steam room), 35-meter heated outdoor pool, Whirlpool and a gift gallery, as well as nearby tennis courts, golf courses and riding stables. Plus, walks around the idyllic grounds and hikes into the adjacent Grand Teton National Park are musts for those who enjoy Mother Nature’s handiwork. Revel in the opportunity to spot native wildflowers and wildlife such as bald eagles, bison, elk, mule deer and moose.

Also Stay:
Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole
7680 Granite Loop Road
Teton Village, WY
307.732.5000
Fourseasons.com

Rustic Inn
475 N. Cache
Jackson, WY
800.323.9279
Rusticinnatjh.com

Amangani
1535 N. E. Butte Road
Jackson, WY
307.734.7333
Amanresorts.com
Ask locals what the best restaurant in Jackson is and many will reply with "Snake River Grill." Located on Jackson’s famed Town Square, the upscale eatery ("SRG" to those in the know) features a rustic wood interior and walls bedecked with mesmerizing, three-dimensional works of art by California painter Mikal Alatza.

The restaurant serves thoughtful American cuisine, specializing in flavorful grilled dishes and those that make use of the restaurant’s wood-burning oven. Ensuring the menu takes the seasons and available resources into consideration, the kitchen of Executive Chef Jeff Drew — a nominee for “Best Chef: Northwest” at the 2010 James Beard Awards — has been known to whip up such addictive, mouthwatering favorites as salmon potato pancakes, bacon-wrapped wild boar, pink snapper (served with the head and the tail, natch) and wood-fired pizza with chorizo and figs. Don’t forget to try the classics, like the crispy onion rings and lightly breaded fried green tomatoes. Any meat lovers in the house? Take some time to decide among cuts of New Zealand elk, tender sirloin, pork shoulder and more. But one thing’s for sure: No visit to SRG is complete without ordering the famous eskimo bars (thank us later) for dessert — an especially indulgent way to reward oneself après-ski.

Snake River Grill is open nightly for dinner from 6 p.m., and the dress code is resort casual. Reservations are recommended and can be made up to 60 days in advance.

84 E. Broadway
Jackson, WY
307.733.0557
Snakerivergrill.com

Also Eat:
Rendezvous Bistro
380 S. Broadway
Jackson, WY
307.739.1100
Rendezvousbistro.net

Trio An American Bistro
45 S. Glenwood Drive
Jackson, WY
307.734.8038
Bistrotrio.com
Town Square

Walk through the large elk antler arches, which mark the four entrances to Jackson’s Town Square, to find the heart of the community and some of the best bookstores, coffee shops, art galleries, restaurants, lounges and boutiques the area has to offer.

Score clothing from brands like Free People and Hudson at trendy boutique Altitude (307.733.4719), or Western wear, fine footwear and accessories at Jackson Bootlegger (307.733.6207). Check out items like Trina Turk threads and Joe’s Jeans at Terra (307.734.0067), and pick up luxurious home wares at Belle Cose (Bellocose.com).

Oh, and don’t forget gifts for everyone at home: The handmade keepsakes at Made (Madejacksonhole.com) include jewelry, art, ceramics and more.

Of course, for an art lover, there’s no greater thrill than perusing the many treasures found in the galleries around the square, so build time into the schedule for meandering. Or visit Jacksonholegalleries.com for listings and do some pre-visit virtual exploration.

The Jackson Hole Resort Store can also be found on the east side of the Town Square, and stocks official logo gear and accessories, as well as other small gifts.

Also Shop:
National Museum of Wildlife Art (art-related gifts)
2820 Rungius Road
Jackson, WY
800.313.9553
Wildlifeart.org

Jackson Hole Sports | Hole in the Wall (snowboarding, skiing and sports gear)
Teton Village, WY
307.739.2687 | 307.739.2689
Jacksonhole.com
As if all the pristine landscapes and blue skies weren’t enough, further relaxation can be found at the 11,700-square-foot spa at the Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole, featuring 14 treatment rooms and two private spa suites — each with a Swiss shower, fireplace and deep soaking tub for the ultimate in convenience, privacy and quiet relief.

All treatments at the alpine spa have been designed with local environment and natural resources in mind and include massages, body treatments, facial treatments and salon services. One of the most popular treatments, the 80-minute Four Seasons in One, delights spa-goers with the refreshing cool of an invigorating scrub, the spring warmth of an herbal wrap, a summer medley of massage techniques, and a revitalizing autumn hair and scalp conditioning treatment.

Men and women enjoy separate tranquility lounges with fireplaces, plush robes, energy bars, calming tea and a variety of other amenities to round out the list of perfectly thoughtful conveniences.

7680 Granite Loop Road
Teton Village, WY
307.732.5000
Fourseasons.com

Also Relax:
Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery
170 N. Cache
Jackson, WY
307.733.9752
Mangelsen.com

Drive U.S. Route 191 north through Grand Teton National Park to Yellowstone National Park
Nps.gov/grte | Nps.gov/yell
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

The Jackson Hole area offers no end of adventures for pleasure-seekers.

Three world-class ski areas are available during the winter months, and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, located 11 miles from Jackson, in Teton Village, boasts one of the longest and steepest continuous vertical drops of any ski area in North America — daredevils can descend 4,139 vertical feet from a height of 10,450 feet above sea level — December through April.

Not for the fainthearted, the ski terrain here is considered to be some of the most challenging anywhere on the continent, although there are a few runs appropriate for novices as well. And the abundant number of lifts (there are more than a dozen), mean less time waiting for a ride up the peak and more time skiing or boarding down it. End a ski day with a sleigh ride on the National Elk Refuge to better appreciate the landscape.

In warmer months, the area, including Grand Teton National Park (Nps.gov/grte), offers visitors space for mountain biking, paragliding, fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife-watching, tours, rafting and almost any other outdoor sport a person can think of.

Visit Jacksonhole.com for more info and to secure necessary rentals.

Also Play:
Teton Pines Country Club
3450 N. Clubhouse Drive
Wilson, WY
800.238.2223
Tetonpines.com

Wildlife Expeditions with Teton Science Schools (into Grand Teton National Park or Yellowstone National Park)
Tetonscience.org

Marie Look is a professional writer, a Myers-Briggs INFP and the copy editor for Jetset magazine. She can be reached at Mariel@jetsetmag.com.