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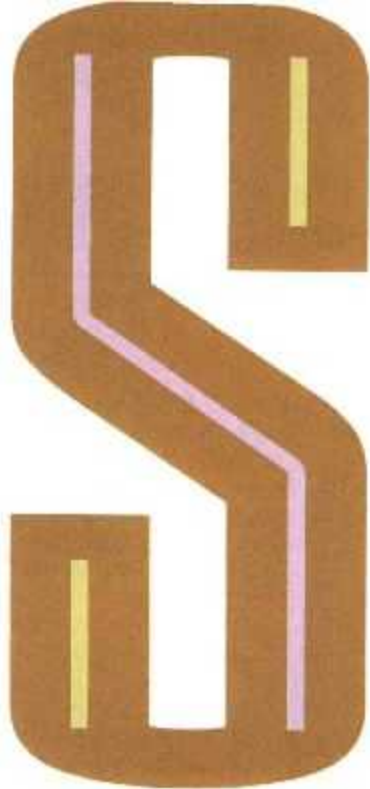
Traveler

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28 *Amazing* Weekend Trips

From Classic Road Cycling Routes to Luxurious Lodges,
Getting Away Has Never Been Easier





Seductive Summer Stays



Discover three new amazing ways to get outside and explore our state's spectacular warm-weather landscape while still enjoying all the trappings of ultraluxurious travel. Pull out your summer calendar; it's time to book a very Colorado vacation.

BY LINDSEY D. KOEHLER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEN JURGE

The Broadmoor's Ranch at Emerald Valley

Colorado Springs

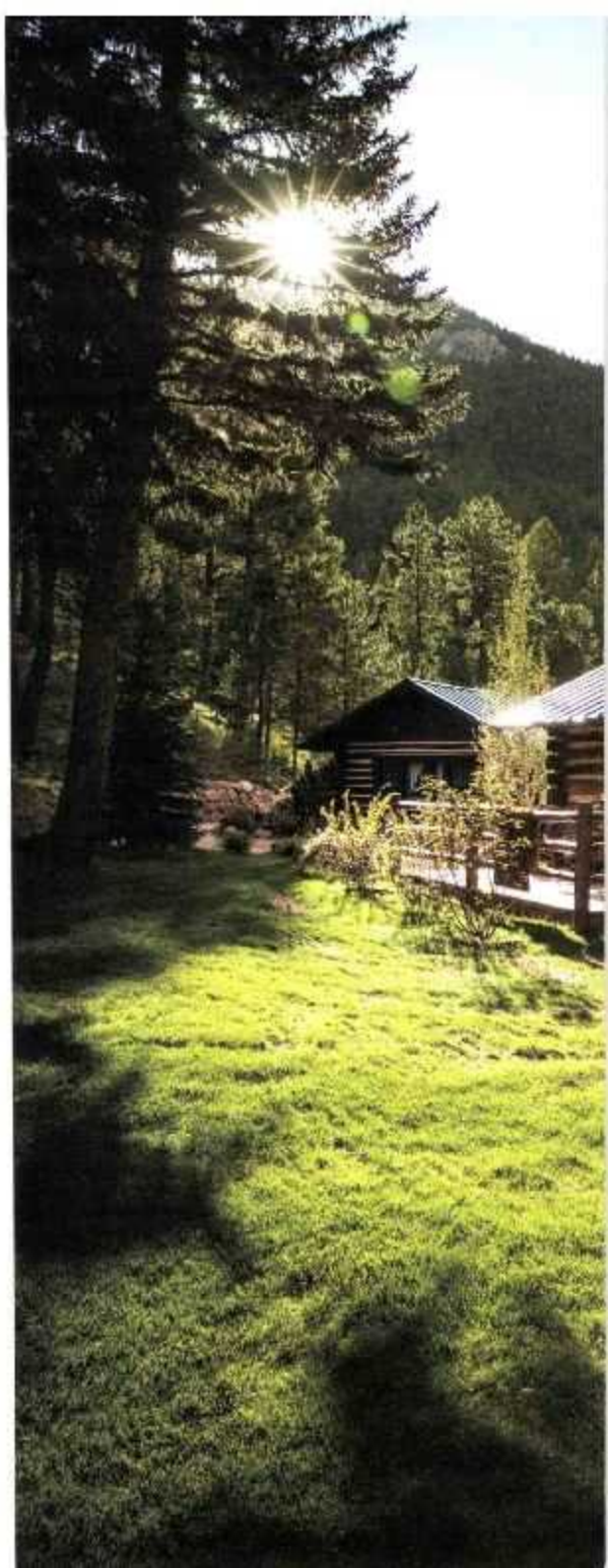
ANYONE WHO'S lived in Colorado for longer than five minutes understands the Broadmoor holds a hallowed place in the state's history. Built in 1918 by gold and copper magnate Spencer Penrose, the Grand Dame of the Rockies has long been known as an escape for the wealthy and a bastion of opulent decor, elegant service, and well-regarded amenities such as tennis courts, golf courses, restaurants, art galleries, and a spa. But until July 2013, the AAA five-diamond resort was not known as a place where you could throw on a pair of hiking boots and get (a little) dirty.

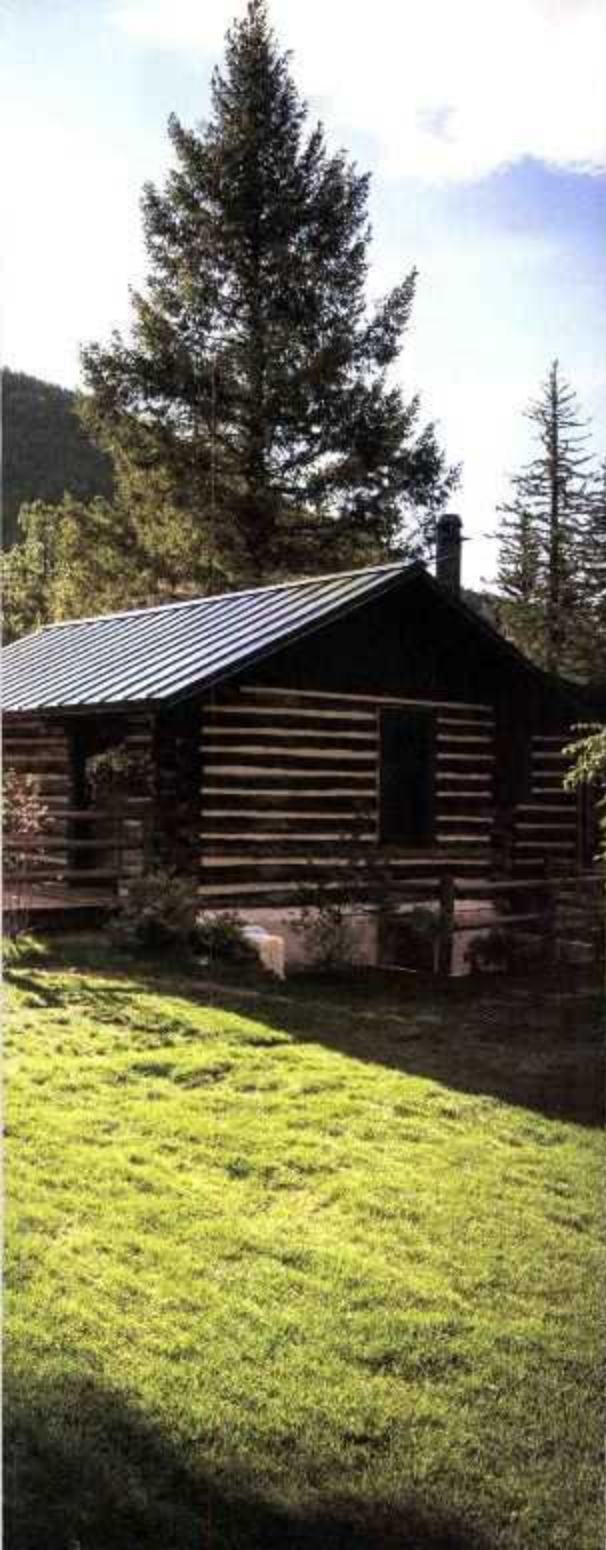
Enter the Ranch at Emerald Valley. Tucked nearly 10 miles up Cheyenne Mountain behind the Broadmoor, the 68-acre, century-old ranch property was once Penrose's personal getaway. The land has changed hands a few times since Penrose and his friends used the area's eight log structures, but just a handful of months after Denver financier Philip Anschutz purchased the Broadmoor in 2011, he bought the ranch as well. This time, however, the wooded valley cut by a babbling creek would not be the exclusive domain of the owner. Instead, beginning in late 2012, the Broadmoor set about restoring the original buildings to create 10 cabins and a main lodge. Construction also included a pair of hot tubs, two small lakes, two outdoor fire pits, and renovating a horse stable. The resulting mountain retreat opened for its first full summer of operations in July 2013.

While Anschutz—who has always been captivated by the beauty of the American West and owns a 45,000-acre personal ranch northeast of Denver—wanted to create an outdoor experience for the Broadmoor's clientele, the Ranch at Emerald Valley isn't what you might call rustic. The venue sleeps 32 people in remodeled cabins with gas-burning fireplaces, queen-size beds with high-thread-count linens, rainfall showerheads, spa-quality bath products, Wi-Fi, and decks with nap-inducing rocking chairs. The surrounding grounds are perfectly maintained (not a blade of grass out of place and you won't see a pile of manure anywhere); the small lakes are stocked with trout eager to bite a fisherman's fly (you'll *always* start to feel bad after hooking so many); and there's always ☞



The 68-acre property is home to 10 century-old cabins, two lakes, stables, and a main lodge, where delicious meals—and tasty afternoon snacks, like Palisade peach-filled doughnut holes—are whipped up every day.







⇒ The Ranch at Emerald Valley was once a private getaway for Broadmoor founder Spencer Penrose. Today, Philip Anschutz owns both properties and outfitted REV's saloon with this spectacular bar.



THE DETAILS

Quick Tip: Secure the 10-person Hill Cabin for a small family reunion or a friends' weekend away.

Minor Quibble: The historic building that houses the Piñon, Ponderosa, Cedar, and Aspen cabins is, not surprisingly, a little creaky with thin walls. Translation: You can hear your neighbors. If you're a light sleeper, opt for the Copper, Bear Den, Fir, Pine, or Lakeside cabins.

New Getaways: The Ranch at Emerald Valley now has some company in the Broadmoor's Wilderness Experience family. Cloud Camp, another retreat on Cheyenne Mountain, opened in 2014. The newest offering, Broadmoor Fishing Camp, opened this past May. broadmoor.com

Rates: All-inclusive rates at REV start at \$500 per person per night (based on double occupancy): Pike National Forest, Colorado Springs. 1-866-334-3693, broadmoor.com/ranch

seems to be an extremely attentive staff member ready to assist you (No, really; this glass of wine isn't that heavy!). All of which is to say that the Ranch at Emerald Valley feels a little safe, which isn't a bad thing—unless you were expecting a more earnest wilderness adventure. If you were, the Ranch will, of course, be happy to help you plan more audacious off-site escapades—jeep tours, white-water rafting, river-based fly-fishing—for an additional cost.

If, however, guided hikes on nearby moderate trails, easygoing horsetack rides, soaks in lakeside hot tubs, morning cups of cowboy coffee by the fire pit, afternoon Treats Like house-made doughnut holes, and sublime meals twice daily sound appealing, then the Ranch at Emerald Valley is the perfect kind of outdoor escape.



➔ Take the "rough" out of roughing it with a stay in one of Cresto Ranch's exquisite canvas tents, which are outfitted with cozy beds, en suite bathrooms, and gas stoves.



Dunton River Camp at Cresto Ranch

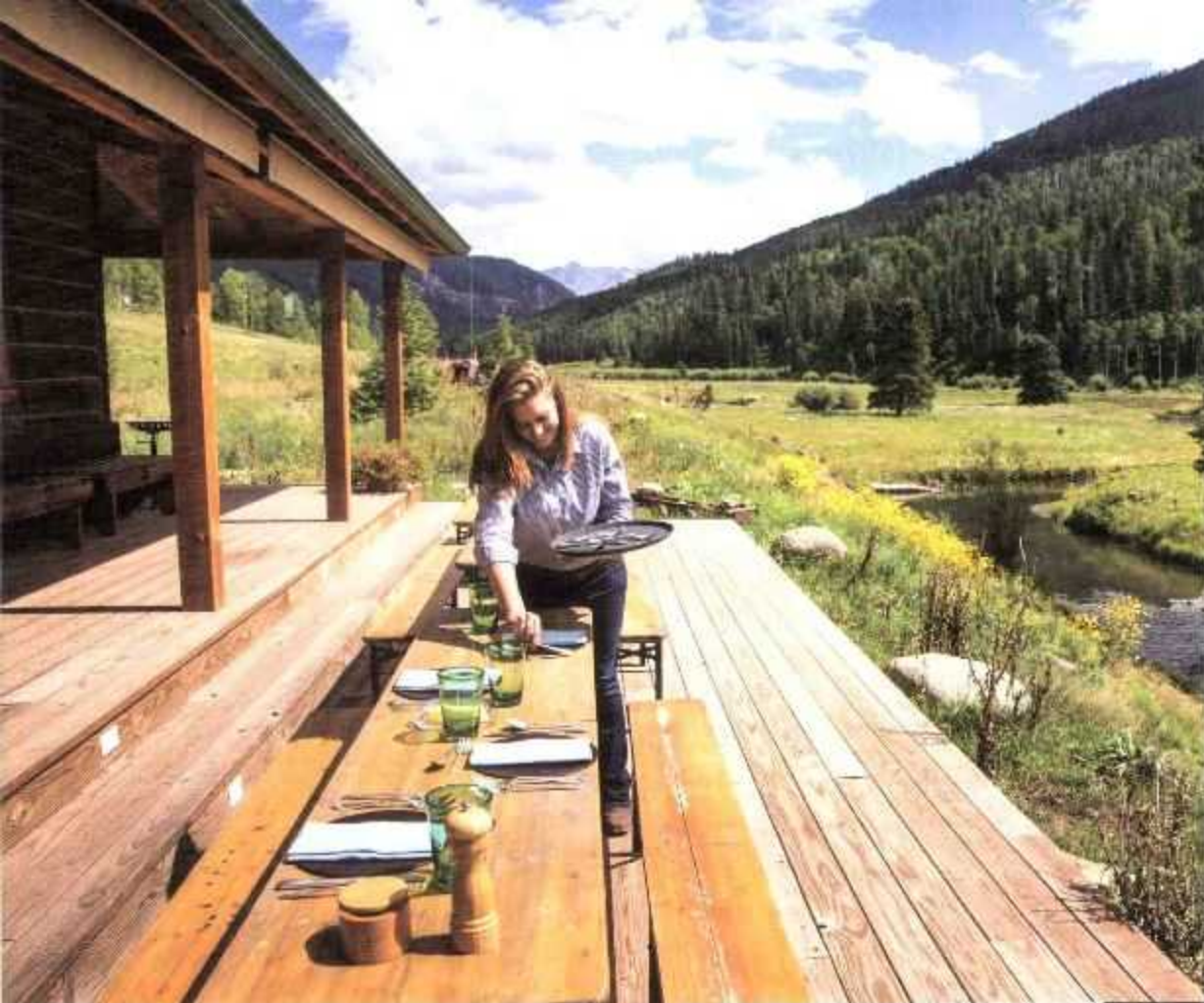
Hotels

There's something about the sound of rushing water: soothing, energizing, magnetic. The owners of Dunton River Camp at Cresto Ranch, a two-year-old resort located about an hour from Telluride, clearly understood the magic of the Dolores River when they erected the eight luxury tents that comprise the unique retreat. From your king-size bed inside a gas-stove-warmed tent, you'll listen to the rushing river and struggle with this critical decision: take a nap or go fly-fishing?

Fortunately, visitors to Cresto Ranch can do both—and much more. Built as the sister resort to Dunton Hot Springs, located four miles upriver, the ranch caters to a high-end yet laid-back crowd that digs everything about camping, except the lack of creature comforts. So Cresto Ranch combines outdoor pursuits (guided fly-fishing, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding) and outdoor-ish accommodations (huge canvas tents with machines in suite and lounge decks) with gourmet meals and locally sourced wines served in a restored 19th-century-farmhouse lodge. The setup allows guests to feel surrounded by nature and play hard in the wilderness (visitors can experience activities on-site or nearby without guides) but luxuriate in a hot shower, a nice glass of Spritz, and an entrée of perfectly seared pork tenderloin at day's end.

While the on-grounds fly-fishing is *A River Runs Through It* dreamy and the mountain biking is a GoPro-and-teach-guests-a-mountain-bike-in-just-during-her-stay, the best part of spending three or four days deep in the San Juan Mountains may be the escape provided by the high hills themselves. Although Telluride is just over the pass—a trip to the historic town is a must if you've never been—cell service is nonexistent at Cresto »





Ranch (though there are landlines). If you really need to check email (which you don't, by the way), Wi-Fi is available—but who needs it when the opportunity to disconnect is this compelling? When you finally put the smartphone down, you'll find you can sit back in the safari-style chairs on your trunk-raised deck, listen to the sounds of nature, sip a cold beer, and simply breathe.

➔ Whether you're taking lunch on the sun-drenched deck, fly-fishing on the Dolores River, or reading a book, a day spent decompressing at Cresto Ranch is worth the spendy per-night price.



THE DETAILS

Quick Tip: Book the Cutthroat, Rainbow, or Brown tents for the best views of the river.

Minor Quibble: Checking out the hot springs at Dunton is a must-do (bring a bathing suit); unfortunately, if Dunton is privately booked by a group, the hot springs are no longer available to Cresto Ranch guests.

Scout: If you don't want to spend extra cash on guided fly-fishing, you'll need to bring your own rod, reel, net, and flies (waders aren't a bad idea either). You can fish right on-site, or there are public-access areas along Dunton Road.

Coming Soon: From the owners of Dunton River Camp at Cresto Ranch, look for Dunton Town House to open in Telluride this fall. The revamped inn will be located between the town gondola and Main Street.

Rates: Double occupancy, all-inclusive rates at Cresto (not including guided activities) start at \$1,400 per night. 52068 Road 38, Dolores, 970-882-4800, duntonlife.com



Scarp Ridge Lodge

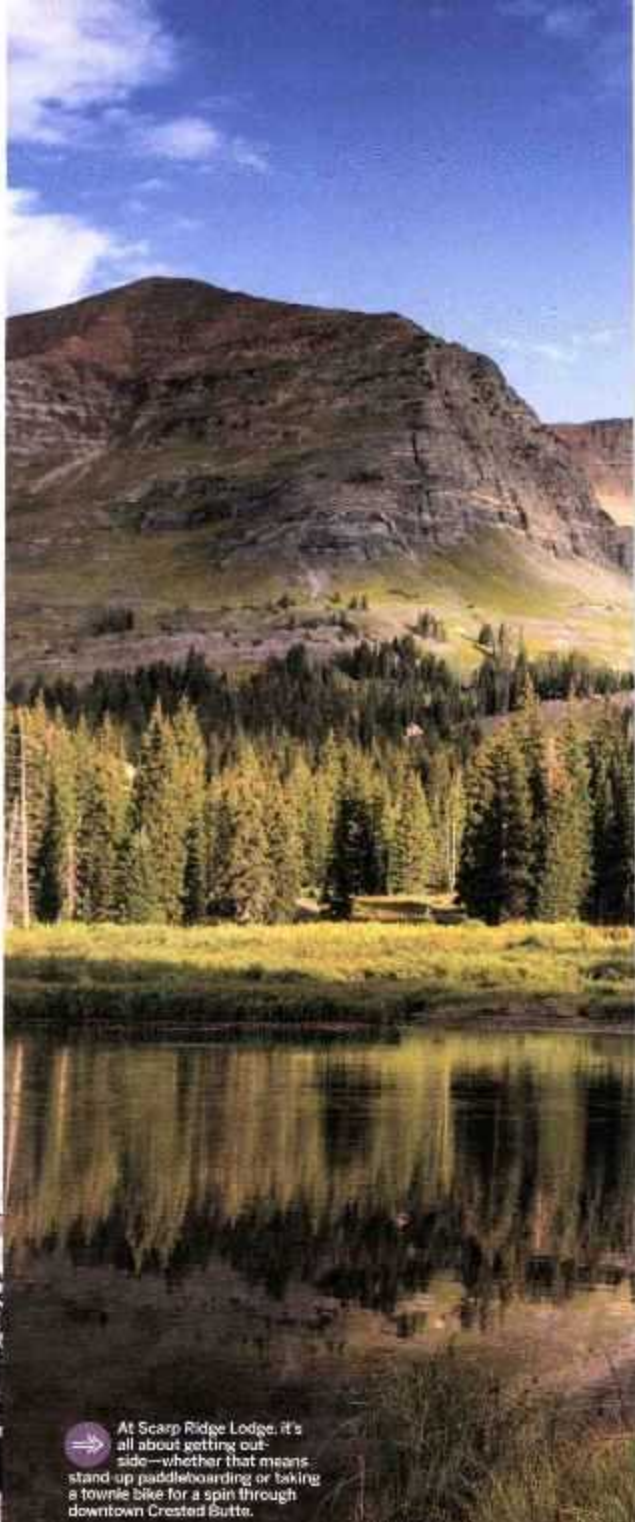
Crested Butte

For much of the year, the four-year-old Scarp Ridge Lodge, a seven-bedroom Victorian building in downtown Crested Butte, takes reservations only from price-is-no-object private groups looking to enjoy the all-inclusive property's guided cat-skiing in the Elk Mountains or customized fly fishing instruction on the Gunnison River. But from late May until Thanksgiving, the outdoor-experience-focused property—which comes with concierge staff, a gourmet chef, and world-class guides—morphs into an upscale

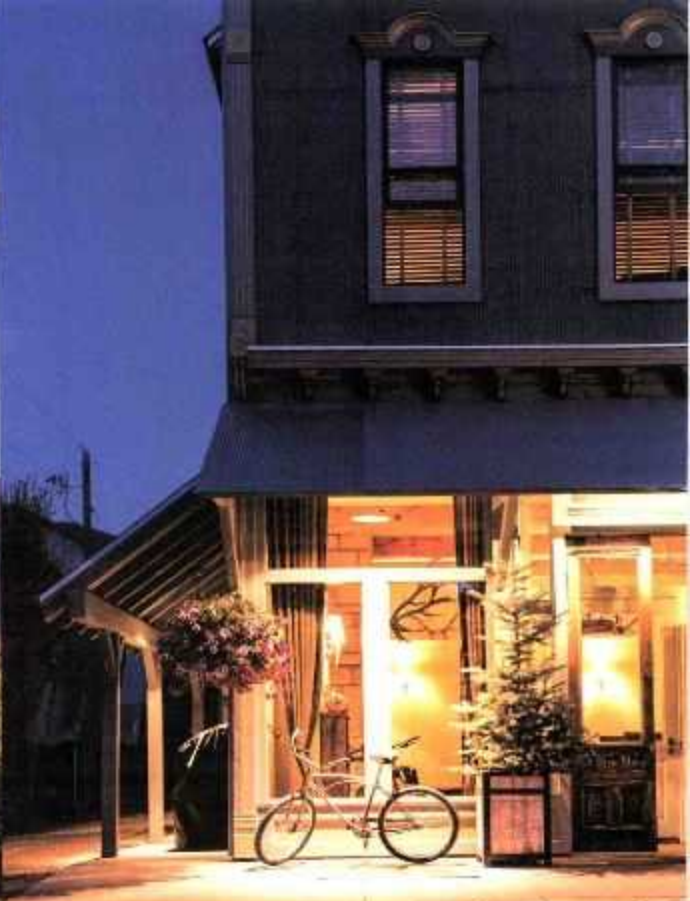
bed-and-breakfast in which anyone can score an individual room.

Unlike when the lodge is booked as a rental home for a single group, the warmer months allow the spacious, Western-elegant Scarp Ridge to turn into more of an inn, where like-minded strangers become fast friends during delicious (included) breakfasts and lazy soaks in the lodge's rooftop hot tub. The summer B&B schedule, which begins its second season in 2015, lets visitors capitalize on all that Crested Butte has to offer when the frost finally disappears—hiking, biking, fishing, wildflower-viewing—on their own time; or, for an upgraded price, lodge staff will help guests plan whatever activities they might desire. The so-called “full experience,” which is a \$500 fee per person per day beyond the room charge, includes a guided activity (white-water rafting, kayaking, mountaineering, stand-up paddleboarding, fly-fishing, etc.), a chef-prepared lunch, and après at the lodge (alcohol included).

Fully customized vacations are where Scarp Ridge really excels. Sure, it's not cheap, but the price is worth it when you consider what a typical tailored day might include: an invigorating 8 a.m. yoga class in the lodge's great room; a light breakfast of fresh fruit and granola around 9:15; an easy guided hike along the nearby Slate River followed by sandwiches for lunch; an in-room massage (for an additional fee) around 2 p.m.; and a cocktail hour followed by a

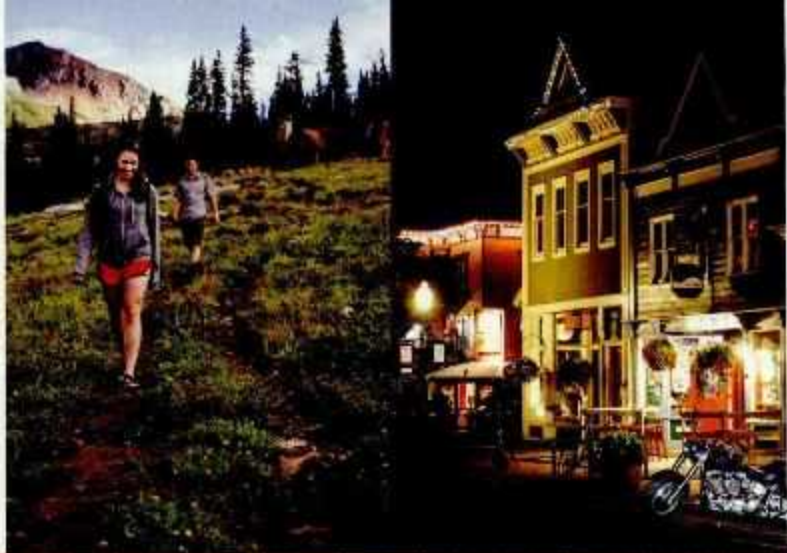


At Scarp Ridge Lodge, it's all about getting outside—whether that means stand-up paddleboarding or taking a townie bike for a spin through downtown Crested Butte.




is cooked just-for-you dinner in the dining area beginning around 6:30 p.m. In between all that fun, guests can stroll around downtown Crested Butte, take a swim in the lodge's indoor saltwater lap pool, or hop on one of the provided townie bikes for a quick spin.

This bespoke experience is what Eleven Experience, which owns Scarp Ridge Lodge and also has properties in the French Alps, Iceland, and the Bahamas, does so well. Both the guides and the lodge's staff make guests feel as though no request is too much ("I forgot a rain jacket—do you have any extras?" *Of course!*), no preference is too picky ("I'm a fruitarian." *No problem!*), and no ability level is too difficult to accommodate ("I've never tried yoga before." *You'll love it!*). They somehow do this without being sickly sweet or coming off as phony, which only adds to the genuinely good time guests are having.



➔ During the winter months, the elegantly rustic Scarp Ridge Lodge is only available to private groups; in the summer, anyone can luxuriate in its high-end finishes, hot tubs, and carefully prepared meals.



THE DETAILS

Quick Tip: Interested in planning a thematic trip like, say, a wellness weekend? The concierge staff at the lodge can create a customized itinerary replete with healthy meals, yoga classes, and spa treatments.

Minor Quibble: If you're looking for a reasonably priced getaway to Crested Butte this summer, this isn't it. The cheapest option for a one-night Scarp Ridge stay is easily more than your monthly car payment.

Top, Top Ladies: From September 8 to 13, 2015, Scarp Ridge Lodge will host a four-day, five-night, women-only mountain biking retreat. Professional guides from Vida MTB Series will be on-hand to help visitors learn basic skills to navigate Crested Butte's iconic trails. Yoga and stretching sessions will complement the rides, as will chef prepared meals. All-inclusive rates start at \$3,500 per person.

Rates: Rates for a bed-and-breakfast-style stay at Scarp Ridge Lodge begin at \$650 per night (double occupancy); a "full-experience" stay is another \$500 per person per day. Customized itineraries can vary wildly in price. 512 Second St., Crested Butte, 970-349-7761, evenexperiences.com/scarp-ridge-lodge ▲▲

