

ON THE GO with  
Travel Editor Judith Evans Thomas

# travel

*Judith (second row, left) paddling along the Yampa River during a white-water rafting excursion at Park City Mountain Resort, Park City, Utah.*

## Mountain Mama

In awe of **Mother Nature's landscape from 8,000 feet above**—the view is enough to appreciate the ground below—with a kiss.

**W**ith summer finally in high gear, swimsuits pulled out of the mothballs and a fresh supply of self-tanner slapped onto my lily-white legs, I'm ready for the mountains. You see, I'm not a beach or pool sitter, and my fantasy of getting a natural golden tan disappeared years ago when the first suspicious mole appeared on my perfectly tanned arm. However, I love the sun, warm air and the freedom of being outdoors.

My choice for a great July vacation is therefore the Wasatch Mountains surrounding Park City, Utah. Once known only for its rich silver, lead and zinc mines, which were closed in the 1950s, the area began its re-invention in the early-1960s with the opening of the prospector double chair lift, servicing 18 miles of skiable and hikeable terrain. Park City Mountain Resort, now owned by Powdr Corporation, is close to more than 350 miles of hikeable and bikeable trails, some of which follow the old rail lines once used to transport miners and metals up and down the mountain. Many of those miles are even accessible by chairlift, meaning you don't have to hike up the mountain. Now that's posh.

If you like to golf, try out one of the five local courses that offer spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Fishing is abundant on the Weber and Provo rivers, and if you are a thrill-seeker, try the white-water rafting trips on the Green or Yampa rivers. I did a similar trip a few years back,

and am here to tell you it's terrifying.

During the seemingly endless ride through waves, over rocks and into churning river holes, I screamed and held on to a paddle that I hoped would protect me from a painful watery death. As you see in the picture, my compatriots were all tall people, thereby able to hold their own in weight and strength against the waters. I, on the other hand, bounced like a ping-pong ball and was ever in danger of being jettisoned from the raft. At the end of the ride, I kissed the ground and vowed never to do it again.

On a similar note, thrill-seekers should head over to Utah Olympic Park, home of the 2002 Games. The bravest of the brave will want to race up to 70 miles per hour (four G's of force) on The Comet bobsled ride or experience the Xtreme Zipline ride, the world's steepest. I prefer watching Olympians and national-team athletes who demonstrate their skills by performing high-flying acrobatics from a jump that sends them 60 feet into the air before they plunge into a 750,000-gallon splash pool. Better than me.

As famous as Park City Mountain Resort is for providing healthy adventures, the town

of Park City is equally known for its cultural life, fine dining and shopping. My husband, Steve, and I discovered one of our favorite artists, David Dornan, in the Coda Gallery on Main Street, and have since returned to buy some of his other work. Sundance Film Festival, which takes place every January, brings celebrities from far and wide. During July and August, Sundance Institute screens free movies on most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

July is famous for the Park City Food & Wine Classic, where gourmands and oenophiles can meet wine makers from around the world, and attend gourmet dinners with wine pairings. This year the festival kicks off on July 10. If you can't get to Park City this July, try August, when the hills echo with the sound of music and some visual delights as well. At Artstravaganza, the city center is filled with art exhibits and live bands. From July 19 through Aug. 16, the Utah Symphony & Opera along with Deer Valley Resort present a selection of music in three venues: The Deer Valley Resort outdoor amphitheater, St. Mary's Church and salons in private homes in the





Park City area. And if that isn't enough, in mid to late August, the Park City Jazz Festival kicks off in town.

Regardless of what time of year you visit, you'll leave wishing you'd stayed longer. I always do. **PM**

**THE FACTS:**

**Getting There:** Delta flies direct from Pittsburgh (delta.com) to Salt Lake City, and it is about a 45-minute drive to Park City from there. There are many shuttle services available.

**GENERAL INFO:**

parkcitymountain.com  
parkcityinfo.com  
utah.com/parkcity

**SPORTS AND ADVENTURE:**

**Horseback Riding and Fishing:**  
rockymtnrec.com

**Olympic Park:** olyparks.com

**Rafting:** parkcityrafting.net or highcountryrafting.com

**Hiking and Biking:** mountaintrails.org

**Golf:** go-utah.com/park-city/golfcourses

**CULTURE, MUSEUMS AND PARKS:**

**Food & Wine Classic:** parkcityfoodandwineclassic.com

**Art Galleries and More:**  
thisweekinparkcity.com

**Jazz Festival and Live Concerts:** deervalleymusicfestival.org or parkcityjazz.org

**Kimball Arts Festival:** kimball-art.org

**Alf Engen Ski Museum:**  
engenmuseum.org

**2002 Eccles Olympic Winter Games Museum:** olyparks.com

**Park City Historical Society and Museum:** parkcityhistory.org

**Wasatch-Cache National Forest:**  
fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf

**WHERE TO STAY:**

**Park City:**  
allseasonsresortlodging.com/park\_city

**Where to Eat:**  
Read reviews at parkcitymagazine.com