

INSIDER'S GUIDE

Screen Shot



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by D.J. Duckworth



Exclusive Resorts member and "Meet Me There" host D.J. Duckworth takes

the Sundance experience to the streets of Park City + Deer Valley.

My inaugural trip to the Sundance Film Festival in 2008 was a true adventure. First, I'm not an avid skier, so I wasn't particularly itching to hit the slopes come daybreak. And second, I'm a casual moviegoer (not the fan awaiting, with bated breath, the next Bradley Cooper premiere). As such, imagine me—in the crux of Park City's Sundance Film Festival and staying at an incredible Deer Valley ski lodge—without much of a plan! However, it's since become one of my most anticipated annual escapes.

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During that first initiation I discovered how to “Sundance” while not attending screenings or sliding down a steep mountain. Key: Enter the September lottery system in order to secure tickets for the January festival—a process, yes, but it ensures entry to films that may (or may not) rock your world. Admittedly, I've left a few wishing I could have those two hours of my life back, yet I've also attended screenings of such Academy Award-winning films as *Precious: Based on the Novel Push* by Sapphire. I've never cried as much during a film, and left in search of a cocktail and the crisp mountain air! Whether visiting in January or June, here are my top 10 favorite places to eat, shop, spa, and celebrate while in [Park City and Deer Valley](#).







D.J.'S HIT LIST FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE

CHIMAYO. Amazing food with a Southwest flair and over-the-top presentation. <http://www.chimayorestaurant.com>

PANACHE. A well-curated selection of beautiful clothing. Score high-end designers mixed with Diane Von Furstenberg and Mother jeans—the best selection of mountain chic in Park City. <http://www.panachesunvalley.com>

HIGH WEST DISTILLERY. Go for the whiskey, stay for the food. Tours showcase how spirits are distilled on site (no reservations). <http://www.highwest.com>

SPA AT MONTAGE DEER VALLEY. One of the best spa experiences, ever! The indoor pool and amenities are stellar, as is the view from the terrace overlooking the Wasatch Mountains. <http://www.montagehotels.com/spamontage/deervalley>

BANKSY ARTWORK. This graffiti artist has left his mark—or art, rather—on Park City. A few of his pieces are easily spied, but the rat is hidden, as you'd suspect. <http://www.banksy.co.uk>

ATTICUS. A great cup of coffee and quick bite, with no fuss. Browse the books and hang with the locals while a talented barista whips up your order. <http://www.atticustea.com>

LUNATIC FRINGE. While hats are the Sundance accessories of choice, no one wants hat head. Book your blow out and makeup for a night on the town. <http://www.lunaticfringesalon.com>

SLEDDING. After the lifts close, grab a sled and hit the slopes. Some of my favorite memories were made in a sled with my son. <http://www.visitparkcity.com>

MOUNTAIN BIKING. Park City is renowned for its biking trails. Once the snow

melts, make a call to All Seasons Adventures and hit the trails on two wheels.

<http://www.allseasonsadventures.com>

DOLLY'S BOOK STORE. Uncover a compelling selection of books in this local gem (tucked behind a chocolate shop—books and chocolate!). Take both back to the residence and cozy up to the fire. <http://www.dollysbookstore.com>

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