

Guide's Guide to Jackson Hole
Vacation Planner 2013

Sections:

About: Welcome to the Guide's Guide to Jackson Hole Vacation Planner! We hope this planner will help you create a great itinerary to Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area. This guide is meant as a starting point for your research into where to stay, what to do and things you should not miss while in Jackson Hole. This guide was written by veteran guide and wildlife photographer Jason Williams. Jason has been guiding float trips, snowmobile tours, wildlife safaris and teaching visitors about the area since 1999. The information included in this vacation planner is based on years of personal experience here in Jackson Hole and the feedback of thousands of guests throughout the years. The suggestions included in this planner, including the suggested businesses, are not paid advertisements. The businesses, activities and events have been included at no charge making all of them the honest suggestions of a local guide. These are the places we frequent, we like or that we have heard from our guests to be excellent. Be aware that just because we didn't include something doesn't mean it's bad and anything in here could change for the worse. Management, employees and quality can all be fickle so we have done our best. If you think something should be included or something should be removed feel free to email us your suggestions.

We hope you enjoy our vacation planner and most importantly that you have a great vacation to Jackson Hole.

Getting here: Jackson Hole is a remote mountain valley tucked between 5 mountain ranges in northwest Wyoming. There are 4 main roads that will get you into the area with all but the southerly route requiring a trip over one or more high mountain passes. You can also fly into the Jackson Hole airport, the only commercial airport inside a national park. Direct flights can be found from several major cities depending on season and carrier but most tickets will require at least one stop along the way.

Where to stay: Jackson Hole is home to countless hotels, motels, luxury lodges and bed and breakfasts that will provide you with safe, comfortable and often luxurious base for your adventures in the greater Yellowstone Area. Before you consider what property is best for your vacation it is important to understand the basics of the geography of Jackson Hole. First and foremost, Jackson Hole is a huge valley in Northwest Wyoming named after an early settler and trapper, Davey Jackson. Within Jackson Hole you will find the town of Jackson, Wilson, Moose, Kelly, Moran and a large portion of Grand

Teton National Park. We have included the location of each location and subdivided them into three sections according to geography.

Below is a list of our favorites based on our personal experience and feedback from our clients over the years (Hotels not listed below may be as good or better – we just don't have enough feedback to include them on our list) Our recommendations for you depends on two factors; your budget and where in Jackson Hole you want to be. The two main choices are between the town of Jackson and Teton Village 15 minutes outside of town at the base of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. There are also some amazing places both north and south of Jackson that include dude ranches, park hotels and rental houses. Below we will offer suggestions by area and budget. Rates at all properties are highly seasonal and will vary significantly depending on when you are planning to visit. \$ Budget lodging, \$\$ Mid-level lodging, \$\$\$ Premium lodging

Town of Jackson

[Cowboy Village](#) \$ (Jackson) “With 82 well-appointed cabins and two spacious lodge rooms the Cowboy Village Resort is the ultimate in convenience. Easy accessibility to the area's activities bring our guests back, year after year. The Cowboy Village is only 15 minutes from Grand Teton National Park. Jackson Hole Airport, serviced by most major airlines, is only 10 minutes away and Yellowstone National Park is a spectacular hour's drive along the Teton Range. Join us at the Cowboy Village Resort!”

[Hampton Inn](#) \$\$ (Jackson) “This hotel in Jackson Hole, WY offers modern accommodations and premier amenities, to make your stay as enjoyable as possible. Stay fit in the fitness center with cardio machines. Stay on top of work in the business center with fax, printing and photocopying services. Start the day with Hampton’s free hot breakfast, or grab one of our free Hampton On the Run® Breakfast Bags, available Monday through Friday.”

[Homewood Suites](#) \$\$ (Jackson) “Located at the heart of the historic Jackson Hole valley in Wyoming, our Jackson Hole hotel offers easy access to everything Jackson has to offer. Discover a fantastic range of snow sports, eclectic shopping, galleries and an array of superb restaurants. Our Jackson Hole hotel is near some of Jackson Hole's most popular attractions, including Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park and is only 20 minutes away from Jackson Hole Airport (JAC).”

[Lodge at Jackson Hole](#) \$\$ (Jackson) “Situated in the heart of Jackson, a short drive away from bustling Town Square, is Jackson’s newest luxurious hotel. In early 2012 this Jackson resort completed a multimillion dollar renovation project, boasting lavish room enhancements and state-of-the-art amenities. Whether you are visiting the area to experience world-renowned skiing, snowmobiling, and sledding during the winter months, or exceptional fly fishing, hiking, or rafting during the summer, The Lodge at Jackson Hole is the premier Jackson Hole, Wyoming lodging choice for the adventurous soul.”

[Rustic Inn](#) \$\$\$ (Jackson) “Located on seven lush acres adjacent to the National Elk Refuge and just a few blocks from Jackson's lively town square, the Rustic Inn Creekside Resort & Spa welcomes guests with warm Western hospitality. Outdoor enthusiasts and hedonists alike indulge in the lavishly appointed historic lodging accommodations and luxury log cabins, state of the art resort amenities,

revitalizing spa, innovative cuisine, year-round Wyoming activities and an idyllic setting.”

[Rusty Parrot](#) \$\$\$ (Jackson) “Like the town itself, the Rusty Parrot is a paradox: A family-run 30-room lodge that's one of the top small luxury hotels in the world. It caters to the traveler—not the tourist. The owners and staff delight in sharing inside information about the town and area they love. Their passion for Jackson Hole and personal attention to guests just isn't found at larger hotels. Earning the AAA Four-Diamond award for eighteen years in a row attests to that passion.”

[Snow King Resort](#) \$\$ (Jackson) “Located in the heart of Wyoming ski country, Snow King Resort offers a variety of lodging options unique to the average Jackson Hole Wyoming hotel. These options include comfortable Jackson Hole lodging at the Snow King Resort Hotel , the adjacent Snow King Condominiums and luxurious Jackson Hole Resort lodging at Love Ridge Resort Lodges. Only 6 blocks from downtown Jackson Wyoming, Snow King Resort, surrounded by the Bridger Teton National Forest, is walking distance from shopping, restaurants, and a multitude of fine art.”

[Town Square Inns](#) \$ (Jackson) “Looking for the place to stay in Jackson Hole? Look no further. With four in-town locations and over 400 rooms, the Town Square Inns have more options to meet your style and budget than any other hotelier in town.”

[White Buffalo Club](#) \$\$\$ (Jackson) “The White Buffalo Club is the newest luxury hotel in Jackson, Wyoming. The White Buffalo Club, only three blocks from the town square, provides a private restaurant, fitness club, and spa to its members and hotel guests. Nowhere in Jackson will you find superior lodging accommodations, dining or relaxation. The hotel was completed in 2008 and has the most unique floor plans of any hotel in Jackson. Combine the perfect accommodations with the perfect location and you have the recipe for a perfect Jackson vacation.”

[Wort Hotel](#) \$\$\$ (Jackson) “Jackson Hole's historic Four Diamond Wort Hotel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an elegant boutique hotel rich in history. Just off the Town Square, The Wort Hotel is in the center of restaurants, nightlife & shopping in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.”

Teton Village

[Four Seasons Jackson Hole](#) (Teton Village) \$\$\$ “A world of adventure awaits at Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole. Enjoy spacious lodge-style accommodations with ski-in/ski-out access, restaurants that capture the flavor of the American West, a full-service spa, and outdoor activities galore.”

[Hotel Terra](#) \$\$\$ “While Jackson Hole, Wyoming invites exploration and adventure, this pristine environment also inspires much needed rest and relaxation. With this in mind, our Teton Village hotel features supremely comfortable guest rooms and suites and thoughtful amenities and services for a unique lodging experience at the entrance to Grand Teton National Park. A flickering fireplace, stunning views, beautiful spaces lit with natural sunlight, plush hotel amenities and caring service come together to offer the kind of mountain getaway you truly deserve.”

[Snake River Lodge](#) \$\$ “The Snake River Lodge & Spa has guest accommodations to fit everyone’s lodging needs. Select from 125 beautifully appointed traditional hotel guestrooms and suites. We also feature 30 two, three and four bedroom residences with full kitchens ranging from 1,400 – 4,500 square feet.”

[Teton Mountain Lodge](#) \$\$ “Located slope side to legendary Jackson Hole ski slopes and just a mile

from Grand Teton National Park, we welcome you to discover our four diamond Jackson Hole lodge. Situated in the heart of Teton Village, our lodge offers alpine luxury mixed with Western hospitality, an ideal base camp for your next Rocky Mountain adventure.”

Other locations within Jackson Hole

[Amangani](#) \$\$\$ (Jackson Hole) “Amangani (peaceful home) clings to the crest of East Gros Ventre Butte, some 2,135m above sea level, and affords magnificent views of the Grand Tetons and Snake River Valley below. It was the first Aman resort in North America and evokes the atmosphere of the American West. Amangani is an all-season resort. The winter highlight is skiing, while in spring, summer and fall, the surrounding wilderness areas of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks are amongst the many attractions.”

[Apex Property Management](#) \$\$\$ “Apex specializes in a foundation that provides clientele the highest standard of investment protection, convenience, and personal attention. We provide the Jackson Hole area with the finest luxury rentals, property management and real estate services. We work hard to match owners, tenants, buyers and sellers so that all of their needs are met.”

[Bentwood Inn](#) \$\$ (Wilson) “The Bentwood Inn is constructed with massive 200 year old logs brought in from Yellowstone National Park. This architectural splendor touches the senses – grand, luxurious, relaxing, cozy – are just a few of the comments our guests have made. Whether you are looking at the massive three story high river rock fireplace or settling into one of the inn’s cozy rooms with personal fireplaces and spa tubs to help you unwind, you too will feel your senses touched. This is the place you were looking for. This is the romance you have read about in novels.”

[Clear Creek Group](#) \$\$\$ (Jackson Hole) “You know you would like a private home, but how will you choose? At The Clear Creek Group we’re here to help you find a luxury rental home ideally suited for your Jackson Hole vacation. Peruse our portfolio, which contains some of the most exceptional homes in the valley, then give us a call.”

[Jenny Lake Lodge](#) \$\$\$ (Grand Teton National Park) “As the only 4-diamond eco-resort in the Park, Jenny Lake Lodge is ideal for those who seek the finest service and lodging, while still enjoying a National Park vacation. Each of the rustically elegant cabin rooms are well appointed with hand-made quilts, down comforters, and unique Western charm—a rarity in today’s one-size-fits-all lodging approach.”

[Spring Creek Ranch](#) \$\$ (Jackson) “Let Spring Creek Ranch be your window to the grandeur of the West. At Spring Creek Ranch we offer a wide variety of lodging options to complement any Jackson Hole Vacation. Starting with Inn Rooms for two to Mountain Villas for eight, we will always have the right combination for your Jackson Hole vacation.”

[Triangle X Ranch](#) \$\$\$ (Grand Teton National Park) “The Triangle X Ranch is an authentic dude ranch and the only operating guest ranch concession in the nation’s entire National Park system. An all-inclusive Wyoming dude ranch vacation at Triangle X, offers unparalleled horseback riding and one of the most complete outdoor recreation packages of any facility in the Mountain West.”

Where to eat: The valley of Jackson Hole is home to around 20,000 people but, with over 4 million visitors a year, has enough restaurants to satisfy a mid-sized city. The variety is amazing given that you are saddling up for a meal in a remote cowboy town in NW Wyoming. Do you want Thai, Sushi, Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, Austrian, Italian or just plain old American? Once you know what you want, which usually takes your typical Jackson Hole local about an hour of back and forth negotiations to figure out, then you hope it's not Friday night or July 4th! The prices for dinner can vary from about 10.00-100.00 per person so each of our recommendations will include 1-3 dollar symbols to give you an idea of cost. \$ is under 10.00, \$\$ is under 30.00 and \$\$\$ is over 50.00. These are estimates based on our own bills and definitely depends on what you order. These are places we like or know are good from our clients. Restaurants can change in quality pretty quick so if they're not on our list they could be pretty good and ones here could go down hill with the change of a chef. With that said this is a good place to start, places favored and frequented by locals.

Breakfast:

[Bubba's](#) \$ – (Jackson) A good place for a hearty breakfast without breaking the bank. You will see a lot of locals lining up here. If you're on a budget or want to fit in order the working man's special. It's not on the menu.

[The Bunnery](#) \$– (Jackson) Another Jackson Hole classic! During high season there might be a line out the door so get here early or be prepared to wait. Try the Gros Ventre Slide or other locally named dish.

[Creekside Market and Deli](#) \$ (Jackson) This is the place to grab a quick burrito, breakfast sandwich or bagel and a hot cup of locally roasted coffee to get the day started. Also a great place to stock up on sandwiches, supplies and drinks before heading north into the parks.

[DOG](#) \$ – (Jackson) Down on Glen or DOG is the locals go to for a solid breakfast burrito. Order one up with meat or veggies and spicy or mild depending on your taste. A DOG burrito is often all you will need until dinner.

[Nora's Fish Creek Inn](#) \$ – (Wilson) A hearty breakfast in a rustic setting. Saddle up to the bar if you don't want to wait for a table. Either way enjoy a good meal surrounded by locals and tourists alike.

[Pearl Street Bagels](#) \$ – (Jackson and Wilson) This locally owned coffee house and bagel shop is a must try. With a location in both Jackson and Wilson you are never too far from a freshly brewed cup of locally roasted coffee or one of their signature bagels. The local's tip here is they don't toast their bagels so don't ask and choose from a variety of house made cream cheese flavors. If you only want a little cream cheese ask for a “schmear”.

[Rusty Parrot](#) \$\$\$ - (Jackson) The Wild Sage's intimate 32-seat gathering room, with its rugged river rock fireplace, has a full view of our exhibition-style kitchen. Regional offerings feature organically grown produce, local game and meats, sustainable fish and seafood, and freshly prepared desserts. Though great for all meals this is a must try for breakfast.

[Shades Cafe](#) \$ – (Jackson) This is my favorite place to eat breakfast but you have to get used to a more limited menu and small space. Housed in an historic log cabin, they serve up great eggs benedict variations, burritos and sandwiches. Locally roasted coffee and friendly faces make this a good stop for a cup of joe too.

[Terra Cafe](#) \$ – (Teton Village) Situated inside Hotel Terra, this is a great go to breakfast stop before skiing Jackson Hole Mountain Resort or heading off to explore the area. A varied menu, good food and convenient location in Teton Village make this one of the main go to breakfast and lunch spots in Teton Village.

Lunch:

[Backcountry Provisions](#) \$ – (Jackson) Tucked away just off the square, this is a good place to grab a sandwich to take into field.

[Betty Rock](#) \$ - (Jackson) I might eat here more than anywhere in Jackson! This is especially since they introduced their burgers and fries which I think might just be the best in Jackson. They also have a varied menu, fresh baked goods and milkshakes.

[Bon Appe Thai](#) \$\$ – (Jackson) Just off of town square in Jackson, this small Thai owned and operated restaurant is a popular locals spot for both lunch and dinner.

[Creekside Market](#) \$ (Jackson) Mentioned above, Nick and his crew provide a one stop shop for anyone heading into the parks and wanting to bring a lunch, snacks or cocktails with them on their journey.

[Dornan's](#) \$\$ (Moose) This is a classic Jackson Hole eatery located in the middle of Teton Park. They have an amazing wine selection (which you can buy in their retail store and bring into the restaurant with no corkage fee!), good pizza, calzones and salads and most importantly an upper and lower deck that look out over the Snake River and the Teton Range. You will see more than one climber saddled up to the bar here on a summer day.

[Jenny Lake Lodge](#) \$\$ – (Grand Teton National Park) This historic ranch situated just up from Jenny Lake serves up gourmet food at fast food prices (almost). You might want to call to make a reservation because they fill up fast in the summer.

[Pinky G Pizza](#) \$ – (Jackson) This is our go to pizza spot in Jackson. Fun, casual, and tasty. You can order whole pies or select flavors by the slice and enjoy a local wine while they heat it up.

[Rising Sage Cafe](#) \$ – (Jackson) Located inside the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the Rising Sage offers a nice menu overlooking the National Elk Refuge and surrounded by one of the best wildlife art collections in the world.

[Sidewinders American Grill](#) \$\$ (Jackson) A local's favorite if your in the mood for a fancy sports bar menu and atmosphere. They have everything from homemade pizzas to Mahi Mahi. This is the place to watch a game since they have more TV's than seats!

[Signal Mountain Lodge](#) \$ – (Grand Teton National Park) This is our go to place when we are out in the park late photographing Grizzlies. The trick here is to now wait in line at the restaurant and sit in the bar area (Trapper Bar). The next and most important local trick...order the full nachos and a margarita! People will stare and you will feed your whole family with one order of nachos.

[Silver Dollar Bar/ Wort Hotel](#) \$\$ – (Jackson) The Silver Dollar Bar is both a great lunch and dinner restaurant with great nightlife and live music on select nights throughout the year. In the summer you can sit outside and order off either the bar or restaurant menu anywhere on the deck or in the bar.

[The Spur](#) \$\$ - (Teton Village) Located in Teton Mountain Lodge this is the relaunch of a local's favorite eatery previously called the Cascade. A creative menu, great cocktails and comfortable atmosphere make this a good place for lunch or dinner. Try their bacon Bloody Mary!

[Sweetwater](#) \$\$ (Jackson) This is one of our go to lunch spots in town. The food is good, the outside seating great when the weather is nice and there are always daily specials to keep things interesting. Try the shrimp po-boy or stuffed avacados.

Dinner:

[Bon Appe Thai](#) \$\$ – (Jackson) Just off of town square in Jackson, this small Thai owned and operated restaurant is a popular locals spot for both lunch and dinner.

[Blue Kitchen](#) \$\$ – (Jackson) Not to be confused with Blue Lion, 'The Kitchen' as it is affectionately called serves up creative modern dishes with fresh ingredients. This is a fun place to go and share several dishes family style.

[Blue Lion](#) \$\$\$ – (Jackson) A Jackson Hole fixture that feeds as many locals as tourists. Locally owned and operated, this is a great fine dining experience with good food and great service. The local's favorite here is the rack of lamb, their house specialty.

[Dornan's](#) \$\$ – (Moose) Located in the heart of Grand Teton National Park, this is the place to grab lunch, dinner or just a drink after a day of adventure in the park. If you are traveling without kids don't miss their adults only upper deck with stunning views of the Tetons.

[Gun Barrel Steakhouse](#) \$\$ – (Jackson) Housed in a retired wildlife art museum, this is my favorite steak house in Jackson Hole. Not only are all the old mounts and guns on display, they serve reliably good steak and game, always cooked to perfection. Try their Buffalo Prime Rib – it's my favorite cut of meat there!

[Nikai Sushi](#) \$\$\$ – (Jackson) If you are in the mood for Sushi while in Jackson Hole this is the place. Even if your not in the mood for Sushi you might consider eating here anyway. This is one of our favorites and definitely requires a reservation.

[Osteria](#) \$\$\$ – (Teton Village) This Italian fine dining restaurant in Hotel Terra is one of our favorite nicer places to have dinner. Make sure to make a reservation as they are packed every night.

[Pica's Mexican Taqueria](#) \$\$ – (Jackson) Locally owned and operated Tex Mex and great margaritas. We land here a lot when we are in the mood for something fast, fresh and casual.

[Pinky G Pizza](#) \$ – (Jackson) This is our go to pizza spot in Jackson. Fun, casual, and tasty. You can order whole pies or select flavors by the slice and enjoy a local wine while they heat it up.

[Rendezvous Bistro](#) \$\$\$ – (Jackson) This is one of the top fine dining restaurants in town yet casual enough that we regularly drop in after a long day of work at the last minute. They have a great menu and friendly service.

[Rusty Parrot](#) \$\$\$ - (Jackson) The Wild Sage's intimate 32-seat gathering room, with its rugged river

rock fireplace, has a full view of our exhibition-style kitchen. Regional offerings feature organically grown produce, local game and meats, sustainable fish and seafood, and freshly prepared desserts.

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[Snake River Grill](#) \$\$\$ – (Jackson) A Jackson Hole classic fine dining experience. You will definitely need a reservation during the high seasons. The menu changes regularly but tends to include a bit of everything.

[The Spur](#) \$\$ - (Teton Village) Located in Teton Mountain Lodge this is the relaunch of a local's favorite eatery previously called the Cascade. A creative menu, great cocktails and comfortable atmosphere make this a good place for lunch or dinner. Try their bacon Bloody Mary!

[Teton Thai](#) \$\$ (Teton Village) Owned by a young local couple, Teton Thai has quickly become a Jackson Hole fixture. Whether for lunch or dinner, you will love these traditional Thai dishes made by Thai people. The local's trick here is the spice scale of 1-5 stars. 0 is no spice and 5 is heeding to go to the hospital hot. They will usually not serve new customers much over a 3.

[Trio](#) \$\$\$ – (Jackson) Another favorite of ours and locally owned by a couple young chefs. The wood fired dishes are both creative and delicious but don't miss the Blue Cheese waffles fries! They are the reason we go in as often as we do.

[West Bank Grill](#) \$\$\$ – (Teton Village) This is my favorite fine dining restaurant in Jackson Hole. Located in the Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole, if you are in the mood for an elegant experience this might be a good choice. Use the free valet and show up early for a drink in their bar just off the lobby.

Dessert

[Coco Love](#) \$ – (Jackson) This locally owned dessert and gelato shop serves up gourmet treats from world chocolate master Chef Oscar Ortega. Everything served is handmade in Jackson Hole at Ortega's main kitchen on Scott Lane, Atelier Ortega.

[Atelier Ortega](#) \$ – (Jackson) This is world chocolate master Oscar Ortega's flagship kitchen that supplies his confections to dozens of retailers including his other location Cocoa Love. See cutting edge showpieces on display as his team trains for international competition while producing the best desserts you will ever try.

[Moo's Ice Cream](#) \$ – (Jackson) Located right on town square serving locally made ice cream, made

with organic cream and fresh fruits. Try one of their local flavor like their famous wild huckleberry or wild blueberry. A Jackson Hole classic!

Activities: Jackson Hole was recognized as an outdoor paradise by the native Americans that first explored the area thousands of years before the first white mountain men stumbled upon the valley. These lucky first inhabitants were here to hunt, fish, trap and explore the rugged terrain and enjoy the abundance of natural resources. As the early white explorers trapped, hunted and mapped the region, it didn't take long before word got out and tourism in Jackson Hole was born. Urbanites from the eastern cities made their way to this remote corner of northwest Wyoming to enjoy the impressive vistas and bounty of fish and game in the name of sport. These travelers needed guides to the area and the first trappers stepped in to fill the niche. Over time dude ranches were built to house and feed the guests in addition to roads, trails and passes through the mountains. With time newer outdoor pursuits were being realized including rafting, climbing and skiing. Today Jackson Hole is home to two of the world's most famous national parks, world class skiing, hiking, fishing, climbing, horseback riding, snowmobiling and wildlife viewing all in a place that has been carefully protected allowing guests today to enjoy the abundance experienced by the earliest explorers. This has made Jackson Hole one of the global leaders in sustainable tourism.

The easiest way to organize activities for the sake of vacation planning to Jackson Hole is by summer or winter. The spring and fall get divided into these categories depending on the specific activities and seasonality of the valley. Summer season is defined by the classic outdoor activities like fishing, hunting, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and rafting. Most of these will fall in both spring and fall but we still lump them into summer. The “summer” season typically starts on May 1 and lasts through October. The winter season in Jackson Hole is set by the opening and closing dates of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, typically Thanksgiving to the first week in April. It is during this time that you can find the classic winter activities at their best like skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, sleigh rides onto the National Elk Refuge and opportunities to find the abundant wintering wildlife of the valley.

Some activities can be enjoyed all year including photography and wildlife tours that are offered year-round; however, it is important to note that some park roads and local businesses are closed for the off seasons including most of Yellowstone National Park. It is best to check on the seasonal closure dates and ask specific questions about what is available if you are coming at any time except the middle of summer.

With all that in mind here is a list of our favorite 'must do' activities and our favorite vendors. These suggestions are not advertisements and those included didn't pay to be

mentioned. These suggestions are from our personal knowledge of the companies and their staff. As mentioned above, things can change quickly from company to company so those listed could always go downhill and those not included are not necessarily bad. It is our philosophy when choosing an activity provider, the company and especially the guides can make or break a trip. Always check each company's guide page and see who they hire. The best companies will have the best guides! We also tend to lean towards local family owned companies as they will have lower annual turnover and the most knowledgeable local staff.

Summer Activities

National Park Tours and Wildlife Safaris:

[Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris](#) This guide owned and operated tour company strives to educate, entertain and connect guests with this amazing place we call home. Their mission is to provide you with the highest quality wildlife tours and photo safaris by combining their love for this area with a desire to share this passion with you. They have gained a reputation for providing guests with once in a lifetime experiences and helping them gain a deeper understanding of the geology, history and ecology of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris is owned and operated by Jason Williams, a veteran Jackson Hole guide. He is also the founder of Guide's Guide publishing and author of this vacation planning guide!

Rafting:

Rafting in Jackson Hole is offered on several stretches of the Snake River from the Jackson Lake dam in Grand Teton National Park to Palisades Lake south of Jackson Hole. Most of the river is relatively calm and scenic float trips are offered on several stretches ranging in length from 8 to 13 miles. These trips typically last about 3-4 hours round trip with about 1.25 to 3 hours on the water. All of the commercial whitewater trips in Jackson Hole float an 8.5 mile long section of the river south of town through the Snake River Canyon.

[Jackson Hole Whitewater](#) Hands down the best whitewater company in Jackson Hole! These guys are family owned and operated, have specially designed rafts made to the guide's specifications and most importantly they have the most experienced guides on the river. A whitewater trip down the Snake River is a must do while enjoying the area in the summer.

[Teton Expeditions](#) "For over 46 years Teton Expeditions has shared our knowledge of

the river with the visitors of Jackson Hole. Our commitment to quality and customer satisfaction is unsurpassed. Please join us for an adventure that you will remember for a lifetime.” They operate a 13 mile scenic float down the 'Wilson to South Park' section of the Snake River which is home the highest concentration of Bald Eagle nests in Jackson Hole. A great option is their safari-river combo trip with an early morning in Grand Teton National Park in search of big game and then an afternoon float to see the southern half of Jackson Hole by boat.

Fishing:

[Reel Deal Anglers](#) This company was founded and is operated by our friend and experienced Jackson Hole guide, Rhett Bain. They have brought a new level of service and professionalism to guided fishing in Jackson Hole. “With Reel Deal Anglers JH, explore the best fly fishing in the Jackson Hole and Pinedale Wyoming area. We are a small family owned company that focuses on quality not quantity. Our team of professional guides will show you the best public and private waters to fish in Western Wyoming. We subscribe to sustainable fishing practices so our waters are never over fished and the trout will be here for generations to come. Our access is some of the most desired fishing waters found anywhere in the world. If you are looking for pristine, quiet and beautiful places to fish without the crowds, then come see what we're all about.”

[Teton TroutFitters](#) We have worked with these guys over the years and our clients have had a great experience. We recommend requesting our friend Mike McCloud who is a master fly fisherman and extremely experienced Jackson Hole guide.

Hiking: Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park offers some of the best hiking in the region. Well maintained trails will take you off the beaten path to hidden lakes, waterfalls and lesser visited places to enjoy alone with your friends and family. The rangers at any visitor center are great assets to use when planning hikes in the area. They will have ideas, maps and current trail conditions plus weather updates. Remember that this is bear country so make sure to learn how to travel safely in bear country by making noise (especially in places with dense vegetation), hike in a group, and always carry bear spray. A lot of visitors to the area are nervous about hiking because of the bears but if you follow the basics of being 'bear aware' the chances of even seeing a bear are extremely low. Another option is to hire a guide or join a ranger lead hike offered free throughout the parks daily.

[Jackson Hole Llamas](#): Llama trekking is a great way to explore the area on foot. Jackson Hole Llamas offers both single and multi-day hikes using llamas to carry gear while accessing remote parts of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. If you want to get into the

backcountry for a night or two this is a great option for part of your vacation. The owners of the company, Jill and Dave, are great people and experienced professionals. I have been on two multi-day trips in Yellowstone with them and had a blast both times.

[Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris](#): Join an experienced local guide for a private, fully customized hiking experience in Yellowstone National Park. We offer full day and multi-day lodge based hiking safaris that will put you into some of the most remote country in America! The exact routes, trails and itineraries will be tailored to your areas of interest, fitness level and schedule.

Horseback Riding:

[Bob Barlow Outfitting](#) If you want to ride with a real Wyoming cowboy then Bob is the man to call. His small owner operated outfit located just south of Jackson is well run and provides guests with a great horseback experience. One of the best deals going is Bob's overnight adventures to his remote camp in the Wyoming Range. Learn about the area and camp in style with one of the best guides in Jackson Hole!

[Spring Creek Ranch](#) Located just outside of town, the Spring Creek stables is a great place to take the family for a short trail ride with great views and solid horses. Check out their 'Paddle and Saddle' package with Jackson Hole Whitewater for an action packed day on the trail and river.

[Triangle X Ranch](#) This is one of Jackson Hole's oldest and most classic businesses not to mention one of the largest and well known horse packing outfits in the United States! Owned and operated by the Turner family, they offer extended stay western experiences and multi-day backcountry horseback trips into some of the wildest country in North America.

Mountain Biking:

Jackson Hole is quickly becoming a mountain biking destination! The trail network here is outstanding with everything from beginner trails to advanced downhill courses that climb and descend through stunning mountain terrain. In addition to the hundreds of miles of great free riding from a number of area trailheads, you can also enjoy brand new lift served biking at all three local ski areas.

There are several places to rent bikes in the area and to hire guides if you would like someone to show you around. Check with the companies listed below for maps, prices and equipment.

[Fitzgerald's Bicycles](#): These guys know the game and have a great rental fleet. They also

have a full service shop and retail shop if you're in need of anything.

[Hoback Sports](#): This is one of the larger locally owned bike shops in Jackson. They have a knowledgeable staff, good bikes and they offer both rentals and guided bike tours.

[Teton Mountain Bike Tours](#): Located right on the north edge of Jackson at the start of the new bike path leading into Grand Teton, they are a great option for both bike rentals for a self guided adventure. They also offer guided tours into the park if you would like someone to show you around.

[Wilson Backcountry Sports](#): This is my favorite bike shop but is one of the smallest of the best shops. They are located right at the base of Teton Pass which is riding distance from a great trail network. They have maps, rentals and a full service shop and retail shop.

Scenic Flights:

[Teton Aviation](#): (Driggs, Idaho) “Soar the Tetons on one of our scenic glider rides and experience this beautiful mountain range from a birds-eye view. Enjoy a leisurely soar and let the magic of motorless flight in one of the world’s most awe-inspiring scenic areas provide you with the adventure of a lifetime. Or, for groups up to three people, enjoy a powered tour of area mountain ranges in a Cessna. We are dedicated to providing the safest, most comfortable and enjoyable flights possible.” We use these guys for photographic flights and they run a great operation! Plan on having lunch at the Warbird's Cafe at the airport and spend a few minutes looking at their display of combat aircraft.

Summer Attractions

[Bar T 5 Covered Wagon Cookout](#) This is a great family activity that the kids will love. Who wouldn't want to ride in a covered wagon, get attacked by indians, eat dinner in the woods and then enjoy some entertainment around the campfire?

[Bar J Chuckwagon](#) “Originated on a working cattle ranch, the Bar J Chuckwagon takes you back to the spirit of the old west with a relaxing atmosphere, rib stickin’ meal and authentic cowboy entertainment. The Bar J Wranglers will entertain the entire family as they take you down memory trail with songs, stories, comedy, yodeling, fiddling and more!” Though this might seem like a cheesy thing to do, the Bar J Wranglers put on

quite a show and even locals go to watch.

[Jackson Hole Rodeo](#) The Jackson Hole Rodeo is regularly held at the Teton County Fairgrounds on Wednesday and Saturday evenings from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Special Friday engagements are also scheduled for the summer of 2013. “Rodeo has been a part of Jackson Hole since the first settlers arrived and no vacation to Jackson would be complete without experiencing why! Come on down to the rodeo grounds and take part in over 100 years of true cowboy culture! See you at the rodeo!”

[Jackson Hole Historical Society Museum](#) Located right in town on North Cache, the new museum is a great place to learn about the people and history of Jackson Hole. Definitely worth a visit if you want to know more about the pioneers that settled and explored this valley.

[Jackson Hole Museum of Wildlife Art](#) Located just north of town looking out over the National Elk Refuge, the Museum of Wildlife Art is home to one of the most complete collections of wildlife art in the world. There is always a traveling exhibit as well as a gift shop and restaurant. For kids they have a great play area that allows them to try their hand at different art projects while learning about wildlife and the natural world.

[Snowking Mountain](#) This is a great place to bring the family if you are looking for something to do in town. They have a chairlift to the top of the hill, an alpine slide and a mini-golf course.

Shopping and Galleries: Jackson Hole is home to dozens of small independently owned shops, art galleries and studios. Start from town square and walk in two blocks in all directions to find some great hidden gems and carefully crafted home furnishings, fine art and clothing. Since everyone has different tastes this is just a small selection of shops and galleries that I think are worth a visit and should only serve as a starting point for your Jackson Hole shopping expedition.

[Astoria Fine Art](#) Located On the Town Square in beautiful Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is one of the West's premier fine art galleries. Currently featuring original works by artists, both contemporary and historical, from 20 states and 5 countries, our selection is unsurpassed in variety and quality.

[Brookover Gallery](#) Located in the heart of Jackson this gallery features some of the finest landscape photography in the West by photographer David Brookover. David is one of my favorite photographers and is an expert print maker using traditional processes to create unique, often one of a kind, prints. He is often at the gallery and extremely friendly and welcoming so stop in and see a true master.

[Horizon Fine Art](#) Located a half of a block off of the Town Square, Horizon invites you to come and experience a new and different approach to showcasing fine art. Horizon encourages both first time buyers and experienced collectors to peruse a gallery that has both international and regional art. They feature painting, photography, sculpture, jewelry, woodworking and fine furnishings. This is one of my favorite galleries in Jackson with a wide range of styles, mediums and price points and the owner is always extremely friendly.

[Images of Nature Gallery](#) Located a block north of town square, the Images of Nature Gallery features the work of famous wildlife and conservation photographer Tom Mangelsen. Tom has galleries all over the country but this is his home town gallery with a lot of the shots you will see coming from the Greater yellowstone Area. Tom is a great guy, great artist and best of all humble. You will probably see him shooting in the parks and won't even know you are standing next to one of the most prolific photographers alive today.

[Made Jackson Hole](#) Located just off town square in Gaslight Alley, this inviting shop has a relaxed contemporary atmosphere in the heart of Jackson Hole. MADE features a unique selection of handmade goods for the house, office, gift and individual. This locally owned small business is especially known for their collection of made in Wyoming items including the ever popular glass belt buckles made by the owner of the shop.

[Grand Teton Gallery](#) Located a block west of town square on Broadway, Grand Teton Gallery offers the works of nationally and internationally known artists, photographers, and sculptors specializing in traditional and contemporary western art. I am especially fond of this Gallery for several reasons. They are friendly and welcoming to everyone, they have a great variety of work and most importantly they represent the art of both Carrie Wild (my girlfriend) and Rip Caswell (a close friend).

Summer Events 2013:

The best up to the date source for events in Jackson is JacksonHoleChamber.com. The information below is from their website and is subject to change so when making plans make sure to check their site for any changes. The events below are only a few of the

great events offered in Jackson Hole each summer (although the ones listed are definitely our favorites).

[Jackson Hole Art Fair:](#) Established in 1965, Art Fair Jackson Hole brings diverse forms of art to a community that is rich in western history. The summer Art Fairs are family-oriented events that feature up to 170 international, national and local artists, live music, food and snack booths and hands-on art activities. AFJH attracts enthusiastic members of the public from our immediate community and from across the nation who are interested in supporting the visual arts. This is a great event that runs twice each summer and a fun time to be in town!

July 19-21 & August 16-18, 2013

Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm.

Miller Park, corner of Millward Street and Deloney Avenue.

\$3 per day for Art Association members \$5 per day for non-members

[Teton County Fair:](#) July 19 - 28, 2013 Who doesn't love a good old country fair? This is a fun event filled with rodeos, rides, farm animals, demolition derbies, pig wrestling and fireworks! This is a great family event and a must do for anyone coming to Jackson Hole during this week.

[July 4th:](#) This is probably my overall favorite holiday in Jackson Hole. If you are in Jackson over the 4th then even as the owner of an activity company I have to give you one piece of advice.....don't do any activities on the 4th in 2013! There is so much cool, fun and best of all free things to do in Jackson Hole that I have to recommend to stay in town and enjoy the festivities. Everything is family friendly and both tourists and locals alike will be out in the streets. Here is a schedule provided from the Jackson Hole Chamber's website:

10:30am: Howdy Pardners 4th of July Parade - The annual parade begins on Snow King Avenue from the Rodeo Grounds to Glenwood, continues on Broadway, and ends on Willow Street. Businesses and organizations interested in participating should contact the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce, 307.733.3316. Music, horses, clowns, roller skates, and classic cars will be among the ranks!

[Jackson Hole Live](#) Enjoy free music from great bands all day at the SnowKing ball park. Food, drinks and a fun family oriented event make this the place to be for music and the best place to watch the fireworks.

3:00pm-7:30pm: Music in the Hole 2013 will be held in two locations, the Teton Village Commons and Snow King Ballpark in Jackson. From 3:00-6:00pm there will be pre-symphony entertainment by local groups and popular bands. From 6:00-7:30pm the

Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra will perform a program of patriotic favorites in Walk Festival Hall with simultaneous broadcast via jumbotrons to both locations. Wyoming Public Radio concert simulcast throughout the state. At 7:30pm popular bands will take the stage followed by fireworks!

6:00pm: Town Square Shootout - Watch a lively reenactment of frontier justice on the Jackson Town Square in what is the longest, continuously running shootout show in the country!

8:00pm: Jackson Hole Rodeo - The rodeo is regularly held on each Wednesday and Saturday during the summer season at the Teton County Fairgrounds. The 4th of July Rodeo is a fine western tradition and a wonderful way to spend an evening as the sun sets over the Teton Range.

[Fall Arts Festival](#): The Jackson Hole Fall Arts Festival is widely recognized as one of the premier cultural events in the Rocky Mountain West. Thousands of art enthusiasts are drawn each year to experience the diverse artwork and breathtaking natural surroundings that make Jackson Hole a leading cultural center. The 2013 Festival will take place September 5-15. Experience the world-class installments of contemporary, culinary, landscape, Native American, wildlife, and Western, arts. Visitors will appreciate the works of nationally and internationally acclaimed artists along with an exceptional array of art, music, cuisine, and wine. More than fifty events round out our eleven-day festival.

Friday, September 6

21st Annual Western Design Conference Exhibit Sale

The world's preeminent exhibition of western furniture, home accessories, and fashion, hosted by Teton Home and Living magazine. Brings together artists, scholars, collectors, interior designers, architects, and fashion designers with a passion for the West. Over 100 artisans display handcrafted functional art in leather, metal, accents, woodworking, jewelry, and fashion during the 3-day exhibit sale. The Pavilion at Snow King Resort, 10am-5pm

Tickets at the door, \$15

WesternDesignConference.com

Palates & Palettes Gallery Walk

More than 30 art galleries open their doors to showcase magnificent art with food, wine and music!

Various locations, see gallery map, 5 - 8pm

Open to the public

Saturday, September 7

21st Annual Western Design Conference Exhibit Sale

The world's preeminent exhibition of western furniture, home accessories, and fashion, hosted by Teton Home and Living magazine. Brings together artists, scholars, collectors, interior designers, architects, and fashion designers with a passion for the West. Over 100 artisans display handcrafted functional art in leather, metal, accents, woodworking, jewelry, and fashion during the 3-day exhibit sale.

The Pavilion at Snow King Resort, 10am–5pm

Tickets at the door, \$15

WesternDesignConference.com

Studio Tours

Seven Westbank Artists invite you to visit their studios. Watch the art of blowing molten glass, hot metal forged, paint on canvass or wooden bowls. Each artist has their own unique studio and welcomes you to observe and ask questions on this day only. Pick up a post card with details and map to all seven studios at the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce or click here to download a handy pdf.

- Susan Thulin, Painting: 400 North Bar Y Road, 307.690.6266
- Charlie Thomas, Fine Woodworking: 800 Wenzel Lane in Wilson, 307.733.6121
- Margie Odell, Painting: 5445 Cottonwood Canyon Road, Wilson, 307.733.4360
- Amy Bright Unfried, Bronze Sculpture: 6245 West Wooded Hills Lane, Wilson, 307.733.4243
- Terry Chambers, Custom Iron Design: 2155 north Fish Creek Road, Wilson, 307.413.2289
- Meredith Campbell, Oil Painting: 2075 North Rendezvous Drive, Wilson, 307.690.1515
- Laurie Thal & Lia Kas, Glas Blowing Demonstrations: 3800 Linn Drive Wilson 307.733.5096

Historic Ranch Tours (This is a really unique opportunity to see some of the most historic ranches in Jackson Hole and learn about about the history of the valley from the people still living the western lifestyle)

Visit historic valley ranches, where Jackson Hole's cowboy heritage still thrives. Start out at the Walton Ranch and then head to the Snake River Ranch. The tour is complete with cowboys, Western entertainment, and a good ol' fashion barbeque. Hosted by Mountain Living magazine.

Busses leave Jackson's Home Ranch parking lot at 2:00pm, \$50

307.733.3316

Sunday, September 8

21st Annual Western Design Conference Exhibit Sale

The world's preeminent exhibition of western furniture, home accessories, and fashion, hosted by Teton Home and Living magazine. Brings together artists, scholars, collectors, interior designers, architects, and fashion designers with a passion for the West. Over 100 artisans display handcrafted functional art in leather, metal, accents, woodworking, jewelry, and fashion during the 3-day exhibit sale. The Pavilion at Snow King Resort, 10am–5pm

Tickets at the door, \$15

<http://westerndesignconference.com/>

14th Annual Takin' It to the Streets

An open-air, juried art fair featuring 40 local artists, including some of Jackson's finest, selling an array of fine artwork. Presented by the Jackson Hole Art Association (This is a really great event with both local food and local artists displaying art and flavor in Jackson Hole – if you are in town on this day make this a must try) Jackson Town Square, 10am – 4pm

Taste of the Tetons

Valley chefs, restaurants and caterers put their best culinary work on display for sampling. Also enjoy a wine tasting, silent auction, and the Howdy Partners “Pickin’ in the Park” - musical entertainment by The Jackson Hole Cowboy Jubilee. Each taste ticket is \$1.

Jackson Town Square, 11am – 4pm

Wednesday, September 11

Jewelry and Artisan Luncheon at Couloir

Enjoy an elegant luncheon at an exclusive destination. Preview and purchase handmade goods by premiere artisans of jewelry, fiber, leather, and other wearable art during this elegant event. This ladies-only event is kicks-off the Jewelry and Artisan portion of the National Museum of Wildlife Art's Western Visions® activities. The money raised from this fundraiser support the Education Programming at the Museum. Register by September 5, 2011 online or by calling 307-732-5412. Couloir Restaurant at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, 10:30 am – 3:30 pm.

\$100 per person or \$500 per person for a package including Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday plus other exclusive events. WesternVisions.org

Gallery Art Walk

Join more than 30 Jackson art galleries for the Third Thursdays Art Walk (moved to Wednesday evening for the week of the Fall Arts Festival). Enjoy fine art and experience the vibrant Jackson art scene. Look for the Art Walk banners!

Various locations – see gallery map, 5-8 pm

Open to the public

Thursday, September 12

Wild West Artist Party

As part of the National Museum of Wildlife Art's 25th Annual Western Visions: Miniatures and More Show & Sale, artists and patrons have an opportunity to view the art, place their ballots, and mingle before the big sale. The money raised from this fundraiser support the Education Programming at the Museum. The Jewelry and Artisan Show & Sale, the Original Prints Show & Sale, and the Sketch Show & Sale are open to the public during this event and the artisans are in residence. The evening includes delicious fare, a full bar, and entertainment. Register by September 5, 2012 online or by calling 307-732-5412.

National Museum of Wildlife Art, 6:30 –10:30 pm.

\$150 per person or \$500 per person for a package including Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday plus other exclusive events. WesternVisions.org

Friday, September 13

26th Annual Western Visions®: Miniatures and More Show and Sale

This is the final opportunity to place your bid prior to the drawing that determines who is going home with a beautiful new work of art. The evening features refreshments and beverage, and most importantly, the names of the winning bidders are drawn. The money raised from this fundraiser support the Education Programming at the Museum. The Jewelry and Artisan Show & Sale, the Original Prints Show & Sale, and the Sketch Show & Sale will be on display and guests are invited to make purchases.

Register by September 5, 2012: this event sells out quickly! Call 307-732-5412 or visit our website.

National Museum of Wildlife Art, 3:30 - 8:00 pm.

\$100 per person, \$200 for a combo ticket for Thursday and Friday, or \$500 per person for a package including Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Please view WesternVisions.org for a full listing of events.

Saturday, September 14

18th Annual Jackson Hole QuickDraw Art Sale and Auction

Nationally, regionally, and locally recognized artists paint and sculpt as spectators look on. The one-of-a-kind artwork will be auctioned off following the hour-long creative process, along with the sale of the featured artwork of the 2013 Fall Arts Festival.

Jackson Town Square, 9:00 am

Open to the public and one of our favorite parts of the week. Come out and support the artists of the best Jackson Hole Galleries!

Sunday, September 15

Art Brunch Gallery Walk

Join Jackson's 30 plus art galleries for brunch and festive beverages at this closing-day celebration of yet another superb Fall Arts Festival! Brunch, Bloody Marys and spectacular art...what an ending! (Super Fun!!)

Various locations, see gallery map, 11am – 3pm

Winter

Snowmobiling

Dogsledding

Elk Refuge Sleigh Ride

Wildlife Safari

National Museum of Wildlife Art

Skiing