

48 HOURS IN GLENWOOD SPRINGS *for Couples*

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There's no denying the ambiance in Glenwood Springs: as family-friendly as this charming town is, it's alluring for just adults too. With gorgeous scenery, a picturesque downtown and a lovely mountain getaway vibe, there's something undeniably romantic in the air.

For couples, Glenwood Springs is a fantastic weekend destination. (You'll wish you could stay longer, of course, but will make immediate plans to return.) There are several lodging options, from the historic Hotel Colorado or Hotel Denver to a more modern choice at Glenwood Hot Springs Resort or the Courtyard by Marriott.

Here's the best way to spend 48 hours with your sweetheart.

DAY ONE

MORNING In the morning, a romantic breakfast for two sets the tone. Bluebird Café, Rosi's Little Bavarian Restaurant and the 19th Street Diner are all delicious choices for a filling meal.

After catching up on coffee and carbs, thrills await at Sunlight Mountain Resort. Whether you're a novice on the slopes (lessons are available) or are seasoned snow-sport veterans (there's plenty of advanced terrain), any time at Sunlight is a day well spent.

There's much to love about Glenwood Springs' small-scale ski area: it's affordable, lift lines are short (it's a hidden gem compared to the titan resorts to the east and south) and scenic vistas surround it. Like any good date, there's plenty of time for giggles and eye-gazing

and hand-holding, especially when getting cozy on the two-person lifts. Plus, post-run drinks are available at the lodge's bar.

Equipment rentals are available on-site or at shops such as Sunlight Bike and Ski, Brian's Bench and Blue Sky.

AFTERNOON After a fun-packed morning, take it easy with some of the more relaxing options that Glenwood Springs has to offer. First, there are several fantastic lunch options; downtown's Grind, Smoke, Local on Cooper or Tequila's offer yummy casual fare.

Hot springs, for which the town is named, are a top choice for a relaxing afternoon.

First, Glenwood Hot Springs Resort is the largest hot springs pool in the world; though it has a family-friendly reputation, it still offers plenty of space to enjoy a playful swim with your partner.

Next, Yampah Vapor Caves is known for its unique natural underground hot mineral water steam baths once utilized by the local Ute tribe members for their healing properties. A one-of-a-kind experience, the vapor caves are undoubtedly steamy.



Photo courtesy of Iron Mountain Hot Springs

Widely considered a premier romantic attraction, Iron Mountain Hot Springs caters to adult visitors who crave tranquility. Though there is a fresh-water pool for kiddos, the smaller soaking pools have an age requirement, a quiet-zone policy, and alcohol available for purchase.

There's something incredibly dreamy about soaking in the therapeutic waters as the sun sets early, dazzling across the valley.



Simply Massage



Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

EVENING At nighttime, consider one of Glenwood's fine-dining restaurants: the Pullman is James Beard-designated, and Juicy Lucy's is renowned for its steak. Grab a drink at Casey Brewing and Blending, Stoneyard Distillery's taproom or the Glenwood Canyon Brewpub for an award-winning brew.

While you're downtown, be sure to wander over the Pedestrian Bridge, where views of Glenwood Springs are on full display. The river runs underneath and the hot springs fountain is colorful. Hotel Colorado has half-a-million holiday lights, downtown sparkles with lit-up street lamps and the mountains are visible from all directions.

DAY TWO

MORNING Wake up with a cup of coffee at one of the many vendors in-town, from Deja Brew to Sacred Grounds. From there, a quick morning hike kicks off the day on a fun note with exercise endorphins—Doc Holliday's Trail is an all-season adventure with panoramic views of the entire town.

After a workout, a couple's massage will round out the morning. Local options include Elevate Massage, Splendor Mountain, Yampah Spa and Simply Massage.

AFTERNOON Post-lunch—a few choices include Slope and Hatch, Ming's Café or Rocky Mountain Pizza Co. Enjoy a trip up to the Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park.

A gondola ride kicks off a fun-filled afternoon at the only mountain-top theme park; a western-themed spot for couples to rediscover their inner child and have some fun on rides like the alpine coaster, zip line or giant canyon swing. Laser tag and 4D movies are available, as well as cavern tours.

EVENING On day two, walk hand-in-hand over to favorite Brava (complete with fresh house-made focaccia and an extensive wine menu) or a dinner from the affordable-but-impressive Hugo's. Both are date-night approved, with delightful entrees and tempting desserts.

Following dinner, head to the Glenwood Escape Room for a chance to work together to solve an hour-long puzzle; you'll feel closer than ever as you attempt to escape from one of the themed rooms.

Though 48 hours is hardly enough time to spend in Glenwood Springs, it's just enough to enjoy quality time with your loved one—adventuring, relaxing and exploring this charming mountain town. Romance for couples is easily inspired in Glenwood Springs.