

48 HOURS IN REDSTONE

DURING THE OFF-SEASON

By Savannah Nelson

Like many small mountain towns in Colorado, Redstone operates in two distinct seasons: the busy...and the not-so-busy.

When the traffic from peak tourism subsides, Redstone is a cozy respite in the off-season. With lower prices, little to no crowds, more opportunities to talk candidly with locals and the ongoing beauty of the surrounding nature, there are still plenty of reasons to visit Redstone in the winter and spring seasons.

HERE'S HOW TO SPEND 48 HOURS IN REDSTONE DURING THE OFF-SEASON.

DAY 1 - MORNING



The Redstone General Store has it all. Not only do they have coffee and baked goods, but also groceries, gear, alcohol and produce. Feel free to stop by more than once if you forget anything—or want an excuse to return for an ice cream cone.

Redstone's past is heavily influenced by mining. John C. Osgood was an infamous Redstone resident and coal baron who founded the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. The company used coke ovens as a method of refining coal into coke fuel. At one time there were over 200 coke ovens lining Redstone; though they haven't

been used since the turn of the 20th century, today you can see many of the remains on the west shoulder of Highway 133.

DAY 1 - AFTERNOON

A spa treatment is a great way to support a local Redstone business. La Femme Spa is located inside the Crystal Dreams Bed and Breakfast and operates as a boutique spa specializing in rejuvenating facials and massages; be sure to call ahead of time to schedule your appointment.

DAY 1 - EVENING

Propaganda Pie is an easy dinner choice, serving counter-service Detroit-style pizza in an eclectic and fun atmosphere.

DAY 2 - MORNING

The colder, snowy seasons are a great time to experience the natural appeal of Redstone. Coal Creek Basin Road isn't plowed during the winter, creating a 4-mile cross-country ski trail. It's likely to be quiet and still, just you and the fresh powder.

Alternatively, snowshoeing is another incredible activity for fresh air and exercise in the snow. Go-to Redstone trails include East Creek, the OST loop and Coal Creek Basin Road. Snowshoe rentals are available at the Redstone General Store.

Tip: take photos! The contrast of white snow against the rugged mountain landscape and red cliffs is stunning, especially on bluebird days.

DAY 2 - AFTERNOON

After moving your body, soaking at Avalanche Ranch is an ideal way to unwind and recover. Avalanche Ranch is between Carbondale and Redstone and is a gorgeous

hot springs retreat with a stunning backdrop of the Crystal River Valley. There are three natural geothermal pools in a tiered layout.

Day-visitor passes are available to purchase with a reservation; overnight guests staying on-site have 24-hour access to the pools.

DAY 2 - EVENING



For a final meal, head to The Grill at the Redstone Inn. In addition to a cozy, historic hotel that's been operating for over 100 years to locals and visitors alike, the Inn also has a bar and serves casual food. Here, you're likely to run into locals and spend some time swapping stories over a drink or two.

Even in the off-season, Redstone's charm offers plenty of reasons to stay, play and explore.

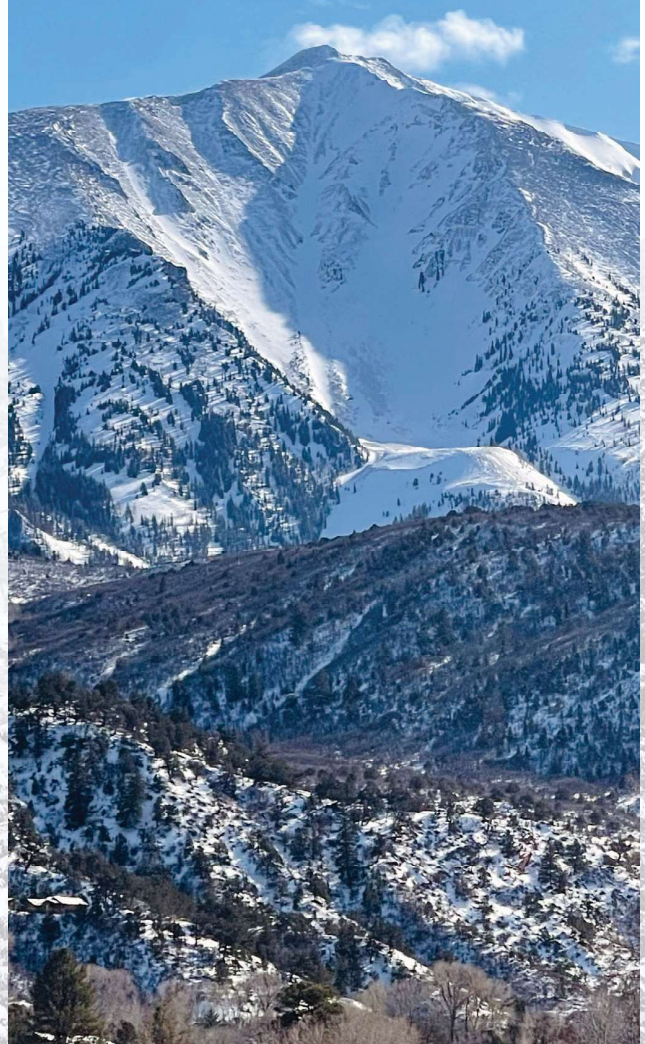
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