

# HOLIDAYS AWAY

## THE INSIDER'S GUIDE

Hitting the road for the holidays?

The following destinations, from guest ranches to resorts, make for the perfect getaway

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1. **ENCANTADO**: Tesuque, New Mexico A member of luxe Auberge Resorts, this contemporary adobe-style resort just outside of Santa Fe features 65 low-slung casitas with wood-burning kivas, luxurious beds and bathtubs made for two. Spend your holiday indulging in the Mountain Spirit Purification treatment at the spa, followed by dinner at Terra. Check out the Southwest Santa Package, and ring in the New Year at Betty's Bar. [encantadorresort.com](http://encantadorresort.com), 877-262-4666 >>



**2. C LAZY U, Granby, Colorado** This historic guest ranch is a true winter wonderland. Forty rooms and suites with stylish Western décor are set in hillside lodges. For fun, there's everything from skiing on private Baldy Mountain to sleigh rides to treatments at the Lazy U Spa. Holiday touches include decorated en-suite trees, Christmas carols and dinner, and a Western swing dance on New Year's Eve. [clazyu.com](http://clazyu.com), 970-887-3344

**3. STEIN ERIKSEN LODGE, Deer Valley, Utah** Named after the ski legend himself, the Stein beckons elegantly from its mid-mountain perch. Its 180 exquisite guest rooms and suites offer everything from downy comforters to gourmet kitchens, while Glitretind Restaurant, complete with a 10,000-bottle wine cellar, offers the ultimate holiday cheer. Start the New Year off right with the Great Salt Stone Therapy at the 20,000-square-foot Norwegian-style spa. [steinlodge.com](http://steinlodge.com), 435-649-3700

**4. SPRING CREEK RANCH, Jackson, Wyoming** Set in a wildlife sanctuary high above the town of Jackson Hole, this mountain-elegant ranch with inn rooms and mountain villas offers creature comforts galore, from spa treatments at the Wilderness Adventure Spa—try the Call of the Wild Massage—to fine dining at the Granary. Book the three-night New Year's Eve Package and catch the Jackson Hole fireworks from your perch above town. [springcreekranch.com](http://springcreekranch.com), 800-443-6139

**5. SONNENALP RESORT, Vail, Colorado** The heart of charming Vail Village is home to this historic resort, which caters to every whim with signature Bavarian hospitality and style. Its 115 luxury suites and 12 hotel rooms are both intimate and elegant. Classic Bavarian cuisine is on the fine-dining menu at Ludwigs, the fondue at Swiss Chalet is tops, and the Mountain Body Glow treatment at the spa lives up to its name. [sonnenalp.com](http://sonnenalp.com), 866-284-4411



**6. BIG EZ LODGE, Big Sky, Montana** Situated in the mountains a few ridges over from Big Sky Resort, the Big EZ is the perfect holiday hideout. Within the grand timber lodge, 12 guest rooms are done up with native log beams, stone fireplaces, faux-fur quilts, woolly bear-shaped footstools and bathrooms with spa showers. At mealtime, the kitchen turns out everything from blueberry pancakes to pan-seared red deer. Soaks in the hillside pool are a must. [bigezlodge.com](http://bigezlodge.com), 877-244-3299

**7. RESORT AT SQUAW CREEK, Lake Tahoe, California** The base of world-class ski resort Squaw Valley USA is the setting for this dramatic ski-in/ski-out destination, which has recently undergone a \$53-million renovation. Rooms and suites offer all the comforts of home (and then some), and perks include a heated pool, an ice rink and a full-service spa. Ristorante Montagna and the Gingerbread Village are home base for holiday cheer. [squawcreek.com](http://squawcreek.com), 800-327-3353

**8. SUN VALLEY LODGE, Sun Valley, Idaho** Celebrating the holidays comes naturally at this historic family-friendly gem, where 148 rooms are done up with cheerful French Country furnishings. Festive activities include a 75th anniversary ice show, a Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, carolers, fine dining at Gretchen's restaurant and celebrations at the Duchin Lounge. [sunvalleyresort.com](http://sunvalleyresort.com), 800-786-8259

### { insider's tip }

Check event calendars at ski areas around the West for **holiday torchlight parades**, which traditionally take place on-mountain on Christmas Eve (in Squaw Valley, Sun Valley, Taos and Telluride) and New Year's Eve (in Breckenridge, Jackson, Steamboat and Vail). Some resorts may let you sign up to join in.

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