

MOUNTAIN *town* MAGAZINE



The Mountain Town Equestrian Scene

Rodeos, Ranches & Horses In the Wild

The Vail Valley - A Local's Perspective
Travel, Wellness, Culinary Treats & More

Grand Junction

A SANDSTONE FOODIE AND BIKING OASIS ON THE WESTERN SLOPE

by Lisa Blake



Grand Junction is emerging as an economic hub, drawing attention for its buzzing commerce, I-70 access to all things west, sandstone and riverside recreation, and up-and-coming restaurant talent.

Here's how to spend your time in Grand Junction this season:

Ride Bikes

Junction boasts some of the state's most celebrated singletrack. Do like the locals do and hit up Lunch Loops. The trail system just 10 minutes from downtown serves up challenging terrain and spectacular views in a short punch of time.

Families and kiddos love the biking trails at Three Sisters Park and expert riders head straight to the notorious Palisade Plunge—a mixed bag of bold terrain with an ending rivaling Moab's famed Whole Enchilada.

Hike The Colorado National Monument

Dubbed Colorado's unofficial national park, the Colorado National Monument sits high on the Colorado Plateau. Hike into sandstone and granite canyons and enjoy popular trails like Devil's Kitchen and Coke Ovens or challenge yourself on the longer Liberty Cap trail.

Get Out on the Water

Grand Junction lies at the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers, offering up tons of opportunities to float, paddle and play all summer. Paddleboard, kayak and tube the Colorado River at the 140-acre Las Colonias Park. The riverfront area is home to outdoor concerts and the Edgewater Brewery.

See the Wild Horses

Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Preserve is home to roughly 100 wild mustangs roaming more than 30,000 acres of rugged canyons and plateaus. One of only three ranges in the U.S. dedicated to protecting wild and free roaming horses, this is a true wild west sight to see.

Stroll the Sculptures

One of the nation's first free outdoor sculpture exhibitions, downtown Grand Junction's public art program turns 40 this year. Art on the Corner features more than 100 permanent sculptures from artists across the country and makes for an entertaining summer's eve walkabout.

Eat + Drink

The local dining scene is heating up and chefs are calling on the agriculturally dense region's bounty. Nosh innovative tacos at Tacoparty, dine on the rooftop at Devil's Kitchen, see why everyone is talking about Bin 707 Foodbar, order wine flights and curated boards at Cruise Control Kitchen, and check out The Goat and Clover's hearty Irish dishes.

Thirsty? Seek out talented brewers at Ramblebine Brewery, Base Camp Beer Works and Trail Life Brewery, where you can get your bike tuned while sipping an IPA. Savor craft cocktails fireside while you catch whiffs of the bordering lavender farm at Highlands Distillery.

