

# TRAVEL BOULDER

## THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

### WINTER BUCKET LIST

Chilly Adventures in Colorado

### INTIMATE LIVE MUSIC

Velvet Elk Lounge

### HARMONIOUS HOMES

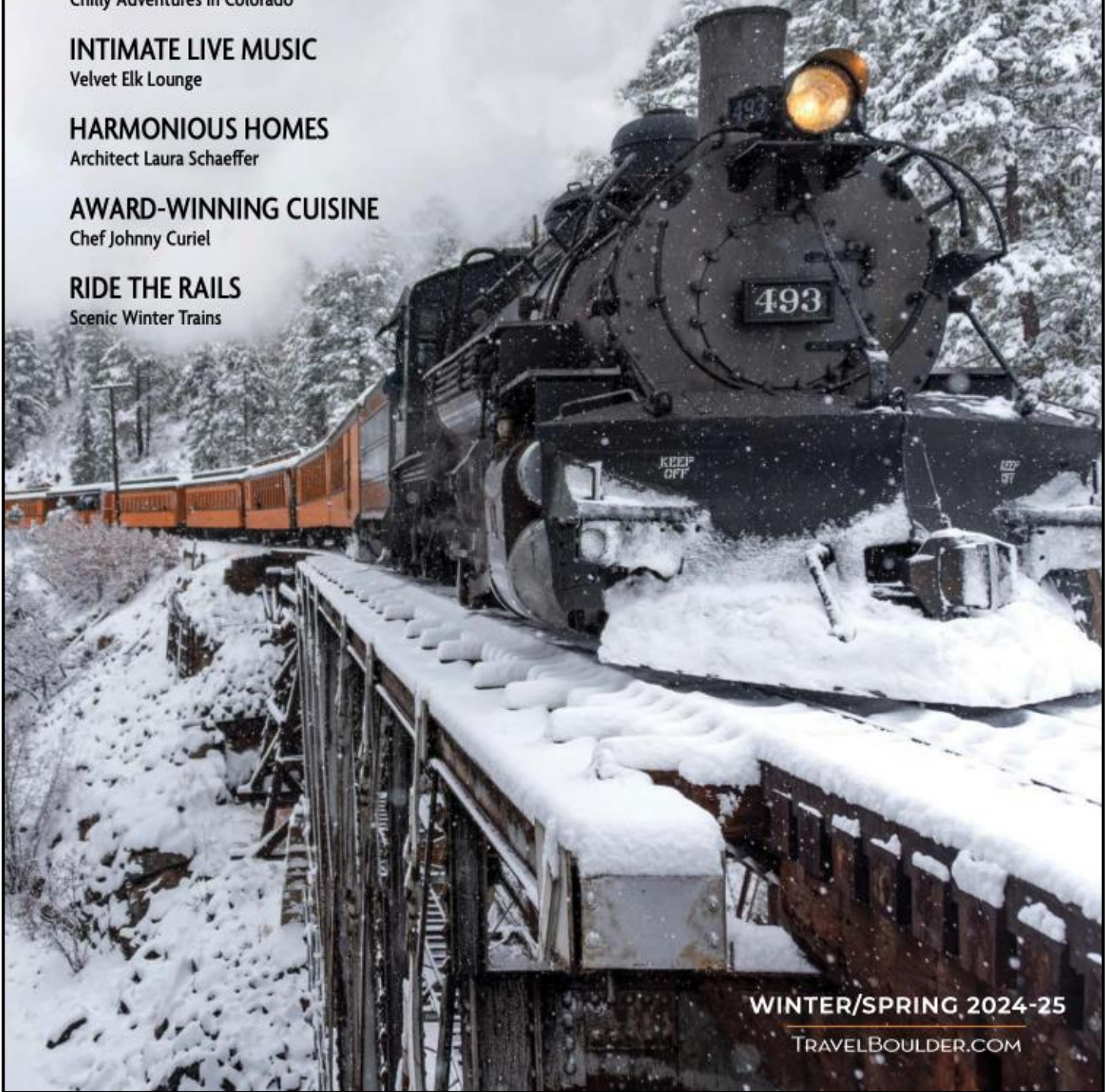
Architect Laura Schaeffer

### AWARD-WINNING CUISINE

Chef Johnny Curiel

### RIDE THE RAILS

Scenic Winter Trains



WINTER/SPRING 2024-25

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# 7

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## Unique Things to Do in Colorado This Winter

By Abigail Bliss

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With premier resorts all across the state, skiing is an obvious winter pastime for many Coloradans. But there's more to winter than lift lines and speedy laps. What about gliding your way to a five-course dinner or embarking on a hut trip between iconic mountain towns?

Other seasonal attractions include magical ice castles, charming sleigh rides and skating on a scenic alpine lake. Add these unique experiences to your Colorado bucket list this winter.

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Courtesy of A.J. Mellor

## THINGS TO DO

### BUCKET LIST

# 1

## Follow Crested Butte Nordic Trails to a Yurt Serving a Feast

Nordic trails in Crested Butte hum peacefully in the winter, with only the soft swish of skis and the crunch of snowshoes filling the air. But sounds crescendo as guests approach a stove-heated yurt hidden amid the pines. Within its 40-seat dining room, chef Tim Egelhoff prepares a five-course dinner with options like lamb osso buco and winter vegetable casserole. Wine, beer and cocktails made with local Montana Distillers spirits add to the revelry.

After your feast, make your way back to the trailhead alongside an optional guide, admiring the blanket of stars above this one-mile route. Beginners are welcome, and rental equipment and trail passes are included in this experience. [cbnordic.org](http://cbnordic.org)

# 2

## Plan a Luxurious Getaway to C Lazy U Ranch in Granby

C Lazy U Ranch effortlessly balances luxury with outdoor adventure, earning it prestigious travel awards and countless positive reviews. This all-inclusive guest ranch has welcomed visitors to Granby since 1919 and, even in the winter, activities abound. These include snowmobiling, ice hockey and skating, sledding and tubing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and scenic horseback rides, as well as festive sleigh rides across its 8,500 pristine acres. Exclusive ski packages are also available, providing access to the slopes at nearby Granby Ranch and Winter Park Resort.

Between the excitement, warm up and recover with amenities like its new adults-only spa lounge, which features a fire pit, hot tub and sauna with Continental Divide views. Families will also love this getaway, as private cabins have up to three bedrooms and on-site dining accommodates various preferences. [clazyu.com](http://clazyu.com)



TOP: Courtesy of Jeremy Swanson



### 3 Marvel an Ice Age Discovery in Snowmass Village

Home to a world-class ski resort, fine dining restaurants and slopeside chalets, this Roaring Fork Valley destination is far from a secret. But newcomers to Snowmass may not realize that in 2010, a construction project unearthed a massive collection of mastodon fossils. The bones of other extinct animals also turned up, including giant sloths, mammoths and camels, suggesting that Snowmass was once one of the most remarkable, high-altitude Ice Age ecosystems.

Learn more about these prehistoric finds at the new Ice Age Discovery experience, which launched in 2023. Grab a free Ice Age Passport, then make your way around the village gathering clues and answering questions. Admire the three murals on the Snowmass Mall and in Snowmass Base Village, which were created by artists Jeremy Collins, Bunnie Reiss and Kris Hewitt (aka Studio Kronk). And while skiing the green Dawdler ski run beneath the Village Express lift, look for the three education stations that make up the Discovery Trail. [snowmassiceage.com](http://snowmassiceage.com)



### 4 Explore Ethereal Ice Castles in Eagle and Cripple Creek

Ice castles surprise and delight visitors with their fairytale-like scenes made up of glowing caverns, lofty archways and snug passages—all entirely made from ice. Other features, like slippery slides, provide all-ages entertainment, while sculptures and frosty thrones add to the seemingly endless photo opportunities.

By popular demand, Cripple Creek will re-open its outpost this winter, and a new location is set to open in Eagle come December. Consider experiencing these attractions at night, as colorful lights and starry skies make them even more dazzling. To keep from becoming an icicle yourself, warm up by one of several fire pits with a steaming cup of hot cocoa. [icecastles.com](http://icecastles.com)

BOTTOM: Courtesy of Xavi Fane

## THINGS TO DO BUCKET LIST

# 5

### Play Ice Hockey or Broomball on Evergreen Lake

An hour south of Boulder lies Evergreen Lake, the largest Zamboni-groomed outdoor ice rink in the world. It spans 8.5 acres and offers several activities, from public ice skating and introductory classes to pick-up pond hockey. Groups can also reserve a rink to play broomball, a sport that blends hockey and soccer strategies. Broomball equipment, as well as skate rentals, can be collected from the Evergreen Lake House.

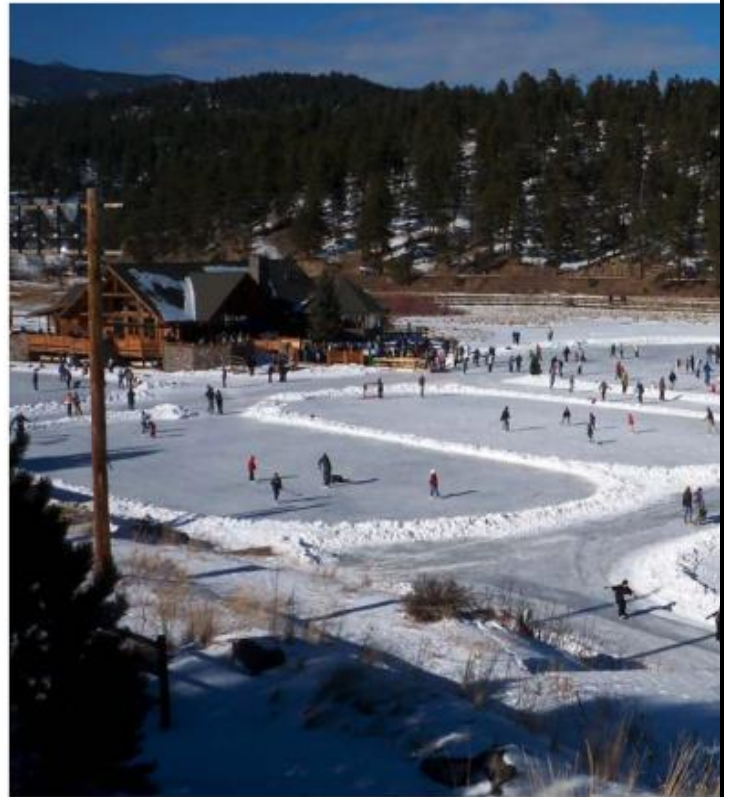
Though the forest and mountain views surrounding this attraction are beautiful, it can get chilly in the high country. Bundle up and pack a thermos of hot cocoa, or stop by EverBean Coffee Co. near the north shore for a warm treat. [evergreenrecreation.com](http://evergreenrecreation.com)

# 6

### Ski from Aspen to Vail on a Hut Trip with Paragon Guides

Despite skiing's popularity, few Coloradans have embarked on a backcountry hut trip—and the state has one of the most extensive networks in the country. But in fairness, setting off into the wilderness is daunting without prior experience. Interested newcomers may benefit from a planned excursion with Paragon Guides. It operates within the 10th Mountain Division network that connects 38 huts across a 350-mile stretch of glistening snow.

While Paragon Guides mostly caters to private parties, it will allow individuals to sign up for three group trips this coming February and March. The two-night Vail Pass Loop tour is a fantastic introduction, with opportunities to ski above treeline and through gorgeous glades. Meanwhile, those with more experience can embark on the pinnacle of hut trips: A five-night guided journey from Aspen to Vail. [paragonguides.com](http://paragonguides.com)



ABOVE: Courtesy of Evergreen Park and Recreation District;  
BELOW: Courtesy of From the Hip Photo



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Read More Online:  
[travelboulder.com/live-like-a-cowboy-during-a-trip-to-a-colorado-dude-ranch](http://travelboulder.com/live-like-a-cowboy-during-a-trip-to-a-colorado-dude-ranch)

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# 7

## Soak and Sip at Oakwell Beer Spa in Denver

Breweries are popular après-ski outposts during the winter months. But for a cozy, elevated take, spend an afternoon at Oakwell Beer Spa. Located in Denver's Five Points neighborhood, this wellness haven features an infrared sauna, zero-gravity massage chairs and beer bath hydrotherapy. Each private tub contains a blend of hops, barley and herbs, which are said to promote blood flow, reduce inflammation and provide a range of other mind and body benefits.

Enjoy soaking while sipping local craft brews from its rotating tap wall and don't miss offerings from its new enhancement menu. These include artisan bonbons and charcuterie, extended massage sessions and more. [oakwell.com](http://oakwell.com)

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