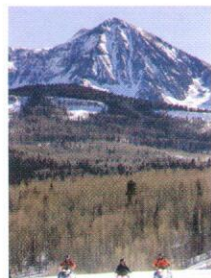




Hot Springs Eternal

Pair your winter jaunts to sultry mountain pools with explorations of the chilly landscapes beyond the resorts.

This summer, Colorado's tourism gurus designated a 720-mile circuit of 19 naturally heated soaking spots as the Historic Hot Springs Loop. Of course, nothing goes better with hot than, well, cold. To that end, we've put together five hot springs and winter adventure combinations in some of our favorite locations. —ALICIA M. COHN



OURAY

Hot: Most of **Orvis Hot Springs'** seven indoor and outdoor soaking areas (\$6 to \$16) are clothing-optional and prohibit electronics, so you can eschew *all* accouterments. Bonus: Catch an exhibit about one of the town's other notable soaking attractions—the 89-year-old, under-renovation Ouray Hot Springs Pool—at the Ouray County Museum be-

fore the show closes on November 13.

Cold: By Thanksgiving, the snow is typically deep enough for **Telluride Outside's** guided half-day snowmobile tours (\$195). The Beaver Park area's groomed trails, with stunning views of Wilson and Dolores peaks, are ideal for taking a new Polaris model out on a four-hour trip.

GLENWOOD SPRINGS

Hot: The 1.5-year-old **Iron Mountain Hot Springs** resort contains 16 mineral pools plus a freshwater-fed family pool. Purchase the Ride & Relax combo package (\$56 to \$68 per person) for discounted access to both the hot springs and Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park.

Cold: As part of **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park's** Winter on

the Mountain celebration (November 11 to February 26), half a million holiday-themed lights will bedeck the park, including the zip-line-esque Soaring Eagle Zip Ride and the Alpine Coaster as it rockets down a 3,400-foot hill.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Hot: A vehicle with four-wheel drive, snow tires, and chains is required for the drive

up to **Strawberry Park Hot Springs** from November 1 to May 1, so make it worth your while and stay the night in an on-site cabin or train caboosie (\$85 to \$175 per night for two people). Book the private pool for a one-hour Watsu therapy session (\$110), during which a masseuse will knead and stretch your body while you float in chest-deep water.

Cold: Trade the water for a horse-drawn

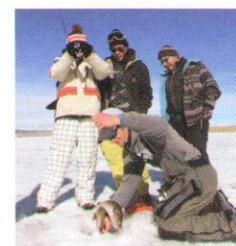


Strawberry Park Hot Springs' five pools vary from 101 to 105 degrees.

sleigh at nearby **Saddleback Ranch**. Your options are a 30-minute jaunt (\$30 to \$90 per person) to the property's Double Dollar Lodge, where you'll eat dinner and learn how to rope a steer indoors, or an upgraded trip (\$30 to \$118 per person) that adds an hour and a half of tubing before you dine.

CHAFFEE COUNTY

Hot: The three-bedroom, two-bath **Creekside Hot Springs** cabin (\$255 to \$555 per night) features a private soaking pool that you can adjust between 100 and 105 degrees.



Cold: Once the frozen lake is safe to walk on (usually late November), **Sport Fish Colorado** provides guided daylong ice-fishing trips (\$350 for two people) to Tarryall Reservoir. On a good day, even a beginner can catch 10 or more rainbow trout.

HISTORIC HOT SPRINGS LOOP



PAGOSA SPRINGS

Hot: Situated on the banks of the San Juan River, the 23-pool **Springs Resort & Spa** (\$14 to \$53 per person if you're not staying the night) is fed by the 1,002-foot-deep Great Pagosa Aquifer, the world's deepest geothermal hot spring. Energetic visitors can also check out the mineral water lap pool.

Cold: **Pagosa Dogsled Adventures** begins its private winter runs (\$125 to \$300 per person) on November 24. The 1.5- to two-hour treks offer an introduction to commands and gear, plus photos of you mushing with fluffy (read: super cute) Alaskan malamutes.