

# Main Street offers many attractions in Park City, Utah



Two skiers slide across the bridge to Main Street in Park City after a day of skiing at Park City Mountain Resort. (Photo by Park City Mountain Resort)

*By Marlene Greer*

---

POSTED: 03/31/14, 9:44 AM PDT | UPDATED: ON 03/31/2014# [COMMENTS](#)

Take a stroll down Park City's historic Main Street and you can't miss Loosey the Moose all dressed up in her finest, the intriguing wind sculptures, the wonderful Park City Museum, and the chairlift where you can take a ride up to Park City Mountain Resort.

The Park City Museum is housed in the former city hall and territorial jail built in 1885. It tells the story of the city's silver mining heritage and its transition to a ski resort.

Visitors can climb into an old mining cage and feel what it was like to be transported miles underground and explore the life of a miner. The many exhibits, historical artifacts, interactive displays and running documentaries will keep you busy for a good hour or two.

One fascinating tidbit was how two miners started the area's first ski resort. But to get to the hill, skiers had to ride a mining car three miles underground, then step into a mining cage to ascend 1,800 feet to the surface. The trip took an hour.

It was snowing the day we wandered around town, so we couldn't take in more than a quick glimpse of the many sculptures and outdoor artworks along Main Street.

We spotted the well-dressed and primed Loosey, a bear on a bench in case a visitor wanted to snuggle for a photo and a very realistic looking Native-American ready to let fly with an arrow.

There were also many intricately patterned metal windmills, the work of world-renown artist Lyman Whitaker, who for 30 years has been “gracefully capturing the spirit of the wind through his kinetic art.”

There are a dozen or more art galleries along Main Street, showcasing a variety of work from local and nationally known artists. Several have an emphasis on Western art and feature painted and sculpted bison, horses and bears, and canvases of pastures, wranglers and beautiful alpine autumns.

But there are also the wild and wacky, the delicate glassworks and the Hollywood icons.

For those who enjoy a good whiskey, a stop at the High West Distillery and Saloon is a must. Here, visitors can take a tour and sample some of the company’s well-known whiskeys and specialty cocktails.

During a distillery tour, we learned that only locally grown grains are used. We also discovered the difference between Scotch, whiskey and bourbon and that Utah was the critical 36th state to vote against the 18th amendment and end Prohibition. The tour is offered three times daily.

I’m not a whiskey drinker, but I managed a sip of white whiskey (which a nearby taster called moonshine), as well as a sip of double rye (not for me).

But the High West Lemonade cocktail with double rye whiskey was delicious and the fried, bite-size macaroni and cheese appetizer downright addictive.

Speaking of food, Main Street is the place to go for après ski dining. There are many good restaurants to choose from. Downtown restaurants on

#### Advertisement

weekends are always full. It’s best to make a reservation, especially at popular places such as Zoom, owned by Robert Redford. It’s located in the old railroad station.

We stopped in Zoom on a weeknight — with a reservation — and the place was packed. We tried the crispy calamari with lemon jalapeno aioli (too spicy for my taste, but devoured by everyone else at the table), Wagyu bavette steak, seared ahi tuna and wild mushroom risotto.

The dinner was delicious, but the service slow. I felt sorry for our harried waiter; he obviously had too many tables to manage.

Visitors to downtown can catch the free trolley or public bus from Deer Valley, Canyons and most Park City hotels. So take a day or afternoon off from skiing and spend some time exploring Park City’s historic Main Street.

*Marlene Greer is a North Carolina-based freelance writer.*