

BEAVER CREEK

European charm in the Old West

By Steve Winston



Beaver Creek is just seven miles down the road from Vail. Like its larger neighbor, it looks like something out of a Technicolor-postcard from Europe. And like a real European village, the town's focal point is a beautiful square.

Within this compact village are world-class hotels and restaurants, art galleries, outdoor recreation, and a surprising range of options for corporate meeting and incentive planners. Beaver Creek can

accommodate meetings of up to 1,000. And there's a total of nearly 60,000 square feet of meeting space in town.

Overlooking the square is the 190-room Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort & Spa, which recently wrapped up a \$20 million spruce-up. The resort doubled the size of its famed Allegria Spa and enhanced its 20,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting space.

Another choice is The Pines Lodge. Winner of

an AAA Four-Diamond rating, it can host meetings of 10 to 200. And dinner at its award-winning Grouse Mountain Grill is something your attendees will remember for a long time.

For a taste of the Old West, there's the 4 Eagle Ranch, just west of Vail and Beaver Creek. The ranch provides corporate and incentive planners with a full-service, multifaceted alternative to traditional meetings (along with a rustic ranch setting and animals all over the place). There's 7,200 square feet of meeting space here, 1,600 of which are in the colorful "Mountain Cabin."

"Beaver Creek is a place with a lot of experiences you can't find anywhere else," says Chris Romer, director of marketing for Vail Valley Partnership, the one-stop (or one-call) agency for meeting planners thinking about Vail Valley. "For example, there aren't too many places where you can hold a meeting in the morning and then ski with a park ranger in the afternoon. Beaver Creek is a really interesting combination. It's a little slice of Europe in the Old West."

CONTACT

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Largest Group – 1,800
Largest in One Hotel – 1,000
(Park Hyatt Beaver Creek)
Access – Vail/Eagle County Airport, 35 miles;
Denver Int'l Airport, 145 miles

BOULDER

A little bit of everything

By Steve Winston

Boulder is a university town, home to the University of Colorado. So it shines—at the foot of the Rocky Mountains—with the creative energy of its professors and scientists, entrepreneurs and innovators, craftspeople and activists, and hikers and skiers. And it shines-happily for meeting planners—with 2,200 hotel rooms and a diverse range of meeting experiences.

"Meeting attendees in Boulder invariably come away with the impression of sunny skies, and the fact that just about everyone in town is outdoors enjoying them," says Mary Ann Mahoney, executive director of the Boulder Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Boulder offers some 91,000 square feet of meeting space and another 12,000 square feet outdoors. The Hotel Boulderado, with space for groups from five to 200, has been a landmark since 1909. The Millennium Harvest House Hotel is known for its outdoor-garden meeting facilities and its incredible views of the Rockies. St. Julien's Hotel & Spa has nearly 16,000 square feet of elegant meeting space.

There are also unique meeting spaces, such as the University of Colorado's Center Plate at Folsom Field, home of the CU Buffaloes. A branch of the

renowned "Chautauqua" movement offers a variety of beautifully restored cottages and larger meeting spaces where some of the world's greatest minds have come to think (or to marvel at the views).

"We've hosted groups as large as 9,000," Mahoney says. "But we also seem to have found a real niche in smaller groups of 50 to 125."

Boulder's a lively town. There's always something going on. The array of cultural and sports events is non-stop. The people-watching's great. The surroundings are breathtaking. And the meetings are memorable.

CONTACT

Boulder Convention & Visitors Bureau
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Largest Group – 9,000
Largest in One Hotel – 500 (Millennium Harvest House Hotel)
Access – Denver International Airport, 40 miles;
Rocky Mountain Metro Airport, 10 miles

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