

24 Hours

IN

TELLURIDE

Nestled in the heart of the San Juan Mountains, Telluride is a beautiful and historic mining town. Founded initially as a camp for miners, that camp eventually became a bona fide town that was incorporated three years after the first gold-mining claim was made in 1875.

AUTUMN EDITION

Located in a box canyon, Telluride is surrounded by pristine natural beauty that turned out to be the perfect location for a ski resort. A year round destination, Telluride boasts an enviable combination of history, nature and festivals and some fantastic places to eat and drink. While 24 hours isn't even close to enough to fully experience this magical mountain town, it's a start!

7 am

Autumn mornings are crisp and chilly at almost 9,000 feet, so get up and out and enjoy the morning air. The Butcher and Baker, a well-liked local bakery, opens at 7am Monday-Saturday and at 8am on Sunday. They have house-made pastries and bread, bagels and English muffins as well as more substantial fare. If you haven't tried the Mexican breakfast dish of chilaquiles, you are in for a treat. Farm fresh eggs, tortilla chips, beans, cheese, cream, avocado, radish and green chilies come together in alchemistic style for an unbeatable breakfast. They also have an eclectic collection of sandwiches, salads and other things for lunch and dinner as well as cocktails and drinks.

8 am

For coffee, try the Phoenix Bean, a one-minute walk down Colorado Avenue. Part of the New Sheridan group, the Phoenix Bean underwent a 12-month renovation project to restore what time had ravaged and is now a local favorite. Like the Butcher and Baker, it also serves lunch and dinner with cocktails, wine and beer.

8:30 am

Get your coffee to go and head out into the wilderness beyond.

Telluride may have one of the best ski resorts in North America, but it offers as much, if not more, during the rest of the year, particularly summer and autumn. With the changing of the leaves, autumn begs you to get outside and enjoy this spectacle of nature.

Whether you want a gentle hike, to hurtle down the mountain on a bike, feel the raw power of a horse between your thighs or just relax while a guide takes you literally off the beaten path on a 4x4 jeep tour, Telluride can facilitate.

There are hundreds of miles of hiking trails in the area including ones that lead you to the summit of a 14er (that's Colorado speak for a peak over 14,000 feet). Two great resources for hiking are hikingproject.com and the Telluride Hiking Guide.

Mountain biking is also a great option in early autumn. There are trails that are accessible straight off the (free) gondola at San Sophia Station. The longest trail at Mountain Village Bike Park (where you have to be a relatively experienced rider and sign a waiver) is the 1.5-mile No-Brainer Trail that features moderate slopes on a curvy trail. Away from the bike park, there are plenty of other challenging trails that take you on old mining roads and up above the box canyon, check out MTBproject.com for info on other trails in the area. Road cyclists might want to consider a jaunt on the very scenic San Juan Skyway (read more on [page 30](#)). It isn't easy going, but the amazing views are more than worth it.

For something a little more hands on try the very unique via ferrata. The iron rungs bolted right into the side of the south-facing canyon wall below Ajax Peak give those brave and fit enough the chance to traverse the 1.5-mile course. It takes an experienced climber around three hours, so be sure to know your limits. Read more about this and the two other via ferrate West of 105 on [page 28](#).

There is also Telluride Golf Club at the Peaks Resort & Spa. At over 9,000 feet, it is one of the world's highest; it closes for winter on October 14.

1 pm

However you decide to spend your morning, you will probably be ready for lunch around now. The New Sheridan Chop House is inside the New Sheridan Hotel and is a classic American steakhouse. Uncluttered with simple white linens and unfussy decor, the Chop House is a Telluride favorite. The menu is relatively small and the dishes don't stray too far from the classics - but then classics are classics for a reason. An absolute must for chilly autumn days, the French onion soup is a great way to start a feast if your hungry (if you aren't, one between two is a good idea). The Colorado trout salad with sherry and bacon vinaigrette and the Reuben made with house-corned beef are both as delicious as they are filling - which is to say very on both counts. Unless you have hiked the aforementioned 14er, you may not have space for dessert.

If you're feeling a little tired after your exertions earlier in the day, get yourself a New Sheridan Flatliner Martini. A Chop House signature cocktail made with Telluride vodka, Bailey's Irish Cream, Kahlua and cold-brewed espresso, the caffeine kick will wake you from your slumber.

2:30 pm

Walk off what will undoubtedly be a gigantic portion from the Chop House with a stroll around town. There are self-guided art and historical walking tours and Telluride is also a state-certified Creative District, read more on [page 90](#).

Before heading back to your accommodation to get ready for dinner and perhaps a night on the town, a drink is in order. Telluride is not short of watering holes, but at this time of day, a local beer should hit the spot. Smuggler's Brewpub on South Pine Street is a laid back pub with all the features of a good pub - good beer, sports on TV and classic pub food - should you need more to eat. Get a pint of something local.



Photos (clockwise from top right): New Sheridan Chop House; New Sheridan Hotel; Vaudeville Event Telluride Arts / TellurideTrans- fe Warehouse; Rob McGovern / Period Comms



Photos (left): Kristofer Noel / Telluride Ski Resort; (right): Matthew Inden / Miles

7 pm

Telluride has a lot of good places to eat and there is something for everyone. If you didn't go to the Chop House for lunch, dinner is a good bet there with steaks being the order of the day. There is also Brown Dog Pizza on East Colorado Avenue. With award-winning dough flingers (Brown Dog Pizza finished first at the Pizza World Championships 2015 in Parma, Italy), you can be assured of a good slice of pizza. You can also be assured of a strange slice, too, unless you're from Detroit. Detroit-style pizza has a twice baked crust - once without sauce and again with - that really locks in that crunch. And it's pretty good.

If Detroit isn't exotic enough for you, maybe the Village Table will do it. Like the pizza, this place in Mountain Village offers something a little different but at the same time familiar. The name may conjure images of a quaint place with perhaps unfinished wooden tables, exposed beams and a roaring fire, but the Village Table is actually a very authentic Spanish tapas restaurant.

Flagstone floors and brushed steel table tops give the restaurant a very informal feel, as does the service - friendly and knowledgeable without being overly deferential - but as soon as you take a bite of something you realize that chef and owner Johnny Gerona takes his tapas seriously, at least to the point where he knows they are as authentic as you will get anywhere in the world - including Spain. Originally from New York, Gerona has lived in Telluride for more than 30 years.

His father was from Spain and so as a kid he would visit the land of his father every other summer, so when he says he is confident that any Spaniard would be right at home with his food, there is no reason to doubt him.

The menu includes more than a dozen types of tapas as well as some seafood entrées and a couple of types of paella. The squid steak is fantastic - tender yet flavorful thanks to the griddle that adds distinctive marks and a smoky flavor. Be sure to squeeze the accompanying charred lemon wedge over it. The salt cod croquettes are perfectly salty, the pan de tomatoe looks simple but the crunchy bread and rich topping combine perfectly, and the Spanish tortilla is hearty yet subtle. The paella, available for one or two, is perfect for autumn and winter - the spoonfuls of saffron rice are soft and warming as they go down. The chicken and chorizo is a very good combination, but a seafood version is also available.

As for dessert, be sure to try the chocolate mousse. It is honestly as satisfying as any dish on the menu. Not too light and airy, the mousse is less bitter and more creamy than most yet Gerona has replaced some of the dairy with olive oil that somehow results in a treat that will convert anyone on the fence about chocolate desserts.

On warmer days a jug of sangria is a good choice; after sundown perhaps a glass of wine would be better.

9 pm

To walk off dinner and make sure you are well and truly tired out, go for a post-dinner stroll back down the mountain in Telluride. Simply wander aimlessly and take in the splendor of a beautiful mountain town on a cool autumn evening (a self-guided tour is a great idea if you haven't already done it).

For a nightcap and to get out of the cold, make your way to There... on West Pacific Avenue. A down-to-earth bar that doesn't take itself too seriously, There... has almost a dozen original cocktail creations, so you're sure to find something.



11 pm

Telluride has plenty of options when it comes where to rest what should be a weary body, both in town and up in Mountain Village, especially in autumn when the town is about to start gearing up for winter but isn't quite there yet. Up in Mountain Village, Telluride Mountain Lodge is up at the end of the gondola. Think chunky light oak furnishings with fireplaces. Some also have kitchenettes for coffee and quick breakfasts before heading out on a hike, on a bike or in winter to the slopes. The best part of the lodge is its location - quite literally in the thick of the forest, the autumn foliage is quite unbeatable when taken in from the outdoor hot tub or from The View, the resort's restaurant and bar (which closes briefly during shoulder season), which couldn't be more aptly named.

There are great options in town, too, including the New Sheridan. It is conveniently located on Colorado Avenue, next door to the Chop House (very convenient if you do need a post-lunch nap after going into hibernation mode after a monster lunch). The hotel featured in the 1969 Academy Award-winning film "Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid" starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford, too.

Beyond 24 Hours

Be sure to check what is on at the Sheridan Opera House. Located behind the Sheridan Hotel, the historic theater hosts all kinds of performances through the year.

A Telluride icon, Allred's restaurant is located at the San Sophia gondola stop at 10,535 feet which means the views are quite possibly unrivaled anywhere. The food is contemporary American and regularly receives rave reviews. If you don't want to dine, enjoy a drink at the bar, it's worth it for the view alone.

Shoulder Season

As a true mountain town, Telluride virtually shuts down for a small period every autumn as the town gears up for the coming onslaught of winter tourism. While some restaurants and hotels do stay open throughout this period (Telluride Mountain Lodge is one of them) be prepared for a few days of solitude if you visit between mid-October and Thanksgiving - this includes the gondola that shuttles people between Telluride and Mountain Village, although there is a complimentary bus from Mountain Village down to Telluride during this period. If you are, however looking for a bit of peace and quiet, this is the perfect time to visit. Book a suite with a kitchenette, stock up on groceries and wine and enjoy having the place to yourself!



Photos (this page): Telluride Ski Resort; (opposite page, above left): Telluride Ski Resort / Ben Eng; (opposite page, center and below) Neil Hastings / Telluride Mountain Lodge