

24 HOURS IN ASPEN

If you only had 24-48 hours to spend in Aspen, below is a list of our "must do" activities. We hope you have much more time to spend here and can spread these wonderful experiences out over the course of your vacation.



8:00 am: Wake up early and catch the bus to the [Maroon Bells](#), the most photographed peaks in North America. They are the perfect Rocky Mountain backdrop for a hike, picnic, or even an overnight [camping](#) excursion.

10 am: Since you already have your car, head towards [Independence Pass](#), driving east of Aspen along the winding, two-lane Highway 82. Favorite stops include the Grottos ice caves, the Devil's Punchbowl, Independence Ghost Town, [hiking trails](#) and the continental divide at the top of the pass.

12 pm: Park your car and ride the [Silver Queen Gondola](#) to the top of Aspen Mountain for spectacular views, delicious [food](#), free [classical](#) and [bluegrass](#) music (weekends only), kids' activities, disc golf and miles of trails to [hike](#) and [bike](#). Purchase of a gondola ticket required.

2 pm: At the northern end of Aspen is the [Hunter Creek Loop](#), a favorite trail amongst locals looking for a quick nature fix (plan on 2 hours). The trail winds along a mellow creek, through dense aspen groves and meadows with blooming wildflowers. Go as far as you want, or complete the loop by coming down the Smuggler Mountain Road.

4 pm: [The Rio Grande Trail](#) is Aspen's can't miss trail for visitors looking to enjoy their surroundings, either by foot or bike. The "Rio" follows the Roaring Fork River all the way to [Glenwood Springs](#). The ride or walk possibilities are endless. If you can't make it the whole way, stop at the Woody Creek Tavern to refuel for your walk/ride back into town!

6 pm: You have earned the right to relax after such an action-packed day. Walk around downtown Aspen's walking malls and enjoy an ice cream cone at [Paradise Bakery](#) while you take in the surroundings. Don't miss the Dancing Fountain on the corner of Mill & Hyman Streets as children and adults delight in the dancing waters.