

# COLORADO

## Road Trip

**Destination:** Colorado  
**Depart:** Idaho  
**First stop:** Park City, Utah

BY SUSAN SIMS, PUBLISHER

**L**AST YEAR, MY HUSBAND AND I, along with our two Directors of Barketing, Zoey and Mattie, set out for a snow trip the first two weeks before Christmas. Our reasoning was to choose a time when most folks were still busy planning for Christmas break and to not be driving in too much snow.

The “girls” knew change was in the air as they watched us ready the Ford Windstar for travel. It was after we secured the Canine Covers that the difficulty arose. We could not keep them out of the car. So, for the next hour, they sat glued to their seats, watching us scurry about, loading their precious cargo. Amazing how focused these two hooligans can be when it comes to transporting their food. For this road trip, we brought along dehydrated dog food from the Honest Kitchen. This is great stuff. It’s not only easy to store, but with hot water and 10-minute wait period, voila! Healthy, good food.

### SUPPLIES AND PROVISIONS

#### Canine Covers:

Custom made-to-fit bench seat cover for our Ford Windstar. Kept the dog hair and dirt off the upholstery and looked good, too.

#### SnoozAir Pet Beds:

Great inflatable pet beds with covers. Used these in the van as well as in hotel rooms. Easy to transport.

#### K-9 Topcoats:

Think of them as a body-glove for dogs. Visualize a surfer in a wetsuit and superimpose your dog. Ours wore red, which were quite festive and kept the snow and grime off their fur. Kept them warm as well.

#### Honest Kitchen

#### Dehydrated Dog Food:

We use Force from the Honest Kitchen in San Diego. Perfect mix of dehydrated fruit, vegetables and grain free. Force is a wheat free dog food and also a gluten free dog food. Re-hydrate with warm water, wait 10 minutes and you have a perfect meal for your dog.

#### Pet First Aid Kit:

Country Dog and Friends makes a big red box filled with all first aid items you need for an emergency.

#### Last minute details:

Called ahead to make sure pet policy had not changed and reservations were confirmed.



Mountain Lodge at Telluride

## An Easy Drive from Idaho to Park City, Utah

Spending the night at the Best Western Landmark Inn, we enjoyed a one-nighter in Park City, Utah. The Best Western Landmark Inn is nestled within the Wasatch Mountains, just 35 freeway minutes from the Salt Lake City Airport. You could conceivably be on the slopes skiing “The Greatest Snow On Earth” in one hour or less as the hotel is just minutes away from three world-class ski areas: The Canyons, Park City Mountain Resort and Deer Valley.

We took in a half-day excursion on snowshoes, and the girls were off-leash. Lauren Adams, with White Pine Touring, was our guide. What fun! It was the dogs’ first time wearing their K-9 topcoats. What a lifesaver these garments are. Meant for the cold and snow, these custom-fit body gloves kept the dirt off their coats and made us feel better about them frolicking in frigid temperatures. And they looked so darn cute in their red “pajamas.” The topcoats brought lots of oohs and ahhs from fellow snowshoers. All right, some chuckles too.

The next day we rolled into Telluride, Colorado. This has to be one of the most, if not *the* most, Fido-friendly towns in the world. I do believe dogs outnumber people in this small ski-town. Telluride is so dog-friendly, dogs and cats are allowed on pet designated gondolas. Have you heard of “puppy-parking?” That is where you can hitch your pal to a post when you go inside a restaurant or other places where Fido is not allowed.

We stopped in to see long time friend and owner of Schaussi’s Alpen Schatz, Mary Dawn Debraie. Mary Dawn wrote an article about Telluride for *Fido Friendly* magazine a few years ago and loved the area so much, she moved to Telluride and opened her boutique. Dogs, of course, are allowed inside. Schaussi’s Alpen Schatz translated means Schaussi’s Alpine Treasure. They offer exclusive alpine handicrafts imported

from the original craftsmen hidden away in the heart of the Swiss, Italian and Austrian Alps. Some of these crafts, such as their original Swiss Dog collars, have been passed down through generations, from father to son, for hundreds of years and represent a storybook culture not to be forgotten.

We were lucky to be in town during Noel Night. This is the night where all the shops stay open late and invite you in with food and entertainment. Schaussi’s Alpen Schatz had people streaming out the door as the food was amazing and the musical entertainment provided by Marco Misinato added just the right ambience to a festive evening. Marco has even composed a CD for Fido!

## Mountain Lodge at Telluride

The Mountain Lodge at Telluride is ideally located midway up Telluride Mountain in Mountain Village. Surrounded by panoramic views of the majestic San Juan Mountains, the Mountain Lodge at Telluride features three log-and-stone buildings and a main lodge, whose tremendous lobby



Two ski valets at the Ritz Carlton Bachelor Gulch hangout with Mattie & Zoey.

is warmed by an immense river-rock fireplace. Gleaming with rich leather and rustic Western elegance, the lobby also features the Tavern Bar perfect for quiet afternoon and evening gatherings. Of course, Fido is allowed.

We stayed in one of the luxurious cabins. And wow, what a cabin it was! The rustic yet sophisticated interior was warm and welcoming. The fireplace was situated between the bedroom and living area so you can enjoy a fire in both rooms. The cabins’ interiors feature flagstone entries, pine cabinetry, granite and marble finishes, Subzero refrigerators, jetted tubs and handpicked furnishings down to the dishware package. And best of all, all of this luxury is surrounded by the highest and most rugged peaks of North America. We did not want to leave, but leave we did and tested out the Gondola which connects Mountain Village with the town of Telluride below.

The Gondolas are free to ride and they have pet designated compartments that we all climbed into. This is such a beautiful 12-minute ride, but I am afraid, we only took it twice. Zoey was having a wonderful time, looking out the windows. But Mattie was scared to death and hid under the seat. It was worth a try, but after this little adventure, we used our standard mode of transportation, the trusty Windstar, to get back and forth.

## The Hotel Telluride

The Hotel Telluride is the *only* hotel in Telluride listed two consecutive years on Conde Nast Traveler’s Gold List. In 2005, The Hotel Telluride was listed on Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Places to Stay. In 2006, the Hotel made the top 100 Hotels in Continental US and Canada for Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Places to Stay.

Each of The Hotel Telluride’s 59 beautifully appointed guest rooms



The Hotel Telluride Lobby



**Levi checks us in to the Hotel Columbia.**

features a balcony or patio with sweeping views of the San Juan Mountains along with custom furnishings. We surrounded ourselves in the most luxurious, natural feather bedding, cozy down comforter, 250-thread count embroidered sheets and lots of pillows in their Incredible Bed. The spacious guest room baths feature thick terry monogrammed robes, huge thirsty towels, hair dryers and AVEDA bath amenities.

We loved the beautiful lobby with leather sofas placed in front of the huge fireplace. The

restaurant is situated right off the lobby and has great morning fare, which is included as part of your stay.

### Hotel Columbia

Uniquely situated on the San Miguel River at the base of the Telluride Ski Resort, the Hotel Columbia boasts Telluride's premiere location. The Hotel Columbia blends the charm of a small country inn with personalized service and modern amenities abound. With only 21 rooms

decorated in a warm Victorian motif, guests are taken back to a simpler time. The surroundings are pure luxury, from the gas burning fireplace, to the deluxe oversize beds with fluffy down duvets and overstuffed pillows.

The Hotel Columbia is proud to have been the first hotel in Telluride to allow guests to bring their dogs as part of the vacation experience. They allow dogs on two of the three floors and over the past 12 years they have seen hundreds of dogs from Poodles and Pitt Bulls to Labradors and Malamutes. Levi is the resident yellow Lab and greeted us each morning.

There is a fabulous restaurant at the Hotel Columbia where you can eat and enjoy the view at the same time. In the main dining room of the Cosmopolitan Restaurant, chef/owner Chad Scothorn offers fine dining with generous portions and outstanding ingredients. His menu offers diverse cuisines, including French, Southwestern, American and Thai. There is also a bar and wine cellar.

### Camels Garden

Named after one of the region's historical sites, the Camel's Garden Hotel is ideally situated on the San Miguel River, yet it is only two blocks from the Main Street shops and restaurants and is adjacent to the Gondola.

What made this property exceptional was the fact we had a back door in our room leading outside where we could take the girls to "do their business" and for walks along the river.

One afternoon, we had a pet-sitter stay with the girls as we took in a few hours of skiing. Marie Whelan, owner of Tricks & Treats Pet Sitting Service, came to our hotel room and met Zoey and Mattie. Marie has lots of regular clients in

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town and also works with people on vacation like we were so that the guardians can go out skiing while she takes care of the fur-babies. Marie will stay in the hotel room or take your dog for a nice long walk, whichever you prefer.

Knowing the "kids" were safe with Marie, we rode the Gondola up to Mountain Village and rented a pair of skis from the Boot Doctors. The Boot Doctors is located on the north side of the Heritage Plaza at the base of the Gondola and lift #4 in Telluride's Mountain Village. We walked out with skis, boots and poles and did a little bit of slipping and sliding on the famous Colorado powder.

## Telluride Mountainside Inn

The Mountainside Inn is located in the town of Telluride, Colorado, set at the base of the Telluride Ski Resort and along side the San Miguel River, allowing ski-in access in winter.

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**Pet sitter Marie Whelan with Zoey & Mattie on trail behind Camels Garden.**

## IF YOU GO

### LODGING

#### Best Western Landmark Inn

6560 N. Landmark Dr.  
Park City UT 84098  
(435) 649-7300

[www.bwlandmarkinn.com](http://www.bwlandmarkinn.com)

All rooms are non-smoking

Room rate: \$69 - \$209

Pet Fees: \$10 per night pet fee, and a \$50 refundable damage deposit

#### Mountain Lodge at Telluride

457 Mountain Village Boulevard  
Telluride, CO 81435  
1-866-368-6867

[www.mountainlodgetelluride.com](http://www.mountainlodgetelluride.com)

Room rate: \$119 - \$2000

Pet fee: \$50 per night; \$150 maximum

#### The Hotel Telluride

199 North Cornet Street  
Telluride, CO 81435  
1-866-HOTEL-01

[www.thehoteltelluride.com](http://www.thehoteltelluride.com)

Room rate: \$239+

Pet fee: \$100 one time fee

#### Hotel Columbia Telluride

300 San Juan Ave.  
Telluride, CO 81435  
(970) 728-0660

[www.columbiatelluride.com](http://www.columbiatelluride.com)

Room rate: \$190 - \$475

Pet fee: \$20 per night

#### Camel's Garden Resort Hotel & Condominiums

250 W. San Juan Ave.  
Telluride, Colorado 81435  
1-888-772-2635

[www.camelsgarden.com](http://www.camelsgarden.com)

Room rate: \$275+

Pet fee: \$40 per night

#### Telluride Mountainside Inn

333 S. Davis St.  
Telluride, CO 81435  
(970) 728-1950

[www.telluridehotels.com](http://www.telluridehotels.com)

Room rate: \$99 - \$1,500 for Mountain Village

Vacation Home (excluding festivals)

Pet fee: \$30 per night

#### Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch

0130 Daybreak Ridge  
Avon, CO 81620  
(970) 748-6200

[www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)

Room rate: \$350+

Pet fee: \$125 per stay

Pet amenities: use of dog beds and bowls

### SERVICES

#### Tricks & Treats Pet Sitting Service

Marie Whelan  
(970) 708 5205

#### Boot Doctors

(970) 728-8954

[www.bootdoctors-telluride.com](http://www.bootdoctors-telluride.com)

### STORES

#### White Pine Touring

Lauren Adams  
1790 Bonanza Drive  
Park City, UT 84069  
(435) 649-8710

[www.whitepinetouring.com](http://www.whitepinetouring.com)

Three hour local tour starts at \$175

#### Schaussi's Alpen Schatz

307 E. Colorado Ave.  
Telluride, CO 81435  
(970) 728-4433

[www.alpenschatz.com](http://www.alpenschatz.com)

#### Marco Missinato's CD's Cat Dreams, Dog Dreams, & Horse Dreams

[www.petslovemusic.com](http://www.petslovemusic.com)

### TRAVEL GEAR

#### Country Dog & Friends

First Aid Kit  
1-866-254-5822

[www.countrydogandfriends.com](http://www.countrydogandfriends.com)

#### K9 Topcoat

1-888-833-K9K9  
[www.k9topcoat.com](http://www.k9topcoat.com)

#### The Honest Kitchen

(858) 483-5995  
[www.thehonestkitchen.com](http://www.thehonestkitchen.com)

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#### Canine Covers

1-866-K9-COVER  
[www.caninecovers.com](http://www.caninecovers.com)

#### SnoozAir Pet Beds

(850) 470-0120  
[www.snoozair.com](http://www.snoozair.com)

## COLORADO ROAD TRIP

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Our accommodations were quite spacious and comfortable and included a kitchenette. Four buildings surround a small courtyard parking area, and everything is within walking distance. The free Gondola is two blocks up the river trail, and all activities as well as attending world-renowned festivals, are within easy walking distance without the need to drive.

### Ritz Carlton Bachelor Gulch


Avon, Colorado, is home to the Ritz Carlton, Bachelor Gulch. Located near Vail, this world-class ski resort is the epitome of Fido-friendliness. In fact, they have a resident lab, aptly name Bachelor, who is part of the "loan-a-lab" program. Bachelor will accompany you on hikes or walks, and when you donate money for the time spent with Bachelor all proceeds benefit the local humane society.

Steven H. Holt, Director of Public Relations, told us that Bachelor is actually a rescue dog and was tested for his temperament and has received expert training in the art of "con-cierge." Bachelor is a huge hit with children, and I witnessed him being hugged and cuddled on numerous occasions by his many admirers, young and old alike.

Our room included custom-made dog beds

for Zoey and Mattie to use for the duration of their stay along with food and water bowls. I must say, the beds looked comfortable and the girls did not move from their slumber the entire night.

With true ski-in ski-out access on Beaver Creek Mountain, valets are at your service to stow your gear at the end of the day. Dogs are welcome outside on leash and inside in the library. It was a treat to walk through the library with our dogs and to see other dogs lounging about. The Ritz Carlton Bachelor Gulch oozes casual elegance and their attention to detail starts from the time you check in to the time you leave.

It was hard to leave the winter wonderland of Colorado, but we arrived home just in time to enjoy the holidays with friends and family and regale them with our travel tails of Gondola rides and snowshoe adventures. I have a feeling when I break out the red K9 Topcoats again this year, our "snow bunnies" will head straight for the Windstar and I won't have the heart to tell them, "It's just home for the holidays this year." But after all, they do say home is where the heart is, so follow your heart, maybe a snow adventure is in the cards for you and your precious pup this year. Have a great holiday season and Merry Christmas! 



**Publisher Susan Sims with Mattie & Zoey in front of the Ritz Carlton Bachelor Gulch.**

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