The Inside Guide To Park City's Bars, Clubs And Nightlife

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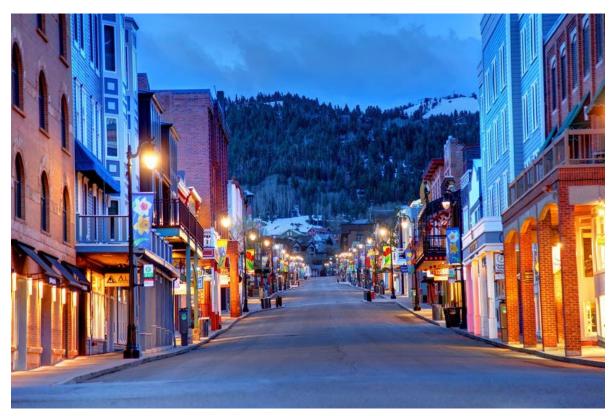
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Park City's nightlife zone is centered on Main Street in Old Town GETTY

There are many more than 10 reasons to live the dream in Park City, Utah. The region's world-class skiing and mountain biking, coupled with its proximity to Salt Lake International Airport, are the big draws for residents and tourists alike. As a ski town, though, there is also a vibrant nightlife scene that peaks in the winter and spring months but also stays pretty consistent throughout the summer. Conveniently, it's all centered on Main Street, where the marquee bars and entertainment venues are all within walking distance of one another. Bar hopping in a sub-freezing blizzard is actually pretty do-able.

Given that Park City is experiencing the ski season of the century with a whopping 443 inches of snowfall at Park City Mountain Resort so far (and

a lot more in the forecast), there's no better time to plan a trip for some spring skiing, dancing and partying. As a resident of seven years, this is my inside guide to Park City's après après ski scene.

Downstairs



Scooter (left) and Lavelle (right) spinning four decks MIGPXL MEDIA

A big night in Park City can start at the No Name Saloon at 9:00pm (see below) and then transition to Downstairs around 11:00pm. Located on Main Street at Heber Ave. (seemingly hidden), this is the only game in town when it comes a proper nightclub experience: private tables, bottle service and premium DJ performers playing a range of hip-hop, house music and EDM.

As the name suggests, Downstairs is a subterranean venue that has no windows or natural light. It's an immersive and intimate experience that can feel like a lounge on slower nights and a Vegas nightclub when it's really popping. The biggest nights are Fridays and Saturdays. Thursdays are pretty chill, and industry nights often take place on Wednesdays.

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I celebrated my birthday at Downstairs back in January, and it was perhaps the best celebration I've had in my (*ahem*) 30-some laps around the sun. Lavelle Dupree played a killer set of house music, and I was joined by great friends visiting from Scottsdale to make it even better. Lavelle is based out of San Diego and plays Park City about once per month. In fact, his next show is this Friday, March 10th, along with DJ Scooter. More frequent resident DJs include DJ Bangarang, DJ Stario, DJ Dolph and DJ Juggy. Links provided so you can preview their musical styles before buying tickets.



Clase Azul or Don Julio 1942? Yes. DOWNSTAIRS

Admission rates can vary depending on the talent. In general, though, GA tickets are \$5. I'd recommend reserving a table, though, as there are no other places to sit. These range from \$200 - \$600 for tables of four to 12 guests. From there, you can opt for bottle service or just a bar tab. Note that bottle service in Utah means that your server regulates distribution and consumption (sort of). But you'll be in great hands with Dani at your table and Asia behind the bar. The service at Downstairs is top notch.

Again, admission and table rates can be higher for certain DJs. If, for example, Loud Luxury ends up playing Downstairs at some point, tables would cost a lot more.

No Name Saloon



Emphasis on "Debauchery" NO NAME SALOON

The No Name Saloon is legendary. It's one of the oldest businesses in town and has become synonymous with Park City nightlife. It also has the

distinction of being the highest grossing bar in all of Utah—by revenue *and* volume. A reliable source shared that this bar/restaurant grosses about \$13 million per year, which is astonishing for a single location. It's less surprising when you actually get the full No Name experience. This place rocks out most nights of the week on a year-round basis.

The No Name features four distinct bar spaces, each with its own vibe. You enter from Main Street into the Main Bar, where drinks have been served since 1959. Note that everyone gets carded (this is Utah), and there are no reservations. There can be a line, and it can reach capacity. While I'm on the topic, you also can't be served a double in Utah. Other than that, most puritanical Utah liquor laws are relics of the past.

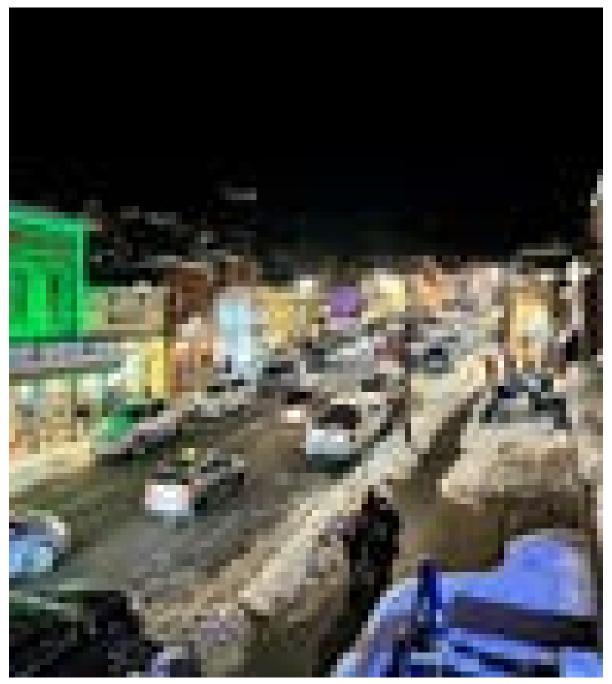
The Main Bar feels like a western saloon. It includes Horse Collar shuffleboard and a series of hightop tables that are ideal for dining and having a more relaxed experience. The vibe here is pretty mellow...unless conflicts arise about who gets the next shuffleboard game. It can get heated and perhaps a bit physical, depending on the hour.



Plenty of artifacts to admire in the Main Bar NO NAME SALOON

For more of a party vibe, head upstairs and hang a right into The Loft. This is the newest space and features a 270-degree bar with booths lining the walls. Fun fact: the bar was built from the floor of an up-cycled basketball court. This is the most social space i.e. the best place to meet new people if that's your game. The openness of the room allows everyone to see one another, and there's plenty of space to move about and direct access to the Rooftop Patio (see below). Once you make some new friends at the bar, grabbing a comfy booth is a natural next step.

If you take a left up the stairs, you first arrive in the Mezzanine. This is a super chill bar area for having conversations and just relaxing. It also services the outdoor Rooftop Patio. Though it is open year-round, this is a huge feature in the summer months when everyone in Park City wants to be outside as much as possible. The patio looks down on Main Street and is the single best place to be on the evening of the Summer Solstice (June 21st).



View of Main Street from the Rooftop Patio REED

The music playing throughout the entire bar is a mix of classic rock, '90s alternative, grunge, '80s and pretty much any genre that encourages drinking, sing-alongs and good times. The No Name appeals to a broad clientele of ski-town revelers, from the posh Miami set to professional skiers and snowboards and the very sexy Scottsdale crowd. The thing that is so compelling about nightlife in Park City—indeed, most ski towns—is that most people are from somewhere else. They're all on vacation in search of great snow and, by self-selecting at the No Name, a raging good time. So there's a proclivity toward meeting new people with similar objectives.

Note: The No Name restrooms are not unisex. If someone tries to coax you into the wrong one, it's grounds for ejection. A friend of mine found this out the hard way.

The Cabin



Audience view from the The Cabin's subterranean dance floor THE CABIN

The Cabin features two separate entertainment venues. The first is on the ground level. It features a bar, small stage, tables and a dance floor. This has a chill bar vibe. The second space is underground. This is a proper concert venue with a large stage, spacious dance floor and multiple bars spaced throughout. Both venues play host to DJs as well as live bands. The underground venue is where I recently discovered Simba Sax aka Evan Fleming, who spins a unique mix of house music and live saxophone. Yes, a house DJ who also plays the sax. This was my first experience at The Cabin, and it was phenomenal.

View from the Mezzanine:

Simba Sax



The Cabin's subterranean venue is the ideal space for hosting someone like Simba Sax, as the open stage format allows for him to truly perform for the crowd. This is key for Fleming, as he layers recorded music with sexy, sultry sax riffs throughout a three-hour set. The audience experience wouldn't be the same if you couldn't actually see this performed.

While the dance floor is quite spacious, The Cabin also offers a premium upstairs Mezzanine experience (skier's right of the stage) that overlooks the entire dance floor. It features a private bar and plush seating with a chill vibe if you want take a break from dancing and just enjoy a few drinks. Otherwise, it offers a full view of the dance floor and all the energy happing below. Quite frankly, this is the the place you want to be for a show at The Cabin.

Two upcoming shows, promoted by Reach Entertainment Group, are part of an "Off the Slopes" series. These will bring DJs Mija and Chet Porter to The Cabin on Saturday, March 18th and 25th, respectively.

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