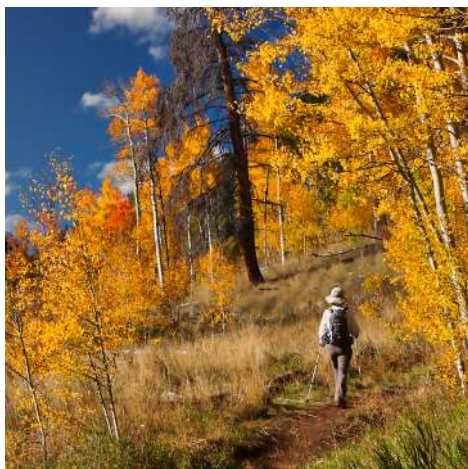




SEASONS OF STEAMBOAT

FALL 2026

CELEBRATING LIFE IN THE YAMPA VALLEY, SEASON BY SEASON



Welcome to the Fall 2026 edition of Seasons of Steamboat.

If you notice a few more dogs than usual in this year's guide, I promise this hasn't become a dog publication. It's still about the Steamboat lifestyle. It just happens that around here, that lifestyle very often includes a dog riding shotgun, tagging along on the trail, hanging out on a patio, or waiting just as impatiently as the rest of us for the first snow.

As someone whose own Steamboat life frequently includes my golden retriever, Molly, I may be a little biased.

Dogs aside, fall remains one of my favorite times of year in the Yampa Valley. The mornings turn crisp, the aspens light up the hillsides, summer crowds begin to thin, and there's that unmistakable anticipation of winter just around the corner. It's a season that invites you to slow down a little and enjoy where we live.

This year's guide brings together some of my favorite ways to experience fall, along with local businesses, restaurants, food producers, community organizations and events that help make Steamboat feel like

Steamboat. Some may be familiar favorites from past editions, while others are new discoveries worth adding to your list.

Real estate may be what I do for a living, but Seasons of Steamboat is really about something bigger: enjoying this place we're fortunate enough to call home.

I hope you find a new trail to explore, a restaurant to try, a local business to support, or simply an excuse to get outside and enjoy another beautiful fall in the Yampa Valley.

Warmly,

John Madron

DOG DAYS OF FALL

Fall might be one of the best times of year to explore Steamboat with four-legged company. Cooler temperatures, changing leaves and quieter trails make it easy to understand why dogs seem to be part of the Steamboat lifestyle everywhere you look.

HIT THE TRAIL

The Yampa River Core Trail offers an easy way to get outside without leaving town, while Spring Creek provides a beautiful fall outing through aspens and evergreens. As always, check current leash requirements and trail conditions before heading out.

ROOM TO RUN

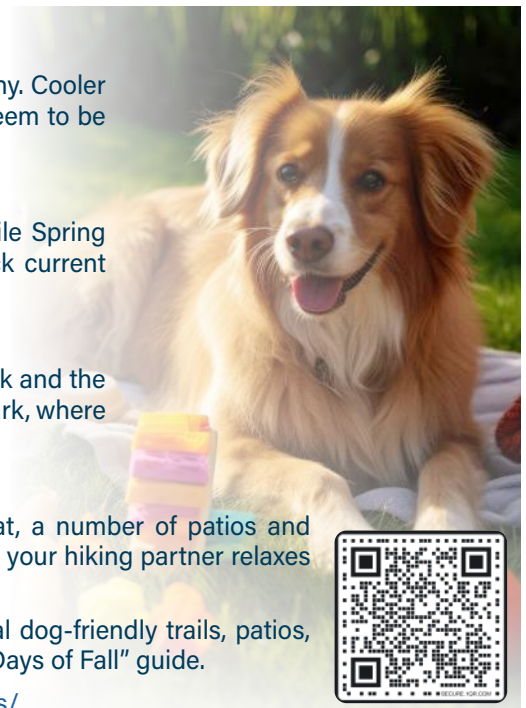
Steamboat offers several places for dogs to stretch their legs, including Rita Valentine Park and the off-leash areas around Spring Creek. And one of Molly's and my regular stops is Whistler Park, where open spaces, trails and plenty of room to play make it a favorite part of our routine.

APRES FOR EVERYONE

The adventure doesn't necessarily have to end when the hike does. Around Steamboat, a number of patios and gathering spots welcome well-behaved dogs, making it easy to enjoy a drink or bite while your hiking partner relaxes nearby.

There's much more to explore with your pup throughout the Yampa Valley. For additional dog-friendly trails, patios, lodging and local tips, scan the QR code to read The Group Real Estate's complete "Dog Days of Fall" guide.

Full article here: <https://www.searchsteamboat.com/blog/dog-friendly-steamboat-springs/>



A LITTLE PIECE OF ROUTT COUNTY HISTORY

THE ARNOLD BARN

Back in 1928, when Mt. Werner was still called Storm Mountain and Steamboat Springs was just a sleepy little ranching town, Walter Arnold built himself a sturdy dairy barn on his 160 acre spread. For more than three decades, Walter, his wife, and their three boys kept busy tending Holstein cows, sheep, chickens, oats, hay, and delivering milk and eggs to the good folks of Steamboat.

By 1961, the Arnolds hung up their ranching hats and passed the property to the newly minted Storm Mountain Ski Corporation, which was just getting its start as a ski destination. The barn swapped cows for skis, serving as a storage shed and even striking a pose as a backdrop in ski resort ads. But as roads and parking lots carved up the meadows, the old barn fell into neglect, sinking slowly into the wetlands at the edge of the lot, like a cowboy forgotten at the dance.

That could have been the end of the story, but Steamboat has a way of loving its icons back to life. In 2016, the Save Arnold Barn group rallied to rescue this weathered relic, with Historic Routt County is leading the charge. Soon, a whole posse of community partners saddled up: local committees, the ski corporation, museums, and neighbors all determined to save this symbol of Northwest Colorado's ranching roots.

And save it they did. After a temporary brace kept it standing through one more winter, the barn made a big move in October 2018, rolling about 1,000 feet up the road to a proud new perch at Mt. Werner Road and Mt. Werner Circle. By 2019, the grand old structure was fully restored, greeting locals and visitors alike as a reminder that in Steamboat, ranching and skiing share the same story.

Want to help keep this history alive? Visit historicrouttcounty.org to get involved or donate.



LOCAL NONPROFIT | ROUTT COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

HELPING PETS AND THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM

In a community where four legged companions are often part of the family, Routt County Humane Society has been looking out for local animals since 1985. Today, its work reaches well beyond finding homes for dogs and cats. Between 600 and 700 animals come through RCHS each year, receiving veterinary care, food, socialization, enrichment and, ultimately, the opportunity for a new beginning.

RCHS also works to keep pets and their people together. Its community programs include a pet food bank, affordable veterinary care through its Wellness Clinic, foster programs, behavior resources and, when funding is available, financial assistance for qualifying Routt County families facing veterinary emergencies. Through its Safe Haven program, RCHS can also temporarily care for pets when their owners are dealing with emergencies such as fires, medical crises or domestic violence.

Whether you adopt, foster, volunteer, donate or simply help spread the word about an animal looking for a home, there are plenty of ways to support the work happening right here in our community.

Learn more or meet the animals: routthumane.org

A CAUSE CLOSE TO HOME

Routt County Humane Society is a cause close to my heart. I've been proud to support its work, including Night Out for the Animals and this year's annual calendar. As someone who knows firsthand how much our animals add to our lives, I'm especially grateful for the work RCHS does for animals and the people who love them.

Beginning this year, I'm committing 2% of my earnings from every real estate closing to support Routt County Humane Society. It's one more way I can give back to an organization and community that mean a great deal to me.



LOCAL BUSINESS | THREE YELLOW DOGS

WHERE RESCUE MEETS PLAY



For Steamboat Springs based Three Yellow Dogs, a box of toys and treats is about much more than spoiling your pup. Founder Amy Paroline started the company in 2023 with a simple idea: help people give their dogs happy, healthy lives while supporting rescue dogs still waiting to find theirs.

The inspiration comes from years of hands-on experience. Amy's family has fostered rescue dogs for more than 20 years, helping hundreds of dogs transition from shelters to their forever homes. That experience shapes everything from the toys and enrichment activities Three Yellow Dogs selects to its focus on educating pet parents and supporting animal rescue.

And appropriately for Seasons of Steamboat, Three Yellow Dogs thinks seasonally, too. Instead of another box arriving every month, its subscription arrives four times a year with thoughtfully selected toys, enrichment activities and treats designed around spring, summer, fall

and winter. The company also offers individual seasonal boxes, puppy and birthday boxes, treats, chews and other gifts for dogs.

Giving back is built into the business. Three Yellow Dogs donates 3% of every purchase to animal rescue organizations and supports rescue through partnerships, events and hands-on fostering. Routt County Humane Society is among the organizations the company currently supports right here in Steamboat.

At its heart, Three Yellow Dogs is about the bond between dogs and their people, helping us take better care of the dogs already curled up at our feet while giving others a better chance at finding a home of their own.

Learn more: ThreeYellowDogs.com

LOCAL FOOD PRODUCER | SNOWDEN MEATS

Fresh. Local. Unforgettable. Experience the Yampa Valley like a local with Yampa Valley Foods, connecting our community with some of the valley's best flavors while helping keep local farms and traditions thriving. Snowden Meats is one of those local producers, rooted in Routt County's ranching heritage and generations of family tradition.



SNOWDEN MEATS

Where: South Routt - Toponas, CO

Contact Person: Bob Snowden & Sarajane Snowden

Phone: 970-846-9774 | **Email:** Info@snowdenmeats.com

PRODUCTS OFFERED: GRAIN-FINISHED BEEF

At Snowden Meats, they believe in inspiring healthy communities and family wellness, because there's nothing more valuable in this world than relationships. Their pasture raised beef is pure, honest, and flavor packed. Snowden cattle spend their summers where the sun shines brightest, grazing freely on the lush, high mountain grass of the Yampa Valley before being finished on grain. Ours is a Routt County tradition, passed down through generations, where grandparents and grandkids alike share in the work and the passion of ranching. Every cut reflects that heritage; pasture raised, hormone free, and cared for from start to finish right here at home. Locally fed. Locally raised. Locally processed. Taste the difference a valley and a family can make.

UNIQUE FALL EVENTS

WINE AND DINE AT THE STEAMBOAT FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

Where: Various venues across Steamboat Springs

When: October 1st -4th

steamboatfoodandwine.com

There's no better place to interact with renowned chefs in beautiful venues across Steamboat than at the annual Steamboat Food & Wine Festival. Attendees will discover firsthand a world of luxurious flavors and mouthwatering culinary concepts.

DIG INTO CULINARY CREATIONS DURING RESTAURANT WEEK

Where: Various restaurants in Steamboat Springs

When: October 3rd-10th

www.mainstreetsteamboat.com/restaurant-week/

Food lovers unite! Steamboat's Restaurant Week will be in full swing from Saturday, October 3rd-10th. Follow your tastebuds as you adventure through some of Steamboat's iconic local flavors, from sunrise scrambles to late night bites at your favorite participating restaurants. This is a prime opportunity for foodies to enjoy special menus and can't miss culinary surprises. Reservations are highly recommended while dining during Restaurant Week.

HALLOWEEN STROLL

Where: Lincoln Avenue (Steamboat Mainstreet)

When: October 31st | 5-7PM

www.mainstreetsteamboat.com/halloween-stroll/

One of Steamboat's favorite community traditions takes over downtown as Lincoln Avenue closes for an evening of costumes, trick-or-treating, street performers and plenty of Halloween fun for all ages.

STEAMBOAT RESORT OPENING DAY

Where: 2305 Mt. Werner Circle.

When: November 21st

www.steamboat.com

Winter officially arrives with the opening of the 2026/27 ski season. Opening Day festivities begin at 7:30 AM, with lifts scheduled to start spinning at 8:30 AM. Come celebrate the return of ski season, Steamboat style.

HOLIDAY BALLOON GLOW

Where: 2305 Mt. Werner Circle.

When: December 12 | 5:30-6:30 PM

[Balloon Glow](#)

Kick off the holiday season at the base of Steamboat Resort as hot air balloons illuminate the Mountain Village after dark. Stroll among the glowing balloons and enjoy one of Steamboat's most colorful early-winter traditions.

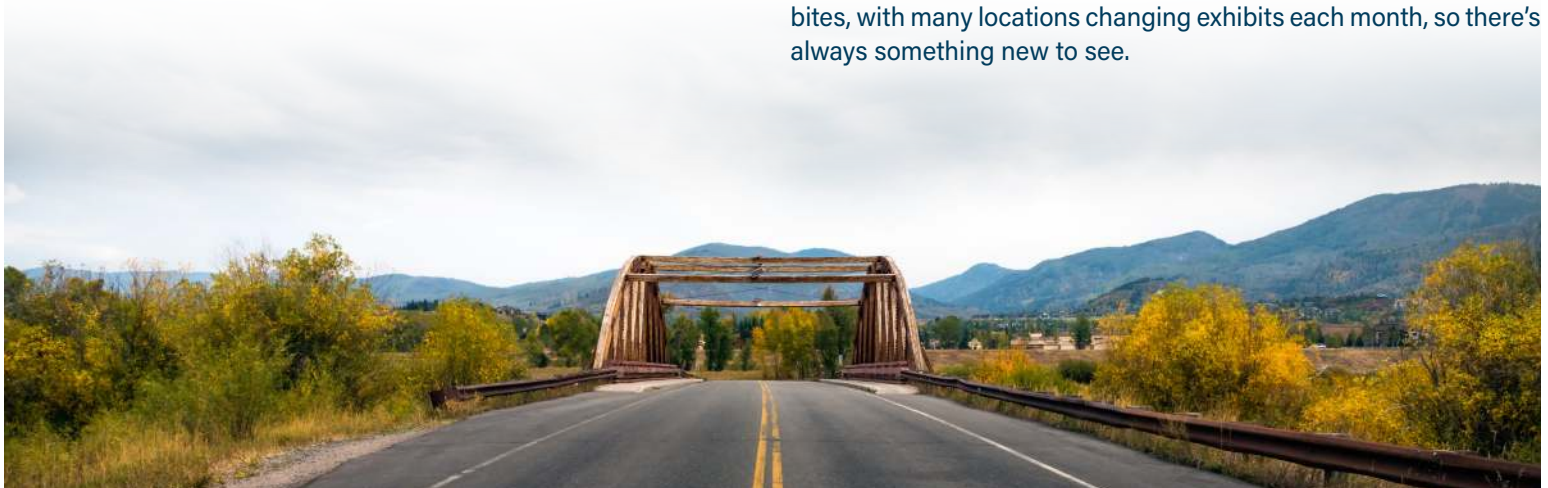
STEAMBOAT'S FIRST FRIDAY ARTWALK

Where: Various venues in Downtown Steamboat Springs

When: October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th from 5-8 p.m.

[First Friday Artwalk](#)

Every time the new month rolls around, you can count on the Steamboat Springs First Friday Artwalk. This monthly staple for the community offers locals and visitors alike an opportunity to peruse local galleries, museums, and alternative venues across Steamboat Springs. This is a free self guided tour, so explore at your leisure and don't feel rushed to complete the entire route if you prefer a slower, more relaxed vibe. Businesses across downtown Steamboat will stay open later on first Fridays, offering refreshments and light bites, with many locations changing exhibits each month, so there's always something new to see.



STEAMBOAT'S MOST INSTAGRAMMABLE FALL PHOTO SPOTS



FISH CREEK FALLS

Where: 34165 Fish Creek Falls Rd, Steamboat Springs

No matter the season, Fish Creek Falls is one of Steamboat's most iconic landmarks, but fall makes it especially photogenic. The 280 foot waterfall cascades down a granite cliff, framed by aspen groves that turn into a glowing sea of yellow each September and October. From the parking area, a short paved trail leads to the overlook, where you'll find a sweeping view of the falls surrounded by autumn colors, a shot that looks stunning from any angle.

For those who want a closer perspective, the mile long trail down to the base is worth the effort. The path winds through dense forest, offering chances to capture golden leaves up close, before opening up to the thundering falls. The sound of rushing water adds to the atmosphere, and if you arrive in the morning, you might catch the mist rising with the sun's first light. This is also one of the best times to avoid the crowds and enjoy more freedom to frame your perfect shot.

BUFFALO PASS

Where: 32586 Forest Rd 60, Steamboat Springs

Buffalo Pass, known locally as "Buff Pass," is one of the most spectacular fall drives in Steamboat. As the dirt road winds up the mountain, you'll pass through endless groves of aspens, their leaves shimmering gold in the sunlight. The higher you go, the more expansive the views become, with sweeping panoramas of the Yampa Valley and colorful hillsides.

One of the most Instagram worthy shots here is the classic "aspen tunnel." Sections of the road are lined with tall trees that create a natural canopy overhead, glowing yellow when the sun filters through. If you time your visit for late afternoon, the light beams through the trees, giving your photos an almost magical quality. Whether you're snapping quick shots from the car or hiking one of the many trails off the pass, Buff Pass is the epitome of Colorado fall.

When autumn rolls into Steamboat Springs, the Yampa Valley transforms into a breathtaking canvas of color. The golden glow of aspens, the deep reds of maples, and the crisp blue of the Rocky Mountain sky create a scene that feels almost too beautiful to capture, but that's exactly why photographers and Instagrammers flock here each fall. Autumn in this corner of Colorado isn't just about the leaves. It's the way sunlight streams through the trees, how reflections ripple across tranquil lakes, and how historic barns and ranchlands are set ablaze in gold. Steamboat offers endless opportunities to frame nature's seasonal masterpiece. These are just a taste of the most Instagrammable fall photo spots you won't want to miss.

EMERALD MOUNTAIN

Where: Howelsen Hill / Downtown Steamboat Springs

Sometimes one of the best views of Steamboat is from just above it. Rising directly across the Yampa River from downtown, Emerald Mountain offers miles of trails through meadows, forests and glowing aspen groves, all within minutes of Lincoln Avenue.

Fall transforms the mountain from green to gold, and as you climb, openings in the trees reveal sweeping views across downtown, the Yampa Valley and toward the ski area. Hikers and mountain bikers can choose from a network of trails, while Quarry Overlook provides one of the area's signature bird's-eye perspectives of Steamboat below.

MAD CREEK TRAIL & BARN

Where: Mad Creek Trailhead, Steamboat Springs

The Mad Creek Trail is one of Steamboat's most photogenic hikes, especially in autumn. Just a short drive from town, the trail winds through golden aspen groves and leads to the historic Mad Creek Barn, a century old log structure that looks straight out of a Colorado postcard. The mix of rustic ranch history and vibrant fall foliage makes it a unique backdrop for photos that capture both the natural and cultural beauty of the Yampa Valley.

Along the way, you'll find plenty of Instagram worthy angles from sunlit aspen tunnels to wide open meadows framed by fiery cottonwoods. The barn itself, set against rolling hillsides ablaze with color, is the star of the show, offering that perfect blend of nostalgia and mountain charm. If you're looking for a spot that's both scenic and iconic, Mad Creek is a fall favorite worth adding to your photo list.



STEAMBOAT'S CULINARY SCENE

Steamboat Springs is home to a diverse collection of restaurants, from slope-side favorites and downtown riverfront dining to unexpected culinary experiences tucked throughout the Yampa Valley.



THE MOUNTAIN | TRUFFLE PIG

Where: 2250 Après Ski Way

Located at the base of the ski area, just steps from the gondola, Truffle Pig is an easy choice whether you're wrapping up a day on the mountain or heading out for dinner. The restaurant serves contemporary American cuisine in an inviting setting that feels equally suited to après-ski drinks, a relaxed dinner with friends, or a special evening out.

Its location adjacent to One Steamboat Place puts you right in the heart of the Steamboat base area, with outdoor dining adding to the experience when the weather cooperates.

trufflepigrestaurant.com

DOWNTOWN | AURUM FOOD & WINE

Where: 811 Yampa Street

Set along the Yampa River in downtown Steamboat, Aurum combines seasonal New American cuisine with one of the most inviting riverfront settings in town. The atmosphere is refined without feeling overly formal, with a dining room, large bar, rooftop patio, multi-level deck and outdoor seating along the river.

Fall is an especially nice time to settle in for happy hour or dinner while enjoying the changing season along the Yampa. Aurum's daily happy hour makes it just as appealing for an early cocktail and appetizers as it is for a full evening out.

aurumsteamboat.com



SOUTH VALLEY | THE PERIODIC TABLE

Where: 33400 Catamount Drive

Tucked into Catamount Ranch in the South Valley, The Periodic Table offers one of Steamboat's more unusual dining concepts. Rather than staying tied to a single cuisine, the restaurant reinvents its menu and theme each winter and summer, exploring different culinary periods and destinations from around the world.

Fresh, local and seasonal ingredients are incorporated into each new concept, so a return visit can feel like discovering an entirely different restaurant. Its setting away from downtown and the mountain also makes dinner here feel like a destination of its own. The restaurant is open to the public.

periodicsteamboat.com



SEE YOU NEXT SEASON!

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

- John Muir

Thank you for spending a little of your fall with me through Seasons of Steamboat. I hope you've discovered something new, revisited an old favorite, or found another reason to get outside and enjoy this incredible time of year in the Yampa Valley.

One of the things I love most about Steamboat is that every season has its own personality. Fall may bring golden aspens, quieter trails and crisp mornings, but before long those same mountains will be covered in snow and we'll be trading hiking boots and bikes for skis and snowshoes.

That's what Seasons of Steamboat is really about: not simply visiting this place, but experiencing the lifestyle that makes living here so special throughout the year.

And, of course, real estate is part of that story too. If you're curious about your home's value, thinking about making a move, or simply wondering what's happening in the Steamboat market, I'm always happy to be a resource. With 23 years of experience in Colorado mountain real estate, my goal is to make the process clear, comfortable and a lot less complicated.

Until winter, enjoy the golden leaves, crisp mountain air and everything that makes fall in the Yampa Valley worth savoring.

Warmly,

John Madron



JOHN MADRON

Broker Associate/Partner

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www.searchsteamboat.com



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