

HOW TO GET IN SHAPE WITHOUT A TRAINER

Men's Journal

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**BEST
PLACES
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Inhabit an Unlikely Art Mecca

MARFA, TX

When minimalist New York artist Donald Judd opted for the sage-flat serenity of Marfa in the '70s, he touched off the transformation of a literal West Texas cow town. Previously famous only for its "mystery lights" (and more recently as the location for *No Country for Old Men*) this town of 1,900 now has serious galleries, nonprofit arts foundations, coffee-cum-bookshops, and independent grocers.



Sip Whiskey and Watch the World Go By

LOUISVILLE, KY

To some, Louisville is just bourbon, baseball bats, and a famous horse race; to those who know better, it's artistic funk and gentlemanly class. Packed with eclectic coffee shops, thrift stores, skate punks, and bluegrass street musicians, Bardstown Road is a slice of weirdness in the midst of an upscale neighborhood. Bourbon's reemergence as a sophisticated beverage rather than redneck swill parallels the city's cultural renaissance.

Get Adventure 24/7/365

OGDEN, UT

🏠 \$124,720
\$ 13% LOWER
☀️ 223 DAYS

OGDEN ISN'T JUST ANOTHER town blessed with world-class adventure on its doorstep: This once run-down railroad town has a government-sponsored mandate to grow around adrenaline sports.

"The goal of Ogden is to become the capital of high-adventure recreation," says mayor Matthew Godfrey.

During the decade he has been in office, Godfrey has implemented sweetheart business incentives for outdoor companies willing to move to Ogden; he scored his biggest catch when Salomon moved its offices here in 2007. But Ogden's list of adventure amenities is even more impressive. Within five minutes of downtown is rock climbing, access to more than a hundred miles of trails, plus

two whitewater kayak parks. Just a 20-minute drive up canyon, Snowbasin offers all the famed powder of Utah's Wasatch resorts without Colorado's famed lift lines.

When orthopedic surgeon and mountain-bike fanatic Dann Byck was weighing the options on where to move his practice from Washington State, Ogden topped the list. "Most desirable places have too many doctors who do what I do, but there was still a chance to get in early here," he says. Byck admits the cultural scene is still developing, but there's everything from the Utah Jazz to opera 30 minutes down the interstate in Salt Lake City.

Because of Godfrey's push for Ogden to join the A-list of supercharged mountain towns, it's no longer a secret. But unlike those others, it's still within reach: The median home price here is less than half of Boulder's.

Wolf Creek Utah
Ski Resort, 25 minutes
from Ogden



More Best Places to... Stay Active in the SW: Bisbee, AZ Annual 1,000 Great Stair Climb will kick your butt. **Be Poor: Bend, OR** "Poverty with a view" is the saying. **Live in a Mountain Town in the Northeast: Elliptonville, NY** Just outside of Buffalo ski town is home to IMBA mountain-bike trails. **Raise Kids: Idaho Falls, ID** Mountains make the best playgrounds.