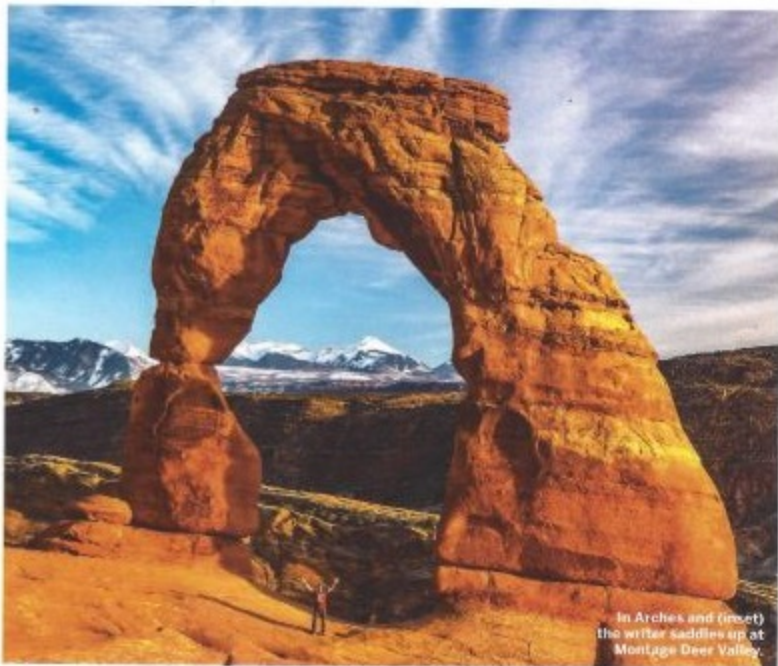


# WINGS OVER ARCHES

A private-jet day trip to an iconic national park.

**EDITOR'S WOW** "Edward Abbey kept his trailer here when he was a park ranger," Andy Damman, Montage Resorts' director of recreation, tells us, as we gaze at Arches National Park's Balanced Rock. While passing dishes around the linen-covered picnic table, he rattles off stats on the precariously perched rock and nearby formations. To see who's paying attention, he eases into an aside about how the park service saved the gravity-defying hoodoo with Gorilla Glue (not true). It's a snapshot of what makes the exclusive hiking and mountain-biking day trips he leads from the 220-room **Montage Deer Valley** so compelling: great service, deep knowledge of a treasured landscape, and the ability to find fun behind every boulder.

A few hours earlier, our group woke up in Park City's tonier sibling, Deer Valley, a four- to five-hour drive southeast. But instead of driving, we boarded a chartered jet for a 45-minute hop across the Wasatch and Uinta mountains on a flight plan customized for the best viewing of the Book Cliffs and San Rafael Swell. By noon, we've hiked through Arches' mile-long Park Avenue formation and knocked off the three-mile



In Arches and (inset) the writer saddles up at Montage Deer Valley.

loop to **Delicate Arch**. Now we're spooning up gazpacho with fresh mint and passing around salads prepared by resort chefs. A couple of nearby picnickers manhandle cling-wrapped deli sandwiches and comment enviously that we're doing things right – a "wow" moment if ever I've seen one, written on somebody else's sun-reddened face. They don't know the half of it. Next up: Windows and Double arches, before Damman makes the call in the near 100-degree heat to light out for a gelato shop in Moab and a dip in a swimming hole none of us would ever find on our own. In true day-in-the-wild style, a cooler of iced-down longnecks greets us on the private jet home. *Arches day trips from \$8,000 for up to seven guests. Canyonlands mountain biking from \$8,000 for four guests. – Justin Paul, senior editor*

## All-Out Utah

**ADVISOR PLANNED WOW** "We curated a luxury expedition in the Utah desert for a family of five, led by a team of professional rafting guides. The journey included mountain biking, white-water rafting, UTV racing, and slot-canyoneering in one of the most incredible desert environments on earth. Our team set up a series of bespoke luxury camps along the banks of the Colorado River, complete with bathrooms, a personal chef, and stargazing experts. We flew the family directly using specially adapted Kodiak aircraft that could access remote areas. Upon arrival, they were met by their expedition team and kitted out to bike directly down to the rafting launch site. At the end of the expedition, their aircraft was waiting on a dusty strip of earth to whisk them away. After the trip, we presented the clients with a professionally edited movie shot by our GoPro videographer." – *Chris Brunning, London*