

Be more **THE RANGER**
HE CAME FROM THE CITY BUT FOUND HIS HOME ON THE

SUBSCRIBE NOW
 to NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE
 8 issues and a FREE MAP only \$10*



Current Issue
October 2009
 Table of Contents »

Search

HOME | SUBSCRIBE! | WEEKEND ESCAPES | INTERNATIONAL TRIPS | RATINGS | PHOTOGRAPHY | SURVIVAL | VIDEO | GEAR | BLOGS |

Just Graduated? | Cashing Out? | New Economy? | Want a Green Gig? | New Parent? | Need Stimulus? | 50 Best Adventure Towns

MORE STORIES



Next Weekend
 Check out the season's best weekend trips near you.



Big Ideas for 2009
 This year's bold theories, big thinkers, and groundbreaking products.

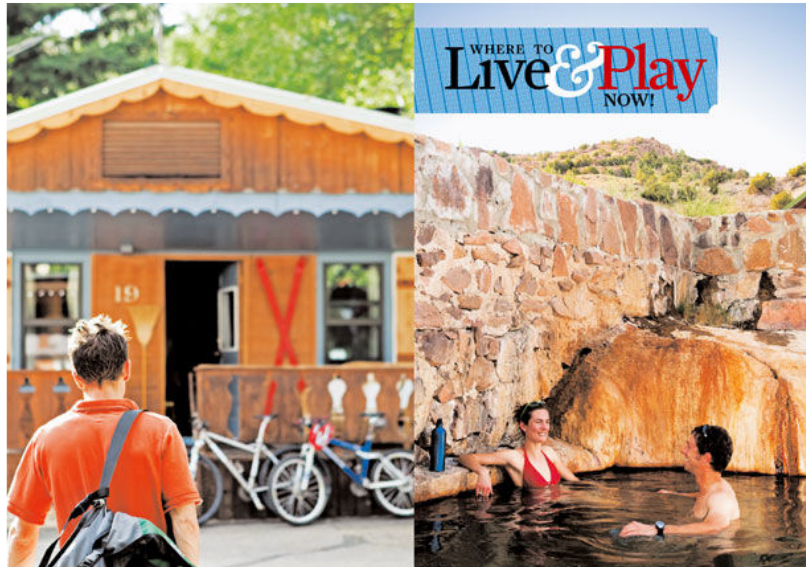


High Performance: Longevity
 An herbal remedy for aging? Dan Buettner gathers lessons in longevity from a remote Greek island.

Where to Live + Play Now!

Published: October 2009

- ADVERTISEMENT -



Best Places to Live Now

Wait! Before you start dreaming about your new home, your new backyard, your new life, ask yourself one question: Why do I want to move? OK, now leave the rest to us.

Text by Greg Melville + Sarah Tuff
 Photographs by Jen Judge

Q: Just Graduated?
A: Wait out the worst job market in 20 years in...

RED RIVER, NEW MEXICO

Pop. 515

Carved into a sandstone canyon in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Red River is an ideal recessionary hideout: Lift tickets at the Red River Ski Area are almost half of what you'd pay in most Rockies resorts. Fat Tire drafts are \$3. And when your parents (inevitably) come to check in, you can even pick up the tab—a night's stay at the Alpine Lodge on Main Street is \$83 in peak season. Bucky Thrash, 27, came to visit a college friend and liked the cheap, no-stoplight living so much that he quit his job as a marketing consultant in Fort Worth and relocated, quickly landing gigs as a bartender and ski instructor. "Nothing is corporate here," he says. "Not even the ski area. You have to drive an hour just to find a McDonald's."

A FILM BY KEN BURNS
THE NATIONAL PARKS
 America's Best Idea
 SUN SEPT 27
 8PM ET
 Be more **PBS**
 WATCH MORE ▶

Red River began as a prospecting town, but powderhounds gave it new life after the mines went bust. Today the ski area has 57 trails and seven lifts connecting the mountain directly to Main Street's hodgepodge of Old West and Swiss Alpine facades. Après ski season, Red River, at 8,750 feet, stays cooler than much of the Southwest (July temps rarely top 75&176;F) with easy access to the cottonwood-covered mountains of Carson National Forest. Hike eight-mile Wheeler Peak Trail to the state's 13,161-foot high point. Or raft the Class III Rio Grande with New Mexico Adventure Company (bighornsports.us).

Closer to home, Red River's community center organizes free activities up to five times a day—outdoor movies, group hikes, BBQ cook-offs. Our advice: Take advantage of them; career options are limited. (The mayor not only sells real estate but owns the lone food market with her husband.) And when the economy picks up, be ready to get creative with your résumé: "Mixologist" has a much better ring to it than "barback."

\$400 monthly rent gets you: A one-bedroom apartment, ten minutes' walk to the ski area.

Job market: Bartending and ski instructing pay the bills. Careers outside of tourism are hard to come by.

Know before you go: Red River is entirely surrounded by national forest—1.5 million acres of it.

BY THE NUMBERS:

\$61: Lift ticket at Red River Ski Area

28: Hot springs within an hour's drive

218: Inches of powder a year

See More Cheapies on the Next Page>>

CONTINUE »



[Subscribe to National Geographic Adventure magazine »](#)

Join the discussion

National Geographic Adventure is pleased to provide this opportunity for you to share your comments about this article. Thanks for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

Recent Comments

No comments have been posted

Post Your Comment

Comments are currently moderated. Your comment will be reviewed before it is posted.

500 characters remaining

Name:

Email:

Website:

ONLINE EXTRAS



The ADVENTURE Blog

Read our reports and tips, then share your comments.



NGA e-Newsletter

Sign up to get our latest photos, trip sweepstakes, and videos in your email in-box.



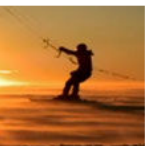
Topo! Explorer

Share your adventures on National Geographic maps.



World Music

Listen to the new sounds of Nat Geo Music.



[Adventure Ratings](#)

[Gear Reviews](#)

[National Parks](#)

[Reader Photo Contest](#)

[100 Best Books](#)

[Photo Galleries](#)

[Video](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Advertising Opportunities](#)

[RSS Feed](#)

[Writers](#)

[Photographers](#)

[Internships](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Customer Services](#)

[Gear Guide](#) powered by [Altrex.com](#)

© 2009 National Geographic Society. All rights reserved.