

Moving Mountains

How a couple of sailors traded the sea for the summits of Steamboat Springs and created a luxury vacation business

By **Jordan Martindell**



The Black Bear Chalet offers incredible views for dining on its covered deck

THE DETAILS

Moving Mountains can accommodate 1-32 guests in its duplexes, townhomes and private homes. Prices range from \$400 a night in the off-season to \$1,500 a night during winter and \$7,500 a night during the holidays, for an average of 10-12 people.

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ROBIN AND HEATHER CRAIGEN spent years in the Caribbean providing luxury sailing experiences for sea-loving clients. Little did they know that two of their clients, Tod and Robin Allen, from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, would make a profound impact on the trajectory of their lives. The love these clients felt for their small mountain town in northern Colorado was enough to get Robin and Heather thinking about the next phase of their life. They

wanted to start a family and thought being on land would be more comfortable, so they planned a trip to visit Colorado, just to see if Steamboat could live up to all the hype.

The enchanting town immediately sparked their imagination and after this short visit (in mud season no less), they decided to trade their ships for skis and start a new mountain adventure.

Not able to give up their love of luxury service experiences, they saw

a niche that needed to be filled in Steamboat. “We realized how much we loved working with people on vacations and we didn’t want that to go away, so we thought maybe there was a way we could take it to the next level,” Robin says. And with that inspiration, Moving Mountains was born in 1998.

After almost 20 years, Moving Mountains is now a premier luxury vacation company in which concierge services meet exceptional vacation homes, all in a package perfectly tailored for an unforgettable experience.

The Properties

As guests enter the Falconhead Lodge (one of Moving Mountains’ largest properties), they are immediately struck by the view of the Yampa Valley. With every new turn

of the amenities tour, the view beckons from the floor-to-ceiling windows and decks.

This is no coincidence as one of the non-negotiables of a Moving Mountains property is an absolutely gobsmacking view. “What we are looking for is the ‘wow’ factor. That experience that when you walk through the door...when escorting



The Black Bear Chalet is 5,000 square feet and sleeps up to 12 guests

guests through the tour, you hope you are going to hear ‘wow’ from the group,” Robin says.

The growth of Moving Mountains is not as aggressive as some of their competitors due to their unwavering commitment to being picky about additional properties. They will have 80 properties by the end of this year.

The Experience

Moving Mountains doesn’t just provide a home for their guests, it creates experiences. Whether guests want a ski chalet vacation that mirrors something out of Europe or an off-season retreat to recharge, Moving Mountains has it all.

Breakfast in bed? On-site massage? Absolute discretion and privacy? Besides providing an



The Gold Mine Lodge offers a spectacular stone fireplace and open-concept living area



Gold Mine Lodge's master bedroom includes a balcony overlooking stunning mountain views

unforgettable indoor home experience, Moving Mountains also can give guests the best of what Steamboat has to offer, without the touristy pitfalls.

Secret mountain biking trails in the spring, secret powder stashes in

the winter, hidden dining gems in town, or a personal chef to cater to every craving, with Moving Mountains, there is no limitation to what a curated vacation looks like.

Moving Mountains is there to determine what the guests' needs

are and then fill them with grace, creativity and efficiency. And the reward for this work never gets old for Robin. "It still means everything to me when guests say, 'this was one of the best vacation experiences that I have ever had.' Seeing how it fills our staff with pride, that means a lot to me."

This motivation is what keeps Robin, Heather, and their extensive team going. And yes, while all of this comes with a cost, a truly perfect vacation is well...priceless.

After growing up in California and years of East Coast city living, Jordan Martindell moved to Boulder, CO where she discovered a natural connection to the Rocky Mountain lifestyle. Following a career in high-end retail management, Martindell blends her love of aesthetics and the outdoors, documenting adventures that are delicious, comfortable, exciting and sometimes unexpected. She has written for Dorado Magazine, Elevation Outdoors Magazine, Outdoor Retailer Magazine, rootsrated.com and offyonder.com.



Unwind in the luxurious master bath at Gold Mine Lodge