

Bozeman Nightlife

By Andre Orengo

Bozeman, Montana may be known for its beautiful scenery and daytime fun, but that doesn't mean there aren't plenty of options for those looking for a good time after the sun goes down. From classic dive bars to lively college bars and upscale wine bars, there's something for everyone in this charming mountain town.

Rocking R Bar: Classic College Bar

This classic bar, referred to as “R Bar” by locals, has been a fixture of the Bozeman nightlife scene for over 70 years and is known for its welcoming atmosphere, friendly staff, and great music. Rocking R Bar offers weekly activities to keep the crowd entertained. On Monday they host sports trivia, Tuesday they offer bingo night, Wednesday is Country night which includes swing dancing and karaoke, and Thursday through Saturday are devoted to a live DJ where the party crowd comes out to play. R Bar has reasonably priced drinks and offers a wide variety of food options.

Bozeman Bowl: A Place to Play

The Bozeman Bowl is a fun, low-key option for those looking for something a little different on their night out. This classic bowling alley features a full bar and grill, so you can enjoy a cold beer or a burger while you knock down some pins. During the weekdays, lanes can be reserved before 6 p.m. for \$25 an hour and \$30 an hour on nights and weekends. Drink prices are reasonable with a beer costing you around \$4, but the main attraction is the \$1 Jell-O shots. Don't be fooled though; they are quite strong for the price.

Last Best Comedy: Come Get Your Laughs In

If you are looking for some laughs in the evening, head over to Last Best Comedy. This venue has weekly comedy shows on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights below the Pour House on Main Street. Ticket prices range, with free open mic events and featured performers from \$10 - \$20, and the venue includes a full bar service.

Molly Brown: Dive Bar Central

If you are looking to play some games while you enjoy a drink, look no further than the Molly Brown. With over 15 pool tables, shuffleboard, and darts, this local favorite is a must-stop on your Bozeman tour. With its friendly staff and laid-back vibe, it is no wonder that this place has been drawing in more locals and visitors since 2005.

The Pour House: Beer, Beer, and More Beer

You won't want to miss the Pour House if you're a beer lover. This craft beer bar offers a rotating selection of local and regional beers on tap, wine, and cider. Prices for drinks start at around \$5, and the menu features pub grub—like burgers and nachos. The Pour House opened in 2010 and has quickly become a favorite among Bozeman's beer aficionados.

Plonk: Let's Class It Up a Little

For a more upscale nightlife experience, head to Plonk. This wine bar offers an extensive wine list and a menu of small plates and shareable dishes. A glass of wine will run you anywhere from \$5–\$16 per glass, with cocktail prices ranging from \$9–\$16. Plonk also offers a wide variety of food options from sharable appetizers to savory main dishes. Depending on what you are getting, expect to spend anywhere from \$15–\$45 per person. Plonk opened in 2009 and quickly gained a reputation for its elegant atmosphere and sophisticated menu.

Sky Shed/Tune-Up: The New Hot Spot

The Armory Hotel is coined by most as the nicest hotel in Bozeman. While a stay for the night is quite pricy, they do not restrict outside guests from indulging in their classy bars. If you are lucky enough to stay in Bozeman during the summer, the Sky Shed is an ideal spot to grab a cocktail while enjoying the mountain views. Drink prices are higher here, with cocktails starting at around \$12 and beer going for \$6. While they don't have a full menu, they do offer an array of very tasty appetizers. Once the sun goes down and the chill starts to pick up, head on down to the downstairs bar, Tune-Up. This speakeasy type of establishment hosts plenty of live music on the weekend and is a great spot to start your night out.