

# Savor MCCALL

SHARE A MEAL,  
SHARE AN  
EXPERIENCE

*By McKenzie Kraemer*



Like a song that brings back a memory in vivid detail, food has a special way of marking a moment. While eating is a fundamental part of our every day, it isn't always just about getting sustenance. Sometimes, food becomes an experience that shapes a story in our life.

Culinary experiences in the McCall area are wide and varied. Perhaps your family celebrates a special occasion with a steak dinner at The Mill. Maybe you reward a day on the slopes with a burger and craft beer at McCall Brewing Company. Or is the Pancake House on your bucket list every time the whole family gets together in McCall?

If you ask 10 people what is on their "must eat" list when they are in McCall, you will likely get 10 different answers. Food is personal. But one thing is universally true: when you share a meal, you share an experience.

Explore McCall's culinary offerings and dish up!

## A WINTER FEAST

Great food plays a leading role in how we celebrate. Birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, weddings, visits from friends and family and vacations are all cause for feasting. Sometimes, finding time to sit back and enjoy a well-prepared meal is reason enough to celebrate.



Photo courtesy Shore Lodge



Photo courtesy  
Rupert's

For an immersive dining experience, we love Rupert's at Hotel McCall, the Cutwater and The Narrows Steakhouse at Shore Lodge, Steamer's Steak and Seafood and the Jug Mountain Ranch Clubhouse's Supper Club.

At **Rupert's** start with the Bacon Ranch Shrimp Scampi. Jumbo prawns are sautéed in garlic, wine and bacon butter then served hot with fresh baguette slices. For the main course, try the Seared Sea Scallops with sweet corn risotto or the Grilled Beef Tenderloin Filet set atop light, fluffy Idaho russet mashers. Save room for dessert and enjoy hand-crafted confections while taking in the view of Payette Lake. ([rupertsathotelmccall.com](http://rupertsathotelmccall.com))

Shore Lodge provides several stunning dining options

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Photo courtesy Rupert's



Photo courtesy Shore Lodge



Photo courtesy Jug Mountain Ranch



Photo courtesy Rupert's



Photo courtesy Shore Lodge



Photo courtesy Jug Mountain Ranch

including the **Cutwater** and **The Narrows Steakhouse**. At the Cutwater, we love the Slow Braised Beef Short Ribs and the Pan Seared Pacific Wild Salmon. The Narrows Steakhouse will re-open for business in January 2018. Freshly remodeled, but with the same excellence in food and wine. The Narrows received Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence in 2016 and 2017. This restaurant should be a must-do on your dining list!  
([shorelodge.com/dining](http://shorelodge.com/dining))

**Steamer's Steak and Seafood** is in the heart of downtown McCall and continues to delight families with their surf and turf menu. Try the Lamb and Trout or the Steak, Shrimp and Scallop Platter. Both bring a mix of harmonious flavors onto one plate. Pair a complimentary vintage with your meal. The knowledgeable servers at Steamer's in-house wine bar, The Cork, can help you choose the right wine from their extensive selection.  
([steamersrestaurant.com](http://steamersrestaurant.com))

In the winter months, the **Clubhouse Restaurant** at Jug Mountain Ranch serves up a unique weekend dining experience. Each Friday and Saturday evening, enjoy a four-course a la carte meal. Menus rotate each week with selections like Wild Mushroom Risotto to start, Thai Chicken Coconut Soup to follow, and entrée of Honey Macadamia Nut Crusted Mahi Mahi and a Huckleberry Crumble Square for dessert. Each week offers a choice of two appetizers, soup or salad, three to four entrée selections and two desserts.  
([jugmountainranch.com/clubhouse-restaurant](http://jugmountainranch.com/clubhouse-restaurant))

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Photo courtesy Steamers



salmon river brewery elk burger

## BURGER NIGHT

Who doesn't love a good old fashioned burger? While it is easy to discount a burger as "boring," in and around McCall, you will find they are anything but. Seemingly endless combinations of meat, bun, toppings and accompanying sides make this family favorite an easy go-to meal.

At **Cougar Dave's** in Donnelly, The Cowboy is our favorite burger. Topped with bacon, barbeque sauce, smoked cheddar and onion rings, this dish is both burger and side in one. But don't let that stop you from ordering a side of garlic or truffle fries. ([find Cougar Dave's on Facebook](#))

For more great pub fare, try **Salmon River Brewery's** Black-N-Blue Elk Burger. This third pound elk patty is topped with gorgonzola crumbles, grilled onions, bacon, lettuce, tomato and spicy aioli. Served up with a side of Salmon River's signature rosemary fries, this burger is oh-so-satisfying. ([salmonriverbrewery.com](#))

While most know **My Father's Place** as having the best milkshakes around, their burgers are also a pretty big deal. While the Smokejumper and Baconer are delicious, we have to go with the Nut Burger as our favorite. Add sautéed mushrooms and onions to this perfectly spiced vegetarian option, add a side of sweet potato fries, and we promise you won't be disappointed. ([find My Father's Place on Facebook](#))

Need a burger after a day of snowmobiling? The **Baum Shelter** in Warren, Idaho is the perfect stop! Open seven days a week and in the middle of some of the best riding around, stop in for one of "Aunt Margaret's Famous Burgers." Stick to a traditional option like the Old-Fashioned or spice things up with the Jalapeño Burger. ([baumsheltertoo.com](#))

For those over the age of 21 looking for a quick bite with a great view, the **Yacht Club** is an easy choice. Their Cheeseburger is a classic; delicious, filling and reasonably priced at just \$6. ([yacht-clubmccall.com](#))

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## WE TACOS

We have a serious obsession with tacos. With t-shirts touting “I love you more than tacos” and “Live every day like it is Taco Tuesday,” it is pretty safe to say these delicious treats will always hold a special place in our hearts. From sweet to spicy, large to small, a good taco can fit any mood or occasion.

**Pueblo Lindo** serves up a huge selection of authentic Mexican cuisine with a delightful side of friendly service. If you need a taco fix, try the Carne Asada Tacos. This trio comes wrapped in a double tortilla and sprinkled with onion and cilantro. ([find Pueblo Lindo McCall on Facebook](#))

For 35 years, **Southside Grill** has been a staple in McCall. Their fresh, high quality ingredients add delicious flavor to every dish. The House and Fish Tacos are always good, but we recommend being a bit adventurous and trying the Mini Calamari Taco Trio. Crisped in rice flour and topped with a refreshing Peruvian cilantro slaw, these tacos are a treat! ([southsidemccall.com](#))

The bright and lively décor at **KB's Burrito** in McCall is a just a preview of the festive flavors on the menu. Their Famous Fish Tacos come piled high with mahi mahi, cabbage, cabo sauce, salsa and a squeeze of fresh lime. You can also swap out the mahi mahi for shrimp. Either way you go, it is delicious! ([kbsburrito.com](#))

PUEBLO LINDO CARNE ASADA TACOS and  
KB'S BURRITOS FAMOUS FISH TACOS



## WICH-CRAFT

From a simple PB&J to a decadent deli sub with layer upon layer of flavor, sandwiches have become a staple. And the possibilities are endless. Stack colorful veggies with freshly sliced meat; add a creamy dressing and a few slices of cheese, put it all between two slices of bread and voila! A sandwich is born. With so many options, a quick bite or a light lunch can be different every day.

Find fresh ingredients piled high between two slices of mouthwatering specialty bread, baked fresh daily, and you have sandwich perfection. Pick up your order slip at the **Evening Rise Bread Company** counter, circle the meats, cheeses, toppings and sauces you want then sit back and enjoy. Don't forget to add the pickle on the side! (find Evening Rise Bread Company on Facebook)

When it is cold outside, there is nothing better than a grilled cheese sandwich to warm you up. **Seven Devils Pub** at Tamarack Resort puts a twist on this classic. They start with a grilled flatbread and stuff it with melty cheese, heirloom tomatoes, avocados, bacon and sprouts. Plus, you can choose truffle chips, soup or couscous as a yummy side. (tamarackidaho.com)

They say variety is the spice of life and variety is what you will find at **Subway!** With multiple locations in the valley, this one-stop sub shop is always a great on-the-go option. Foot long or flatbread, toasted or traditional, you can build a different sandwich every day of the year. (subway.com)

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Evening Rise Bread  
Company sandwiches



Pancake House Cinnamon Roll

## BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

There are morning people and then there are breakfast people. If the smell of crackling bacon and freshly brewed coffee put you in a state of nirvana, you fall into the latter category. Touted as the most important meal of the day, breakfast can take on a life of its own. Whether you are a traditionalist, a lover of baked goods, or like to push the breakfast boundaries, McCall has you covered.

Known for its stunning flowers in the summer, Christmas lights in the winter and plate-sized cinnamon rolls, the **Pancake House** is an icon in McCall. With a menu that covers everything from pancakes to omelets to benedicts to biscuits and gravy, you won't have any trouble finding a hearty breakfast here. Oh, and breakfast is served all day so you can enjoy that huge cinnamon roll any time! ([mccallpancakehouse.com](http://mccallpancakehouse.com))

**Stacey Cakes** is more than just icing on the cake. Handmade treats like their famous ginger snaps, salted caramel cheesecake and "twixter" shortbread cookies line the display cases. We recommend you pick up a few sweet treats for later and opt for a delicious piece of quiche for breakfast. The perfectly baked tart crust plays host to a rotating mix of ingredients inspired by the season. ([find Stacey Cakes McCall on Facebook](#))

**TJ's Cutting Edge Café** is probably best known as the snack stop during hockey games or ice rink events, but it is also a hot spot for breakfast! We love the Bus Driver Scramble with rosemary roasted potatoes, scrambled eggs, cheese, bacon and sausage and the Puck Breakfast complete with buttermilk biscuit topped with a fried egg, your choice of ham, bacon or sausage and covered in country gravy. ([tjscuttingedgecafe.com](http://tjscuttingedgecafe.com))

If you ask a local where to grab a quick, hot breakfast, you will likely be led to the **Old Town Station** in McCall. Yes, it is a gas station and convenience store. It also has a fabulous food counter that serves up hearty fare to fill you up before your adventures. Try the Moose Toast, loaded with eggs, bacon, sausage and cheese, or the Gravy Train Burrito filled with eggs, hash browns, bacon, sausage and (of course) gravy. ([find Old Town Station on Facebook](#))

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## APRÈS SKI (OR RIDE)

Whether you call them appetizers, tapas, or canapés, these small bites are delicious by any name. Indulge in a single order, pair several together to create a colorful meal, or share your favorites family style around the table. When the weather turns wintry, small bites become even more enjoyable après winter fun!

Either après or for a mid-day powder break, find lots of hearty selections on the mountain. The **Canoe Grill** at Tamarack Resort is great for family-friendly casual fare. We love their handmade pizzas and grab-and-go salads. ([tamarackidaho.com](http://tamarackidaho.com))

Brundage Mountain Resort now has two great spots to 'apres' after a day on the slopes. The Mile High Nachos at **Smoky's Bar & Grill** have reached legendary status, but some more adventurous options are also available upstairs at the **Upper Lot Pub**. Try a Ballard & Bacon Skewer or a Smoked Trout Crostini in this newer, adults-only space. ([brundage.com](http://brundage.com))

Off the mountain, pair a glass of wine from **Bistro 45** with the Tomato Basil & Mozzarella Bruschetta or Baked Brie. Grab one of the house board games or well-worn books and sit back to relax. The cozy atmosphere is ideal after a day in the snow. ([bistro45mccall.com](http://bistro45mccall.com))

While sushi may not fit the traditional après ski picture, we would argue that this is one of the best ways to end a long day of fun.

**The Sushi Bar** showcases a perfect view of Payette Lake and some of the best rolls in Idaho. You won't be able to order just one! We love the Rainbow Roll, the spicy Bonfire and the Sharlie's Garden, but anything on the menu is sure to please. ([sushibarmccall.com](http://sushibarmccall.com))

Beer cheese soup. Need we say more? **McCall Brewing Company** does soup right by combining smooth aged cheese with their fresh ales. It's delicious on its own or as a starter before your meal. Pair it with any one of the Brewery's craft beers and you have done après ski right! ([mccallbrew.com](http://mccallbrew.com))

Looking for a bit of adventure in your small bites? The **Anchor** is your place. Find fun options like Pork Thai-quitos, Froggie Pops, and Bacon Artichoke Rice Flour Fritters alongside staples like the Grilled Shrimp Cocktail and Anchor Steamers. ([anchor-mccall.com](http://anchor-mccall.com))

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The Sushi Bar Rainbow Roll





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## KING OF THE GRILL

Steak. The king of meats. Something about a juicy cut of meat, crosshatched from the grill, with a perfectly done center makes grown men swoon. If you are after a Tri-tip, T-bone, New York Strip, Filet Mignon, Rib-Eye, Porterhouse, Tenderloin, Ribs, or Brisket, we have you covered.



Named for the small mining town that existed in the 1880s where the restaurant now sits, **Lardos Grill and Saloon** is the local gathering place. Known for its relaxed atmosphere, cold beer and comfort food menu, Lardos is also a fabulous place to get your steak fix. Try the Rib Eye Steak, cooked just the way you like it, or the Choice Prime Rib, served daily starting at 5pm. ([lardogrillandsaloon.com](http://lardogrillandsaloon.com))

**The Mill Steakhouse** lives up to its name. With selections including the New York, Rib Eye, Medallions and Famous Prime Rib in 8, 10 or 18 ounce cuts, there are plenty of options to keep you satisfied. On top of all that, the ambiance of this eclectic joint makes dining here an unforgettable experience. Sit and swing in an old chairlift chair by the huge open fireplace or stop in on a Friday night to hear piano man Jamie Cope play your requested tunes. ([themillsteakhousemccall.com](http://themillsteakhousemccall.com))

If a little wood smoke appeals to your taste buds, stop by **Incahoots BBQ** in McCall. These hearty, home style meals are made from scratch and use locally grown and raised meats whenever possible. Try the Tri Tip topped with homemade sauces like the Cranberry BBQ or the Spicy BBQ. ([incahootsbbq.com](http://incahootsbbq.com))

Looking for good food, good people and good times? The **Intersection BBQ Bar and Grill** in New Meadows is the place. The Brisket should definitely be on your list and if you are lucky enough to stop in when it is in stock, the Pastrami is a must. This local favorite is brined and cured for a month before serving. ([find the Intersection BBQ on Facebook](#))

The **McCall Golf Course Restaurant** has a new name, look and menu! Re-opening in early 2018, the restaurant is undergoing a major overhaul. With its new modern mountain styling, relax in the dining room and enjoy a selection from the new menu. Plans to serve steak, seafood and pub fare mean there is another delicious, affordable option for steak lovers in McCall! ([mccallgolfclub.com](http://mccallgolfclub.com))

## NOT YOUR AVERAGE CUP OF JOE

Coffee is hands down the most popular beverage in the world. It is hot, it is cozy, it is energizing. Taken straight black or with a myriad of accoutrements, a good cup of joe is like a warm blanket on a cold winter day.

We are lucky to have a big variety of coffee shops in McCall. **Fogglifter Café** in the heart of downtown is a great stop for a morning boost. Sip on drinks made from fresh roasted beans from Landgrove Coffee in Troy, Idaho and munch on light breakfast fare. (find Fogglifter Café on Facebook)

Just steps from Legacy Park and Payette Lake, **Mountain Java** serves up hot drinks in a boutique setting. Peruse artwork from local photographers, browse the selection of mugs, chocolates, gift cards and tea or sign up for the Mountain Vino Wine Club as you sip your java. (find Mountain Java on Facebook)

Sometimes you don't want to get out of your car when the temperature drops outside. **Wild River Java** lets you stay warm and toasty while you order your cup of joe. Drive right up to the window and order your favorite! (find Wild River Java on Facebook)

If you want to enhance your morning ritual, pick up a bag of freshly roasted beans from **North Fork Coffee Roasters**. As a small-batch roaster, they source seasonally available beans and carefully craft each batch to bring out the fullest flavor. From light to dark, North Fork has a variety to please any palate! (northforkcoffeeroasters.com)

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## PIE IN THE SKY

A quality slice of pizza is crave-worthy. All that melty cheese layered with meat and veggies atop a perfectly baked crust makes our mouth water. Pizza is a universal comfort food and appropriate at any time of the day (hello leftover cold pizza for breakfast), in any season. Aside from all of this, pizza brings people together. What better way to spend an evening than sharing a pie with the ones you love?

**Growler's Pizza Grill** is a family owned restaurant sure to please everyone in the group. The dough is handmade fresh daily and topped with delicious combinations of toppings. Pick a specialty pie like the Big Growler, the Payette Lake Supreme, or the Bruschetta Pizza. You can also build your own to order. ([growlerspizza.com](http://growlerspizza.com))

The menu at **Toll Station Pizza and Pasta** is big. You can find everything from burgers to specialty sandwiches to traditional pasta dishes, but here, the pizza is the star. Dine in on a hot and ready pizza like the Zesty Garden, BBQ Chicken, Mac and Cheese Pizza or the McCall Special or pick one up to take and bake at home. ([tollstationpizza.com](http://tollstationpizza.com))

**Crusty's Pizza** is a culture, not just a restaurant. Here, they say "different is better" and it shows in the eclectic mix of weekly live music and the thin sourdough crust they are known for. Selections like the Butcher Block, which comes with pesto, elk sausage, prosciutto, roasted garlic, mushrooms, caramelized onions and blue cheese, and The P&P, a spin on a traditional Hawaiian using prosciutto and pineapple, Crusty's puts a unique twist on this classic food. ([crustymccall.com](http://crustymccall.com))

growler's Pizza Grill  
Bruschetta Pizza



Photo courtesy Brundage Mountain Resort



Photo courtesy Brundage Mountain Resort



Photo courtesy Brundage Mountain Resort



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## ADVENTURES IN FOOD

McCall puts a bold spin on dinner. Pairing a rustic setting with elegant fare, the Bear's Den Dinner After Dark offers an unforgettable adventure for your taste buds.

Brundage Mountain has transformed their mid-mountain outpost, the Bear's Den, into a cozy venue for a spectacular four-course meal after the lifts stop turning. The journey begins by stepping aboard a SnowCat at the base area. The Cat whisks dinner-goers on a short uphill trek to the Bears Den where a warm welcome awaits.

Upon arrival, enjoy a complimentary drink (like mulled wine with cardamom-crema) and settle in for a four-course meal featuring seasonal dishes prepared by Executive Chef Devin and team. A wine pairing is included with the meal and there is also a full selection of craft brews, wine, and after-dinner sippers available for purchase.

Plan to enjoy the Bear's Den After Dark at one of several public dinners (including two 'full-moon' events) throughout the season or book a private event if you have 12 or more in your group! Please visit [Brundage.com/after-dark](http://Brundage.com/after-dark) for upcoming public reservation dates.

### The Fine Print:

**Cost:** \$129 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

**Arrival Procedure:** Arrive at the Brundage Lodge at 5:30pm. The first SnowCat departs at 6:00pm and dinner service begins at 7:00pm

**Reservations:** Call (208) 315-3080 or email [reservations@brundage.com](mailto:reservations@brundage.com)

**Private Events:** Private reservations for groups of 12 or more are available Monday–Thursday during ski season. ■

## BLUE MOON YURT

We can't talk about adventures in food without mentioning the Blue Moon Yurt. This culinary experience takes guests along a trail lit by tiki-torches via cross-country skis or snowshoes to a cozy yurt tucked into the trees. The Blue Moon Yurt has previously operated in Ponderosa State Park. This season, the Yurt is taking a hiatus to revamp their offerings and experience. While the Yurt is not open this year, we are excited to see what the team at Blue Moon Outfitters has in store for the future. We can't wait for winter 2019! Stay up-to-date on the Yurt by visiting [bluemoonyurt.com](http://bluemoonyurt.com).

Photo courtesy Blue Moon Yurt

