**Beaver Creek**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

51

**Intermediate Runs**

57

**Advanced Runs**

42

**Total Runs**

150

**Lifts**

25

**Chairs**

14

**Drags**

9

**Gondola Cable Cars**

2

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

8.1m (27 ft).

**Overview**

There are not many ski resorts in the western world where arriving guests pass through a guarded entry gate before they gain access, but then very few resorts are as exclusive as Beaver Creek.

One of 10 resorts operated by Vail Resorts, Beaver Creek was created less than 40 years ago with an aim of breaking the mould of luxury skiing holidays.

This ethos extends to all aspects of the resort, from the lavish accommodation and gourmet restaurants, to the escalator ride to the immaculately groomed ski slopes, or the complimentary chocolate chip cookie at the end of another perfect ski day.

This pampering of its guests, summed up by the resort’s honest catchphrase; “not exactly roughing it”, has helped Beaver Creek to develop a world-class ski area that has attracted the Alpine Ski World Championships – the second biggest event after the Olympics – on several occasions. It is also a regular stop on the World Cup circuit and will host the Alpine Ski World Championships once again in 2015.

**Location**

Beaver Creek is located in Eagle County, in the western state of Colorado and within the Rocky Mountain range in the USA. The ski resort is about 100 miles (160km) west of the state capital Denver, and the nearest town is Avon.

**Website**

http://www.beavercreek.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.beavercreek.com/the-mountain/winter-trail-maps.aspx

**Hit The Slopes**

Beaver Creek has some of the highest ski slopes in the world and is therefore traditionally one of the most snowsure. The resort aims to open for the Thanksgiving holiday long weekend in late November, then generally remaining open until mid-April of the following year. There’s usually plenty of snow left there by then but, as with other ski resorts in the USA, it closes when the number of visitors is no longer great enough to justify staying open.

Beaver Creek’s terrain is evenly divided between beginner, intermediate and advanced level. Unusually, the beginner terrain is largely at the top of the ski area, unlike the normal resort model of nursery slopes by the village. Intermediates will find lots of superbly groomed cruising runs descending from here, with these slopes served by an impressive network of chairlifts, including 10 quads and several gondolas.

The steepest slopes include the double black-graded runs of Grouse Mountain and the World Cup and World Championships Birds of Prey downhill run, down the west side of Beaver Creek mountain. When iced-up for competition and taken at full tilt by the world’s best racers, speeds of more than 130kph (80mph) are recorded over the course’s 750m (2460ft) drop in approximately one minute and 40 seconds. However, visitors don’t have to do it that quickly.

Boarders, freestyle skiers and cross-country skiers are not forgotten, with several excellent terrain parks, a half pipe and 32km (20 miles) of cross-country ski trails suitable for all ability levels.

**Beaver Creek**

**Resort**

2469

**Base**

2469

**Top**

3488

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Off the slopes, Beaver Creek revolves around a pedestrianised area in the heart of the resort that includes a charming outdoor ice rink, which looks particularly alluring around the festive period. Other outdoor activities include dog sledding, snowshoeing, balloon rides and tubing at Haymaker Hill, which can be accessed from the Buckaroo Express gondola.

Indoors, the Vilar Center (tel: +1 970 845 8497; [www.vilarpac.org](http://www.vilarpac.org)) incorporates a theatre and exhibition space; while most of the larger hotels have spa facilities. There are also a variety of galleries available for art enthusiasts.

**Family Fun**

Beaver Creek works hard to keep families happy. Nursery care is available for babies from two months to children aged six years at the Small World Play Center (tel: +1 970 754 5325), which also offers dedicated children’s ski school classes from aged three and up. The resort also runs a range of ‘signature programs’ that are free to guests, including Cookie Time (warm chocolate chip cookies served at 1500 every day). There’s also a free programme of family-oriented entertainment, including snowshoe tours and disco skate nights.

A team of Beaver Creek ‘ambassadors’ are situated throughout the village; these helpers are charged with doing anything and everything, from returning a misplaced mitten to acting as navigational aides, making sure nobody gets lost.

**Retail Therapy**

There are around 60 shops in Beaver Creek, which cover all ski holiday needs, as well as providing plenty of boutique shopping opportunities. Fashion stores are perhaps the most prominent with luxury household names like Patagonia and Hawick Cashmere (tel: +1 970 845 8888), selling items including jackets, footwear and alpine accessories.

**Splashing Out**

Book a private dining experience and overnight stay at Trappers Cabin (tel: +1 970 754 5785; [www.trapperscabincolorado.com](http://www.trapperscabincolorado.com)), an exclusive private retreat high up above the resort. This ski-in/out four-bedroom, four-bathroom log cabin hideaway has a games room and hot tub, and can be supplied with a private chef on request.

**Apres Ski**

Beaver creek’s nightlife is typically as expected - dignified and sophisticated; but if you’re in the mood for gaiety, there are possibilities.

The Coyote Café (tel: +1 970 949 5001; [www.coyotecafe.net](http://www.coyotecafe.net)) is the closest thing to a local's bar (it was the first to open in the resort) and offers daily drinks specials. Alternatively, The Dusty Boot Saloon (tel: +1 970 748 1146; [www.dustyboot.com](http://www.dustyboot.com)) has a huge selection of tequila – prefect for an end of the evening shot.

Turning towards the resort’s more sophisticated offerings, Whiskey Elk in the Park Hyatt hotel (tel: +1 970 949 1234) has an impressive international drinks selection, ranging from American bourbons to malt whisky from Scotland. There’s also live entertainment every night.

**Eating Out**

The number of dining options continues to grow in Beaver Creek and unsurprisingly the vast majority of these are fine dining establishments aimed towards well-heeled guests.

But that’s not to say it’s all high end eateries and gourmet gastro pubs, there are many laid back options among the 30 or so establishments, with the Flying Pig Sandwich Shop (45 W Thomas Place) a firm favourite for skiers looking to get a quick fill.

However, gourmet restaurants dominate the scene, and the Mirabelle Restaurant (tel: +1 970 949 7728; [www.mirabelle1.com](http://www.mirabelle1.com)), located in one of the original buildings constructed here is a firm favourite, with Chef Daniel Joly creates European dishes using locally grown farm produce

The Saddle Ridge Restaurant (tel: +1 970 754 5450) is another good restaurant choice, serving up south western cuisine mostly incorporating wild game and fish. Apart from tasty meals, the Saddle Ridge is also worth visiting to ogle over its extensive collection of Western and Native American artefacts, including Buffalo Bill's saddle and Annie Oakley's gun.

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**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Eagle County Airport (EGE); Denver International Airport (DIA)

Distance to resort: 25 miles (40 kilometres); 131 miles (210 kilometres)

Driving time: 30 minutes; 2 hours.

Nearest railway station: Denver

Distance to resort: 110km (68 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 50 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Much of Beaver Creek is within a walkable distance, but a complimentary shuttle service operates approximately every 10 minutes around the resort with on-demand pick-ups.

**Hotels**

All accommodation in Beaver Creek is toward the more luxurious end of the scale. Visitors can, however, stay in nearby Avon, which has more affordable and budget accommodation options.

**Park Hyatt**

Luxurious lodging with a superb spa, Park Hyatt offers original guest experiences in the form of toasty warm ski boots each morning and a happy hour around a fire pit each evening.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

136 East Thomas Place

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CO 81620

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 949 1234.

**Website**

www.hyatt.com

**The Osprey**

This slopeside luxury hotel has a restaurant specialising in tapas-style dishes. The Osprey’s claim to fame is that it’s situated closer to a chairlift than any other hotel in North America.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

10 Elk Track Lane

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CO 81620

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 429 5042.

**Website**

www.ospreyatbeavercreek.rockresorts.com

**Christie Lodge**

One of several budget accommodation options in the nearby town of Avon, Christie Lodge offers condominium-style apartments.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 949 7700.

**Website**

http://www.christielodge.com

**Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa**

Marginally the most popular of the numerous Beaver Creek luxury options, the Westin Riverfront boasts some of the best views in the resort as well as an extravagant on-site spa.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 790 6000.

**Website**

www.westin.com

**The Charter at Beaver Creek**

One of the resort’s older hotels - yet still relatively modern by usual standards – The European-inspired Charter at Beaver Creek offers condos for one to five people with mountain views. A luxury penthouse with Jacuzzi, grand piano and wood-burning fireplace is also available.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 949 6660.

**Website**

http://www.wyndhamvacationrentals.com

**Comfort Inn Near Vail Beaver Creek**

Benefiting from a more affordable price tag than most properties within the resort grounds, the Comfort Inn Near Vail Beaver Creek is located outside of the ski area close to the town of Avon, but is connected to Beaver Creek via a regular bus route. On-site facilities include a swimming pool and fitness centre.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

0161 W Beaver Creek Boulevard

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 81620

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CO 81620

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 949 5511.

**Website**

www.comfortinn.com