**Breckenridge**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

21

**Intermediate Runs**

58

**Advanced Runs**

108

**Total Runs**

187

**Lifts**

34

**Chairs**

18

**Drags**

15

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

5

**Pipes**

2

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

7.6m (26ft).

**Overview**

Breckenridge is an attractive old mining town with a long main street filled with shops, bars and restaurants, reminiscent of a Wild West film. This welcoming centre and its varied skiing have helped to attract a loyal following for decades and its popularity sees little sign of waning.

The skiing here provides something for all levels and groups, from families to gung-ho types, with some of the slopes linked by the world's highest chairlift – the resort itself is also one of the world’s highest at more than 2,900m (9,600ft).

Just one of four Colorado resorts owned by Vail Resorts, skiers can make use of a ski pass that includes the others: Beaver Creek, Keystone and Vail, as well as nearby Arapahoe Basin, which is not owned by the company.

‘Breck’ is the ski resort equivalent of Key West or New Orleans, the end of the road for fun-seekers. Multi-million dollar developments in recent seasons have brought the slopes and lifts right down to street level and despite the town's new gloss, at heart it's a place of partying ski bums. Notably, when the personal use of cannabis was legalised in Colorado, Breckenridge was one of the more relaxed resorts regarding the setting up of shops selling the drug.

**Location**

Breckenridge in Summit County, Colorado, is located within White River National Forest, in the Rocky Mountains. The resort is 130km (81 miles) west of Denver by road.

**Website**

http://www.breckenridge.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.breckenridge.com/mountain/resort-maps.aspx

**Hit The Slopes**

With more than 150 runs, the ski area at Breckenridge will keep most recreational skiers busy for a week or more. The resort’s altitude also means there is reliable snow throughout the season, with a relatively long season from mid-November to late April.

Skiing and boarding in Breckenridge is now across five mountains: Peaks 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, which are each linked either by skiing or by the network of around 30 lifts. Peak 6 is a relatively new addition, opened for the 2013/2014 season, and has added an additional 220 hectares (543 acres) of new terrain, a large portion of which is served by a high-speed, six-person chairlift and a fixed-grip chairlift.

Beginners can learn the basics at the base area of Peak 9, near the town centre, and can progress onto its green slopes. There are also suitable runs for beginners on Peak 8, which disperse along its lower slopes and continue down into the heart of the resort.

There’s plenty of intermediate cruising and expert terrain from which to choose, particularly on Peaks 7, 8 and 9; while Peak 10 has some tougher intermediate terrain that has been upgraded to black in recent years.

The majority of runs in Breckenridge are classified as black, many of which are found on Peak 8, with its short runs on foreboding slopes. At the top of this peak, the Imperial Express reaches a world-record 3,915m (12,840ft) for a chairlift. It's the high point of a resort that has a base height loftier than the top of many of the world’s great resorts.

Snowboarders are by no means left out of the fun. The five terrain parks (two on Peak 9 and three on Peak 8) and two halfpipes offer one of the best areas for freestylers around.

**Breckenridge**

**Resort**

2925

**Base**

2925

**Top**

3963

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Breckenridge shares a lift pass with nearby Keystone and Arapahoe Basin, as well as Vail and Beaver Creek an hour away. The first two (reached by a free bus service) should be visited for skiing only; the others (reached by a cheap bus service) are additionally worth having a look around for their shops and ambiance.

The resort itself provides a nice opportunity for simply strolling around, but for those looking for something to do, there's an excellent public recreation centre with a swimming pool, and the usual ski resort offerings of ice skating, snowmobiling, dog sledding and regular snowshoeing tours.

For something a little unusual, head out into the forest on a guided ranger tour (tel: +1 970 453 5000). The one-hour walk will give visitors the chance to learn more about the environmental aspects of the resort and the surrounding forest.

**Family Fun**

The ski school, which offers lessons from age three, is highly rated, while the Peak Adventure Series also gives youngsters challenging lessons. Breckenridge provides a good place for families to ski together once the little ones are more accomplished on their skis.

Off the slopes, there are three childcare centres (at the base of Peaks 8 and 9 and in the resort), which take kids aged eight weeks to five years. The ‘Kids' Day Off’ and ‘Kids' Night Out’ activities look after children to enable parents to enjoy some 'me time' off the slopes. Among the other child-friendly activities, the Recreation Centre (Airport Road) gives lessons on its climbing wall from age four.

**Retail Therapy**

Visitors can spend hours searching out the quirky shops squeezed in down narrow alleyways, along balconies and around corners. There are more than 80 shops in Breckenridge, encompassing everything from sports gear and T-shirts to individual boutiques, fascinating art galleries and food stores. Try Goods (105 South Main Street) for unusual clothes or Breckenridge Brewery (600 South Main Street) for bottles of beer. For those wishing to partake (and are aged 21 or over), recreational marijuana is sold by the Breckenridge Cannabis Club (tel: +1 970 453 4900), located in the downtown area.

For an even greater choice, the factory outlet centres (100-plus shops) at Silverthorne are 20 minutes away via a free bus service.

**Splashing Out**

Take a snowmobile tour up to Georgia Pass on the crest of Continental Divide (the point that decides whether rivers flow east or west), up at a staggering 3,531m (11,585ft). The two-hour trip entails driving a state-of-the-art snowmobile. Tours are available through Good Times Adventures (tel: +1 970 453 7604; [www.snowmobilecolorado.com](http://www.snowmobilecolorado.com)).

**Apres Ski**

There are few ski resorts livelier than this Colorado town. Breckenridge is now almost a year round resort, which always helps venues develop into more complete establishments.

Old favourites for après-ski in Breckenridge include subterranean sports bar Downstairs at Eric's (tel: +1 970 453 1401; [www.downstairsaterics.com](http://www.downstairsaterics.com)) and Breckenridge Brewery (tel: +1 970 453 1550; [www.breckbrew.com](http://www.breckbrew.com)), a friendly microbrewery pub (try their Avalanche Ale).

A bar that absolutely must not be missed is the Gold Pan Saloon (tel: +1 970 453 5499; [www.thegoldpansaloon.com](http://www.thegoldpansaloon.com)), the longest continuously operated bar west of the Mississippi river (from 1879).

For late-night revelry, head to Cecilia's (tel: +1 970 453 2243; [www.cecilias.tv](http://www.cecilias.tv)), Breck's largest club.

**Eating Out**

There are now more than 120 different cafes and restaurants in Breckenridge with a huge choice of dining experiences on offer.

Relish (tel: +1 970 453 0989; [www.relishbreckenridge.com](http://www.relishbreckenridge.com)) has a strong reputation for its cuisine, which is seasonal and Colorado inspired. Meanwhile, the Whale's Tail (tel: +1 970 453 2221; [www.whalestailbreckenridge.com](http://www.whalestailbreckenridge.com)) boasts an extensive menu and cosy surroundings. The Hearthstone (tel: +1 970 453 1148; [www.hearthstonerestaurant.biz](http://www.hearthstonerestaurant.biz)) is ideal for those looking for upmarket old-style American fare.

If you’d prefer something continental in Colorado for a change, Le Petit Paris (tel: +1 970 547 5335; [www.lepetitparisbistro.com](http://www.lepetitparisbistro.com)) is one of the best French restaurants outside of France, while other restaurants around the resort offer, Mexican, Southwestern, Chinese, Italian and Indian cuisine.

For a quick sandwich and designer coffee, Cuppa Joe (tel: +1 970 453 3938) is generally regarded as the best in town.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Denver International Airport (DEN).

Distance to resort: 115km (71 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours.

**Getting Around**

The gondola base is in town and the Peak 9 chairlift is nearby, so ski slope access is either within walking distance of most accommodation or a short trip on a free bus. In addition, complimentary buses link the town with Keystone and Arapahoe Basin ski resorts, and there are also inexpensive bus links to Vail and Beaver Creek.

**Hotels**

The sprawling ski resort has a variety of ski-in/ski-out slopeside accommodation and plenty of choice in the town itself. As well as a range of apartments, there is also a choice of chalets and hotels in Breckenridge, from luxury mountain-view offerings to cosy bed and breakfasts.

**Valdoro Mountain Lodge by Hilton Grand Vacations Suites**

This property has all the luxury and on-site facilities you’d expect from the international chain, including a salon, gym and swimming pool. The hotel is within walking distance of the central resort and a free shuttle ride away from the slopes.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

500 Village Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 80424

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

80424

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 855 277 5401.

**Website**

http://www.valdoro.com/

**Mountain Thunder Lodge**

The Mountain Thunder Lodge is centrally located with ski-in/out properties. On-site facilities include a swimming pool and hot tubs.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 547 5650.

**Website**

http://www.breckresorts.com

**The Village at Breckenridge**

Perfectly located at the base of Peak 9 and at the end of Main Street, the complex is in the ideal position for both slope and après-ski access and offers condo- and hotel-style accommodation.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 888 400 9590.

**Website**

http://www.breckresorts.com

**One Ski Hill Place**

A 5-star Rock Resorts property in a slopeside location, One Ski Hill Place offers truly luxurious ski-in/out accommodation with on-site dining and a bustling bar.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 877 354 6747.

**Website**

http://www.oneskihillplace.com

**Wayside Inn**

A stylish and friendly family-run motel, Wayside Inn is several miles out of town but is served by the local bus.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 453 5540.

**Website**

http://www.breckwayside.com