**Copper Mountain**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

30

**Intermediate Runs**

31

**Advanced Runs**

80

**Total Runs**

141

**Lifts**

23

**Chairs**

15

**Drags**

8

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

4

**Pipes**

2

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

7.3m (24ft).

**Overview**

Copper Mountain is one of the world’s newer ski areas, created from scratch in the early 1970s. It is also one of the planet’s highest, with a base at nearly 3,000m (9,850ft) above sea level.

The resort itself is a pleasant, pedestrianised village that has both a strong family ethos and a huge selection of terrain that attracts good skiers and boarders from across the world. This appeal has been boosted by the opening of a year-round indoor facility, Woodward, which contains dry slopes, trampolines and foam pits where anyone can practice freestyle technique in safety.

The resort has an excellent design, learning from the mistakes of earlier purpose-built areas and ironing out many of the inconveniences of traditional villages that have evolved into ski resorts. The majority of accommodation is in convenient slopeside condominiums, interconnected by walkways and separated by squares. However, the expansion of the resort has led to the creation of several ‘districts’ that are connected by a shuttle bus service; so it is worth checking exactly where accommodation is located when you’re booking.

**Location**

Copper Mountain in Summit County, Colorado, is located in the Rocky Mountains in western USA. The resort is 126km (78 miles) west of Denver by road.

**Website**

http://www.coppercolorado.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.coppercolorado.com/winter/the\_mountain/trail\_map/trailmap\_2012-13.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

Copper Mountain is a planner's idea of what a ski resort should be, with a well-ordered resort sitting within naturally divided terrain on two mountains: Copper Peak and Union Peak. The slopes cover one long face along the front, so everything's easily accessible and the skiing gets progressively harder as skiers move along.

Although it's not a giant resort, there is plenty of enjoyable skiing for all levels. The majority of terrain at Copper Mountain is rated as either ‘advanced’ or ‘expert’ so accomplished skiers have plenty of options, including the challenges of Copper and Spaulding Bowls and various other spots around the back of the ski resort area.

Intermediates have around a quarter of runs suited to their level and can cruise the entire resort from top to bottom. Beginners, meanwhile, can learn in the safety of the nursery slopes at Union Creek.

For snowboarders, there’s an excellent selection of terrain parks offering a progression from easy to advanced levels and a super pipe for freestyle skiers and boarders.

Due to the resort’s high altitude, snow cover is relatively reliable, and the ski season generally runs between November and mid-April.

**Copper Mountain**

**Resort**

2926

**Base**

2926

**Top**

3767

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Copper Mountain resort is made up of charming buildings with pedestrianised areas lined with shops and restaurants that are divided into several districts.

Off-slope activities in and around the resort include ice skating, tubing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing; while there is also a very good swimming pool and athletic club. For a backcountry experience, Copper Mountain runs snowcat excursions at weekends (on a first-come, first-served basis) that are included in the lift ticket cost.

A wander around the nearby town of Frisco is a nice day out and it would take a very determined person not to be wooed by the discount shops of Silverthorne.

**Family Fun**

There are multiple family-friendly facilities at Copper Mountain. Childcare from six weeks to four years is available at the crèche at the bottom of the slopes. There’s also frequent ‘Kids' Night Out’ evenings involving pizza, games and videos – an excellent initiative but with slightly bizarre terms of service. Children can partake in the three hour activity for free, providing parents spend at least $30 in any commercial outlet at the resort during the same period. For longer childcare periods - without the strange conditions - parents can opt for standard babysitting services (tel: +1 970 968 2318).

The children’s terrain park introduces young boarders and freestyle skiers to the excitement of rails, boxes, jumps and a mini-pipe.

**Retail Therapy**

There’s a small selection of quirky shops in Copper Mountain, plus ski outlets selling branded Copper Mountain sweatshirts and souvenirs. For more choice, head to Silverthorne, offering more than 50 factory outlet stores – including designer names – in three adjoining shopping centres.

**Splashing Out**

Take an evening sleigh ride up the mountain followed by dinner in an old miners' tent. The event starts in the historic Wheeler Barn with the jingle of the arriving sleigh, pulled by draft horses. Snuggled beneath blankets, guests head up to the tent, where hot toddies, live music and a hearty dinner awaits. The evening can be booked through the resort’s information office.

**Apres Ski**

Copper Mountain has been making an increasing effort to boost its après-ski vibe, with more concerts and events laid on to help keep the base of the slopes buzzing at the close of the ski day. The choice of ski bars and other après ski activities continues to grow too, although most remained focused in the original heart of the resort.

The Incline Bar & Grill (tel: +1 970 968 0200) has become somewhat of a resort institution, thanks in part to its selection of draught beers and three-hour long happy hour from 1500 to 1800.

Endo's Adrenaline Café (tel: +1 970 968 3070) and JJ's Rocky Mountain Tavern (tel: +1 970 968 3062) in the East Village offer live music; while The Storm King Lounge (tel: +1 970 968 2318) has a curious mix of sushi, pool, darts and cocktails.

**Eating Out**

There is a good choice of restaurants in Copper Mountain, with further choices in Frisco.

Tuckers Tavern (tel: +1 970 968 2033) is famed for its pizza but also serves a great steak. For an upmarket option the CB Grille (tel: +1 970 968 3113; [www.cbgrille.com](http://www.cbgrille.com/)) offers elk, steak and fish cooked over a wood fire grill. JJ's Rocky Mountain Tavern (tel: +1 970 968 3062) and Endo's Adrenaline Café (tel: +1 970 968 3070) offer designer burgers.

Among the non-American-style options, there’s great Mexican cuisine at Salsa Mountain Cantina (tel: +1 970 968 6300; [www.salsamountaincantina.com](http://www.salsamountaincantina.com)); sushi at the intimate Storm King Lounge (tel: +1 970 968 2318) and family fare at Pizza Carlo (214 Ten Mile Circle).

For the sweet tooth there’s the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory (tel: +1 970 468 1008), along with the central Belgian Bean (tel: +1 970 968 3306) for waffles and Sugar Lips Mini Donuts (tel: +1 970 968 2520), selling, of course, doughnuts.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Denver International Airport (DEN).

Distance to resort: 160km (100 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours.

**Getting Around**

As Copper Mountain has expanded, so has the shuttle bus service. It currently links the various districts to one another and to the ski slopes. The free local bus service around the town of Frisco allows access to the nearby resorts of Breckenridge, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin, as well as the large factory outlet malls of Silverthorne. The casinos of Blackhawk and Central City also run free shuttles.

**Hotels**

The modern, purpose-built village of Copper Mountain consists of wood-and-stone-clad convenient slopeside condominiums, most of which are interconnected by walkways and separated by squares. The expansion of the resort over the years has led to the creation of several ‘districts’ that are connected by a shuttle bus service; so it is worth checking exactly where accommodation is located when you’re booking. For larger, upmarket, hotels, head to Frisco.

**Snowshoe Motel**

Snowshoe Motel has all the advantages of the nearby bars, restaurants and ski shuttle of downtown Frisco, plus it has a hot tub and sauna. Rooms here are basic.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

521 Main Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 80424

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 668 3444.

**Website**

http://www.snowshoemotel.com

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**Hotel Frisco**

The pretty, family-run Hotel Frisco is located in lively Frisco. It has an understated mountain style and an outdoor hot tub. Copper Mountain, Breckenridge, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin are accessible from the hotel on the free shuttle circuit.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 668 5009.

**Website**

http://www.hotelfrisco.com

**Hotel Frisco**

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**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

308 Main Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 80424

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 970 668 5009.

**Website**

http://www.hotelfrisco.com

**Copper Mountain Resort**

These stylish and modern slopeside condos and rooms are located in three areas: the Village at Copper, East Village and Union Creek. Accommodation comes in silver, gold and platinum grading, and The Cirque Neighborhood is one of the best.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Village at Copper

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 80443

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 866 841 2481.

**Website**

http://www.coppercolorado.com

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**Postcode**

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**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+1 866 841 2481.

**Website**

http://www.coppercolorado.com

**Summit House**

One of the more affordable condo options at Copper Mountain; Summit House is located a short walk (one block) from the resort centre and base of the lifts.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

760B Copper Rd

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 80443

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

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