**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**

One of the world’s newest ski resorts, having been established in 1981 by the owners of neighbouring Vail, Beaver Creek has from the outset sought to offer a higher standard of resort experience than the norm.

This ethos extends to all aspects of the resort, from the time visitors enter its gates and pass luxury accommodation and gourmet restaurants, to the moment they ride the escalator up to the immaculately groomed ski slopes, or are handed a chocolate chip cookie at the end of another perfect 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 one of the most snowsure ski areas, normally opening for Thanksgiving weekend in late November each year and staying open until mid-April. There’s 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 relatively 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.

The heavily promoted Epic Pass, a season pass which costs little more than a six day lift pass in high season, allows skiing at Beaver Creek and other Colorado resorts of Vail, Keystone and Breckenridge, nearby Arapahoe Basin, the company’s three Californian ski areas of Heavenly, Kirkwood and Northstar, and Canyons resort in Utah, all season long. This hi-tech ‘ticket’ can record the holder’s movements on the mountain, link to photos taken by on-mountain photographers, and share achievements on social networking pages.

**Beaver Creek**

**Resort**

2469

**Base**

2469

**Top**

3488

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Off the slopes, Beaver Creek’s life is centred on the Family Ice Rink in the heart of the village. 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: (970) 845 8497; [www.vilarpac.org](http://www.vilarpac.org)) incorporates a theatre and exhibition space; while most of the larger hotels have stunning spas. There are also a variety of art galleries.

**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 (Poste Montane Buildings; tel: (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, such as 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’ is situated throughout the village; these helpers are charged with doing anything and everything, from returning a lost mitten to ensuring each family member gets to wherever they need to be.

**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. Stores include Patagonia for jackets, fleece, footwear, casual wear, and alpine accessories. The Golden Bear is a good jewellers, while Vail Sweets is the place to head for fine confectionary.

**Splashing Out**

Book a private dining experience and overnight stay at Trappers Cabin (tel: (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**

Unsurprisingly, given its quiet nature, Beaver Creek does not have a raucous nightlife. Sophisticated lounge bars in the resort’s plush hotels are the normal venues for an après-ski drink. However, The Coyote Café (210 The Plaza: tel: (970) 949 5001; [www.coyotecafe.net](http://www.coyotecafe.net)) was Beaver Creek’s first bar and serves good beer and margaritas, and is popular with locals when the ski day is over. McCoy's (Village Hall; tel: (970) 949 1234) is also usually quite animated and sometimes has live music.

**Eating Out**

Beaver Creek has a reputation for gourmet dining, but visitors can also find high quality but lower cost family eateries within the two dozen choices on offer. A world of flavours is on offer, including fine French, Italian, Mexican, Chinese and Japanese cuisine.

Mirabelle Restaurant (tel: (970) 949 7728; [www.mirabelle1.com](http://www.mirabelle1.com)) is superb and is one of the resort’s original buildings dating back to the 1880s. Chef Daniel Joly creates European dishes using locally grown farm produce.

Look out for the Master Chef Classic festival of fine cooking each January. The competition has been running for more than a decade and tests the ingenuity and skill of the resort’s best cooks.

**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 walkable, 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 at the luxury end of the scale. Visitors can, however, stay in nearby Avon, which has more affordable and budget accommodation options.

**Christie Lodge**

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

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

47 East Beaver Creek Boulevard

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 81620

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(970) 949 7700.

**Website**

http://www.christielodge.com

**The Osprey**

This slopeside luxury hotel has a restaurant specialising in tapas-style dishes. The Osprey claims to be North America’s closest hotel to a chairlift.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

10 Elk Track Lane

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 81620

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(970) 429 5042.

**Website**

http://ospreyatbeavercreek.rockresorts.com

**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**

Colorado 81620

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(970) 949 1234.

**Website**

http://hyatt.com