

ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

Skiing in Colorado

15 days · Denver

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Skiing in Colorado

Four ski resorts in two weeks: Breckenridge, Vail, Aspen and Steamboat, by car from town to town.

Length	15 days, 14 nights
Distance	940 km, 7 driving days
Behind the wheel	13 h 10 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – Denver (DEN), Denver (DEN) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

Denver	Day 1	**8**
Breckenridge	Days 2–4	**10**
Vail	Days 5–7	**12**
Aspen	Days 8–10	**14**
Steamboat Springs	Days 11–13	**16**
Denver	Day 14	**18**

Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		Denver	40	40 min	
2		Breckenridge	130	1 h 50 min	
3		Breckenridge			
4		Breckenridge			
5		Vail	60	50 min	
6		Vail			
7		Vail			
8		Aspen	170	2 h 10 min	
9		Aspen			
10		Aspen			
11		Steamboat Springs	250	3 h 40 min	
12		Steamboat Springs			
13		Steamboat Springs			
14		Denver	250	3 h 30 min	
15		Flight home from DEN	40	40 min	

940 km · 13 h 10 min behind the wheel · on average 130 km a driving day

Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.

The route



Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

ON THE ROAD

Day 1	Land at Denver (DEN), drive to Denver · About 40 km (30 mi), 40 min
Day 2	Denver, drive to Breckenridge · About 130 km (80 mi), 1 h 50 min
Day 5	Breckenridge, drive to Vail · About 60 km (40 mi), 50 min
Day 8	Vail, drive to Aspen · About 170 km (100 mi), 2 h 10 min
Day 11	Aspen, drive to Steamboat Springs · About 250 km (160 mi), 3 h 40 min
Day 14	Steamboat Springs, drive to Denver · About 250 km (160 mi), 3 h 30 min
Day 15	Denver to Denver airport (DEN), fly home to Amsterdam · About 40 km (30 mi), 40 min

Well prepared

ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

Customs

Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

DON'T FORGET

Notes



DAY 1

Denver CO

Get used to the altitude

Land at Denver (DEN), drive to Denver: about 40 km (30 mi), 40 min

1 night

DENVER · DAY 1

HOTEL

- [ ] SpringHill Suites by Marriott Denver Downtown · 3★ — roughly €140
  1190 Auraria Pkwy Ste A
- [ ] Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Denver West - Federal Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  140 S UNION BLVD
- [ ] Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Denver Downtown · 3★ — roughly €120
  2747 Wyandot St
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Denver-Speer Boulevard · 3★ — roughly €130
  2728 Zuni St
- [ ] Hyatt House Denver Lakewood Belmar · 3★ — roughly €130
  7310 W Alaska Drive

NOTES



DAYS 2–4

Breckenridge CO

An old mining town with five peaks to ski

Denver, drive to Breckenridge: about 130 km (80 mi), 1 h 50 min

3 nights

BRECKENRIDGE · DAYS 2–4

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Breckenridge lift ticket — roughly €230 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] Base 9 B101 · 3★
  127 Broken Lance Drive
- [ ] Columbine 108 (Condo) Apartment 1 Breckenridge Resort Managers · 3★
  700 Snowberry Lane
- [ ] Eagle Ridge 2 Townhome with Private Hot Tub · 3★
  342 Broken Lance Rd
- [ ] LongBranch #111 · 3★
  107 N Harris St
- [ ] Park Place 101c 2 Bedroom Condo by RedAwning · 3★
  325 Four O'Clock Road

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DAYS 5–7

Vail CO

The Back Bowls

Breckenridge, drive to Vail: about 60 km (40 mi), 50 min

3 nights

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Vail lift ticket — roughly €260 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] 2239a Chamonix 3 Bedroom Home by Redawning · 3★
  2239A Chamonix
- [ ] All Seasons Great Condo that is close to Gondola by RedAwning · 3★
  434 Gore Creek Drive
- [ ] Bighorn by Avantstay Spacious Ski Cabin w/ Sprawling Porch, Views & Hot Tub! · 3★
  5047 Main Gore Drive N
- [ ] Charming Vail Condo w/ Patio & Mountain Views · 3★
  4516 Meadow Dr
- [ ] Cozy Vail Condo ~ 4 Mi to Vail Ski Resort! · 3★
  4192 Spruce Way

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DAYS 8–10

Aspen CO

Four mountains, and Highland Bowl

Vail, drive to Aspen: about 170 km (100 mi), 2 h 10 min

3 nights

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Aspen Snowmass lift ticket — roughly €250 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] 37 Mountain Laurel Drive 2br 2 Bedroom Home by Redawning · 3★
  37 Mountain Laurel Drive
- [ ] Aspen Alps Spacious 3 Bedroom Apartments - Full Kitchen, Free Wifi & Parking · 3★
  700 Ute Avenue #809
- [ ] Durant Condos by iTrip Aspen Snowmass · 3★
  748 S Galena St
- [ ] Old Hundred Unit 102, Townhouse with Treetop Views & Excellent Location, 3 Blocks to Ski Slope
  900 E. Durant Avenue
- [ ] Value In The Aspen Core! - Comfort And Convenience 2 Bedroom Condo · 3★
  100 E Dean St

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DAYS 11–13

Steamboat Springs CO

Champagne powder and hot springs

Aspen, drive to Steamboat Springs: about 250 km (160 mi), 3 h 40 min

3 nights

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Steamboat lift ticket — roughly €220 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] 128 Spruce Street 2 Bedroom Home by RedAwning · 3★
  128 Spruce Street
- [ ] Condo w/ Mtn View < 1 Mi to Steamboat Resort! · 3★
  3345 Columbine Drive
- [ ] Deck with Views, Gas Grill, Renovated Luxurious Townhome on Burgess Creek · 3★
  2607 Burgess Creek Road # 206
- [ ] Edgemont 2300 Luxury Condo & Unbeatable Backdoor Ski-In Ski-Out Access! · 3★
  2410 Ski Trail Ln
- [ ] Good Quality, Convenient Location, Great Prices · 3★
  3355 Columbine Drive # 607

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DAY 14

Denver CO

Back to the city

Steamboat Springs, drive to Denver: about 250 km (160 mi), 3 h 30 min

1 night

HOTEL

- [ ] SpringHill Suites by Marriott Denver Downtown · 3★ — roughly €140
  1190 Auraria Pkwy Ste A
- [ ] Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Denver West - Federal Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  140 S UNION BLVD
- [ ] Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Denver Downtown · 3★ — roughly €120
  2747 Wyandot St
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Denver-Speer Boulevard · 3★ — roughly €130
  2728 Zuni St
- [ ] Hyatt House Denver Lakewood Belmar · 3★ — roughly €130
  7310 W Alaska Drive

NOTES

What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	Denver	€160	–	€60	**€220**
2	Breckenridge	€160	–	€60	**€220**
3	Breckenridge	€160	–	€60	**€220**
4	Breckenridge	€160	–	€60	**€220**
5	Vail	€160	–	€60	**€220**
6	Vail	€160	–	€60	**€220**
7	Vail	€160	–	€60	**€220**
8	Aspen	€160	–	€60	**€220**
9	Aspen	€160	–	€60	**€220**
10	Aspen	€160	–	€60	**€220**
11	Steamboat Springs	€160	–	€60	**€220**
12	Steamboat Springs	€160	–	€60	**€220**
13	Steamboat Springs	€160	–	€60	**€220**
14	Denver	€160	–	€60	**€220**
15	Flight home from DEN	–	–	€60	**€60**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€2,240
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€900
Total	**€4,840**
	€2,420 a person

An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.

Notes

About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.roundtrip.expert/tours/ski-colorado/

PHOTOS

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Breckenridge	Downtown Breckenridge, Colorado LCCN2015633639.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Vail	Buildings in Vail, Colorado 1.jpg · G0phy, CC0
Aspen	An alpine field near Independence Pass along the "Top of the Rockies" road between Aspen and Twin Lakes in Colorado LCCN2015633838.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Steamboat Springs	The Routt County, Colorado, courthouse LCCN2015633731.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
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MAP AND TYPE

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THE ROUTE

Denver (1) · Breckenridge (3) · Vail (3) · Aspen (3) · Steamboat Springs (3) · Denver (1)

Four ski resorts in two weeks: Breckenridge, Vail, Aspen and Steamboat, by car from town to town.

15 days · 14 nights · 940 km

rondreis.expert

usa.roundtrip.expert/tours/ski-colorado/