



Photo: Vail Resorts / Andrew Maguire

24 Hours

IN

BRECKENRIDGE

Sitting at the base of the Tenmile Range, Breckenridge, like so many other ski towns West of 105, is the perfect storm of modern mountain living combined with a rich history and an unbelievable wealth of outdoor activities. A true year-round destination, Breck really comes to life in winter thanks to world-class skiing and snowboarding, incredible backcountry as well as all kinds of festivals and celebrations. There are also plenty of great places to eat, drink and stay, so read on to plan your 24 hours in Breckenridge.

WINTER EDITION





7:30 am

SEIZE THE DAY

Although the name might evoke a British pub, the Crown is actually a coffee shop. Those on vacation may want to consider the Breckenridge Coffee (hazelnut and coffee liquor with Baileys and coffee) as a way to kick start your day. Those who need a jolt of sugar in the morning will find it here, if not with the Breckenridge, with the Crown Mocha (a white chocolate, caramel and chocolate latte) or the Cubano (espresso with sugar and cinnamon and topped with whipped cream). They have plenty of food options, too.

Open every day from 7:30 am to 8 pm, the Crown is at the base of Four O'Clock trail, and since it has a bar you could pop in for a beer or a glass of wine in the afternoon. If you want to get an early start, phone in your order and pick it up en route to wherever you're headed for the day.



8 am

EXPLORE BRECK'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Spend the next few hours exploring the mountain at your own pace. For some, that will mean hurtling down double blacks, skinning or cross-country skiing and for others it will not involve being exposed to the elements at all.

For fairly competent and adventurous skiers and snowboarders, the Breck Guides Explore program (one of a series of programs) is a four-hour sojourn around the mountain that helps you fine tune your skills with a series of hidden trails, steep chutes and the best powder.

For something slower paced, the Golden Run Nordic Center (open at 9 am) offers Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and fat tire biking. The center has over 18 miles of groomed classic and skate cross-country ski trails and eight miles of snowshoe trails. There are also some dog-friendly trails, too. The center also offers sleigh rides, skiing lessons and daily guided snowshoe tours if you'd rather take it easy in the morning. (If you really want to take it easy, see below for our recommendation for a self-guided art tour). The center has all kinds of gear for rent, too.

Another winter activity that will help you build up your appetite is indoor and outdoor ice skating at the Stephen C. West Ice Arena. Check the website for an up-to-date public skating schedule.



12 pm

APRÈS TIME

When it is time for a deserved drink after a morning of exertion, Broken Compass Brewery is good choice for a great Colorado beer (read about Broken Compass in our Elevated Breweries article on page 88). Although Broken Compass doesn't have food, you can bring your own. Another good spot for a beer and something quick and filling is Downstairs at Eric's. The sports bar and arcade has a menu of classic bar food, 30 beers on tap and the arcade makes it great for families with kids.



WEST OF 105 | DESTINATION

Want something a little stronger? Head to Breckenridge Distillery, the world's highest, to sample some award-winning spirits. Both Broken Compass and Breckenridge Distillery have free shuttle buses that pick up and drop off around Breck.

You can call to schedule a ride on the Lost Bus from Broken Compass and the driver may even be able to pick you up and drop you off from locations a little bit beyond the normal route for a small fee.

2 pm

BRECK CREATES

The Breckenridge Arts District, one of the state's Certified Districts in the Colorado Creative Industries Creative District Program, is a hub for all kinds of creativity. Bringing together artists from all kinds of backgrounds as well as historic landmarks, public art, restaurants, cafes and other creative businesses, the district's core attraction is a lively campus of renovated historic buildings that are home to studio spaces for all manner of exhibits and workshops, many of which are free.

Tours of the arts district and self-guided audio tours of the public art around Breck are available. Pick up a free map for the public art tour at the Old Masonic Hall or the Welcome Center. Visit spts.us/bca for the audio tour and follow one or more of the three mapped out routes.

Stop by Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory or Clint's Bakery and Coffee House for a cup of something to heat you up afterwards.



Photos (clockwise from top right): Breckenridge Tourism Office; Jessie Unruh; Broken Compass (opposite page, clockwise from top); Tommas Cohen / Vail Resorts; Andrew Macquire / Vail Resorts; The Crown



4 pm

GET HAPPY AT AURUM

A recent addition to Breckenridge, this will be the first winter for the team behind the Steamboat Springs outlet of the same name. Expect upscale ingredients like truffle and diver-caught scallops sitting alongside burgers and salads. Visit their website for the most up-to-date menu.

While great for dinner, Aurum's happy hour is also very good. From 4 pm - 6 pm the restaurant offers half-priced snacks and wines by the glass, \$3 draft beers and \$7 'preserving the past' cocktails.



4:45 pm / 5:30 pm

SLEIGH RIDE

With your capillaries suitably dilated after a few happy hour drinks, a true winter experience awaits at Golden Horseshoe Tours. An early evening sleigh ride through the stunning, postcard-like backcountry around Breckenridge is a winter experience not to be missed. On a cherry-red sleigh pulled by two giant Belgian draft horses, you are drawn through the untouched snow of White River National Forest. The sleigh can accommodate up to 20, but if you're lucky it might just be you.



7 pm

DINNER TIME

Briar Rose Chophouse was built in 1960 but in keeping with the style of an 1800's original, a place that was frequented by miners looking for a good meal and a few drinks. Particularly good for meat lovers, Briar Rose sources the best beef and game from Colorado and as far as New Zealand. Menu items include elk medallions, bone-in dry-aged buffalo rib eye and a sizable 40-ounce tomahawk rib eye. Briar Rose also has a full-time sommelier and a wine list with over 200 wines. Happy hour with 2-for-1 cocktails, bottled beer and house wine is offered every day.

9 pm

WEST OF 105 | DESTINATION

LIVE MUSIC

End your night with a few more drinks and some live music at the Fox's Den. Live music, which can be funk, jam bands or local cover bands, starts at 10:15 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, but with reasonably priced drinks as well as pool, darts, foosball, pinball and even Pac Man, the Fox's Den is pretty busy most nights. It is open seven days a week.

11 pm

GET SOME REST

As for where to stay when you are in Breck, most of the usual ski town suspects are here including the "big box" big boys.

For something a little more bespoke, Paragon Lodging is a property management company that works with property owners to offer visitors the chance to stay in some of the region's most exclusive properties. With options that can accommodate between six and 30 guests, Paragon has a portfolio of 60 plus properties.

Beyond 24 Hours

EXPLORE THE BACKCOUNTRY

Exploring the backcountry around Breck doesn't have to stop when the sun goes down. A range of backcountry huts are scattered across the state, with Summit Huts offering several huts in the Breckenridge area.

Huts in the system include: Francie's Cabin, Janet's Cabin, Ken's Cabin, Section House Hut and Sisters Cabin, the newest cabin in the association that will open this winter. To read more about the hut system go to page 42.



Events

SNOW SCULPTURE CHAMPIONSHIP

Jan. 21-30, 2019

Snow artists from around the world compete to create massive 3-D works of art. Starting as 12-foot-tall, 20-ton blocks of snow and using only hand tools, artists achieve finished pieces across five days of sculpting.

ULLR FEST

Jan. 9 - 12, 2019

Celebrating its 55th year this season, Ullr Fest draws around 12,000 people, some of who will try to break the world's longest shot ski record, take an ice plunge and party at the Ullr Bonfire.



Photos: (this page top right and bottom, opposite page top): Breckenridge Tourism Office; (this page, above left) Breckenridge Tourism Office / Louie Traub; (opposite page, middle photos): Jameson Midgett Photo