

BRECKENRIDGE

WITH FIVE PEAKS AND NEARLY 3,000 SKIABLE acres, Breckenridge is one of Colorado's quintessential ski towns with a unique artistic flair. More than 1.5 million visitors flock here annually, although the year-round population sits around 5,000. In autumn, golfing, hiking, horseback riding and leaf peeping along Boreas Pass Road are all popular outdoor pursuits. Start holiday shopping early with locally made wares like candles, jewelry and ski gear on Main Street. *-AMBER GIBSON*

Stay ONE SKI HILL PLACE

Situated at the base of Peak 8, this luxurious ski-in, ski-out lodge sets the standard in Breckenridge for its attentive service and coveted slopeside access. From studios to four-bedroom condos, guest quarters easily accommodate groups of all sizes and feature cozy fireplaces, large windows, and private patios and balconies overlooking the mountain.

The BreckConnect Gondola sweeps you right into town for a plethora of dining and shopping options, although you may not want to leave the property. There's an onsite spa and an aquatics and fitness center with indoor pools as well as an outdoor hot tub and fire pits. Family-friendly movie lounges and the private two-lane Mine Shaft Bowling Alley with complimentary shoes and balls will keep kids of all ages entertained. And adults can fly down the mountain to nearby TBar, a favorite après ski destination for locals and visitors alike with shareable plates and craft brews on tap.



PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY ONE SKI HILL PLACE, LIAM DOUGLAS AND BRECKENRIDGE CREATIVE ARTS AND AURUM



Do BRECKENRIDGE ARTS DISTRICT

At the heart of the Breckenridge Arts District is a lively campus of renovated historic buildings that now serve as studio spaces for local creatives and visiting artists-in-residence. It's a great spot to shop or take a class in beadwork, ceramics, metalsmithing or oil painting.

The vibrant cultural corridor in downtown Breckenridge is home to diverse performance spaces and provocative public art installations. Trail Mix, for instance, is an imaginative self-guided tour combining art, music, hiking and biking along the town's trails through environmental installations and outdoor concert spots.

Artists from around the world have contributed works to the permanent public art collection here, from an abstract Albert Paley sculpture to gleaming cattails constructed from salvaged steel to a large-scale wooden troll smiling down at passersby on Trollstigen Trail. Observe artists at work during open studio hours and get inspired to explore your own self-expression.

Dine AURUM

Named for the town's gold mining origins, Aurum is Latin for "gold," and the restaurant shines with the most sophisticated contemporary American fare in town. The dining room feels like a cozy home, and locals have voted the eatery Breckenridge's best for both its conviviality and its cuisine. Happy hour out on the patio begins with bacon fat fries and crispy curried cauliflower washed down with a pint of local beer. Choose between the chef's rotating housemade pasta, seared duck breast with savory bread pudding, and Rocky Mountain trout with red wine syrup for dinner.

The chefs here are always coming up with fun new riffs on familiar classics, serving hearty yet elegant plates befitting an active mountain lifestyle. Amiable servers, meanwhile, cheerfully offer invaluable local recommendations. As the evening winds down, nurse a smoked orange old-fashioned at the bar while making new friends and planning tomorrow's adventures.

