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DECEMBER 2021



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Catch a Breck

Hit the slopes—along with the latest shops and restaurants—in Breckenridge



Less than 100 miles west of Denver on I-70, Breckenridge has been one of Colorado's most popular ski destinations since the resort opened 60 years ago this month. Today, the free-spirited, laid-back town of 5,000 is a magnet for athletes, artists, and the eco-conscious (the town has a comprehensive sustainability plan, including a ban on single-use plastic bags). Here's a breakdown of how to do Breck this winter.

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See and Do

The headliner here, of course, is the **Breckenridge Ski Resort**, which celebrates its anniversary with the opening of a new high-speed chairlift on Peak 7,



improving access to some of the best alpine skiing in the country. Even with 40,000-plus skiers hopping on the lifts every hour, the 11 bowls, nearly 3,000 skiable acres, and 12,998-foot summit ensure experts will find plenty of fresh powder.

There's plenty for non-skiers, as well. History buffs will enjoy a visit to **Country Boy Mine**, a remnant of Breck's gold-prospecting origins just two miles east of downtown. Take a tour of the mine, which was founded in 1887, and then try

From top: snowboarding at Breckenridge Ski Resort; the Isak Heartstone sculpture

your hand at panning for gold, go sledding, or introduce your kids to the miniature donkeys, Darn and Goldie.



Art lovers, meanwhile, can embark on the self-guided **Public Art Tour**, which includes 30 pieces scattered throughout town, most notably *Isak Heartstone*, Danish artist Thomas Dambo's 15-foot-tall wooden troll on Trollstigen Trail.



Eat and Drink

Start your day with Spanish coffee and dulce de leche churros at **Mimi & Pin**, right next to the BreckConnect Gondola. After burning off those calories on the slopes, refuel at **Tin Plate**,



which opened earlier this year and serves sourdough pizzas made with locally stone-milled heritage wheat flour in a 138-year-old mining cabin. For a more romantic evening, make a reservation at the one-year-old **Rootstalk**, which offers high-end comfort food (braised rabbit pot pie, housemade pasta) in a well-appointed Victorian building. Either way, get a nightcap at the **Breckenridge Distillery**, the world's highest distillery at 9,600 feet above sea level. Try the acclaimed bourbons, then blend your own bottle at the new interactive spirits lab.

Clockwise from top left: inside the Breckenridge Distillery; the super trampoline at Gravity Haus Breck; merchandise at Ohana; a salad from Rootstalk

Shop
Breckenridge is home to more than 100 shops, many of them reflecting the town's ethos of sustainability. Among the newest are **Folcland**, which sells clothing, accessories, and apothecary items from independent

American designers who use natural and recycled materials, and **Ohana**, a spin-off of a Steamboat Springs apparel and home goods shop with a mountain-meets-beach vibe, hand-screen-printed T-shirts, and items from Colorado artisans.

Stay
Opened at the base of Peak 9 in 2019, **Gravity Haus Breck** is something of a Soho House for outdoor enthusiasts—although you don't need to be a member to book a stay. Unexpected amenities include a super trampoline and a Japanese-style *onsen* with hot and cold tubs and saunas, while the mountain-chic rooms come in a variety of configurations, from single kings to bunk-bed set-ups for up to eight guests. Adrenaline junkies can book a backcountry ski clinic, and Gravity Haus members with Haus Quiver access also get unlimited premium gear demos from nearby Breck Sports. *From \$160, gravityhaus.com*



Meredith Austin (distillery); Alex Witkiewicz (Gravity Haus); courtesy of GoBreck.com (Rootstalk); Hannah Sroor (Ohana)