

# Vail, Aspen & Central Mountains

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Osaki's (p187)
- » Mothers (p219)
- » Westside Cafe (p187)
- » Pine Creek Cookhouse (p204)
- » Syzygy (p204)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Viceroy (p201)
- » Hotel Lenado (p201)
- » Barn on the River (p176)
- » Vail Plaza Hotel (p185)

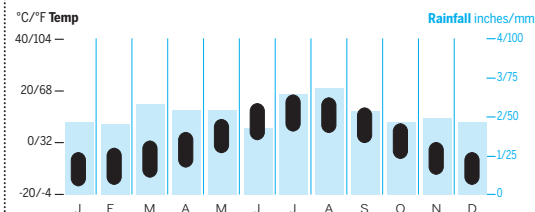
## Why Go?

If you ask us where you can find the most trillion-dollar sights, where you can run the gnarliest rivers and charge the sickest runs, and to choose one hike that is sure to save your citified soul within a single afternoon, we would take out the map of Colorado, trim the edges and zoom into the center. Because here's where you'll find more magic per square mile than anywhere else in Colorado (the US, the world, the universe).

It's the stomping ground of war heroes and X Games warriors, and the hideaway of billionaires, ski bums and gonzo fugitives. Celebrified, intellectualized and musical, it's patrolled by bear, fox, elk and eagle, laced by trail, rail and river, and linked by free transport, epic bike paths and more friendly smiles than seems reasonable. But then again, of course these people are smiling. They freaking live here!

## When to Go?

### Vail



**June–August**  
Long sunny days means biking, hiking, climbing and paddling. And Aspen Music Fest.

**September & October** The last gasp of high-country camping and terrific lodging deals.

**January & February** Snow dusted peaks, powdery slopes, après-ski parties deluxe.

# Vail, Aspen & Central Mountains Highlights

- 1 Ski or ride the Back Bowls of **Vail Mountain** (p181)
- 2 Hike to Buckskin Pass in the spectacular **Maroon Bells Wilderness** (p208)
- 3 Backcountry hike or snowshoe between **10th Mountain Division Huts** (p199)
- 4 Cross-country ski to the **Pine Creek Cookhouse** (p204)
- 5 Relax on the Listening Lawn at the **Aspen Music Festival** (p201)
- 6 Experience the up-and-coming paddler's paradise that is **Buena Vista** (p217)
- 7 Explore historic **Breckenridge** (p169)
- 8 Have a drink at Hunter S Thompson's favorite tavern, the **Woody Creek** (p206)
- 9 Ski the Four Mountains in **Aspen** (p194)
- 10 Visit the Beach at **Arapahoe Basin** (p161)

