

DISCOVER VAIL

Discover Vail Fast Facts

Did You Know?

- Hiking is the No. 1 activity enjoyed by summer visitors. There are more than 23 miles of paved recreational path in Vail and nearly 200 miles of hiking trails in Eagle County.
- The GoPro Mountain Games in June is the largest celebration of outdoor adventure sports in the country with more than 35 competitive events, including kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing and more.
- Vail is the first destination in the world to be certified to the Mountain IDEAL sustainable destination standard. Additionally, Vail's certification to the Global Sustainable Tourism Council's destination standard represents the first in the United States.
- Vail enjoys nearly 300 days of sunshine a year with little to no humidity.
- The Vail Dance Festival was formed when First Lady Betty Ford helped secure a performance by the renowned Bolshoi Ballet in Vail in 1989.
- Each playground in Vail has a signature piece of interactive art created by various artists. Sunbird Park in Lionshead was named one of the World's Coolest Playgrounds.
- The Ford Amphitheater aka The Amp is named after President Gerald Ford and First Lady Betty Ford in honor of their tenure living in Vail and the contributions they made to the community.
- Vail's temperate summer climate provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy more than two dozen outdoor dining options.

Location

- Vail is located 100 miles (160 km) west of Denver, 140 miles (230 km) east of Grand Junction and is easily accessible via the Eagle County Regional Airport, located 35 miles (56 km) to the west - all along the Interstate 70 corridor.

By the Numbers

- Vail Town Elevation - 8,150 feet (2,484 meters)
- Vail Mountain Summit - 11,450 feet (3,490 meters)
- Vertical Rise - 3,450 feet (1,052 meters)

- Vail Town Size - 7 miles long, 2 miles wide (14 square miles)
- Eagle County Size - 1,694 square miles
- Paved Recreational Path - 23 miles (Vail Pass to Avon)
- Paved Recreational Path in Eagle County - 58 miles (Vail Pass to Gypsum)
- Mountain Biking in Eagle County - 343 miles of trail
- Hiking in Eagle County - >200 miles of trail
- Trail Running in Eagle County - 22 miles of trail
- Road Biking in Eagle County - 274 miles of road
- Paddling in Eagle County - 86 miles of river (Colorado and Eagle Rivers)
- Spas located in Vail - 11
- Lodging and Condominium Properties – 60
- Bars and Restaurants – More than 75
- Retail Outlets – Nearly 150

Summer Climate

- Average Daytime Temperature - 75 degrees
- Average Nighttime Temperature - 45 degrees
- Vail receives an average of 300 days of sunshine a year with little-to-no humidity
- Weather can change in a matter of hours, so it is a good idea to be prepared when heading into the backcountry.

Flora & Fauna

- The earliest wildflowers bloom in April.
- By July, wildflowers abound, sometimes waist deep in mountain meadows as in China Bowl on Vail Mountain.
- Town of Vail plants more than 57,000 plants in the ground each summer and more than 2,000 are planted in window boxes. By mid-September, leaves from the aspen trees that engulf the Vail Valley, turn a brilliant gold, lasting generally three weeks.
- Wildlife is often viewed in the backcountry and includes fox, deer, elk, marmots, beaver, coyotes, moose, black bears and bighorn sheep.

Mountain Ranges

- Vail Mountain
Base 8,200 feet (2,475 meters)
Summit 11,450 feet (3,490 meters)
- Gore Range
Rugged peaks surrounding the east side of Vail
13,000+ feet
- Sawatch Range
Includes picturesque Mount of the Holy Cross, visible from Vail Mountain
14,005 feet (4,270 meters)

Water

- Vail is surrounded by numerous bodies of water ranging from Class I to Class V whitewater as well as miles of blue ribbon fly-fishing.
- Gore Creek - Gold medal fly-fishing stream that runs through the center of Vail Village and enters the Eagle River near Minturn.
- Eagle River - Flows from Minturn to the juncture of the Colorado River at Dotsero. Known for excellent fly-fishing and whitewater for rafting and kayaking.
- Piney Lake - Located 13 miles (21 km) north of Vail at the base of the Gore Range at Piney River Ranch.
- Beaver Ponds - Beavers maintain their homes in these ponds which are terrific for family fishing and lie along the recreational path in East Vail.

Year-Round Events

- Vail sponsors more than 54 events annually, which translates into 296 days of events each year.
- With three music festival, a season long concert series and regular community performances, Vail offers live music nearly every night of the week in the summer.
- Guests are treated to six fireworks shows each year with the most spectacular being the annual Vail America Days on 4th of July.
- During Vail's annual Oktoberfest celebration in the fall more than 11,000 bratwurst are eaten and 174 chicken dances performed.
- More than 5,000 bottles of wine are recycled after the annual Taste of Vail food and wine festival every spring.
- The annual Kris Kringle Market in December serves more than 26 gallons of gluwhein.
- The popular Vail Farmers' Market & Art Show runs from June to October and in that five-month span, more than 320,000 Palisade peaches are sold.

Outdoor Activity

- Whitewater rafting, sand volleyball, hot-air ballooning, jeep tours, gallery walks, chairlift rides, horseback riding, swimming, golfing, kayaking, fly-fishing, hiking, sporting clays, mountain biking, cattle drives, tennis, rock climbing, Frisbee golf and more.

Epic Discovery - Vail's summer on-mountain experience focuses on learning through play with an expanded trail system and interactive play via the Forest Flyer and more. system and more.

Lodging Reservations

- Lodging options range from European-style, top-rated hotels to cozy, log cabin bed & breakfasts.
- To book lodging in Vail, visit DiscoverVail.com

Getting Here and Away

- Conveniently located off Interstate 70, in the center of the state, Vail is the headquarters for an ideal Rocky Mountain vacation.

Vail/Eagle County Regional Airport

- With its close proximity and daily flights by major airlines, Vail's Eagle County Regional Airport (www.flyege.com) is the most convenient way to get to Vail. Located a quick 30-minute drive from the center of Vail, the Eagle County Regional Airport is serviced in the summertime by United, American Airlines and Frontier with non-stop flights from Denver, Dallas, Chicago, Houston and more with seasonal flights added every year. For more information on schedules and available flights, visit www.FlyEGE.com.

Denver International Airport (DIA)

- Located 110 miles east of Vail via Interstate 70, Denver International Airport (www.flydenver.com) offers numerous daily flights to and from most major U.S. cities, and connections to destinations around the world.

Ground Transportation

- The Town of Vail operates one of the largest free municipal transportation systems in the country, second only to Disney.
- The new Core Transit system provides complimentary and low-cost transportation between Vail and Dotsero along the I-70 corridor including Highway 6, Minturn, Valley, Leadville and Vail/Beaver Creek express routes. The new service is a complement to Town of Vail's free in-town transportation and provides guests with a seamless experience to explore and enjoy several locations throughout the Vail Valley. Most routes are free, however, there are a few low-cost fare-collecting zones such as travel to Gypsum and Leadville.
- Several shuttle companies offer service from Denver International Airport and Vail/Eagle County Regional Airport to Vail including Epic Mountain Express and Peak 1.
- Several national rental car agencies also are located in Vail.

History

- During the 1800s, Ute Indians and pioneer hunters roamed the peaceful valley that is present-day Vail.
- In 1854-56, mountain explorers, Jim Bridger and Lord Gore, explored the area. The high mountain peaks surrounding Vail to the east were named the Gore Range by Bridger in honor of his friend.

- In the 1940s, a group of ski enthusiasts from the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division were exposed to the area's majestic mountains while training at Camp Hale near Leadville during World War II
- Following the war, veteran 10th Mountain Division soldiers Pete Seibert, Bill "Sarge" Brown and Bob Parker returned to the Gore Valley with dreams of establishing a ski area in the beautiful mountain area. Through hard work and endless dreaming, Vail was established by the trio in 1962.