**Copper Mountain**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

30

**Intermediate Runs**

31

**Advanced Runs**

80

**Total Runs**

141

**Lifts**

21

**Chairs**

14

**Drags**

7

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

4

**Pipes**

2

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

7.3m (24ft).

**Overview**

Copper Mountain is a purpose-built and largely pedestrianised ski resort in Colorado, the centre of which has been transformed into a mostly wood and stone affair similar to other modern resorts in the USA that have followed the Whistler model, where base resort design is the priority.

There’s a good range of skiing here on some of the world’s highest slopes. and the resort is handily placed for the towns of Frisco and Silverthorne, as well as other nearby ski areas such as Vail and Breckenridge.

Accommodation in Copper Mountain is almost all in convenient slopeside condominiums, most of which are interconnected by walkways and separated by squares. However, the expansion of the resort has led to the creation of several ‘districts’ that are connected by a shuttle bus service; so it is worth checking exactly where accommodation is located when you’re booking.

**Location**

Copper Mountain in Summit County, Colorado, is located in the Rocky Mountains in western USA. The resort is 126km (78 miles) west of Denver by road.

**Website**

http://www.coppercolorado.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.coppercolorado.com/winter/the\_mountain/trail\_map/trailmap\_2012-13.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

Copper Mountain is a planner's idea of what a ski resort should be like, with a well-ordered resort sitting within naturally divided terrain on two mountains: Copper Peak and Union Peak. The slopes cover one long face along the front, so everything's easily accessible and the skiing gets progressively harder as skiers move along.

Although it's not a giant resort, there is plenty of enjoyable skiing for all levels. The majority of terrain at Copper Mountain is rated as either ‘advanced’ or ‘expert’ so accomplished skiers have plenty of options, including the challenges of Copper and Spaulding Bowls and various other spots around the back of the ski resort area.

Intermediates have around a quarter of runs suited to their level and can cruise the entire resort from top to bottom. Beginners, meanwhile, can learn in the safety of the nursery slopes at Union Creek.

For snowboarders, there’s an excellent selection of terrain parks offering a progression from easy to advanced levels and a super pipe for freestyle skiers and boarders.

Due to the resort’s high altitude, snow cover is relatively reliable, and the ski season generally runs between November and mid-April.

**Copper Mountain**

**Resort**

2926

**Base**

2926

**Top**

3767

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Copper Mountain was transformed over much of the last decade into a pleasant modern ski resort by previous owners Intrawest, the company that developed Whistler. The resort base is now made up of charming buildings with pedestrianised areas lined with shops and restaurants that are divided into several districts.

Off-slope activities in and around the resort include ice skating, tubing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing; while there is also a very good swimming pool and athletic club. For a backcountry experience, Copper Mountain runs snowcat excursions at weekends (on a first-come, first-served basis) that are included in the lift ticket cost.

A wander around the nearby town of Frisco is usually a nice day out and it would take a very determined person not to be wooed by the discount shops of Silverthorne.

**Family Fun**

There are multiple family-friendly facilities at Copper Mountain. Childcare from six weeks to four years is available at the crèche at the bottom of the slopes. There’s also frequent ‘Kids' Night Out’ evenings involving pizza, games and videos, which are free to parents who spend a set amount (per child) in the resort on a given evening.

The children’s terrain park introduces young boarders and freestyle skiers to the excitement of rails, boxes and jumps and a mini-pipe.

**Retail Therapy**

There’s a small selection of quirky shops in Copper Mountain, plus ski outlets selling branded Copper Mountain sweatshirts and souvenirs. For more choice, head to Silverthorne, offering more than 50 factory outlet stores – including designer names – in three adjoining shopping centres.

**Splashing Out**

Take a night sleigh ride up the mountain followed by dinner in an old miners' tent. The evening starts in the historic Wheeler Barn with the jingle of the arriving sleigh, pulled by draft horses. Snuggled beneath blankets, guests head up to the tent, where hot toddies, live music and a hearty dinner awaits. The evening can be booked through the resort’s information office.

**Apres Ski**

Most of the après-ski in Copper Mountain is focused around the village. Endo's Adrenaline Café (209 Ten Mile Circle; tel: (970) 968 3070) and JJ's Rocky Mountain Tavern (102 Wheeler Circle; tel: (970) 968 3062) in the East Village offer live music; while The Storm King Lounge (178 Copper Circle; tel: (970) 968 2318) has a curious mix of sushi, pool, darts and cocktails.

For more bars, take the bus to Frisco for Jonny G's (409 Main Street) for live music; or play pool at Moose Jaw (304 Main Street).

**Eating Out**

There is a good choice of restaurants in Copper Mountain, with further choices in Frisco. An upmarket option is the CB Grille (910 Copper Road; tel: (970) 968 3113; [www.cbgrille.com](http://www.cbgrille.com/)) offering elk, steak and fish cooked over a wood fire grill. JJ's Rocky Mountain Tavern (102 Wheeler Circle; tel: (970) 968 3062) and Endo's Adrenaline Café (102 Wheeler Circle; tel: (970) 968 3070) offer smart burgers.

Among the non-American-style options, there’s Mexican cuisine at Salsa Mountain Cantina (760 Copper Road; tel: (970) 968 6300; [www.salsamountaincantina.com](http://www.salsamountaincantina.com/)); Chinese at Imperial Palace (189 Ten Mile Circle; tel: (970) 968 6688) and family fare at Pizza Carlo (214 Ten Mile Circle).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Denver International Airport (DEN).

Distance to resort: 160km (100 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours.

**Getting Around**

As Copper Mountain has expanded, so has the shuttle bus service. It currently links the various districts to one another and to the ski slopes. The free local bus service around the town of Frisco allows access to the nearby resorts of Breckenridge, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin, as well as the large factory outlet malls of Silverthorne. The casinos of Blackhawk and Central City also run free shuttles.

**Hotels**

The modern, purpose-built village of Copper Mountain consists only of wood-and-stone-clad apartments. For hotels, head to Frisco.

**Hotel Frisco**

The pretty, family-run Hotel Frisco is located in lively Frisco. It has an understated mountain style and an outdoor hot tub. Copper Mountain, Breckenridge, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin are accessible from the hotel on the free shuttle circuit.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

308 Main Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 80424

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(970) 668 5009 or 1 800 262 1002.

**Website**

http://www.hotelfrisco.com

**Snowshoe Motel**

Snowshoe Motel has all the advantages of the nearby bars, restaurants and ski shuttle of downtown Frisco, plus it has a hot tub and sauna. Rooms here are basic.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

521 Main Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 80424

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(970) 668 3444 or 1 800 445 8658.

**Website**

http://www.snowshoemotel.com

**Copper Mountain Resort**

These stylish and modern slopeside condos and rooms are located in three areas: the Village at Copper, East Village and Union Creek. Accommodation comes in silver, gold and platinum grading, and The Cirque Neighborhood is one of the best.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Village at Copper

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Colorado 80443

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(866) 841 2481.

**Website**

http://www.coppercolorado.com