

5 peaks spanning 2,908 acres...



## A Brief History of Breckenridge, Colorado

The town of Breckenridge was founded to provide services to miners working in nearby Idaho Springs. The town of Breckenridge is credited with producing somewhere around 31,000 kilograms of gold. Currently the mines are all shut down, but some are open to tourist visits.



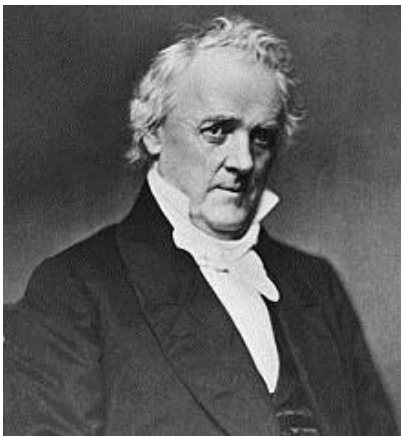
### Downtown Breckenridge

Downtown Breckenridge is an excellent place to spend an afternoon at any time of the year. For the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the city is decorated with patriotic banners and a parade marches through. For Christmas, the town is covered in lights and music is played. In fall, festivals are held, with horses and pumpkin patches. In addition to seasonal festivities, there is usually some sort of contest taking place in or near the town. Aside from special events, Downtown Breckenridge is full of shops and stores selling everything from athletic apparel or branded clothing, to antiques and ornaments. The town is small enough that a family can easily walk from one end to the other in an afternoon, making stops as they please. The town prides itself on having something to interest people of all ages.

### Location and Driving Directions from Denver International Airport

Breckenridge is 104 miles from Denver International Airport (DIA). Take Interstate 70 west to exit 203. Continue south on HWY 9 to Breckenridge.

### Who was the President at the time Breckenridge was founded? What was the political environment like at the time?



When Breckenridge was founded in 1859, James Buchanan was the president of the United States. The town was mostly isolated from major political events, however as Breckenridge was founded and was growing, the slavery debate became more and more heated. Eventually, just 2 years after Breckenridge was founded, the United States failed to live up to their name as they split apart and began fighting in the Civil War.

## Oldest/Largest Business in Breckenridge

The Breckenridge Brewery is a prominent fixture in downtown Breckenridge, and an integral part of the main street culture. Founded in 1980, this may not be the oldest business still in service, but it certainly has grown quickly. Richard Squire was a typical skiing tourist with a knack for crafting beer. As encouraged by friends, he opened a small shop where he sold beer/ale. As time went on, the business erupted to the point where he hired more employees and transformed his business into a large restaurant. Now, Breckenridge Brewery is a grand restaurant serving excellent food to families, adults, and any tourists that happen to stumble in the door.



## City Government

The town of Breckenridge is composed of a mayor, and a planning/town council. Currently, the council is very adamant about allowing the people to vote on all main issues. Each term, the residents elect a new mayor and town council, and frequently, whenever there are issues or new bills to be passed, the people are issued ballots and their voices are heard. Representation is something taken very seriously in Breckenridge, and the residents of this town feel they are creating their own home.

## Historic Attractions, Festivals, and Events

Every year Breckenridge has a plethora of tourist attractions and festivals. The historic attractions in and around Breckenridge include multiple small museums of houses or buildings preserved from the Victorian era, and mines near the outskirts of town that have been reopened for tourists. For events, there is usually some sort of activity happening on the weekend. Whether it's a rubber-duck race down the stream to raise money for charity, a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, or a fall festival in a parking lot, there's always a lot for families to enjoy in Breckenridge. There is also ample skiing and snowboarding in the winter, and mountain biking in the summer.



## Where can we stay in Breckenridge?

Breckenridge has mostly evolved into a resort town, and therefore there are hordes of nearby resorts suitable for lodging. While a great deal of these are time shares, there are several that would be glad to have visitors. To find lodging adequate for you using an internet based trip planner, visit:

<http://www.breckenridge.com/plan-a-trip/lodging/lodging-search.aspx> to use an internet based trip planner.

## Why would I want to visit Breckenridge?

Being a regular visitor there, I appreciate and understand how enjoyable the town of Breckenridge is. My family visits almost every summer, sometimes even twice, and it never gets old. From spending family time in our lodge to strolling through downtown, there is always something fun to do. One of our favorite shops is called, "Mary's Mountain Cookies." We usually buy several of their homemade frosting sandwich cookies to split up among us, and enjoy every bite. Visiting Breckenridge is always a great way to spend a week during summer, and is also an enjoyable area to spend a week during the Christmas season.