

A Guide to Car-Free Skiing in Colorado:

The Growing Ways to Get from the Denver Region to the Slopes Without Your Personal Car

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For years, the only real way for people to get from the Denver region up to the ski slopes has been to drive their personal car. While the number of people who carpool along the limited roads that lead to our slopes is high, relying on personal vehicles to move hundreds of thousands of people from the Front Range to the ski slopes during the winter is inefficient, unsafe, and has a negative impact on our health and the environment.

Only a handful of roads connect the Denver region to the slopes, including Highway 119 from Boulder to Eldora; and Highway 6, Highway 9 and Interstate 70 from Denver to slopes in Clear Creek, Summit and Eagle County. Relying on personal vehicles to traverse along these roads is inefficient and puts an incredible strain on corridors that also must carry local vehicles and the trucks that supply our state.

Depending on personal vehicles to carry people to the slopes increases the number of vehicles on the road that might be poorly equipped to handle winter driving and can contribute to preventable crashes. Large numbers of personal vehicles also emit pollution that can impact the public health of communities and contributes to climate change, which increasingly threatens the ski slopes that Coloradans are travelling to use.

The use of personal vehicles to get to the slopes also creates an economic strain on Coloradans. For mountain communities, personal vehicles from outside their community put a strain on their local infrastructure often requiring significant investments in parking lots that can also damage the local aesthetics. For people commuting from Denver, especially those who that are increasingly living in walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly communities, the overreliance on personal vehicles to reach the slopes provides a final barrier for saving money by going car-free. Coloradans should not be forced to choose between owning a car and enjoying Colorado's ski country.

Colorado needs a transportation system that provides safe, convenient, affordable options that connect the Front Range to the ski slopes. In the short term, we need to ensure that the personal vehicles that are travelling to the slopes are maximizing carpool

opportunities in each vehicle. In the long term, we need a lot more options so people can ditch their car for shuttles, vans, buses and trains.

The good news is that over the last few winter seasons, options for getting to the slopes without driving your personal car have increased and smart phone technologies have made ride sharing and carpooling an increasingly efficient option. As these technologies advance, the ability to leave your car at home should only increase as long as Colorado is making smart investments that fuel new transportation options.

This guide highlights the available options that our researchers found for travelling from the Denver metro region to the ski slopes without your personal car. Currently, available options include airport shuttles, multiple vans and bus programs, rideshares, and two train lines. The costs and convenience varies widely among the options but we included every option that our researchers found that we thought the public could access. The research was done between January 31st and February 6th. We also include some of the policies that ski resorts are implementing to incentivize carpooling including providing preferred parking.

While the number of options have grown dramatically over the last few years, current trends suggest that Colorado needs to find ways to rapidly expand options further, including identifying additional funding. Since launching in July 2015, the Bustang that connects Denver with communities along I-70 is at capacity even after adding a new line. Amtrak's Winter Park Express ski train has been sold out 4 of the first 5 Saturdays since beginning operations on January 7th. In addition, the number of vehicles travelling in I-70's general purpose lanes during winter weekends is increasingly at capacity. Finally, previous CoPIRG Foundation studies have found more and more Coloradans, especially Millennials, are reducing their driving habits in favor of car-lite or car-free lifestyles.

In conclusion, Colorado needs a transportation system that provides safe, convenient, affordable options to connect the Front Range to the ski slopes. Maximizing existing carpooling and expanding ways for people to ride a bus, a shuttle, a van or a train to the ski resorts so they take a ride down Colorado's world class slopes will increase the overall efficiency of our system. While we have seen a dramatic rise in new services and additional options, Colorado needs to find ways to improve the options we have and add even better ones, including identifying more funding.

In the meantime, this guide offers a look at the options available this winter. To ensure accurate, up to date information, please contact the services directly. Other helpful resources:

www.cotrip.org – Real time information on drive times, road construction, and driving conditions

www.GOI70.com – Information related to I-70 including local transportation information

www.flydenver.com – Information on available transportation options from DIA



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NAME	STOPS	COST (one way)	DEPARTS	RETURNS	WEBSITE
Daily Access*					
Bustang RTD ski-n-ride (Route N)	Frisco – with access to Arapahoe Basin, Breckenridge, Copper and Keystone via Summit Stage Bus Vail – with access to Vail Mountain, and Beaver Creek via ECO Transit Bus Glenwood Springs – Access to Aspen	\$12-\$28	Route 730: Departs - 3:10pm from Union Station; 3:40 from Denver Federal Center Route 700: Departs - 5:40pm from Union Station; 6:10 from Denver Federal Center	Route 731: Departs - 7:05am from Vail Transportation Center; 7:40 from Frisco Transfer Center Route 701: Departs - 8:40am from Vail Transportation Center; 9:15am from Frisco Transfer Center	Bustang
	Eldora	\$4.50	Departs - multiple times daily in the winter, check RTD schedule	Departs - Multiple times each day, check RTD schedule	RTD Route N
Greyhound Bus	Frisco – with access to Arapahoe Basin, Breckenridge, Copper and Keystone via Summit Stage Bus Vail – with access to Vail Mountain, and Beaver Creek via ECO Transit Bus Glenwood Springs – Access to Aspen	\$14-\$32	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Greyhound Denver
Amtrak California Zephyr	Fraser-Winter Park, CO Granby, CO Glenwood Springs, CO	\$35-\$168	Departs - 8:15am from Union Station	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	California Zephyr
Weekend Access*					
SnowStang	A-Basin, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Vail, and Winter Park	\$45-\$60 (round trip)	Departs - Denver Federal Center between 6 to 6:30am. Check website for specific times for each route.	Departs - 3:30pm from each mountain	SnowStang
Front Range Ski Bus	Loveland Ski Area, Copper Mountain (check out website for lift ticket deals)	\$45 (round trip)	Departs - 7am from Union Station; 7:30am from Woolly Mammoth Parking Lot exit 259 I-70, Wednesday through Sundays in the winter	Departs - 3:30pm from Copper at the base of the American Flyer chairlift; 3:45pm from Loveland at the base, where the shuttles drop off.	Front Range Ski Bus
Amtrak Winter Park Express	Winter Park	\$59 (round trip)	Departs - 7am from Union Station on Saturdays and Sundays from January 4 th to March 26 th	Departs - 4:30pm from Winter Park	Winter Park Express
University of Colorado, Boulder Ski Bus Program ††	Keystone, A-Basin, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Vail -- different each weekend	\$5-\$15 (round trip)	Check website for specifics for each weekend	Check website for specifics for each weekend.	CU Ski Bus Program
Access from Denver International Airport**					
Colorado Mountain Express	Breckenridge, Keystone, Copper Mountain, Frisco, Vail, Beaver Creek, Avon, Edwards, Eagle, Glenwood Springs, Aspen & Snowmass Village	\$49-\$120 ***	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Colorado Mountain Express
Fresh Tracks Transportation	Breckenridge, Keystone, Copper Mountain, Frisco and Silverthorn/Dillon	\$63†	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Fresh Tracks Transportation
Peak 1 Express	Breckenridge and Summit County & Vail Valley	\$44-\$99†	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Peak 1 Express
Powderhound Transportation†	Aspen Snowmass, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Keystone, Steamboat, Vail, Winter Park	\$249-\$299†	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Powderhound
Summit Express	Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Keystone, Frisco, Dillon/Silverthorn	\$65†	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Departs - multiple times daily, check website for schedule specifics	Summit Express

* Information subject to change by the organizations and companies that run the service. Check website for latest information.

** Only shared shuttle options presented unless otherwise noted

*** Discounts for children

† Discounts for 3+ people and kids

‡ Non-shared service

†† Only available for students and alumni



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NAME	NOTES	WEBSITE
Ride Share Options*		
SkiCarpool.org	SkiCarpool is a nonprofit organization that facilitates carpooling to Colorado resorts using an active rideboard on their website.	skicarpool.org
Carpool World	International ridesharing website with an active rideboard of people driving from Denver Metro Area to the mountains.	Carpool World
WaytoGo SkiPool Program	Between December 2014 and March 2015, members of a vanpool through the Way to Go program received one free rideshare trip to the mountains per week. Way to Go members should contact DRCOG to see if SkiPool options are still available.	WaytoGo
Craigslist Rideshare	General resource board where individuals can post requests and find people to carpool with.	Craigslist Rideshare
Mountains with Carpool Incentives*		
Arapahoe Basin	Limited priority parking for a car of three or more. Discount tickets with a car of four or more.	Carpool Incentive Details
Copper Mountain Resort	Priority parking for carpools of four or more	Carpool Incentive Details
Breckenridge Ski Resort	\$5 discount on parking with car of four or more	Breckenridge Parking Details
Keystone Resort	Priority parking for carpools of four or more	Keystone Parking Details

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