The Basin is a pure skier’s and snowboarder’s mountain and welcomes anyone and everyone whether they’re learning for the first time, looking for a serious challenge or simply tailgating with friends on The Beach.

#LetsLegend
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Meet The Legend

Founded by five pioneers of skiing—including an Olympian and veterans—Arapahoe Basin Ski Area opened in 1946 with one tow rope and a $1.25 lift ticket. It now offers more than 1,400 acres, nine lifts, a kids center and a new European bistro at 12,500 feet with panoramic mountain views. A-Basin is known as The Legend for having one of the longest ski and ride seasons in the world.

The Basin is a pure skier’s and snowboarder’s mountain and welcomes anyone and everyone whether they’re learning for the first time, looking for a serious challenge or simply tailgating with friends on The Beach. A-Basin offers an authentic Colorado ski experience with a laid-back culture and vibe. Experience unique events, some of Colorado’s most adventurous terrain and gourmet culinary experiences throughout the season.

Join us for a memorable ski and ride season full of great terrain, great food and great people.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Follow Al’s Blog, written by A-Basin Chief Operating Officer Alan Henceroth, for weekly behind-the-scenes info on everything happening at the Basin. ArapahoeBasin.blogspot.com

Keep your eye out for The Not Al’s Blog Blog, launching at the start of the 2019-20 season!

ArapahoeBasinSkiArea

Instagram: @arapahoe_basin

Twitter: @arapahoe_basin
Mountain Stats and Facts

Season dates: mid-October to early-June (weather dependent)
Earliest opening: October 9, 2009
Latest closing: August 10, 1995
Location: Summit County, Colorado, 68 miles west of Denver

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Acres/Hectares: 1,428/578
Vertical drop: 2,530 feet/771 meters
Average snowfall: 350 in/889 cm
Base elevation: 10,520 feet/3,206 meters
Summit elevation: 13,050 feet/3,978 meters
Number of trails: 147
Snowmaking acres: 125/51 hectares
Number of lifts: 9
Lift capacity: 11,300 people/hour

TERRAIN
- Easiest: 7%
- More difficult: 20%
- Most difficult: 49%
- Extreme: 24%

FREESTYLE TERRAIN PARKS
Treeline Terrain Park (intermediate to advanced); High Divide Terrain Park (beginner to intermediate); Banana Park (beginner to intermediate)

TRAIL MAPS
ArapahoeBasin.com/the-mountain/trail-maps/
LONGEST SKI AND RIDE SEASON IN COLORADO

A-Basin is open mid-October to early-June and has been open to the 4th of July seven times since the 1990s. Altitude and attitude is everything.

EXCELLENT FOOD AT REASONABLE PRICES

A-Basin’s new European bistro, il Rifugio, is the highest lift-served restaurant in North America at 12,500 feet. Its bacon bloody Mary’s are award-winning and its BBQ is all smoked in-house. And did we mention brunch? Stuffed French toast is all you need to know. A-Basin also hosts regular chef-prepared “Moonlight Dinners” at mid-mountain, complete with lift ride under the stars, as well as themed supper clubs and beer-pairing meals.

LAID-BACK CULTURE AND VIBE

You can still park for free and walk to the lift, brown-bag your lunch, tailgate and grill in the parking lot, and chill with the locals in the bar at the end of the day. The staff are renowned for their friendliness and longevity, and the guests are famous for their quirkiness. Costumes are normal, not just on Halloween.

AFFORDABLE ALL-INCLUSIVE LESSON PACKAGES WITH MAJOR INCENTIVES

Once beginners complete two lessons, they can get two additional lessons for free and purchase a $100 season pass. A $149 beginner lesson includes all-day gear rental and a full-mountain lift ticket. Lessons are available for never-ever beginners all the way through advanced skiers and riders.

BIG MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE

You don’t need to be an expert to have an adventure. Intermediate skiers and riders can access the entire mountain, including getting to the top. If you do happen to be an expert, The Legend offers some of Colorado’s steepest, most technical in-bounds terrain.

LOW-COST AND FREE LIFT ACCESS PRODUCTS

Some of Colorado’s best terrain can be had at some of the state’s best prices. Kids under 5 ski free; kids ages 6-12 can get two free days each year; the Elevation Any Day Pass is sold all year and offers unrestricted 2-5 day passes at a deep discount over window ticket prices; discounted passes are available for seniors and military; the popular weekday pass is a great deal for those with some flexibility in their schedules. And online, people can find great deals on single, specific-day tickets.

IF YOU CAN SKI OR RIDE HERE YOU CAN SKI OR RIDE ANYWHERE

A-Basin is an adventurous place. Its runs are on the more challenging side of the ranking spectrum, making it a place where one truly becomes a skier or snowboarder. Because the atmosphere is so inviting, the mountain is so accessible and because the Basin offers on-mountain intermediate and advanced lessons, it’s the perfect place to step up your skills to the next level.

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

Arapahoe Basin takes sustainability seriously. The Basin has committed to reducing its environmental footprint and achieving carbon neutrality by 2025. For example, in 2018, A-Basin was able to switch all of its snowmaking to be 100 percent solar-powered. In 2019, A-Basin offset all of its fuel emissions via the Colorado Carbon Fund and now offers a $10 season pass add-on for skiers and snowboarders to offset their own emissions traveling to and from the ski area. The Basin has lofty sustainability goals and is working to educate its guests, including with its award-winning Sustainability Sunday video series. Check out our sustainability report for more info.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVISM

During the 2018-19 season, A-Basin raised tens of thousands of dollars for multiple causes. Its Enduro event has been supporting members of the community in need for 30 years. The Protect Our Winters carpool day and Earth Day events educate guests on the importance of sustainability and raise funds for local and national environmental organizations. The annual Beacon Bowl supports the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. Bookin’ it to the Basin offers free season passes to students at the local middle school who complete a specific reading challenge.
The Front Side

A-Basin’s front side terrain offers a little of everything, from the most casual runs to advanced moguls to the three terrain parks. Most of the Basin’s intermediate routes are accessed via this area’s Black Mountain Express and Lenawee lifts. But don’t be fooled; The Legend’s front-side skiing and riding is still a big-mountain experience. Two, short lift rides and you’re at 12,500 feet—above treeline at the top of the lift-served terrain—exploring wide-open intermediate groomers and introductory glade runs. The front side lifts also offer access to the rest of the mountain areas, making A-Basin extremely easy to navigate.

Montezuma Bowl

“Zuma” was A-Basin’s first major expansion, completed in 2007-08 season, and grew the mountain’s terrain by 80 percent. This backside bowl offers stunning mountain views to the south, including multiple 14,000-foot peaks, and 400 acres of wide-open intermediate groomers, well-spaced trees and rocky cliffs. A small hike-back zone below the lift almost always guarantees great snow and solitude.

Pallavicini

The Pallavicini area is A-Basin’s legendary, front-side advanced and expert terrain. Served by a lift of the same name, the primarily double-black Pallavicini runs are accessible directly from the base area. Pallavicini has also been hosting the A-Basin Enduro for 30 years. During the event, teams of two ski and ride as many runs as possible off the “Pali Chair” over 10 consecutive hours to help raise funds for a community member in need.

Mountain Areas

The East Wall

A-Basin is an adventurous mountain and to hike the East Wall is to experience one of The Legend’s biggest adventures. Make your way to 13,050 feet to enjoy the ski area’s most iconic views and some of its most extreme terrain. Access the East Wall chutes with just two, short lift rides, then use the multiple hiking routes to spend an entire day exploring this terrain.

The Beavers and The Steep Gullies

The Beavers and The Steep Gullies are 468 acres of terrain that were added in the 2017-18 season, growing A-Basin’s skiable area by nearly 50 percent. The construction was done with minimal environmental impact and completed the vision A-Basin’s founders had back in 1946. A quad lift gives you access to 36 runs in The Beavers, including rolling intermediate groomers, open bowls, steep chutes and some of the best glades (and powder stashes) in the state. The Steep Gullies is expert-only terrain, requiring serious skills and commitment, followed by a 20-30 minute hike back to the base area.

Molly Hogan

Molly Hogan is A-Basin’s learning hill at the base of the mountain. Easily accessible from the lodge, Snowsports headquarters and the rental shop, the area is served by two magic carpets and one learning lift. Molly Hogan has welcomed multiple generations of fresh faces to The Legend not just teaching them to slide on snow, but transforming them into skiers and snowboarders.
Behind the scenes of the longest season in Colorado

LIFT THE CURTAIN ON WHAT IT TAKES TO BE FIRST AND LAST
A-Basin is usually the first ski area to open in Colorado for the winter season and always the last to close. In 2019, A-Basin made it all the way to July 4 and its behind-the-scenes video on what it takes to stay open that late was a big hit. We invite you to go in-depth on what it takes, from the science of snowmaking to our unique landscape to the people and logistics required to run a ski area that’s in winter mode often nine months out of the year.

EVERYONE’S FAVORITE—THE AVALANCHE DOGS
A-Basin’s avy dog team is made up of Golden Retrievers, a black Labrador Retriever and a German Shepherd. They are certified by Colorado Rapid Avalanche Deployment (C-RAD) and deploy not only at A-Basin, but can be called into duty all over the state. Rio, Tikka, Sasha and Max are working dogs, but are also educators and ambassadors, and true partners with their ski patrol handlers.

Story Ideas

The Legend is known for its people
YOUR FAVORITE SKI BUDDY WHOM YOU MAY HAVE NEVER MET
How often do people who run ski areas get chased down like celebrities in airports? Alan Henceroth of Al’s Blog, aka longtime COO of Arapahoe Basin, is one of the most beloved figures in Colorado skiing. A simple Blogspot website launched a decade ago turned him into one of the most accessible, heard-from, down-to-earth leaders in the ski business. Through Al’s Blog, thousands of skiers have had direct conversations with the person who runs their favorite ski area, and deepened their connections to the Basin on a personal level. With an unending commitment to openness, he does actually write it himself and does actually read every comment. ArapahoeBasin.blogspot.com

LITERALLY EVERYONE AT THE BASIN HAS A GREAT STORY
Despite being in the middle of Summit County, Colorado, one of the most-visited ski destinations in the U.S., A-Basin has managed to feel like a local’s mountain since 1946. With no on-site lodging, challenging terrain and a lot of old-school character, the Basin has die-hard fans unlike any other. From staff who stick around for decades to skiers who do the same, all you have to do is spend a winter afternoon at the 6th Alley Bar & Grill to meet some of the most interesting people on snow.
For new Colorado residents, travelers and anyone who has never experienced skiing or snowboarding, A-BASIN has one of the best package deals and big-mountain experiences to get people started and offers a full day well spent. A half-day lesson plus full-day equipment rental and lift ticket is only $149 for adults. Enjoy small class sizes, an easy-to-navigate base area and great après food and drink plus live music on the weekends. Take a morning lesson then enjoy a scenic lift ride to mid-mountain (and maybe ski down Wrangler, the easiest run). Reward your efforts in the afternoon with all-day brunch, house-made ramen or a giant pile of nachos plus a famous bacon bloody Mary. Take two lessons and qualify for a $100 season pass!

For adventurous beginner and intermediate skiers and snowboarders + lapsed skiers and snowboarders, you can get the full big-mountain experience from the top to the back bowl. Get inspired to go a little bigger, sample something a little more challenging and experience something truly unique. A-Basin has some of the best, most scenic and most adventurous intermediate terrain in the West. Its blue runs give you access to the entire mountain, including the top. Intermediate runs get above treeline, enjoy incredible mountain views and feel completely out in the wild. And, you can see the terrain before you try it. From wide groomed blues to blue glades, A-Basin has it all for the aspiring skier/snowboarder who is ready to grow and go bigger.

Lessons aren’t only for beginners. So many skiers and riders have lapsed (not been out in a few years) but want to get back in the game. We invite a beginner-intermediate skier or rider to experience an on-mountain lesson to help step up their skills. It’s a great way to get to know new terrain, get more comfortable on skis or board, freshen up skills and try something new. For just $149, you get a full-day lift ticket, full-day equipment rental and a supportive, small-group class lesson aimed at improving your skills.
For advanced to expert skiers and snowboarders

EXPERIENCE BIG-MOUNTAIN COLORADO SKIING WITHOUT BIG-MOUNTAIN CROWDS OR BIG-MOUNTAIN EXPENSE

Arapahoe Basin is known for being reasonably priced and accessible with runs that rarely feel crowded. Usually, “reasonably priced and accessible” means a small mountain or a mellow mountain, or both. The Legend is neither. Come see what it’s like to get away from it all by skiing off the top of an in-bounds 13,000-foot peak, accessing some of Colorado’s steepest terrain with just one lift ride from the base area, or exploring blue groomed runs above treeline and through a remote-feeling landscape—all of which is very easy to access.

Then enjoy some of the best and most affordable food you can get while skiing, including experiencing the highest lift-served restaurant in North America: il Rifugio at 12,500 feet.

SKI IT ALL IF YOU CAN

The regional perception of Arapahoe Basin has long been that it’s a small, add-on mountain that you just hit at the beginning and end of the season. But with two major expansions, runs that never feel crowded, great online ticket deals and serious powder stashes and hike-to terrain, A-Basin ain’t no small thang. We challenge you to come visit us in deep winter or spring, and see if you can ski the entire mountain in two days. Most people think it’s possible, but we bet you can’t!

RESORT LIFT-ASSISTED SKIING CAN STILL BE WILD

Not everyone is comfortable in the backcountry but they still want adventure. We challenge someone to come ski all of Arapahoe Basin’s hike-to and hike-out terrain, and learn what it’s like to manage a place where 75% of the runs are advanced to expert. For media, we’ll happily provide a guide who knows every detail and secret stash of the mountain.
For ski and snowboard families

GENERATIONS OF SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS HAVE LEARNED AT ARAPAHOE BASIN

Longtime regulars bring their kids and grandkids to A-Basin to fall in love with sliding on snow. There are no snow coasters, indoor playgrounds or spas to detract from our ultimate passion. A-Basin is a welcoming, unfussy place that is all about the big-mountain experience. For families interested in skiing and riding together, it’s the place to be.

Affordable half- and full-day kids lessons (ages 3-14) plus multiple kids programs throughout the year means it’s easy to put young rippers in ski school and spend the day exploring while still being close by. Or, start the adventure together with a private family lesson. Up to four people can learn in a group without additional cost.

For food lovers

WATCH THE SUN SET OVER THE SNOW AT 11,000 FEET WHILE ENJOYING A CHEF-PREPARED MEAL

Foodies should plan to experience a Moonlight Dinner in the Black Mountain Lodge at mid-mountain. These dining experiences highlight cuisines from mountain regions around the world and include live entertainment and a lift ride (or hike) under the night sky. Executive Chef Chris Rybak will take your palate on a journey around the world sourcing the ingredients, spices and recipes that make for a memorable night.

EXPERIENCE THE HIGHEST LIFT-SERVED RESTAURANT IN NORTH AMERICA

Il Rifugio is A-Basin’s new European bistro that shares a spot with patrol headquarters at 12,500 feet. Look out over panoramic mountain views in a quaint warming hut while enjoying charcuterie boards, flatbread pizzas, lobster corn chowder and wine or espresso. Il Rifugio is accessible by ski or snowboard, only, via any of the lifts that lead to the top of the mountain.

For families interested in skiing and riding together, A-Basin is the place to be.
Major Events
2019–20 Season

NEW This Season!
• PRIDE WEEKEND AT THE BASIN: MAY 9-10
• SUPERHERO DAY: MAY 2

Recurring Events
• RISE AND SHINE RANDO RACES: NOV. 12 & 26; DEC. 10 & 17; JAN. 7 & 21
• MOONLIGHT DINNER SERIES: DEC. 7 (RANDONNÉE DINNER) & 31 (NEW YEAR’S EVE IN THE MOUNTAINS); JAN. 11; FEB. 8; MARCH 7; APRIL 11
• SPRING CONCERT SERIES: APRIL 25; MAY 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30; JUNE 6
• THEMED SUPPER CLUBS AND BEERMAKER TASTING DINNERS: DATES TBD

Single Events
• HALLOWEEN PARTY & FALL CONCERT: OCT. 26
• NSAA SAFETY VILLAGE: JAN. 12-13
• FIREHOSE RELAY: FEB. 21
• SAVE OUR SNOW DEMO DAY, EARTH HOUR & CLIMATE PANEL: MARCH 28
• BEACON BOWL DINNER & COMPETITION: APRIL 2 & 4
• 30TH-ANNUAL ENDURO: APRIL 8
• BEACH ‘N EGG HUNT: APRIL 12
• EARTH DAY CELEBRATION & POW CARPOOL DAY: APRIL 18
• PALLAVICINI LIFT RETIREMENT PARTY: APRIL 25
• SWIMWEAR DAY: MAY 16
• FESTIVAL OF THE BREWPUBS: MAY 24