

Breckenridge, Colo. is First to Fall With Some of the Country's Earliest Fall Colors

Breckenridge, Colo. – July 21, 2026 – Located at 9,600 ft. above sea level, the charming and historic town of Breckenridge is one of the first in Colorado and the country to welcome the fall season. The area's splendid groves of aspen trees begin their annual transformation to brilliant gold earlier given the town's high elevation, which also provides low humidity and mild "coolcation" temperatures, making September the ideal autumn getaway. Breckenridge Naturalists expect the fall colors to peak slightly earlier this year, between the second and third weeks of September, so now is the perfect time to start planning a fall Breckenridge adventure.

Breckenridge's "Leaf Brief" Allows Travelers to Track the Progress of Fall Colors: With bi-weekly photo posts, the [Leaf Brief](#) offers a consistent and frequent look at the aspens in Breckenridge, helping the public follow the pace of changing colors. This initiative also offers education about how to predict peak colors, plus trail recommendations and tips to enjoy the season. Ongoing updates begin early September and continue bi-weekly through the fall season, approximately 4-6 weeks.

Fall Events:

- **Breckenridge Bluegrass and Beer Festival, Sep 11-13, 2026:** Sponsored by the town's beloved Breckenridge Brewery and Broken Compass Brewing, beer lovers come together to taste their way through a wide array of samples from local and national craft breweries while boogying to bluegrass music from Grass It Up, all under the majestic mountains and fall colors of Breckenridge.
- **Breck Film Fest is the Perfect Prelude to the Sundance Film Festival, September 17-20, 2026:** As Colorado prepares to welcome the Sundance Film Festival to Boulder in 2027, film lovers have the perfect opportunity to beat the crowds and dive into festival season early at the Breck Film Fest, the highest elevation film festival in the United States. Celebrating its 46th year as one of the oldest continuing film festivals in the country, this fall's event features more than 90 independent films across three iconic, walkable venues, plus intriguing filmmaker panels and inclusive mountain afterparties.
- **Breckenridge Oktoberfest Celebrates 30 Years, Sept. 25 - 27, 2026:** One of Colorado's largest Oktoberfest celebrations returns for its 30th year, drawing visitors to historic Main Street for German beer, live music and an expanded offering of diverse festival food options and non-alcoholic beverages.
- **Día de Muertos + Latin Festival Returns to the Arts District, Oct. 16-17, 2026:** Breck Create hosts a two-day celebration honoring Latin American culture and the Día de Muertos tradition. The Arts District campus comes alive with hands-on workshops, face painting, vibrant art installations and live performances, offering visitors a colorful, meaningful way to close out Breckenridge's fall festival season.

Combine Gold Mining History with Fall Gold: Miners came to Breckenridge in search of gold, but today's visitors are here for a new era of the "gold rush" in search of the best golden aspen leaves. Much of the town's mining history can be experienced on the town's 70+ miles of interconnected trails perfect for fall hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Many of these trails take travelers through historic mining flumes, remnants of the area's [dredge boat mining](#) history, historic mines and abandoned townsites. History buffs can opt for a guided historic hike with [Breckenridge History](#) or try out gold panning at [Lomax Gulch](#), which uses gold prospector John D. Young's journal to help bring history to life. Delve 1,000 ft. into the mountain's original workings since 1887, pan for gold in Eureka Creek and experience life as a Colorado miner at the historic [Country Boy Mine](#).

Taste the Fall Flavors: Breckenridge's dining scene continues to evolve with a wave of chef-driven experiences and inventive new concepts, including a new 12-course tasting experience at [Forage](#) and the new [Threefold Bakery](#) from Breckenridge's James Beard Award-winning chef Matt Vawter. The town's food culture extends outdoors and into the community as the sustainably sourced [Breckenridge Farmer's](#)

Market, chef Matt Vawter's brainchild, returns for its second year showcasing Colorado's fall bounty through late September.

Fall Foraging and Medicinal "Tea Time": Fall whimsy is in full effect as Breckenridge Open Space and Trails brings back its educational guided foraging series "Medicinal Tea Time," where town naturalists lead visitors through the forest identifying edible and poisonous flora. The course wraps up with naturalists brewing edible wild teas from local plants.

Deep Dark Skies on Display: This fall, Breckenridge will celebrate its first full year as Colorado's first Dark Sky Certified ski resort town. Stargazing enthusiasts can join Breckenridge Open Space and Trails for a Deep Sky Guided Hike on September 11, to experience the season's clearest night skies and spot the Milky Way's galactic center.

Fall Color Drives: Boreas Pass was originally the nation's highest narrow-gauge railroad, running from 1872 to 1938. During WWII the train tracks were picked up for resources. In 1952 the pass was converted into an automobile-friendly road and today it's known as the one of the premier fall drives with spectacular sights of the Blue River Valley and Tenmile Range intermixed with tunnels of golden aspens. A short drive up French Gulch Road rewards with dazzling displays of fiery colors surrounding historic mines and abandoned town sites. The dirt road is graded and passable by most vehicles. In addition to profuse aspen forests, you'll pass many old mines, including the Country Boy Mine, the Reiling Dredge and the Lincoln Townsite.

Learn to Mountain Bike Amongst the Fall Colors: Colorado Adventure Guides can teach visitors of all ages new mountain bike skills through a variety of mountain bike clinics for various skill levels from beginners to those looking to take their dirt riding to the next level. Women's mountain bike clinics are offered through VNTR Birds, specializing in women's-focused outdoor education. For those looking for a mellow cruise, the Blue River paved recreation path offers miles and miles of paved path that follows the Blue River through town limits and beyond to the rest of Summit County full of fall color viewing opportunities. E-Bikes can also be rented to explore the bike path.

Autumn from Above - Hike a Lesser-Known "13er": Catch a glimpse of fall from above by hiking a Breckenridge area 13er. Everyone knows Colorado's 14ers (those awe-inspiring peaks soaring over 14,000 feet), but its slightly shorter siblings can be just as challenging and much less trafficked. Colorado Adventure Guides offers guided hiking excursions throughout the season.

Breckenridge Tourism Office Media Contacts:

Kerry O'Connor
KOconnor@gobreck.com,
303-827-5743

Carly Holbrook
Carly@HandlebarPR.com,
720-289-9366

Caitlin Johnson
Caitlin@HandleBarPR.com,
720-233-8520

Join us at GoBreck.com for local insight and travel inspiration. Stay connected all year long at @GoBreck on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

#

About Breckenridge

In the 1800s, gold was discovered in what was soon to be Breckenridge, Colorado, and prospectors flocked to the mining town to find their fortunes. Today, travelers continue to be drawn to Breckenridge's historic yet timeless spirit, laid-back charm, and authentic character. Surrounded by inspiring mountain peaks that seem to stir a sense of adventure for all residents and guests, the town of Breckenridge is a

year-round destination for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. Breckenridge's rich colorful heritage and convenient, world-class amenities unite with more than 200 shops and restaurants mingling among Colorado's largest historic district. Whether you crave a sun-soaked patio, captivating culture or endless adventure, you'll feel right at home in Breckenridge.