

 **VAIL** Like nothing on earth.™



# VAIL FACT SHEET

## Elevations

Base Elevation ; 8,120 ft.  
Mid-Elevation: 10,250 ft.  
Peak Elevation: 11,570 ft.  
Vertical Rise: 3,450 ft

## Snow

Snowmaking: 461 acres  
Average Annual Snowfall: 354 inches

## Acreage

Total Skiable Terrain: 5,289 acres  
Front Side: 1,627 acres  
Back Bowls: 3,017 acres  
Blue Sky Basin: 645 acres

## Trail Classification

53% Expert/Advanced  
29% Intermediate  
18% Beginner  
Conventional Trails 193

Longest Run: Riva Ridge – 4 miles

## Lifts

Total number of lifts: 31  
Gondola: 2  
High-speed quads: 16  
Fixed-grip quad: 1  
Fixed-grip triple chairs: 2  
Fixed-grip double chairs: 1  
Surface lifts: 3  
Conveyors: 6  
Total uphill capacity: 59,069 people/hr

## Terrain Parks

3 Parks:  
Golden Peak (small, medium and large features)  
Bwana (small and medium features)  
Pride (small and medium features)  
1 22' Superpipe  
1 13' Mini Halfpipe

Vail Ski Resort is the largest ski resort in the US with the most groomed terrain on the planet: 4 terrain parks (groomed daily), 7 back bowls and 300 days of sunshine per year. It just doesn't get any better. Steep-and-deep moguls, treed glades, powder-filled bowls, meticulous grooming, natural hits, 2 pipes, and more... your biggest question here will be where to start. This is the stuff skiing legends are made of. There is lift-served ski-biking, tubing and more at the top of Adventure Ridge. You can also enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ice skating, sleigh rides and backcountry snow cat skiing. The Golden Peak Terrain Park has 425-foot-long Superpipe with 15-foot walls and 17-foot transitions in addition to the jumps, rails and table tops.

## HISTORY

During World War II, the U.S. Army set up a training center, Camp Hale, in an isolated valley about 23 miles from Vail. There, the army trained ski troopers of the Tenth Mountain Division, who were later sent to fight in the Apennine mountains of northern Italy. Pete Seibert, one of these troopers, was lucky to have made it through the war alive. Like many others in Colorado during the 1950s, Seibert dreamed of a way to establish his own resort. In this endeavor, Siebert would have considerable help from Earl Eaton, another Camp Hale veteran. Born not far from the present Vail resort, Eaton had become a uranium prospector. One day, while searching for uranium in Gore Creek Valley, he arrived at the ridge of an unnamed mountain. Looking south his eyes fell upon a vast expanse of treeless slopes, later called the "back bowls," some of the most famous ski terrain in the United States. In March 1957, Eaton took Seibert to the mountain, and they both trudged seven hours through deep snow up to the ridge. When they arrived, Seibert, too, was stunned by the back bowls, as well as by the view of the towering peaks of the Gore Range.

Their first step was buying land. Although unable to purchase the mountain itself, which was owned by the U.S. Forest Service, they were able to purchase a 500-acre ranch at the base for \$55,000 in 1957. Funded by six partners (mostly from Denver), Siebert and Eaton bought the land under the guise of a new company, Transmontane Rod and Gun Club, a name they used to keep their plans a secret from the local residents.

Next, Siebert and Eaton applied for a "Conditional Special Use Permit." However, the U.S. Forest Service turned them down, claiming there were already enough ski resorts in the White River National Forest. Undeterred, the group appealed the decision and, a year later, they received the permit, allowing them to attract 21 new investors, some from as far away as Texas and New York, and to found a new company, Vail Corp., which was used to raise additional funds. In 1960, again through Transmontane Rod and Gun Club, the group purchased an adjacent property, also of 500 acres. Finally, in 1961, after the group brought in 100 limited partners (each putting up \$10,000), Vail Associates, Inc. was born.

The resort opened on Dec. 15, 1962, with one gondola, two chairs, eight ski instructors and a \$5 lift ticket. Today Vail is as complete as a ski resort can be. Its off-slope activities are unsurpassed—shopping, skating, movies, museums, galleries, performing arts, sleigh rides and so much more—everything money can buy. Vail Resorts operates on National Forest System lands under special use permit to the White River National Forest. Master Development Plans, Winter and Summer Operations Plans, Construction Plans, and every phase of the permit holder's skiing operation is approved by the federal government

annually prior to construction and operation. In exchange for the use of National Forest system lands the resort pays an annual fee to the U.S. Treasury amounting to about one dollar per skier visit. Twenty-five percent of the fees collected are returned to Eagle County, Colorado, for roads and schools, in lieu of taxes.

## **THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME "VAIL"**

The name of the town and mountain was originally the name of the pass between the Gore Valley and Summit County. Charles Vail was the chief engineer for the State of Colorado in the 1930's, and Vail Pass had been named in honor of the work he had done, developing the hundreds of miles of roads that connected Colorado's mountain communities. When Vail's founders were deciding what to name the resort, some suggested Shining Mountain, which had been the name the Ute Indians had used for the area over the years. Pete Seibert, a native of New England, was sensitive to the possibility that Shining Mountain suggested that the slopes were icy. So, instead, it became Vail-short, easy, euphonious and adopted from the name of the pass to the east.

## **GOLDEN PEAK**



Golden Peak, named by Vail's first marketing man, Bob Parker, for its autumn display of aspen leaves, was the site of Vail Associates' first major expansion in 1967.

### **GOPHER HILL**

A ski area for beginners nicknamed for the Richardson's ground squirrel. Local lore has it that when construction for Vail Village first began in 1962, hoards of these critters moved out and set up housekeeping on "Gopher Hill".

### **MILL CREEK ROAD**

Mill Creek drains the eastern section of Vail Mountain, which was an active lumbering area and the site of two sawmills during the early part of the 20th century.

### **RUDER'S RUN**

A monument at the top of Golden Peak's main trail honors Leonard Ruder, the son of Gore Creek pioneers. Ruder, a heavy equipment operator, was responsible for the construction of many of Vail Mountain's early ski runs.

### **WHIPPERSNAPPER**

Pony Express- 15 acres of ski-playground set aside for youngsters in 1987 and recently updated, with fort, tipi, "mines" and trails featuring Western adventures. Trail is named -Whippersnapper- An impudent child, a rascal; a ski trail descending from "Fort Whippersnapper".

## **NORTHEAST BOWL**

This forested area escaped the fires of 1879. Drained by Mill Creek, where a sawmill was built, it was an area of active lumbering. Therefore many trail names relate to logging and lumberjacks. It was first opened to skiers in 1967 with the cutting of Northwoods. In 1973, expansion began resulting in a variety of new runs, the addition of Chairs 10, 11 and 14, the Far East shelter overlooking China Bowl to the south.

<b>BLUE OX</b>	Named for the lumberjack's folklore hero Paul Bunyan, whose ox Babe turned blue during the "Winter of Blue Snow".
<b>BOOMER</b>	The boomer was a device that tightened the chained around logs that had been loaded for transport. To the skier's right on Boomer is Bearclaw Glade, an introductory glade, the perfect place for kids to practice their powder turns.
<b>BRISK WALK</b>	A skating catwalk leading from the bottom of chair 10 to Golden Peak. In the days when chair 6 ended in Mill Creek a portion of this was known as "South Six Escape", used in case of lift breakdown.
<b>CHOKER CUTOFF</b>	Chokers were the cables wrapped around bundles of logs in order to haul them out.
<b>FIRST STEP</b>	For the steep plunge at the top of the run, reminding one of the saying, "watch that first step".
<b>FLAPJACK</b>	A run almost as flat as pancake at the top and named for the loggers' favorite breakfast.
<b>GANDY DANCER</b>	The Gandy Manufacturing Company of Chicago made the tools used for laying railroad tracks. Gandy Dancers were the men who laid the track.
<b>GRAND JUNCTION</b>	Loggers and ski area operators describe their access roads as catwalks. This one leads from the midway unload on the Riva Bahn Express to the bottom of chair 10. Grand Junction is a city 150 miles west of Vail.
<b>CATWALK</b>	
<b>HAIRBAG ALLEY</b>	Designation of a gulch out of Northwoods popular with the long-haired skiers in the 70s.
<b>HIGHLINE</b>	Another logging term, referring to a pulley rigged to the top of a tree through which a cable (highline) was hooked to a steam engine to haul trees out of the woods.
<b>LOG CHUTE</b>	A steep clearing cut through the trees and lined with poles where logs went shooting down the mountainside to loading sites below.
<b>NORTHSTAR</b>	This run points to the North Star.
<b>NORTHWOODS</b>	First trail in the Northeast Bowl, cut in 1967 before lifts 10 and 11 were constructed and named for the beautiful stands of timber through which it runs.
<b>PRIMA</b>	A word associated with the leader, premier and first. Prima's steepest pitch, called "Brown's Face" is named for Bill Brown, Vail's expert trail builder.
<b>PRONTO</b>	Meaning quick and fast, the way some like to ski this run.
<b>RIM RUNS</b>	The North and South Rim runs drop steeply off this rim of Riva Ridge into First Step and Northstar.

<b>ROGER'S RUN</b>	Pronounced "Rowjayz". Commemorating Roger Staub, champion Swiss skier and Olympic gold medallist, who served as Vail's ski school director from 1965-69. Roger's Run opened in 1974, a year after Staub's death in a hang glider accident in Switzerland.
<b>SKID ROAD</b>	In the early days of logging, teams of horses pulled the logs out of the forest on skid roads.
<b>SNAG PARK</b>	Long ago, a fire burned over this area, creating a big snag at the top (no longer there). It still contains snags and tree stumps from that time.
<b>SOURDOUGH</b>	A fermented dough saved from one baking to the next and used in pancakes, biscuits and breads.
<b>TIN PANTS</b>	Refers to the canvas chaps worn by loggers and waterproofed with grease or pine pitch. In cold weather, the pants often froze so stiff they were called "tin pants" and men were known to slide back down to camp on them.
<b>WHISKEY JACK</b>	Canadian nickname for the gray jay, common to northern regions of North America and the high Rockies.

## **MID-VAIL AREA**

Mid-Vail has been a focal point for Vail skiing since 1962, when only a four-passenger gondola out of the village served area and a double chairlift took skiers on up to the top of the mountain. Before construction it was called the Northwest Bowl. In Vail's 50th anniversary season, a new state of the art 10 person gondola brings guests to Mid-Vail.

<b>CAPPUCCINO</b>	Named to match its neighboring run, Espresso, Cappuccino is espresso coffee mixed with milk or cream.
<b>CHALLENGE</b>	A trail used by adventuresome skiers from the early days of Vail, but not designated on ski maps for many years.
<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	The beautifully shaped evergreens on this run remind skiers of Christmas trees.
<b>COMPROMISE</b>	A catwalk off Riva Ridge allowing skiers to bypass the steep face of Tourist Trap.
<b>EXPRESSO</b>	Named for the hearty Italian coffee espresso, this run was once a racecourse; espresso became Expresso.
<b>HUNKY DORY</b>	Original site for Vail's NASTAR races, this intermediate run was named after the expression "everything is hunky dory". There is also a lake in the vicinity of Mount of the Holy Cross called Hunky Dory Lake.
<b>KANGAROO</b>	Winds create the cornice of snow that crowns this run, making the entry into it a jump.
<b>CORNICE</b>	"Look Ma, no hands!" Experts show their stuff in view of everyone at Mid-Vail.
<b>LOOK MA</b>	Wide and gentle as a meadow, the classic early run for beginners.
<b>THE MEADOWS</b>	A quick run from the top of the Avanti Express lift, first named "Chow Down" because it leads right to the restaurant door at Mid-Vail.
<b>MID-VAIL</b>	A route to Mid-Vail from the top of the Avanti Express lift.
<b>EXPRESS</b>	This line, cut through the trees for power poles, was once an unofficial, ungroomed run for experts.
<b>OVER EASY</b>	
<b>POWERLINE</b>	

<b>RAMSHORN</b>	A story goes that the horns of a bighorn sheep were found when Ramshorn was surveyed; some local opinion has it that the curve of the run itself suggested the name.
<b>RIVA RIDGE (AND GLADE)</b>	One of Vail's first and most famous runs, named for a ridge in the Italian Apennines by Vail-founder veterans of the 10th Mountain Division, who fought a decisive battle there during World War II. Vail skier Penny Tweedy named one of her horses for this run; Riva Ridge won the Kentucky Derby in 1972. The glade was the first officially designated as such on the mountain.
<b>SOUTH LOOK MA</b>	Parallel to Look Ma, but shorter, less steep, and not as highly visible as its famous sister.
<b>SWINGSVILLE</b>	One of the first runs cut for Vail's 1962 opening, good terrain for skiers doing "wedelm" the popular easy-swing skiing style popular in that era.
<b>THE SKIPPER</b>	Nickname for George Knox, Sr., who at age 62 came to Vail and began publication of a weekly newspaper, The Vail Trail. The run was cut and named for him after his death in 1975.
<b>TOURIST TRAP</b>	The sharpest pitch on the original Riva Ridge run, named by Rod Slifer, later mayor of Vail, who saw the trail being cut and claimed it would be a real "tourist trap."
<b>TRANSMONTANE</b>	Meaning, literally, "across the mountain," an extension of the Gitalong Road from Riva Ridge to lift #11. Also, a historic play on words: the first name for Vail Associates, when its intentions of ski-area development were kept a secret, was the Transmontane Rod and Gun Club.
<b>WHISTLE PIG</b>	Whistle Pig is a nickname for the yellow-bellied marmot, western relative of the woodchuck. These alpine rock-dwellers whistle sharp warnings when approached.
<b>ZOT</b>	This steep pitch was named for the bolts of lightning (labeled ZOT) in the comic strip, B.C.

## THE AVANTI AREA-CENTRAL MOUNTAIN

<b>AVANTI</b>	Members of the 10th Mountain Division who fought in Italy during World War II suggested Avanti's name. Avanti means "forward" or "let's go!" The early downhill racecourse for world cup racing.
<b>BEAR TREE</b>	Named for an aspen tree at its edge that bore the black, curved lines of her bear claws, indicating a spot where a mother bear taught her cub to climb. This particular tree was cut down by mistake during the late 1970s, but sections of its trunk were rescued and placed in the Colorado Ski Museum.
<b>THE PUMPHOUSE</b>	Steep chutes off of the One line into the bottom of Tourist Trap and Riva.
<b>BLACK FOREST (RACE AREA)</b>	Reminded trail designers of the Black Forest in Germany. An early arm of lower Avanti.
<b>CHICKEN LEGS</b>	When your legs can't take it anymore, this section of catwalk on the lower mountain is for beginning skiers leading from Mill Creek Road to Lionshead.
<b>COLD FEET</b>	An easy way around the steep pitch on Avanti, for those who get "cold feet" when they see the moguls.
<b>COLUMBINE</b>	Named for Colorado's beautiful blue and white state flower, which blooms in profusion on Vail Mountain during the summer.

<b>COOKSHACK</b>	Refers to the ruins of an old logging camp cookshack found here when the mountain was surveyed for skiing.
<b>EAGLE'S NEST RIDGE</b>	The easy, direct route from the top of lift #3, Wildwood, to the top of the Eagle's Nest gondola.
<b>GIANT STEPS</b>	Literally a series of giant steps, increasing in steepness as they descend to the bottom of Vail Mountain.
<b>GITALONG ROAD</b>	The long, easy way down the mountain from Mid-Vail to the village. This road includes part of an old livestock driveway and was named by Earl Eaton, the man who first discovered Vail Mountain's skiing potential.
<b>HEAD FIRST (FORMERLY ADIOS)</b>	Renamed for Howard Head, inventor of Head skis and tennis rackets, who owned a condominium at the foot of the slope.
<b>LINDSEY'S</b>	Originally this run was called International, site of many international races, including the World Cup and the World Alpine Ski Championships. The International run was cut for Vail's opening in 1962. In 2010, it was renamed in honor of Ski Racing Legend Lindsey Vonn
<b>LIONS' WAY</b>	The name refers to LionsHead since this trail heads that way from Mid-Vail, descending across the mountain to Born Free, and into LionsHead.
<b>LODGEPOLE/ LODGEPOLE GULCH</b>	Ute Indians used the straight, slender trunks of the lodgepole pine as support for their tips.
<b>PEPI'S FACE</b>	The last (and steepest) face of International, dropping down to Vail Village. Pepi Gramshammer raced on the Austrian national team and was recruited to move to Vail when it opened 1962. Pepi and his wife Sheika built and still operate Gastof Gramshammer in Vail Village, also the home of Pepi's Restaurant and Pepi Sports.
<b>PICKEROON</b>	Another name for a peavey, a long-handled, hooked pole used by lumbermen to get leverage on heavy logs.
<b>SPRUCE FACE</b>	Shortcut from Mid-Vail to lower Gitalong Road, through a stand of Engelmann Spruce. An original run (1962), closed for many years because of concerns about erosion.
<b>THE CHUTES</b>	"That's what they are" --a ski patrol definition suiting the terrain off the One lift line
<b>WINDISCH WAY</b>	Named for Erich Windisch, member of the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame and longtime Vail Ski School supervisor, who always wanted a way to ski back to Golden Peak.



## **LIONSHEAD**

The LionsHead area opened for the 1969-70 ski season, and included not only ski terrain on the front of the mountain and in Game Creek, but a six-passenger gondola and new village area as well. The name borrowed from a rock formation overlooking the town of Minturn (actually on the ridge south of Game Creek Bowl); this suggested the African theme, and the original trail names.

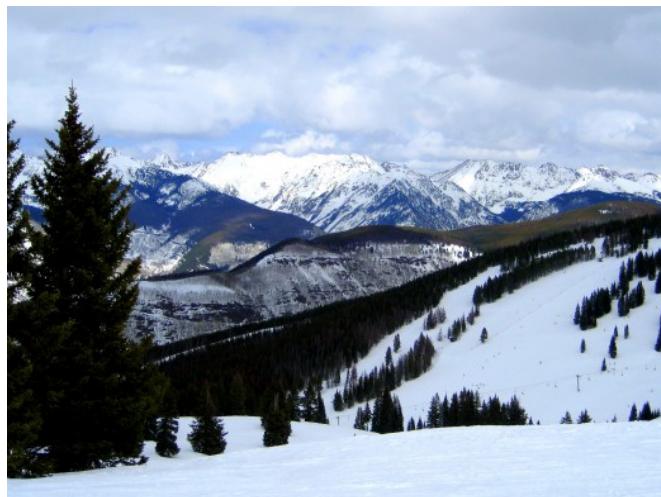
<b>BORN FREE</b>	Born Free commemorates the book and movie of that name, the story of Elsa, an orphan lion cub, who was later set free. The pitch at the top of the run was called Elsa's Face.
<b>BWANA</b>	In Swahili, Bwana means master, or boss.
<b>CASCADE WAY</b>	Trail from lower Simba to the bottom of lift #20.
<b>CHEETAH</b>	Africa's speedy, speckled cat and a play on words to indicate those who "cheat" by taking the easy way around the steepest face of Simba.
<b>CUB's WAY</b>	An easy trail for beginners, Cub's Way loops through LionsHead to the bottom of lift #1, where it joins Gitalong Road.
<b>EAGLE'S NEST</b>	The name Eagle's Nest refers to the view from this area, across the valley to the north, of Eagle's Nest Peak, at 13,420 the second highest mountain in the Gore Range.
<b>BEGINNER AREA OR LITTLE EAGLE</b>	
<b>LEDGES</b>	A run that drops down over the ledges of sandstone that characterize this section of Vail Mountain.
<b>MINNIE'S MILE</b>	Named for Charles Minot Dole. "Minnie" Dole not only founded the National Ski Patrol in 1938, but also was instrumental in the creation of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division of ski troopers.
<b>POST ROAD</b>	This old road existed before the trails at LionsHead were cut and was used to carry posts to the area boundary so that a fence could be built there.
<b>PRIDE</b>	A company of lions, and, just possibly, referring to a skier's mood after having negotiated this short, steep run.
<b>SAFARI</b>	An African hunting expedition, or, as it relates to many of Vail's ski runs, an interesting journey.
<b>SIMBA</b>	Swahili for lion and the name applied (for the day) to the lion that rode the gondola on LionsHead's Dedication Day. The lion's real name was Frasier (the bar at the bottom of LionsHead was once named "Frasier's").
<b>THE PRESERVE</b>	An attractive trail through groves of aspen trees.



## GAME CREEK BOWL

Named for the creek that drains the area, originally named for local sheepherders, it came to suggest card games and games of chance.

<b>BACCARAT</b>	Cut in 1985, Baccarat is a gambling game using cards.
<b>DEALER'S CHOICE</b>	Cut the same year as Baccarat, these two runs cover the terrain between The Woods and Lost Boy.
<b>DEUCES WILD</b>	For the card game term.
<b>FARO</b>	Sister run to Deuces Wild, named for another gambling game.
<b>GAME TRAIL</b>	The trail leading from Eagle's Nest down into Game Creek and to the bottom of chair 7.
<b>LOST BOY</b>	Named for 14-year-old Martin Koether, who skied by mistake into the Game Creek area before it was developed and spent the night in a snow cave under a tree while rescuers searched the mountain for him. He made his way safely out of the bowl the following day.
<b>OUZO</b>	Ouzo, a fiery Greek liqueur, relates to a deal cut between Eagle Valley sheep rancher Chris Jouflas, who owned the bowl, and Vail Associates, which needed his land. Jouflas brought a bottle of Ouzo to the bargaining table and negotiations proceeded happily toward contract.
<b>POKER FLATS</b>	Where all the "game" trails come together - the flat, slow-skiing area at the bottom of Game Creek Bowl.
<b>SHOWBOAT</b>	Showboat fits well into the big-deal card-game theme of Game Creek, but is, in-fact, named because it parallels Chair 7 and is very much a "show-off" run for those who can manage its moderate moguls.
<b>THE WOODS</b>	This narrow, secluded trail runs through a forest of sub alpine fir and Engelmann spruce. The Woods was one of President Ford's favorite ski trails.
<b>WILD CARD</b>	Another of the 1985 series, Wild Card cuts sharply off the Lost Boy catwalk. Although short, it is steep enough to suggest wilderness.



## THE BACK BOWLS

The Back Bowls have been part of the ski scene since Vail opened in 1962 with only a gondola out of the village and two chairlifts on the mountain. The Chair (now lift #5) out of the bowls was one of them. Two distinct drainage's from the area - Sun Up Bowl on the east side, Sun Down Bowl on the west - with High Noon Ridge rising between them. Except for the forested area at the top of Sun Down, the bowls are almost devoid of trees due to weather conditions in the hot, dry year of 1879, when forest fires ravaged many mountain slopes in Colorado. On south faces near timberline, the trees returned very slowly due to the intensity of the sunlight. Although considered a disaster at the time, those fires left the wide-open slopes and sweeping vistas of Colorado high-country that have made the Back Bowls famous among skiers.

### SUN UP BOWL

#### MILT'S FACE

Milt Wiley, Assistant Ski Patrol Leader in 1962, was particularly fond of this run on the west side of Sun Up Bowl.

#### CAMPBELL'S

On the west side of Sun Up Bowl, names for Don Campbell of the US Forest Service, Vail's first snow ranger.

#### COW'S FACE

A tree-cutter once described a Loveland Basin run as "steeper than a cow's face, and her a-grazin'". Vail founder Pete Seibert, then manager at Loveland, remembered the description and applied it to this trail at his new ski area.

#### APRES VOUS

A narrow cornice-topped run where early skiers often paused and let others go first, because there were so few people and so much powder. Apres Vous means "after you" in French.

#### CHICKEN YARD

The Chicken Yard cuts down to Sun Up Catwalk over a cliff. Skiers who jump the cliff avoid being called "chicken".

#### HEADWALL

The ridge and face between the Slot and Yonder Gulch.

#### OVER YONDER,

Three runs covering the eastern side of the Bowl, an area referred to from the top of Chair 5 as "over-yonder", meaning on the other side of Sun Up Bowl.

#### YONDER AND

#### YONDER GULLY

#### THE SLOT

Wide-open run following a slot of natural drainage in the Bowl.

#### SUN UP CATWALK

With the exception of Sleepytime, all runs in Sun Up Bowl feed into Sun Up Catwalk, which leads to Chair #5.

### SUN DOWN BOWL

#### FOREVER

This run begins on the crest of High Noon Ridge, then swerves west into Sun Down Bowl. When Vail pioneer and lodge/restaurant/shop owner Pepi Gramshammer first skied this run with Pete Seibert in 1961 while being recruited to move to Vail, he had to climb back out because the lift would not be built until the following summer. When he finally made his way to the top he was tired but ecstatic and remarked to a waiting Bob Parker, "By Gott, dot's a super slope! But it takes forever to climb out!"

#### MORNING SIDE

#### RIDGE

On the west side of Sun Down Bowl, the morning sun touches this ridge first.

<b>NEVER AND SELDOM</b>	Far down Ptarmigan Ridge on the southwest side of the bowl, Never and Seldom drop off the ridge. When Vail started, both runs were so remote that they were skied "seldom" or "never". Names attributed to early resident Bunny Langmaid.
<b>O.S.</b>	This trail skirts the far southwest boundary of the ski area and then cuts back into Sun Down Catwalk. In Vail's early days, if a skier missed the cutback and skied on down through the trees, he found himself below the chair and had to walk back up the hill. O.S. means "Oh, s**t, I missed the turn!" It is no longer possible to make this mistake.
<b>PTARMIGAN RIDGE</b>	The ridge forming the west side of Sun Down Bowl. Named for the timberline grouse with the expert camouflage that turns its feathers a mottled brown in summer and pure white in winter.
<b>RICKY'S RIDGE</b>	Named for Ricky Andermatten from Zermatt, Switzerland, one of Vail's first ski instructors.
<b>STRAIGHT SHOT WIDGE'S RIDGE</b>	Literally, a straight shot down the gully from Wildwood into Sun Down Catwalk. For Alice "Widge" Ferguson, an early Back Bowls fan from Denver, who always seemed to bring snow with her when she came to Vail.
<b>WINDOWS</b>	This run drops through a forested area with window-like openings in the trees.
<b>WOW</b>	Wow starts in a forest and opens into the vast expanse of the Sun Down Bowl; skiers coming suddenly upon the incredible view often comment "Wow!" This is the only run in the bowl that required tree cutting.

### **CHINA BOWL**

In 1988, Vail opened Tea Cup, China, Siberia, and the Mongolia Bowls, all served by the Orient Express Lift. The expansion more than doubled the size of Vail's ski terrain. Years earlier, China Bowl had been named for its headwall, a long limestone formation that brought to mind the Great Wall of China. In 1985, ski patrolman Jim Himmes and Sandy Hinmon skied the area and began naming the ridges, chutes, and gullies to pinpoint possible avalanche problems. Other patrolman added their ideas and trail names fell into place incorporating the Chinese theme, with Siberia and Mongolia Bowls relating to those remote stretches on the Asian Continent.

<b>DRAGON'S TEETH</b>	Named for the rock outcroppings on the run.
<b>CHOPSTIX, E &amp; W</b>	Misspelled Oriental eating utensils, a feeder into Poppy Fields.
<b>GENGHIS KHAN</b>	One of the steeper and meaner areas, named for the notorious 13th century Mongol conqueror.
<b>JADE GLADE</b>	A steep drop through trees rhyming with highly polished green gemstone.
<b>POPPY FIELDS</b>	Probably the most popular area in China Bowl, dropping out of the Chopstix runs, the Poppy Fields, with their grooming priority, give intermediate skiers the taste and thrill of bowl skiing.
<b>SHANGRI LA</b>	As the name suggests, a remote and beautiful area offering skiers great skiing down the open ridge between China Bowl and Siberia Bowl, then curving west through glades of trees above the Poppy Fields.

## TEA CUP BOWL

The names marked with an \* are registered trademarks of Celestial Seasonings, Inc.

<b>EMPEROR'S CHOICE*</b>	Descends the west rim above China Bowl, then drops into Tea Cup Bowl and connects with Sleepytime.
<b>MORNING THUNDER*</b>	Morning sunshine hits this trail from Sleepytime on the west side of the bowl.
<b>RED ZINGER*</b>	Like the tea, a steep trail, a real eye-opener
<b>SLEEPYTIME*</b>	A perfect name for the long, curving, easy trail all the way from the top of Headwall Ridge above Sun Up Bowl, past Tea Cup Bowl and into China Bowl.

## MONGOLIA & SIBERIA BOWL

<b>INNER MONGOLIA</b>	In old China, this was the part of Mongolia nearest to the Great Wall.
<b>OUTER MONGOLIA</b>	Farther from the Great Wall of China.
<b>ORIENT EXPRESS</b>	From the name of a famous trans-European train; the trail leads to the bottom of the Orient Express lift.
<b>BOLSHOI BALLROOM</b>	Named for the Russian ballet and for it's mellow, ballroom skiing.
<b>GORKY PARK</b>	Red Square was originally suggested for this park-like run, instead, it was named for Maxim Gorky, Russian writer, and dramatist, revolutionist and for the city and its park in central Russia.
<b>RASPUTIN'S REVENGE</b>	This trail runs the ridge between Siberia and China Bowl and presents real slide-control problems. It was named for a Russian problem in the person of Gregory Rasputin, a peasant turned mystic and fanatic, who was murdered by the nobles.
<b>RED SQUARE</b>	Name transferred from early Gorky Park. For the heart of Moscow.
<b>SILK ROAD</b>	The Silk Road had to do with the spread of the silk culture beyond China; in Vail, this Silk Road brings skiers smoothly along the base of Outer and Inner Mongolia and Siberia Bowls, back to the Orient Express lift.



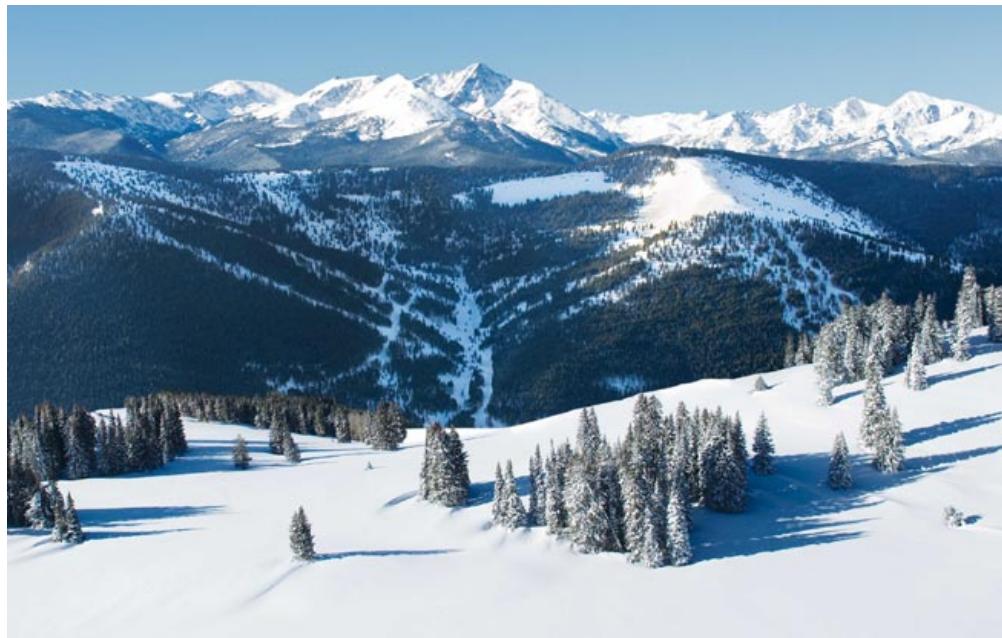
## BLUE SKY BASIN

The name Blue Sky Basin honors the original settlers of the Vail Valley - the Ute Indians. Prior to the 1870s the Utes were the only real inhabitants of the Eagle River Basin; what is now the Vail Valley. Other tribes referred to the Utes as the "Blue Sky People." Both the Ute name and Colorado's brilliant blue skies inspired the name Blue Sky Basin. Since its inception, Vail has used the blue sky as an important element of its identity. The resort's first logo was blue, black and white - blue for the awe-inspiring sky, black for the exposed rock of the mountain peaks and white for the snow.

In the 1870s, a mining boom brought thousands of prospectors to the Vail Valley looking for adventure and carrying hopes of striking it rich. The trail names, signs and buildings in Blue Sky Basin capture the heritage of this era with names tied to the history of the area and structures that resemble old-time mountain shelters and mining structures. Blue Sky Basin opened January 6, 2000.

<b>EARL'S BOWL</b>	In 1957, Earl Eaton discovered this area, which later became Vail Mountain, while prospecting for uranium. He told his friend, Pete Seibert, who had a vision of owning and operating a ski resort. Earl's bowl is a tribute to Eaton, whose discovery led to the development of North America's largest single-mountain ski area.
<b>PETE'S BOWL</b>	Named after Vail founder Pete Seibert who fulfilled his dream of founding, building and operating a ski resort when Vail opened in December 1962.
<b>BELLE'S CAMP</b>	Harsh, long winters made living in the mountains tough for the miners who ventured to the Vail Valley in the 1870s for the mining boom. One of the first places miners set up camp together was Belle's Camp, located on the other side of the mountain from Blue Sky Basin. This area is named in memory of the miners who survived the winters in Belle's Camp. Belle's Camp consists of a ski patrol outpost, a warming hut and public restrooms.
<b>CLOUD 9</b>	This run winds through the trees in Pete's Bowl and provides the easiest route out of Blue Sky Basin. Skiers and snowboarders may feel they have discovered a little piece of heaven on this run that offers great views of Vail's legendary Back Bowls and the easiest path through Pete's Bowl.
<b>KELLY'S TOLL ROAD</b>	The mining boom in the 1870s brought much more than miners to the valley. Kelly, an enterprising man, built a crucial road that made it easier for miners to get from Red Cliff to their mines on Battle Mountain (where Blue Sky Basin is located). Kelly made his money by charging a toll to all that used the road. The ski run named after this road is the crucial link from Earl's Bowl back to the Skyline Express lift and the Tea Cup Express lift.
<b>ENCORE</b>	The skiing found in Blue Sky Basin will demand a repeat performance from skier and snowboarders. This "bump performance" run will take them straight back to the Skyline Express for another run.
<b>MONTANE GLADE</b>	The Vail area has many different types of ecosystems that support the various wildlife and plant species. The Montane Ecosystem, where Blue Sky Basin is located, is home to pine and fir tree forests, black bear, deer and elk.

<b>IN THE WUIDES</b>	Blue Sky Basin would have never become a reality without the guiding hand of Paul Testwuide, known by his friends as Wuide ("weed"). Testwuide has been with Vail since its first season and has been a major force behind the development of Blue Sky Basin.
<b>CHAMPAGNE GLADE</b>	With champagne powder and open glades, this run is named after the kind of snow that skiers and snowboarders glide through in their dreams. Early risers will find a phenomenal run on a powder day.
<b>THE DIVIDE</b>	Running down the ridgeline, this run marks the middle of Blue Sky Basin - dividing Pete's and Earl's bowls.
<b>HEAVY METAL</b>	This run is named after the heavy metals, such as zinc and silver, which were mined on the mountain during the mining boom. The runs meaning also relates to the "heavy metal" music one might hear while in the bumps.
<b>LITTLE OLLIE AND IRON MASK</b>	Long before skiers and snowboarders hit the slopes of Vail, miners toiled on the backside of the mountain from Blue Sky Basin. The Little Ollie and Iron Mask were among the first and most prominent mines and their success gave rise to the mining boom and the development of the valley.
<b>LOVER'S LEAP</b>	A Ute Indian Chief's daughter and her lover were forbidden to marry so they jumped off a cliff near the entrance to Red Cliff, Colo. Skiers and snowboarders taking this run will have to take a leap off of the cornice that runs along the east side of the ridge.
<b>STEEP AND DEEP</b>	Named after the 1986 Warren Miller movie to honor the filmmaker on his 50th anniversary of filmmaking, which coincided with the opening of Blue Sky Basin. When the snow melts away in the summer, a field of small, loose gravel known as skree covers this run.
<b>SKREE FIELD</b>	
<b>BIG ROCK PARK</b>	This run is named after the huge boulders that lie in the middle of the run.
<b>CHINA SPUR</b>	Leading out to the Orient Express chairlift, this run takes skiers and snowboarders back to China Bowl.



## LIFTS

### Front Side Lifts

- #10 – Highline Express Chair (2007): Length: 2095 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #6 – Riva Bann Express Chair (1996): Length: 2759 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #29 – Golden Peak Palma Lift
- #12 – Gopher Hill Chair: 2-person; Length: 288 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 960
- #25 – Golden Peak Carpet Lift
- #1 – The One Gondola (2012): 10 persons/car, heated seats, Length: 2757 m, Capacity/hr: 2400
- #11 – Northwoods Express Chair (1986): Length: 1696 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #14 – Sourdough Express Chair (2007): Length: 743 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #4 – Mountain Top Express Chair (1986): Length: 1313 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2800
- #3 – Wildwood Express Chair (1995): Length: 1058 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #2 – Avanti Express Chair (1989): Length: 2008 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2800
- #27 – Black Forest Palma Lift (race track): Length: 585 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 650
- #7 – Game Creek Express Chair (1985): Length: 1328 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2700
- #15 – Little Village Chair: 3-person; Length: 308 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 1358
- #35 – Eagle Nest Carpet
- #18 – Eagle Nest Carpet
- #8 – Born Free Express Chair (1988): Length: 1852 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2800
- #19 – Eagle Bann Gondola (1996): 12 persons/car, Length: 2788 m, Carrying capacity/hr: 3000
- #26 – Pride Express Chair (1993): Length: 1650 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #20 – Cascade Village Chair (1987): Length: 1065 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 1800

### Back Bowl Lifts

- #5 – High Noon Express Chair (2010): Length: 1679 m, Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #17 – Sun Up Chair: 3-person; Length: 1186 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 1445
- #36 – Tea Cup Express Chair (1999): Length: 2043 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #24 – Wapiti Palma: Length: 452 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 650
- #21 – Orient Express Chair (1988): Length: 2334 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #22 – Mongolia Palma: Length: 491 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 500

### Blue Sky Basin

- #39 – Pete's Express Chair (2000): Length: 2035 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 1800
- #37 – Skyline Express Chair (1999): Length: 2557 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 2400
- #38 – Earl's Express Chair (1999): Length: 1473 m · Carrying capacity/hour: 1200

## ROADS AND CATWALKS

**GAME TRAIL:** Top of Gondola to bottom of Showboat under #7.

**CUB'S WAY:** Top of Gondola, west to Simba, east to Born Free (top of #8) to top of Lindsey's (2019)

**POST ROAD:** Begins top of chair #8, west to Simba, east to Born Free.

**CASCADE WAY:** Begins at Lower Simba, ends at Cascade Village.

**BWANA LOOP:** Begins at 2193, west to Bwana, switches east back to Born Free.

**COYOTE CROSSING (OWL'S ROOST):** Begins at the west side of Eagle's Nest, right across top of Born Free, across second steep face of Minnie's to Lodgepole.

**COLD FEET:** Begins on Avanti above the Cookshack face. Goes east to Lionsway.

**LIONSWAY:** Upper - begins below Mid-Vail, goes west to Lodgepole Gulch to the top of Lindsey's. (2019) Lower- top of Lindsey's (2019) to Born Free.

**GITALONG ROAD:** Begins below bottom of chair #4, goes east to Riva (Whit's Crossing). At Riva, it turns west to the bottom of chair #2, past 2015, through Cross Cut to the top of Bear Tree. It then zig zags back and forth across Bear Tree to Mill Creek Rd, then turns west to Chicken Legs, and east to Henry's Hill. Ends at Lower Village Catwalk.

**LIONSHED CATWALK (BIG BUCKS):** Begins at Lower Village Catwalk, ends at Bwana Junction.

**VAIL VILLAGE CATWALK (UPPER):** Begins at 2193, ends at Bear Tree.

**VAIL VILLAGE CATWALK (LOWER):** Begins at Bwana Loop, ends at the bottom of the One.

**CHICKEN LEGS:** Begins on International at 2013, runs west to Lower Village Catwalk.

**WINDOWS ROAD (THE MILE):** Ridge top connecting top of chair #4 to top of chair #3.

**TIMBERLINE CATWALK:** Begins top of chair #11, goes west then back east under chair #5, then continues to bottom of chair #14.

**HEADWALL RIDGE:** Begins at Snag Park gate, ends at Whiskey Jack gate.

**TRANS MONTANE:** Begins on Riva at 2166 (Whit's Crossing), ends at bottom of chair #11.

**CHOKER CUT-OFF:** Bottom of chair #11/ Top of Chair #6 to the Highline run-off (bottom of chair #10).

**SKID ROAD:** Top of Tourist Trap east to the bottom of chair #10.

**COMPROMISE:** Begins at Skid Road and goes west back to Riva (avoids Tourist Trap) at 2166.

**NORTHFACE CATWALK:** Bottom of chair #11 across top of Logchute, Klickity Klak, Prima, through Skid Road to Riva.

**MILL CREEK ROAD:** Phone 2164 to Gitalong Rd at Adios switchback.

**BRISK WALK (OLD SOUTH 6 ESCAPE):** Bottom of chair #10 to Follow Me Road.

**GRAND JUNCTION CATWALK:** The ridge from Mid 6 down to bottom of chair #10.

**FOLLOW ME ROAD:** Begins on Ruder's at 2163, goes west to lower Riva, east to Ruder's and around to Henry's Hill.

**SLEEPYTIME ROAD:** Bottom of Timberline Face into the Sun Up Bowl, around and under chair #17. It splits then, one way heading northwest to the bottom of chair #17, the other way going through the gates to the bottom of chair #21 in China Bowl.

**SILK ROAD:** Top of chair #21 around the top of the Mongolia's, and back west to the bottom of chair #21.

**SUN UP CATWALK:** bottom of chair #17 to bottom of chair #5.

**SUN DOWN CATWALK:** Bottom of Straight Shot in the Sun Down Bowl to the bottom of chair #5.

**PIKA:** Top of chair #9 east across Ledges, Lodgepole, Berries, to Pickeroon where it turns and heads west back across Berries and meets Practice Parkway.

**PRACTICE PARKWAY:** Begins at the west side of Eagle's Nest, right across top of Born Free, below poma 18, across first steep face of Minnie's, under chair #9 to Minnie's flats; across Ledges, Lodgepole, west back west to 2094 down to Cubs Way.

## **MOUNTAIN NICKNAMES**

**10% ROAD:** Begins at top of chair #7 and ends at Eagle's Nest Ridge above Kangaroo Cornice.

**12-16 CONNECTOR:** The catwalk from the top of chair 12 that runs into Vail Village.

**THE ABC LOT:** The parking lot off the 12-16 Connector, east of the bottom of the One

**AIRPLANE ALLEY:** The steep face of Born Free below the top of chair 8.

**BROWN'S FACE:** Steep face of Prima.

**BUNBUN BOWL:** Chair 14 green runs

**BWANA JUNCTION:** Intersection of Simba, Bwana and Born Free above Skier Bridge

**CHINA TOWN:** Patrol outpost next to Two Elk

**CROSS-CUT:** Below 2015, the switchback that goes to Bear Tree.

**DO DA LANE:** Between upper Bear Tree and Lindsey's

**DOG LEG:** Lower Born Free at Left Turn towards Lionshead. Major Speeder Location

**ELSA'S FACE:** First face below Eagle's Nest on Simba (under chair 26).

**HAROLD'S HIGHWAY:** Cut between Lodgepole Gulch and Avanti.

**HENRY'S HILL:** Face above top of chair 12, shows on map as lower Riva.

**HINMON'S CORNER:** Bottom of last face of lower Prima, above the old South #6 escape.

**HO CHI MINH:** Catwalk from Lowest Slot gate to Whisky Jack Gate

**JAKE'S JAUNT:** Gladed area above Challenge.

**JOINT POINT:** The intersection of Flap Jack and Northwoods

**MOGUL CITY:** Lower Riva at the last face

**MURCHISON'S CORNER:** Bottom of Bear Tree, above the Rig Trailer.

**POKER FLATS:** Area from the end of Game Trail to the bottom of #7.

**SPRING CATWALK:** Bottom of Crosscut west to Born Free.

**SURRENDER:** Top of Pickeroon's steep face to Lodgepole.

**TACO TUNNEL:** Begins below Golden Peak Race Course, ends at Northwoods Condo's

**TIMBERLINE FACE:** Face at the beginning of Timberline Catwalk

**TAJ MAHAL (TAJ):** Ski Patrol Outpost in Gold Peak at Chair 6 First Exit

**WATERFALL:** Last face of Ramshorn above Mid-Vail.

**WHIT'S CROSSING:** Intersection of Gitalong Road and Riva, where Gitalong becomes Trans- Montane.

## **MOUNTAIN RESTAURANTS**

### **Bistro Fourteen**

Take it to the top for a new and improved dining experience at the Bistro Fourteen. Located at the top of the Eagle Bahn Gondola at Eagle's Nest, this fresh and inspiring restaurant provides fine dining with a casual, family-friendly twist. 970-754-4530

### **Game Creek Restaurant**

Open for dinner only, with Sunday Brunch in Summer Renowned for the fabulous view, Game Creek features a fusion of an American-French style of cooking with regional and seasonal ingredients. The result is a spectacular menu of contemporary dishes you won't soon forget, complemented by an extensive wine list and superior service. Call (970) 754-4275 for information & reservations.

### **The 10th**

Open for lunch only. The 10th is Vail's newest sit down dining experience. The 10th is a ski-in and ski-out fine dining restaurant, overlooking the majestic Gore Range. The cuisine is world-class, with a focus on Modern Alpine classics. Enjoy an upscale meal with exceptional table service, or a quick bite to eat from Express lunch options offered at the bar. The 10th is located at the base of Look Ma run at Mid-Vail. Call (970) 754-1010 for information & reservations.

### **Buffalo's Restaurant**

Located above Patrol Headquarters at the top of chairs 11 (Northwoods), 4 (Mountain Top Express), and 5 (High Noon) this is an excellent spot to stop for a quick bite before jumping into the Back Bowls.

### **Golden Peak Grill**

Located at the bottom of the Riva Bahn Express Lift (Chair 6), in the lower floor of the Golden Peak building. The Golden Peak Grill makes a hearty statement with its food. The Grill has an eclectic mix of food to meet all tastes. All out of one open kitchen! Right outside the door, you'll find the freestyle Terrain Park and race-courses.

### **Gondoly's Pizza**

Gondoly's 'pizza by the slice' sells a variety of thin crust pizzas by the slice, as well as beverages. You can take a slice onto the deck, or grab it on your way out to the slopes! Located on Eagle's Nest

### **Mid-Vail Restaurants**

Mid Vail has grown through various remodels and additions, after starting out as the first mountain restaurant on Vail. Today it consists of 4 restaurants in one central location at the base of Chairs 3 (the Wildwood lift) and 4 (Mountain Top Express) and top of the One (#1). Mid-Vail is open daily from 10am -3pm.

### **The Grand Press**

Take a break from the slopes with a hot drink next to the fire. Offering Starbucks coffee, cappuccino, espresso, hot chocolate and more. A selection of candy bars and baked goods are also available. The Gran Press is located behind the main Eagle's Nest building on the South side of the complex in the Adventure Ridge building.

### **Two Elk Restaurant & Belle's Camp**

Vail Mountain's flagship restaurant, Two Elk, is the gateway to China Bowl and Blue Sky Basin. Located near the top of Chairs 14, 17, 21, and 36, Two Elk sits at an elevation of 11,220 feet.

### **Wildwood Restaurant & Pavilion**

How about authentic BBQ two miles high? Located at 11,000 feet at the top of Chairs 3 and 7, you'll find the great tastes and foods of Wildwood.

## KIDS' ADVENTURE AREAS

**SHERWOOD FOREST (INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS)**: Above Cub's way between Ski School Ledges and Columbine.

**CHAOS CANYON** – Skiers right off upper Lionsway

**MAGIC FOREST**: Starts as Practice Parkway, and goes through the trees between Ski School Ledges and Minnie's Mile.

**PORCUPINE ALLEY**: Children's area below Cub's Way, between Lower Ledges and Columbine.

**CHAIR 13**: No such chair exists, refers to Golden Peak Smallworld (children's practice area).

**PONY EXPRESS**: Ridge top of Mid chair 6.

**BUCKSKIN GLADE**: Skiers left off Boomer

**BEARCLAW GLADE**: Skiers left off Ramshorn

**CRAZY COYOTES GETAWAY (LOST SILVER MINE)**: Skier's left on Simba.

