

# Summer it up in Breckenridge, Colorado



*The McNamee family on Loveland Pass.*

Even without snow on the ground, Breckenridge is an outstanding summer destination for families. Perched at 9,600 feet in Colorado's High Country, this charming small village contains a Historic District dating back to the Old West. With Victorian architecture and the feel of a college town, it is known as the most family-friendly resort in the area. Only in "Breck" can you visit a gold mine, hike along the Continental Divide, and ride a rollercoaster on top of the Rocky Mountains.

En route to town, take a slight detour off I-70 onto US 6 to experi-

ence the lofty splendor of Loveland Pass. With scenery breathtaking enough for a movie set, you'll know you are in Colorado. Set at 11,900 feet, this high winding road used to be the principal means to cross the Continental Divide prior to the Eisenhower Tunnel.

When you get to town, head for the slopes. After a free gondola ride with a 10-minute ascent, the Breckenridge Peak 8 Fun Park is at the top. There are so many activities it's overwhelming — the Alpine SuperSlide, Gold Runner Coaster, Mineshaft Maze, Ripperoo's Bounce House, SuperBungee Trampoline, Rockpile

Climbing Wall, pony rides, mountain biking, mini-putt, 4x4 off-road tours, and gemstone panning. They offer day passes as well as a summer day camp.

The Country Boy Mine is another absolute "must-see" in the area. With its rare authenticity and gorgeous location, visitors get to experience the Colorado mining life of more than 100 years ago. Everyone can dress up in real miner gear and head deep into the abandoned mine that still contains some gold. Be sure to bring along sweaters since the temperature is a damp 45 degrees.

During the entertaining 45-

minute tour, visitors learn about the miners' long, dreary, and dangerous days. For one dollar per day, they worked in the dark while standing in 10-12 inches of cold water. They did this for 10 hours a day, seven days a week, with no latrine. Even worse, young boys worked as "blast monkeys" setting up the dynamite for a mere 10 cents a day.

Outside the mine, kids can pet the friendly burros and head to the adjoining creek. With gold pans at the ready, families can prospect away and pocket their finds. When

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