

10/1/2008 Ski Colorado



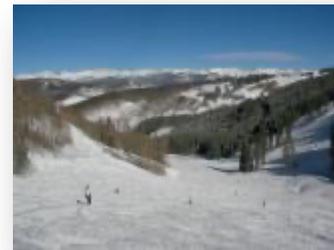
A glorious 3 weeks skiing in Colorado. Sheer luxury we're staying in a condo at River Run, Keystone we can walk to the gondola. It's the closest to ski in ski out you get and its very reasonable at less than \$100 a night.

Kurt and Emma have come along with us for the first week. On top of that Kevin and Rosemary, along with David and Polly come out for a fortnight a few days into our stay.

It's at least 5 years since we were last in this part of the Colorado and we're keen to see how it compares to Salt Lake three days.

We ski all the different resorts of Keystone, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Loveland, Vail and Beaver Creek. We give A Basin a miss.

Breck is greatly improved, they've opened up another mountain and have a great Gondola up to it. Some really great skiing on the new mountain. Kurt and Emma get to ski most of the resorts. A real eye opener for Emma and great improvement on skiing in Mount Hoffham. Have a few days skiing with the Breslins, but we tend to go out to different resorts every day. I think the Breslins are now sold on the US for skiing and apparently it's not much more expensive than France, plus there are no French.



Really good snow but the weather is really cold, never known it so bad. It's -15, that's Fahrenheit, one day and so cold that you have to keep all skin covered up to avoid frost bite. I notice a hard patch on my cheek and loo and behold it's the start of frost bite where the skin actually freezes up. Despite the cold we get some great sunny days skiing.



Wendy and I also discover cross country skiing. We've always meant to try it but somehow never found the time. Anyway this time we take the plunge and for \$30 hire all the gear, get access to all the trails and even get a 1 hour introductory lesson – just the two of us and one



instructor. How's that for value. It's hard work, great exercise and good fun. We're only beginners so we stick to the green runs – yes they even grade them like downhill. Overall we don't do bad but to be fair there is very little downhill chussing. Plus we choose two really sunny days at two different resorts. The lodges are great, really comfy with big settees, open fires and no crowds or queues. For our \$30 we also get to hire snow shoes

so we try that as well. This is something we'll certainly be doing next time. It's a great alternative and ideal for once a week, probably on the busiest downhill days to avoid any crowds.

Condo is great, especially if there are just 2 of you. Has all the facilities and includes wifi.

Skiing in Colorado is good but not as good as Utah. It's much busier, yes we even have to queue for the lift some days, although once you get to the top it's no problem. But without a doubt it'll be back to Utah next year even if the liquor stores are hard to find.