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Breckenridge Offers an Avalanche of Thrills Year-Round

Find fido-friendly fun on and off the slopes.

BY ROBIN TIERNEY



Breckenridge is among Colorado's most beautiful destinations.

PHOTO CREDIT ROBIN TIERNEY

WHAT DO YOU BRING TO A CELEBRATION DEDICATED TO THE GOD OF SNOW? Viking helmets and dogs, judging by the annual January ULLR Festival in Breckenridge.

Due to its high elevation, this Colorado mountain town is known for extra-long seasons of skiing and snowboarding on nearly 3,000 acres and five peaks of epic terrain. But now Breck is having a boom in year-round thrills on and off the slopes. Whatever the season, Fido can join the fun.

"We're not dog-friendly, we're dog-obsessed!" laughed a fellow participant in the ULLR Fest's ice plunge, which takes place at Maggie Pond downtown. Facing the Tenmile Range of the Rocky Mountains, the pond is frozen in the winter, except for a small hole dug out for the ice plunge. This January, 175 people took the plunge, and some brought furry

friends to woof them on.

Canine-friendly activities include hiking, trail-running, mountain and fat tire bicycling, eating outside and drinking.

Breckenridge Ski Resort's BreckConnect Gondola is dog-friendly, as well as free. After exiting the gondola, you and Fido can wander around the base of Peaks 7 and 8 year-round. In the summer, leashed dogs are allowed on trails, and there's free parking at BreckConnect Gondola's base. However, you don't need a car to get around town, and you can walk to the ski resort from downtown.

Ready to run? Fully fenced Carter Park's dog park is free and located four blocks east of Main Street. Leashed dogs can trot on the bike path, which parallels the Blue River within and beyond the town limits. Hiking trails that take off from town include Moonstone and Sun-

beam, accessible from Carter Park, and Southside Trail, off Boreas Pass Road.

Breckenridge began as a gold-mining town in 1859. Imagine life way-back-when while walking Fido on-leash around the BreckCreate Arts District and in downtown where shops fill architecturally significant Old West Victorian buildings. Many businesses on and around Main Street, and other parts of Breckenridge, welcome well-behaved dogs inside. Some stores have shop dogs.

Terrific clothes, shoes, housewares, books and artworks fill For Pets Sake Thrift Store on Main Street. Purchases benefit homeless pets through the Animal Rescue of the Rockies.

Piante Pizzeria, Breck's new casual gourmet hotspot, loves dogs. Its customers love their plant-based pizzas with house-made dairy-free cheese as well as zesty appetizers such as

wood-fired olives and jalapeno poppers. Dogs are welcome at The Crown, a coffee-and-cocktail social hub, and at eateries such as The Canteen, Motherloaded Tavern, Park and Main, and Crepes A La Carte.

Cool River's coffee house and bakery sells homemade dog treats along with yummy granola. During warm weather, relax in the grass and quaff a smoothie.

Bark and brew, anyone? Broken Compass Brewing has won kudos for craft brews and dog-friendliness. Local dog parents have made the brewery's lounge their happy yappy tappy place.

Art-loving pups will enjoy events such as January's International Snow Sculpture Competition and Breckenridge International Festival of Arts in August. In June, Breck Bike Week wows spectators with daredevil pond crossings and Big Wheel races. Year-round, BreckCreate Arts District makes for a super-scenic stroll.

Dog-friendly lodging includes Marriott's new slopeside Residence Inn, graced with handsome, comfy suites and an amazing outdoor pool and hot tub deck offering breathtaking mountain views. Rates starting at \$129 make it a great value. The Doubletree, Beaver Run Resort, One Ski Hill Place and the Lodge at Breck-

enridge also welcome furry friends. Looking for a kennel or grooming? Try The Dog House.

Before your trip, drink plenty of water, get lots of sleep and plan a day before playtime to adjust to the elevation and avoid altitude sickness. While there, drink water day and night. Alcohol and coffee dehydrate, so drink more water. Keep Fido well-hydrated too. After all, you don't want to lose any high-altitude playtime. 🐾



◀ **ROBIN TIERNEY**, an award-winning writer-photographer, seeks out intriguing places, preferably with dogs by her side.



Enjoy fat tire biking in the snow.



Dogs are part of the parade during ULLR Fest and other Breck festivals.



Hop aboard the Viking trolley during the ULLR Festival in Breckenridge.



🐾 VISITOR INFORMATION:

GoBreck.com

🏠 RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT

marriott.com/hotels/travel/qkbri-residence-inn-breckenridge

🏠 BEAVER RUN RESORT

beaverrun.com/breckenridge-dog-friendly-hotel

🏠 ONE SKI HILL PLACE

oneskihill.rockresorts.com

🏠 DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/colorado/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-breckenridge-QKBVRDT/about/policies.html

🏠 THE LODGE AT BRECKENRIDGE

thelodgeatbreckenridge.com

🐾 FOR PETS SAKE THRIFT STORE

facebook.com/Animal-Rescue-of-the-Rockies-Thrift-Shop-140642239339309
animalrescueoftherockies.org

🐾 CARTER PARK

townofbreckenridge.com/work/parking-community-service/dogs/dog-park

🐾 THE DOG HOUSE

Breckenridgedoghouse.com

🐾 GOOCHI POOCHI

facebook.com/gpoochi

🐾 PIANTE PIZZERIA

piantepizzeria.com

🐾 BROKEN COMPASS

brokencompassbrewing.com

🐾 MOTHERLOADED TAVERN

motherloadedtavern.com

🐾 THE CANTEEN

thecanteenbreck.com

🐾 PARK & MAIN

parkandmainfood.com

🐾 CREPES A LA CART

facebook.com/crepesalacartbreckenridge

🐾 COOL RIVER

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Aloft Greenville Downtown Dog Walk.



Waterfalling in Love with the Parks and Urban Delights of Greenville

Find canine southern comfort in this South Carolina haven.

BY ROBIN TIERNEY

BIG, BEAUTIFUL WATERFALLS RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF DOWNTOWN? You know you're in a special place, even before you and Fido discover Greenville's cascade of other charms.

Here, Southern hospitality is authentic, and it extends to canines of all breeds and sizes. At least 125 restaurants welcome dogs, as do the lovely parks in and surrounding the town and stylish lodgings from B&Bs to hotels. The delights are in the details, so let us unleash a sampling of uniquely Greenville activities you can dig with Fido.

Spend several hours at Falls Park on the Reedy River. This urban park's distinctive features include beautiful rocky waterfalls, tiered stone-walled paths and flower beds. And the

Liberty Bridge, a curved ultralight architectural feat spanning 345 feet across the river. Held in the air by a single suspension cable, it offers unforgettable views of the gardens and the waterfalls that used to power mills.

Stroll the safe, clean streets and watch for cool public artworks such as "Octo 2," a kinetic, wind-powered stainless steel sculpture made up of linked stainless shapes rotating around a circular axis. A red steel sculpture resembling Gumby enlivens Falls Park at one end of The Liberty Bridge. At the Children's Garden, look for Vincenzo, a sculpture depicting a whimsical pig. Bonus: get the free City of Greenville Public Art Walking Tour app for your digital device.

"The Mice on Main," inspired by the book

"Goodnight Moon," appear along Main Street between the Hyatt and the Westin Poinsett hotels. Sculpted by Greenville-based artist Zan Wells, this fun project sprung from the imagination of a local high school student.

Hit "Yappy Hour" downtown on second Tuesdays from April through October for cold brews and live music. Just for Fido: doggie pools, off-leash play and bowls of water.

Groove to free outdoor music near the river Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the warmer months. For example, Downtown Alive turns Main Street into a street party each Thursday for 24 weeks.

On GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail, meander as far as you'd like with Fido on leash. This serene

trail rolls 21 miles to the quaint community of Travelers Rest. Tip: at Furman University (not named for a companion animal), walk around the lake, where views include a tall clock tower and Paris Mountain, a stray from the Blue Ridge range.

Hungry? Those 125 Fido-friendly dining choices include the Swamp Rabbit Cafe and Grocery, serving delicious dishes made from ingredients sourced from local farms. Grab a sunny or shaded table outside. Pomegranate on Main's true Persian favorites include veggie kabobs, Persian eggplant, heavenly hummus and authentic tea service. You won't want to leave the old world-style patio with its waterfall wall.

At Port City Java, which is right on Main Street, pair great coffee and smoothies with tasty bites. What to order at Southern Pressed Juicery? Everything's good, from the power smoothies to superfood bowls to the healthful housemade donuts. Worth the quick drive from downtown, certified green Kitchen Sync's fresh local ingredients flavor plates of Banh Mi, with toppings such as crispy tofu and crispy beets, and the hearty Thai Pie.

How about some alone-time to explore the Upcountry History Museum, Greenville County Museum of Art (look for Jamie Wyeth's "Swim Dogs" and other astounding animal-centric artworks) and the new Carolina Music Museum? Or a bicycle ride along the area's trails that attract cyclists from worldwide? Greenville's got you covered: check Fido into a private luxury suite at the Noble Dog Hotel. Perks include chef-made pumpkin pancakes and nighttime stories and snuggling.

Overnight together at Aloft Downtown Greenville, where the "Arf" program provides toys, treats, and a fancy dog bed and bowl. As a local Humane Society partner, the hotel houses a dog onsite who guests can walk and help socialize.

And here's another sign of dog-friendliness: Greenville has installed more than 65 doggy-waste centers and dispenses an estimated 100,000 bags a year.

Now that you have the scoop on Greenville, plan a trip and get ready to waterfall in love with this hip southern town. 🐾



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Waggin' at the Waterpark.



Outside Doggie Dining.



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Fallspark.com

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Greenvillesc.gov/239/PNG-Downtown-Alive

🎨 OUTDOOR PUBLIC ART TOUR

Gis.greenvillesc.gov/publicarttour/index.html

🏠 ALOFT GREENVILLE DOWNTOWN

Aloftgreenvilledowntown.com

🏠 NOBLE DOG HOTEL

Nobledoghotel.com

🍷 SWAMP RABBIT CAFE

Swamprabbitcafe.com

🍷 POMEGRANATE ON MAIN

Pomegranateonmain.com

☕ PORT CITY JAVA

Portcityjava.com

🍷 SOUTHERN PRESSED JUICERY

Southernpressedjuicery.com

🍷 KITCHEN SYNC

Kitchensyncgreenville.com