



Skiing the Nubes Chutes - Cerro Cathedral, Bariloche

Welcome to the new DoubleBlackDiamond newsletter. The first snows have already hit Colorado and Lake Tahoe and the old Jackson Hole tram is being demolished to make way for a new one. The magazines packed with gear guides and top 10 lists have hit the newsstands and your mailbox, so it's only natural that your thoughts have turned to skiing.

DoubleBlackDiamond.net is committed to sharing the deals and inside information that for years has been available to a select few who were in the know. Yes, you can afford to pay more - but why would you want to? We love you feedback, so let us know what you're interested in reading about in the future at [requests at doubleblackdiamond dot net](http://doubleblackdiamond.net).

Skis, Boards, Boots, Gear and Clothing Deals.

Use this code at checkout 1V9-1-VDN1M to receive a minimum of 50% off everything at [Backcountry's Outlet Store](#)

Colorado Deals

Aspen has it's renewable [Classic Pass](#) and the opportunity to ski unrestricted at any of Aspen's 4 mountains for \$37 a day might be worth an extra early season trip to Colorado.

Crested Butte has two interesting programs available - The CB card and the X card. If you're going there this season, [check out the savings](#). If you think that's good, hold on, their third offering has got to be the best ever - just go there and [ski for free from 11/25 through 12/15, no advance purchase or preparation is necessary](#). If you plan to go to the early season trip in Winter Park check the weather, it may be worth the drive south for an extra few days. A note for parents, aunts and uncles - kids under 6 always ski free at CB.

Steamboat has a [\\$99 college pass for students](#) and as mentioned in previous DBD emails it's now part of Intrawest.

Intrawest's competition in the Colorado market keeps prices low along the I-70 corridor. The [Rocky Mountain Passes](#) covering Copper, Winter Park and Steamboat offer an alternative to Vail Resorts and also 50% discounts on lifts at all the [other Intrawest properties](#). This option almost pays for itself in savings during the December early season trip in Winter Park and also provides a change in scenery during the summit or a worthy pre or post trip.

Loveland has [\\$99 4packs](#) and frequent user cards available online, but you must purchase them in advance.

The Colorado Gems Card is a [free pass that gives lift and lodging discounts](#) at Arapahoe Basin, Eldora, Loveland, Monarch Mountain, Powderhorn, Ski Cooper, Sol Vista and Sunlight.

It's worth signing up for the Arapahoe Basin and Loveland discounts alone and if you decide to venture further off the beaten path, just consider it a bonus.

This is old news for regular subscribers to DoubleBlackDiamond, where these next two offerings were previously covered in depth, but worth repeating. If you haven't already considered purchasing one of the [Colorado Passes](#) from [Vail Resorts](#) which cover Breckenridge, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, Vail and Beaver Creek with benefits at Heavenly it is a reason to go check out these areas in person when they open in November. Your first purchase of this pass must be made in person, so don't hesitate if business will take you to Denver or you are interested in an extra early season opening weekend. Unlimited skiing at Breckenridge, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, 50% off tickets at Heavenly plus 10 days at Vail/Beaver Creek (these days more than justify the pass price), would mean you are covered for any days during the NBS summit, the WR and an extra spring week at Vail or a great stretch of long powder weekends. Scheduled opening days for these areas so far are Breckenridge & Keystone- November 9; Vail & Heavenly- November 16; Beaver Creek- Nov. 21.

Utah Deals

... Are hard to come by. [Snowbird one of my favorite places](#), has a really good [pre-purchase ticket plan](#). A very flexible option, this one allows you to apply unused tickets to the following season if you are unable to use them all.

[Solitude](#) also has a [pre season ticket pack](#) offering for as low as \$36 per day.

Lake Tahoe Deals

At Kirkwood, save \$100 on a full unrestricted adult season pass (regularly \$499, now \$399 through this deal). [Send me an email](#) to get the userid and password to the Kirkwood website and the hookup code for this deal. Benefits of the pass include: 20% off midweek, non-holiday lodging. 10% off Kirkwood Logo wear. Use the pass up to 10X at Durango Mountain, Colorado. Purchase two \$45 midweek lift tickets per day for friends or family, valid Mon-Fri, non-holiday. If you spend a week in Kirkwood with friends, this pass pays for itself in savings in 1 week.

Eastern Deals

[Loon](#), [Sunday River](#) and [Sugarloaf](#) have announced the [Maine Pass](#) and the [New England Pass](#). With side benefits at other Boyne properties (Big Sky in Montana, Brighton in Utah, Crystal Mountain and Summit at Snoqualmie in Washington, Boyne Mountain and Boyne Highlands in Michigan, and Cypress Mountain in British Columbia) it may be worth a look if these areas are on your hit list.

Everywhere Deals

[Descente](#) is now offering a passport with the purchase of some of their ski jackets. The passport includes [a free subscription to ski magazine and also a free lift tickets](#) to 37 resorts.

Children's Deals

Many states offer ski and ride "passports" for children. [This site](#) lists most states that offer it.

NY offers one for [4th graders](#). You can also find one for [Michigan's 4th graders](#).

The [Colorado 5th Grade Passport](#). It gives 5th graders 3 days of skiing or riding at each of their member resorts for a grand total of 75 free days. Not to be left out, they also offer a [6th grade graduate pass](#) for \$59.

What's online?

SkiPress has their [2008 buyers guide online](#), so when you want to compare items but your copies of Powder, Freeskier, Skiing and Ski are still at home in the throne room... you can get the info you want at your desk. I really enjoyed their extensive coverage of women's gear this year. Double click on a page to see the full sized version.

I really enjoy those sites that consolidate everything for me and put all the things I want to see in one place. If you want to check out (almost) everything that the ski and snowboard manufacturers are offering for the new season, take a look at [SkiPass](#). They've got [2008 skis](#) - and [boards](#) . If you "no parlez vous francais", it's not a problem because you're only there for the pretty pictures. If you've got to get in the intellectual angle [Google translate](#) is the way to go.

I've got to give props to [Sean Cottman](#), who recently achieved his goal of reaching the summit of Kilimanjaro. It's a testament to his will and the numerous well wishes from friends and family that he made it. Follow his adventures in East Africa experiencing the culture and giving back to the community at [his blog](#) but do yourself a favor and do not click on the medical pictures unless you are a professional. Yes he has a warning page up, and yes I was curious. Curiosity killed the cat and certainly killed my appetite. Well, I take that back because if you are on a diet and can't beat the munchies then it is the perfect thing to shore up your willpower

Check out [Soulboarders](#) on myspace. The hottest riders on one plank. Almost makes me want to try a snowboard. Almost. This crew is not for the weak, they roll out after they have closed down the party and don't come back in until happy hour.

News and Headlines

- A new [Utah ski resort](#) in in the planning stages. Oquirrhs? I can't pronounce it. It can only increase property values for those folks who had the foresight to invest in Utah real estate.
- [Mos Def and Talib Kweli](#) perform in San Francisco Nov 3 during the ICER AIR, an x games style ski and snowboard exhibition.
- The Farmer's Almanac [predicts a cold and snowy winter](#) for New England. At this point, any snow forecast makes me happy, even if it's bull\$hit.
- Vail Resorts is suing to [purchase the Canyons](#). Vail Resorts ruthless price competition would really soften up Utah lift ticket prices and maybe even put some bathrooms and lodges out by [The Colony](#) development. Hello! The first time I was there, I skied up to one of those houses thinking it was a base lodge.
- [Winter Park](#) plans many improvements this season, I just hope it's all open when I arrive in December.

Up Next

In the next installment, you can look forward to insider resort intelligence for Winter Park, Breckenridge and Lake Tahoe and a report on summer ski adventures in South America. Let me know what you're interested in hearing about. [Subscribe, and send feedback at DoubleBlackDiamond.net](#). If you would like to stop receiving the deals newsletter from DoubleBlackDiamond you can always [unsubscribe](#).

Much Love,

Tracy