Denver to Vail Transportation Ready as Vail Opens Ahead of Thanksgiving Travel Rush

Mountain Star Transportation is taking reservations for Denver to Vail car service as Vail Mountain opens for winter and Denver International Airport braces for a busy Thanksgiving week.



Denver, Colorado Nov 20, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - With Vail Mountain now open for the 2026/27 winter season and the Thanksgiving travel period beginning tomorrow, Mountain Star Transportation is reminding ski travelers that Denver to Vail transportation can be reserved in advance for a private ride from Denver International Airport to the resort.

Vail Mountain began daily winter operations on Friday, Nov. 13, opening intermediate terrain on Ramshorn via Gondola One and the Mountaintop Express, according to Vail Resorts. Snowmaking is continuing, and more terrain is expected to open as conditions allow. For many guests flying into Colorado this holiday week, the trip from Denver to Vail is the first leg of the vacation — and it comes at one of the busiest times of the year at DEN.

Denver International Airport said on Nov. 17 that the TSA forecasts more than 776,000 passengers will move through DEN's security checkpoints from Friday, Nov. 20, through Monday, Nov. 30, a 1.3 percent increase from the same period last year. The airport expects its busiest days to be Friday, Nov. 20, with more than 80,000 passengers, and Sunday, Nov. 29, with more than 87,000. Those dates bookend a week when many destination skiers look for Denver airport to Vail transportation, then fly home after the holiday.

Road conditions may add to the usual holiday traffic. The National Weather Service in Denver/Boulder said Thursday morning that a storm arriving Friday will bring chances for mountain snow through Saturday, with light snow later focused along and south of the I-70 corridor. 9NEWS reported the system could bring several inches of snow to the mountains. CDOT also plans overnight closures of westbound I-70 at U.S. 6 (Exit 244) from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Nov. 22–23 and Nov. 23–24 for Floyd Hill bridge work, and said there will be no scheduled I-70 impacts from 6 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, through 6 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30. Travelers should check COtrip.org for live conditions, including winter driving conditions on I-70.

"The combination of a newly opened Vail, a busy airport, and early-season mountain weather is exactly when we want people to plan ahead," said a Mountain Star Transportation spokesperson. "Our drivers run this corridor every day, including in snow. If you book in advance, a driver will meet you at DEN, track your flight if it is delayed, and take you straight to your lodging."

Mountain Star Transportation LLC has provided private car service from the Denver airport to Colorado ski resorts since 2011. The company operates 24 hours a day and is licensed by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission as LL-01989. Typical travel time from DIA to Vail is about two hours in good conditions, though holiday traffic and winter weather can add time. Travelers can reserve Denver to Vail car service in a private vehicle rather than a shared shuttle. The current SUV and van fleet is led by a black current-generation Chevrolet Suburban Z71, with high-roof Mercedes-Benz Sprinter and Ford Transit passenger vans for families and groups, and occasional use of a GMC Yukon XL or Cadillac Escalade ESV. Winter trips run with snow tires, and ski storage is available. A complimentary meet-and-greet at the airport is part of the service.

The same vehicles are available for the trip home. Travelers can reserve Vail to Denver transportation for a return to DEN. One-way rates are posted at mountaincars.com and may vary during the holiday period or inclement weather.

Skiers splitting time in the Vail Valley can also book transportation to Beaver Creek, scheduled to open Wednesday, Nov. 25. Keystone opened Oct. 30, Breckenridge on Nov. 11 and Winter Park on Nov. 13. Steamboat Springs is scheduled to open Saturday, Nov. 21, and Aspen Mountain and Snowmass on Thursday, Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day.

Reservations can be made at mountaincars.com, by calling or texting 720-234-2643, or by emailing dispatch@mountaincars.com. The company is based at 4380 S. Monaco St., Denver, CO 80237.

About Mountain Star Transportation
Mountain Star Transportation LLC is a Denver-based private car service offering 24/7 airport transfers between Denver International Airport and Colorado's major ski resorts, including Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Aspen, Snowmass, Steamboat Springs and Winter Park.





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