



Private Lifts: Element 52 & Bear Creek Lodge, Telluride

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Skip a shuttle ride to the base of Telluride Trail ski run with this six-person funicular.

[Element 52 and Bear Creek Lodge, Telluride, Colo.](#)

Owned and operated by two separate companies, these properties share one thing in common: They both have private funiculars that speed guests to the slopes.

Funiculars work like mini-railroads, except they use cables to pull cars up and down an angled track. At Bear Creek Lodge, guests

board the funicular from the property's driveway: Like an elevator, you just press the button to call the car. Eight people fit inside for the five-minute trip to [Telluride's](#) Lower Village Bypass ski run. There, you step into your bindings and cruise down to Lift 1 (to access the ski school meeting area) or Lift 10 (to intermediate terrain).

At Element 52, owners and guests of the Auberge Residences have exclusive access to a funicular that drops them off at the Telluride Trail ski run. The six-person cabins climb 90 vertical feet and eliminate the need to start the day with a car or shuttle ride. Instead, guests take Telluride Trail to Lift 7 or the gondola.

Neither one of these private lifts helps circumvent crowds or offers a backdoor to untracked powder.

Riders at Element 52 and Bear Creek Lodge still need to line up with everyone else—but the novel transport reduces the schlep factor, and brings first-class convenience to the process of getting out the door.