



Swiss Ski Club of New York

FAQ for July 4th Bus Trip

Q: What should I bring up with me?

- **Bed linens** (sheets, pillow cases) or some prefer to bring a sleeping bag on top of the bed
- **Towels, soap and shampoo**
- **Wet slippers/flip flops** – for shower
- We recommend ear plugs if you are a light sleeper – there is always a chance of a friendly snorer may be in your room. We also suggest an eye mask if you are easily woken.
- **Blank check** or cash to cover drinks and lift tickets
- **Government-issued Photo ID**
- **Gear for activities** such as bike helmet and bike shorts for biking, tennis racket, hiking boots
- Sun screen, bathing suit, hat

Q: What time should we meet the bus for this Summer July 4th holiday trip?

A: Leaving New York, we ask for you to show up on Thursday, July 2nd, at 3:30. We leave at 4:00 PM sharp, no exceptions. In New Jersey, arrive at 4:15, we leave approximately at **4:45 PM** (depending on traffic we might be earlier). If you do not make it in time, you will forfeit your space and weekend. It is extremely unfair to the rest of the group if you are late or do not allow sufficient travel time to make the location for pickup.

Q: Where should we meet for the bus?

New York City – Corner of 33rd and Eight Avenue – right in front of Duane Reade. However, the bus normally parks mid way down the block – look for the people gathering in the space in front of Duane Reade. (The bus may need to park on Eight Avenue, between 33rd and 34th Streets.)

New Jersey – Ramsey Route 17 South Train Station (Park & Ride). It is a brand new facility and right off of the Route 17 east bound side (**Spring Street – follow the NJT signs**). Parking is inexpensive on the weekends and will be picking up on the ground floor.

Q: Could you tell me more about the transportation?

A: All transportation for the weekend is operated by Regency Transportation, a modern luxury coach which accommodates 54 passengers and includes a restroom. Each seat is equipped with a power outlet. The bus has no Wi-Fi, and cell connections on the trip up are not always reliable. So download your favorite movie before the trip.



New Jersey – Ramsey Route 17 Pick Up Directions

Q: How do I reach the trip leader?

- Two to three days before the trip, you will receive an email with the contact information of the trip leader.

Q: What is included for the base price of the bus trip?

- Bus transportation to/from the NYC-NJ area
- Bus transportation to/from the house for organized club activities
- Lodging at the SSC house Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night
- Sandwich, fruit, water and wine on bus ride up
- Breakfast for Fri, Sat, and Sun
- Dinner with wine on Fri and Sat night
- Sandwiches on Sun for the bus ride back

Q: What is NOT included for the base price of the bus trip?

- Drinks at the house (\$1 for Soda/Water, \$3 for beer/wine/drinks)
- Lunch
- Individual activities, such as tennis, bike rentals, kayaks, canoe rentals
- Transportation to Tennis camp – approximately \$10 per person per way by taxi; there may be times we can coordinate pickup/drop off with the entire group depending on the schedule

Q: When can I cancel my reservation?

A: The two-week advance reservation deadline is also the cancellation deadline. No refunds will be given for any cancellations received after the deadline unless a replacement can be provided. There will be no refunds for no-shows.

Q: Can we pay by credit card for the items NOT included on the trip?

A: We can only accept cash or checks. It is recommended that you bring at least one blank check on the trip.

Q: What if I have special dietary requests?

A: We do our best to accommodate special requests given sufficient advance notice, but cannot offer any guarantees. If you have significant dietary restrictions please contact the reservationist or hut master. However, you may request a vegetarian sandwich for the bus ride to Vermont.

Q: Am I expected to assist in the house?

A: We try to run the house as a “communal environment”. Each member/friend will be asked to volunteer for a chore for the weekend. The chores are generally not burdensome and should not consume a significant amount of time during the weekend and help keep costs low. Chores allow everyone to participate in the house and work as a group to ensure a friendlier atmosphere and to feel part of a group or club. Examples of chores might be being DJ or bartender, assisting in setting up the tables, being part of the dinner team, etc. These tasks are assigned on the bus on Thursday night by the hut master.

Q: What is the house like?

A: It is a custom built Swiss Chalet with ten bedrooms, which are dorm style, plus one room reserved for the bus driver. In each of the rooms, there are four bunk beds, only one of which in each room requires the use of a ladder to access. Rooms also have a basic clothing cabinet, a standard sink and mirror. Sleeping areas are divided among two floors: women’s floor (top), men’s floor (bottom).

There is a common dining area which holds 42 people. A bar, lounge area, wood burning fire place, professional kitchen and prep area, sauna which can hold about eight people, a billiard/foosball room as well as a ski tune up area for those gifted in the art of sharpening and waxing! We also have a sizable deck, grill, as well as a large backyard – which is great in the summer time!

Unfortunately we do not have a washer/dryer, TV or hot tub.



Q: How many bathrooms are there?

There is a large bathroom on each floor with three stalls each. In addition, there is a sink in each of the bedrooms.

Q: How many showers are there?

There are seven – three for women, three for men. These are located in the respective floors and are dorm style. There is one additional shower in the sauna area.

Q: Do you have a computer, internet or WiFi access?

A: Yes, but as a social club we hope you will disconnect from the world and come to the lounge area, have a drink, chat about the day, or dance the night away!

Q: Is smoking permitted?

A: Only on the deck area or outside. No smoking is permitted in any part of the house.

Q: May I bring my own beer/wine/alcohol?

A: Yes, but please mark your name on it as otherwise it may be assumed to be part of the existing SSC stock.

Q: Are there any age restrictions? / Can I bring my son/daughter who is 18?

A: Sorry, we do NOT permit anyone under the age of 21 on the bus weekends. We do set aside family weekend/weeks at the house. Please check our calendar for more information and dates.

Q: Are there any ATMs?

A: While there are some limited banks in the town of Waitsfield, on bus trips we do not make individual stops to shops, stores, etc. There are ATMs at the Sugarbush Mountain; however, there are some limits on withdrawals and hefty service fees.



Women's Bed Room 1



Q: How long does it take to get up / back to Sugarbush?

A: The trip takes about 6 to 7 hours (one break and pick up / drop off at New Jersey). This is why we ask for **everyone** to be on time and not make anyone wait, so we can depart promptly from NY and NJ on Thursday and depart promptly from Sugarbush on Sunday.

Q: What does the typical schedule look like?

A: <http://www.swisskiclub.org/TypicalWeekend>

The Swiss Ski House

Q: What activities are available?

A: Summer in Vermont is full of fun! You can bike, kayak, canoe, take a 2-hour tubing trek down the river, hike, play tennis and volleyball, or simply enjoy the fabulous mountain views and amazing Vermont scenery. Depending on interest and weather, we may take trips to Burlington, Montpelier, Lake Champlain or Ben & Jerry's ice-cream factory. Not to be missed is the Warren July 4th parade!

Q: Which leisure activities are organized?

A: Depending on the level of interest and temperatures, we will organize group hiking, biking, water, sightseeing and other fun group activities. A designated group activity leader determines the departure and return times and coordinates bus drop off and pickup for the group activity. Indicate your interests in the various activities when you sign up by emailing the reservationist bustrip6@SwissSkiClub.org.

Q: Can I bring my own bike or can I rent one?

A: You can bring a bike on the bus if you take it apart and you pack it up well. Let the reservationist know if you plan on bringing a bike. Note that the club and the bus company are not responsible for any damage. For bike rentals several options are available. You can rent bikes for approximately \$25 per day. Tandems are also available. If you are interested in renting a bike, consider **reserving in advance** at Infinite Sports (802-496-3343, email seth@infinitesportsvt.com) or Clearwater sports (info@clearwatersports.com, 802-496-2708).

Q: What are the biking paths like?

A: There are wonderful scenic roads for bike riding. For those looking for a very challenging terrain experience, numerous Sugarbush mountain biking trails are available. New to mountain biking? Sugarbush offers beginner packages that include lessons and rentals; check out their web site. If you want to organize your own bike trip, check out the following web site: <http://www.madrivervalley.com/activities/road-and-mountain-biking>

Q: Where can I play tennis?

A: Tennis Camp lessons and instruction are available at the Claybrook Resort in Sugarbush and organized by New England Tennis Holidays (www.netennisholidays.com). It was recently voted the #1 camp in the northeast and #4 in the world by the consumer-driven site www.tennisresortsonline.com. The Sugarbush camp runs 9-12 and 1-3 daily and includes lunch. The maximum ratio of students to pros is 4:1. There are 4 outdoor clay courts and 3 indoor hard courts. Each day is a mix of instruction (a stroke of the day that is video-taped) drills, strategy and some play to put into practice what you have learned. Cost-wise, a 2-day "tennis only" program (including lunch) runs \$345 per person and the deposit is \$150 (which is refundable less \$15 up to 14 days prior to the camp date). Individual days or 3-day camp is also available. Contact: Clare Grabher, NETH (800) 869 0949. **Early reservation is recommended!**

Q: What are the hiking options?

A: The lodge is located in the heart of the Green Mountains and the Mad River Valley. To give you a glimpse of the many amazing hiking options in the near vicinity, check out the following link <http://www.madrivervalley.com/activities/hiking-walking-and-trekking>.

Q: Are there any water activities?

A: You can cool off in the crystal clear waters of nearby Warren Falls (one of the premier water holes in VT and as far as water fun is concerned rated 10 out of 10 by New England Waterfalls) or enjoy the clean and warm water of amazingly scenic Blueberry Lake. What about a leisurely float down the river with a tube? Clearwater Sports in Waitsfield provides tube/kayak/canoe/paddleboard rentals or we might join one of their organized guided tours that include rental, lunch and transportation to the lake or nearby rivers.

Q: What about activities at the lodge?

A: You can simply lounge on the deck of the beautiful Swiss Ski Club lodge and enjoy the mountain vistas or engage in a volleyball or Frisbee game on the gorgeous lawn. While it's usually a 30-minute walk into the adorable town of Waitsfield, as of the summer of 2015 the wooden covered bridge is temporarily closed for repairs. Instead, you can take a cab into town to check out some of the unique stores and enjoy lunch at one of the highly rated restaurants.