



# 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 for on top of the bed
- **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 in your room. We also suggest an eye mask if you are easily woken up.
- **Blank check** or cash to pay for drinks in the lodge
- **Government-issued Photo ID** – for bike rentals etc
- Gear for activities such as bike helmet and bike shorts for biking, tennis racket, hiking boots
- Sun screen, bathing suit, sun hat, sunglasses

### Q: What time should we meet the bus for this Summer July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday trip?

A: **Leaving New York, we ask for you to show up on at 3:00. We leave at 3:30 PM sharp, no exceptions.** In **New Jersey**, arrive at 4:00, we leave approximately at **4:15 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 a long ride to the lodge so please do not be late. Allow sufficient travel time to make it to the pickup location, as traffic is unpredictable especially on holiday weekends.

### Q: Where should we meet for the bus?

**New York City** – Corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Streets.)

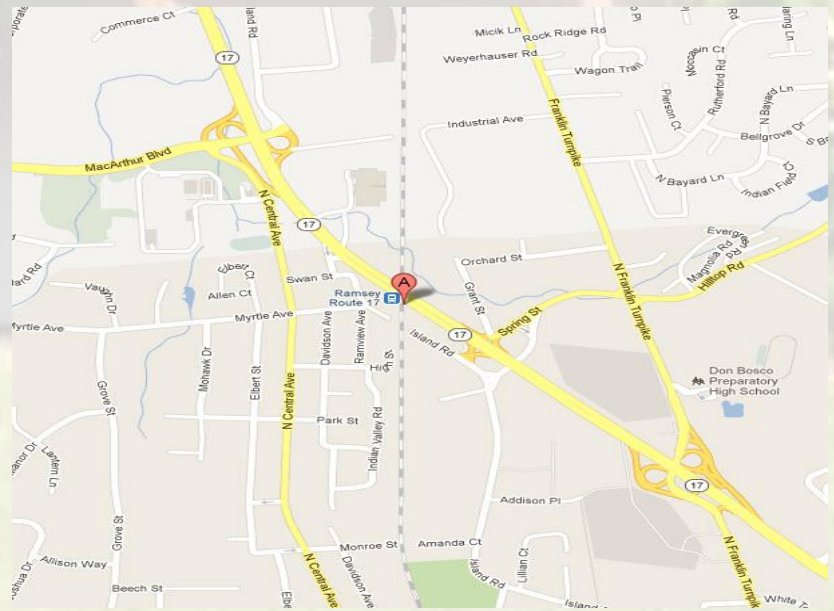
**New Jersey** – Ramsey Route 17 South Train Station (Park & Ride). It is a brand new facility and right off of the Route 17 east bound side (**Spring Street – follow the NJT signs**). Parking is inexpensive on the weekends and will be picking up on the ground floor.

### Q: Could you tell me more about the transportation?

A: All transportation for the weekend is operated by a modern luxury coach which accommodates 54 passengers and includes a restroom. Each seat is equipped with a power outlet. The bus has free Wi-Fi but it is not always reliable in certain parts of Vermont.

### Q: How do I reach the trip leader?

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



New Jersey – Ramsey Route 17 Pick Up Directions

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
- 3 nights lodging at the SSC house
- Sandwich, fruit, water and wine on bus ride up
- 3 breakfasts
- 2 dinners with wine
- Sandwiches 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, bring some snacks for hiking
- Individual activities, such as tennis, bike rentals, kayaks, canoes

**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. 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 ride to the lodge 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!

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?**

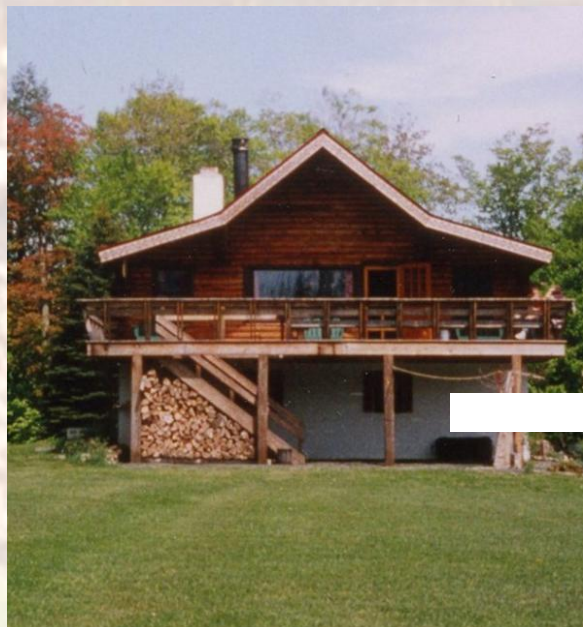
A: Sorry, we do NOT permit anyone under the age of 21 on the bus weekends. We do set aside family weekend/weeks at the house. Please check our calendar for more information and dates.

**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 and depart promptly from the lodge in Waitsfield for the return trip.

**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, 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 4<sup>th</sup> parade – a total MUST! You can sign up for cooking classes at The Store or rent a tube for a 2-hour tubing trek down the river or go mushroom hunting.

**Q: Which leisure activities are organized?**

A: Depending on the level of interest and temperatures, we will organize group hiking, water, sightseeing and other fun activities. A designated group activity leader determines the departure and return times and coordinates bus drop off and pickup. As we get closer to the departure date, we may further refine the group activity schedule based on weather forecast.

**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 at 802-496-3343 or email [seth@infinitesportsvt.com](mailto:seth@infinitesportsvt.com).

**Q: What are the biking paths like?**

A: There are wonderful scenic paths and roads for enjoyable and leisurely bike riding. For those looking for a very challenging terrain experience, numerous mountain biking trails are available. New to mountain biking? Sugarbush offers beginner packages that include lessons and rentals. Express your biking interest and level when you sign up for the trip, so we can organize the appropriate biking activities.

**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](http://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](http://www.tennisresortsonline.com). The Sugarbush camp runs 9-12 and 1-3 daily and includes lunch. You need to arrange your own transportation to and from tennis camp (cab about \$25 one-way). 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. We'll organize fun group hikes for different levels. 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. Or take a 30 minute walk into the adorable town of Waitsfield to check out some of the unique stores and enjoy lunch at one of the highly rated restaurants. Or if you want to organize your own activities, you can call a cab C&L Taxi in Warren Phone: (802) 496-4056. Typically around \$20-\$25 per cab to Sugarbush and surrounding area. If you want to rent a car, call in advance at Hap's Service Station 6449 Main Street, Route 100 Phone: (802) 496-3948.