

Kansas City Ski Club - Bus Trip FAQ

Why does the Kansas City Ski Club (KCSC) take so many bus trips?

We use buses (also called motor coaches) because of our location relative to the ski resorts of Colorado. Kansas City is an overnight drive from many great ski areas in Colorado. That means we don't burn a vacation day for traveling to/from the ski area and each day out of town can be a day on the slopes!

Another reason is to keep the cost of trips affordable. Pooling the resources of many members to charter a motor coach means the cost per person is much lower than the cost to drive or fly by oneself.

Who sets up these trips?

The KCSC Trip Director, along with the Trip Management Committee, negotiates with ski resorts, lodging properties, and the motor coach vendor to put together a trip schedule. The result is a varied schedule with several different destinations each season. There are bus trips to many popular areas in Colorado such as Vail, Breckenridge, Steamboat Springs, Winter Park, Copper Mountain, and Aspen. (We also try to schedule one Fly Trip each season.)

Where and when do I meet the bus?

The location may change from year-to-year. Your trip leader, called a Trip Captain, will send you information about where and when to board the bus, usually about 6pm. The boarding time is determined by the distance to the destination: trips to more distant ski areas depart earlier. Typically, there will be 30 minutes between loading and departure times.

What if I don't know anybody else on the trip?

The bus is a great way to get to know other people in the Club. Introduce yourself as you go down the aisle. Ask others what kind of skiing or snowboarding they prefer to do. You may find someone who will be a perfect slope companion. Countless long-standing friendships have been started on the ski bus!

Do I need to bring anything to eat or drink?

Meals, snacks, and beverages (beer, soda, and water) are provided, both outbound and homebound. If you have any special dietary restrictions, contact the Trip Captain. If the Trip Captain cannot accommodate your dietary needs, you can bring your own food or drink items.

What should I bring on the bus?

All of your carry-on personal items should fit in a small bag or school-size backpack.

Bring any personal toiletry or medication items that you will need for the night and following morning. Bring Dramamine or equivalent if you are prone to motion sickness.

We recommend gum and/or mints for freshening your breath. Chewing gum helps to pop ears when going up and down mountains.

Don't forget personal items such as magazines, book, cards, etc. An insulated can holder (coozie) is a good idea. Of course, bring your cell phone, wallet with ID, health insurance card, credit cards, cash, etc.

Please do not carry-on items you will not need while on the bus, our shared overhead storage space is very limited.

Wear casual clothing that is comfortable for sleeping. Most people wear a t-shirt and sweatpants, and a sweatshirt (if the temperature fluctuates). Eye masks, and earplugs are great too.

Bring a small blanket, not a large sleeping bag, as overhead space is limited. Bring a small pillow, such as a neck pillow, or you may bring a pillowcase and stuff a jacket into it as a pillow.

It will be cold in the mountains upon arrival. Bring your ski jacket aboard with you.

What's proper bus etiquette?

Gentlemen, when you are using the restroom on the bus, please be seated. The bus may swerve or brake unexpectedly and deflect your otherwise-perfect aim.

Respect others' need for quiet time after 10pm.

Are there any banned items?

Wine, popcorn, and sunflower seeds may not be consumed on the bus. Smoking is prohibited on the bus, but there may be one or more smoke breaks.

How is the bus laid out?

There are two seats next to each other, which are staggered on both the left and right side of the aisle. All seats fully recline so that one can sleep more easily.

At the rear of the bus is a restroom on the curbside. Coolers containing beer, soda, and water are on the driver's side at the rear. Snacks such as pretzels, chips, and cookies are generally stored in the overhead bin above the coolers.

What is the schedule for a typical bus trip outbound?

Trip participants arrive at the bus loading point 30-40 minutes before departure. Departure is typically between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. Participants bring their baggage and equipment to store under the bus, and put their carry-on items in the bus. Then they hang out on the bus or in the lot, renewing friendships and making new friends. Before departure, the Trip Captain will call roll to ensure everyone registered for the trip is present. Participants who have parked cars in the departure lot will be asked to sign a waiver.

Most Trip Captains assign seats on the bus. Usually they will provide tentative bus seat assignments at the pre-trip party. The Trip Captain will ask for your bus seating preferences in one of the trip emails. Please make them aware if you have any motion sickness or other concerns they should consider in making seat assignments.

A meal will be distributed. This may be anything from a sandwich and chips to pasta and salad. Beverages are available in the cooler. The Trip Captain will probably have some announcements.

The Trip Captain will hand out packets of information. If you have pre-paid for lift tickets through the trip, your lift ticket will be included. There will also be an agenda of trip activities such as time and location to meet other trip participants for parties, optional on-mountain lunches, and so on.

There will be a chance to choose what kind of pizza you prefer for the return trip.

From 7-10pm or so, participants socialize, snack, drink beer or soda, play cards or games, read, or listen to music. Most buses are Wi-Fi enabled; so a few people go online.

There is a rest stop to change drivers in western Kansas. This is an opportunity to use a real restroom with running water, brush your teeth, and stretch your legs. The Trip Captain will tell you how long you have at the rest stop; please don't make everyone wait for you!

After the rest stop, many people will get ready to sleep. However, there could be a quiet poker game that goes on a little later.

While the bus passengers are sleeping, there will be a stop to refuel in eastern Colorado. Please do not exit the bus during this stop.

The bus generally arrives at the resort destination about 7am, give or take an hour. The bus may stop at a fast-food restaurant so that everyone can have a quick breakfast.

The bus will deliver the participants to the lodging property. Some properties have concierge staff to help unload the bus, but not all. You may be expected to carry your own baggage and equipment from the bus into the property.

On rare occasions, rooms or condos may be ready for check-in upon arrival. More commonly, there will be "change rooms" to be used until customary check-in time. Participants can change into ski clothing in a change room or locker room and leave their baggage under the care of the property staff while on the slopes for the first day.

What is the schedule for a typical bus trip homebound?

Trip participants will be informed the night before departure as to when they must be checked out of their units. Some participants may be in change rooms and not need to checkout in the morning. Those not in change rooms will need to be packed and out by the lodging's checkout time, usually about 10am or 11am. Depending on the property, bell staff may be available to move baggage to the change room, but you may be required to move your own baggage.

Some participants elect to use the last day to explore the town, go shopping, and enjoy a leisurely lunch. Others gear-up to make the most of their trip by spending the last day on the slopes. Those who hit the slopes on the last day generally come down by 2pm so that they will have time to shower and change clothes (in the change room) before time to load the bus.

The bus loading time will be in the trip agenda given to you by your Trip Captain. It is usually 3:30pm or so. Please don't be late! The Trip Captain will call roll on the bus before departure.

Activities on the bus on the homeward leg are similar to those outbound. By now many new friendships have been formed and experiences shared, so the conversations can be lively. Snacks and beverages are available.

There will be a stop after a couple of hours to pick-up a meal for everyone. The bus meal homeward bound is almost always pizza. (You had a chance to indicate your pizza preference on the outbound leg of the trip.)

After the pizza, there is time for comradeship, snacks, beverages, games, music, and so on.

There is a refueling / rest stop in eastern Colorado. You'll have an opportunity to brush teeth, wash hands, and stretch your legs.

After the rest stop, participants continue to socialize until they decide it's time to sleep.

In the morning, some participants start to awaken as the bus goes through the lights and curves of Topeka. Others are awakened by a Trip Captain announcement east of Lawrence. It's time to pack up your belongings.

Arrival is usually about 6am. It's slow exiting the bus if you are in the rear, so be patient. Start your car to defrost the windshield, load your equipment and baggage into the back, and say bye to your new friends, at least until the next trip!