

Kansas City Ski Club - Bus Trip FAQ's

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

The Kansas City Club takes buses (also called motor coaches) because of our location relative to the ski resorts of Colorado. Kansas City is just an overnight's drive from many great Colorado ski destinations which means we don't burn a vacation day for traveling to/from the ski area. Every day out of town can be a day on the slopes! Also, traveling by bus keeps the cost of trips affordable and is a comfortable way to travel and be fresh and ready to hit the slopes upon arrival. 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 individually.

Who sets up these trips?

The KCSC Trip Director, along with the Trip Management Committee, negotiates with ski resorts, lodging properties and a motor coach vendor to develop a schedule of trips to various destinations throughout the winter season. Included are 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.)

Each trip is assigned a trip leader, known as the "Trip Captain", who is a volunteer member of the Kansas City Ski Club. The Trip Captain organizes and is responsible for many aspects of the trip. The Trip Captain is the key contact for trip participants to keep them informed of trip activities and events.

Where and when do I meet the bus?

The location may change from year-to-year. The Trip Captain, will notify trip participants of the location and time to meet the bus. The bus typically loads at 5:30 and departs at 6:00 P.M. but the departure time is determined by the distance to the destination: trips to more distant ski areas depart earlier.

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

Going on a bus trip is a great way to get to know other people in the Club. Introduce yourself as you board the bus. 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 on both outbound and homebound trips. If you have any special dietary restrictions, please inform the Trip Captain. If the Trip Captain cannot accommodate your dietary needs, you can bring your own food or drink.

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

Gum and/or mints are recommended for freshening your breath. Chewing gum helps to pop the ears when traveling in the mountains.

Don't forget personal items such as magazines, book, cards, etc. An insulated can holder (koozie) 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 for a good night's sleep.

What to bring on the bus, continued:

Bring a small blanket, *not a large sleeping bag*. Overhead storage space is limited and will not accommodate sleeping bags or large luggage. Bring a small pillow, such as a neck pillow or travel pillow; or, bring a pillowcase to stuff with a jacket for use as a pillow.

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

What's proper bus etiquette?

Shared bunks:

- Do not occupy more space than your "share" of the bunk. If you require more than one-half of the bunk space to sleep comfortably, please purchase a private bunk instead.
- Switch top/bottom bunks with your bunkmates on the return trip, unless otherwise agreed by the booth members.

On-board storage:

- Overhead storage is limited; please limit carry-on items to one small bag to fit in no more than 1/4th of the overhead compartment above your booth.

Restroom Use:

- **Do not hoard the restroom.**
- 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.

Quiet time: Please respect others' need for quiet time after 10pm.

Are there any banned items on the bus?

Wine, popcorn, and sunflower seeds may not be consumed on the bus. Smoking or Vaping is prohibited on the bus, but one or more smoke breaks might be scheduled during the trip.

How is the bus laid out?

There are ten, 4-person booths on the bus with four seats per booth. Two seats are forward facing toward the front of the bus and two seats are backward facing toward the rear of the bus. Seating arrangement is determined by the Trip Captain. The seats are designed to collapse to into a shared, 2-person upper bunk and a shared, 2-person lower bunk. A limited number of shared bunks are available for single occupancy use at an additional fee to the standard trip price.

A restroom is located at the rear of the bus, curbside. Coolers containing beer, soda and water are at the rear of the bus opposite the restroom. Snacks such as pretzels, chips, and cookies are generally stored in the overhead bin above the coolers.

How Are Bus Seats Assigned?

The Trip Captain is responsible to assign seats on the bus. Usually they will provide tentative bus seat assignments at the pre-trip party. Before seats are assigned, 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.

What happens on a typical outbound bus trip?

Trip participants should arrive at the bus 30-40 minutes before departure. Departure is typically between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Participants should place their baggage and equipment next to the bus to be loaded into the lower storage compartments by the bus driver and then place their carry-on items in their assigned booth on the bus. Before the bus departs there is usually time to hang out on the bus or in the parking lot, renewing friendships and making new friends.

Outbound trip, continued:

At the time of departure the Trip Captain will call roll to ensure everyone is present and will ask participants who have parked their cars in the departure lot to sign a parking lot waiver. An evening meal will be distributed which may be anything from a sandwich and chips to pasta and a salad. Beverages are available in the cooler. During the meal the Trip Captain typically makes announcements and distributes trip literature, such as a daily agenda of activities, parties and optional on-mountain lunches; a list of equipment rental operators, dining, local interests and optional activities and the Trip Captain will distribute lift tickets to participants who purchased their lift tickets through the Kansas City Ski Club. During the outbound trip the Trip Captain will distribute a menu for the return trip's evening meal which typically is pizza.

After the evening meal, participants spend the evening socializing, snacking, drinking beer or soda, playing cards or games, reading, or listening to music. Most buses are Wi-Fi enabled and have power outlets distributed throughout the bus.

There will be a rest stop to change drivers in western Kansas. This is an opportunity to use the local facility restroom, brush your teeth, remove contacts, etc., and stretch your legs. The Trip Captain will announce how much time will be allocated at the rest stop; please don't make everyone wait for you!

Often, after leaving the rest stop, people get ready to get some sleep and the bunks go up; however, there could be a poker game or extended conversations that last into the night. (***Tip: eye mask and ear plugs come in handy at this time.***) Many in the group are experienced at setting up the bunks; don't be shy to ask for help. During the night when most people are asleep, there is 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 7a.m., plus or minus an hour; however, the bus might stop at a fast-food restaurant beforehand so everyone can grab a quick breakfast. Upon arrival, trip participants should remain in the bus until the Trip Captain distributes the room keys. According to lodging policy, one member from each condo might be asked to provide a credit card in the event additional room charges are applied; such as, long distance phone calls, room service, etc. Some, but not all properties, have bell staff to unload the bus, so trip participants might be expected to carry their luggage 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 the customary check-in time. Participants can change into ski clothing in a change room or spa locker room and leave their luggage under the care of the property staff while on the slopes for the first day. (***Tip: pack first day's ski wardrobe in the top of your luggage***)

What happens on a typical homebound bus trip?

Trip participants will be informed of the check-out time the night before departure. Usually, check-

out is by 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. Some rooms may be designated as “change rooms” and participants in those rooms need not check-out at the normal time. All other trip participants must check-out in the morning and leave their luggage in the change room before skiing, if they plan to ski that day. Some properties might have bell staff to move luggage to the change room(s); if not, participants are responsible for moving their luggage to the change room and later, to the bus.

Some participants elect to spend the last day to explore the local community, or ski village, to go shopping and enjoy a leisurely lunch. Others might choose to make the most of their trip by spending the last day on the slopes. For those who hit the slopes, it’s recommended to come off the slopes by 2 p.m. to allow time to shower and change clothes (in the change room) before meeting the bus.

(Tip: if the lodging has a spa or hot tub, grab a towel before heading to the change room; if not, pack a room towel on top of your luggage. Towels might be limited in the change rooms)

Homebound trip, continued:

Bus loading time is stated in the trip agenda, usually 3:30 p.m., and in the departure notice provided by the Trip Captain the day before. Please don’t be late! The Trip Captain will call roll on the bus before departure.

Activities on the homeward bound bus are similar to those on the outbound trip. Snacks, beverages and an evening meal are also provided on the return trip. By now, many new friendships have been formed and experiences shared, so the conversations can be lively.

After a couple of hours there will be a stop to pick-up the evening meal. This meal is almost always pizza. (You had a chance to indicate your pizza preference on the outbound leg of the trip.) After the evening meal, there is time for comradery, snacks, beverages, games, etc.

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

After the rest stop, participants continue to socialize until they decide it’s time to set up the bunks, which sometimes occurs earlier in the evening than on the outbound trip.

In the morning, some participants may start to awaken as the bus travels through the lights and curves of Topeka. Others are awakened by the Trip Captain’s “Good Morning” announcement which is made east of Lawrence. It’s time to pack up your belongings.

Arrival in Kansas City is planned for 6 a.m., providing there have not been delays. It can be a slow process to exit the bus, so participants toward the rear of the bus might experience some delay. Participants who do not have to get to work or do not have morning appointments are asked to remain in their booth to give others the opportunity to exit first. ***(Tip: immediately after getting off the bus, start your car and turn on the window defroster before grabbing your luggage)*** The driver will open the lower storage compartments to retrieve your luggage and equipment. Be careful to grab only your luggage and equipment and be sure to check the booth and overhead compartment inside the bus for personal items. Load your equipment and luggage and say bye to your new friends, at least until the next trip.

