

Hut Based Ski Touring Equipment List

Hut based ski touring provides the opportunity to travel light. We will spend each night in simple mountain huts or in small hotels. This allows us to leave all of our camping gear at home and to travel with packs that should weigh no more than 20 lbs. Having a lightweight pack is essential to allowing us to travel efficiently each day and to ski in sometimes challenging terrain/conditions while wearing a pack. Study this list carefully and please ask for evaluation of your current equipment if needed.

Although there are usually no laundry facilities in the huts, there are often opportunities to bathe at least once during the trip and there is usually a chance to rinse a few items in a sink if needed.

Items marked with a **(R)** are available to rent from NMS.

Ski Equipment

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- Alpine Touring (Randonnée) or Telemark Skis (R):** We find a mid-fat (85-95mm underfoot) ski to be the most enjoyable vehicle for this type of tour. If your ski is too fat it tends to be heavier and more difficult to use established skin tracks. i.e. K2 Wayback 95 or Dynafit Manaslu w/ Dynafit binding (i.e. TLT Radical FT 2.0) & brakes
 - Ski Boots:** Remember that about 90% of the time will be spend touring uphill. We prefer a 2 buckle boot that is stiff enough for the downhill but also very comfortable for the uphill - i.e. La Sportiva Spitfire
 - Ski Crampons:** Ski Crampons are required for this trip. This is generally not a problem for AT skiers, but telemark skiers often have difficulty finding a crampon that is compatible with their setup. One option is to rig a Dynafit binding plate to your ski and then use this to attach a Dynafit ski crampon to this. We can recommend a shop that knows how to do this.
 - Ski Skins (R):** i.e. Black Diamond Ascension Nylon STS Skins, these should cover the entire base of your ski with the exception of the metal edges. If there is too much base showing it will be much more difficult on the uphill track.
 - Ski Brakes (do not bring skis without breaks)**
 - Ski Poles (R):** i.e. Black Diamond Traverse or Compactor Ski Pole
 - Ski Strap:** Make sure this fits around your skis and poles i.e. Voile strap
 - Avalanche Beacon (457 MHz) (R):** Start with new batteries and bring a spare set. i.e. Black Diamond DSP Sport
 - Shovel (R):** This should be a metal shovel i.e. Black Diamond Evac 7
 - Avalanche Probe (R):** This should be a sturdy probe i.e. Black Diamond QuickDraw Probe Tour 320

Climbing Gear

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- Backpack:** 35 Liters with the ability to attach skis easily. i.e. Black Diamond Cirque 35. NMS also has the BD Saga 40 JetForce Avalanche Airbag Packs available to rent. An airbag is not required for this trip but it is an option.
 - Ice Axe (R):** Look for something short (i.e. 45-50 cm) and light. i.e. Petzl Glacier Litteride
 - Boot Crampons (R):** This is one of the few cases where a lightweight aluminum pair of crampons is the ticket. Be sure they are compatible with your ski boots. i.e. BD Neve Crampons
 - Climbing Harness (R):** Lightweight with belay loop. i.e. Petzl Altitude
 - Locking Carabiner (R):** Bring a single locking carabiner. i.e. Petzl Attaché
 - 2 Non-locking Carabiners (R):** i.e. Petzl Ange L

Upper Body Clothing

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- Lightweight T-shirt:** This is nice for the hut and can be made from cotton.
 - Synthetic Long Underwear Shirt:** Light colored lightweight top i.e. Patagonia Mid-weight Zip Neck
 - Insulating Layer:** i.e. Patagonia R1 Hoody or Nano Puff/Nano Air
 - Hard or Soft Shell Jacket:** For ski touring we generally use a soft-shell type jacket with a good hood. An example of an ideal soft shell jacket for ski touring is the Patagonia Levitation Hoody. You need something to protect you from wind and precipitation and as always go for lightweight. In some cases a hard shell (gore-tex) type jacket can be even



lighter weight but they are not as breathable and therefore not as nice to tour uphill in. i.e. Patagonia Refugitive or M10 Jacket

- Insulating Parka with hood:** This can be down or synthetic and should fit over all of your other layers. i.e. Patagonia Down Sweater Hoody

Lower Body Clothing

- Synthetic Underwear:** As with all layers these should be synthetic so they wick moisture.
- Synthetic Long Underwear bottoms:** i.e. Patagonia Capilene 2 or Midweight
- Synthetic Climbing Pant:** We wear the Patagonia Dual Point Pant. These are synthetic pants with a bit of wind resistance and have a built in gaiter/cuff that works well enough with ski boots to allow you to leave your gaiters at home. Although these are usually not cheap, they are the way to go for this type of tour. Get a pant with pockets.
- Shell pant w/ full side zips:** Lightweight w/ full side-zips. i.e. Patagonia Triolet Pant

Head, Hands, and Feet

- Warm Hat or Balaclava:** i.e. Patagonia Lightweight Ski Hat.
- Neck Gaiter or Buff:** This can be good for protecting your face in a cold wind. The Buff is a lightweight neck gaiter than has innumerable uses including doubling as an ear band. We do have NMS buffs available for purchase.
- Sun Hat:** i.e. Patagonia Bimini Cap or other baseball cap with bandana
- Dark Sun Glasses:** Make sure these have the darkest lense (Category 4) i.e. Julbo Bivouak or Dolgan, the Zebra or Spectron 4 lenses are best (non-polarizing).
- Ski Goggles**

- Mid weight glove:** i.e. Black Diamond Impulse or Terminator Glove
- Ski Gloves:** i.e. Black Diamond Guide or Rambla Glove
- Chemical Hand warmers:** optional but nice for people whose hands get cold easily

- Boot Liners:** While not required, we find that a Thermofit type liner is the way to go as it increases the comfort and lowers the weight of your ski boot. Additionally you may be able to find ski shops that will produce a custom made liner that can help with difficult to fit feet.
- Custom Foot Beds:** At the very least you probably want to replace the foot beds that come with your boot with something like Super Feet. A custom foot bed is going to increase the comfort of your boot even more.
- Socks (2-3 pairs):** These should be a mid weight wool or synthetic ski sock, no cotton.

Other Items

- Food:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner is provided in the hut. If you have favorite items such as GU bring it with you.
- Starbucks Via (O):** These are fully optional but if you are a coffee drinker you might be envious of the guide's stash if you don't have your own. While there is coffee in the huts it is usually not as strong those of us from the NW are accustomed to, unless you are on an Italian tour! 7 of the small pouches should be enough unless you are a true fiend.
- Water Bottle or Thermos:** A good combination is one ½ liter thermos & one 1-liter water bottle.
- Head Lamp (R):** Petzl Zipka w/ fresh set of batteries
- Pocket Knife (O)**
- Repair Kit:** Bring a small kit specific to your bindings. If you are on Tele gear with cable bindings bring an extra cable. We will provide basic repair kits.
- Blister kit:** This should be very small i.e. duct tape, Compeed pads (these are AMAZING for blister prevention/relief and worth their weight in gold, far superior to moleskin), & band-aids.
- Sunscreen:** 2 x 1 oz. tubes with high SPF factor (30 or higher)
- Lip Balm w/ sunscreen**
- Toiletries:** Very small tube of toothpaste, toothbrush. Keep this very light.
- Ear Plugs:** Very important for noisy huts.
- Sleeping Sacks:** This is required by the huts and is a thin silk sack i.e. Cocoon Silk Travel Sheet
- Small Camera:** Rigged to carry on the outside your pack. We would strongly advise against bringing a big SLR type camera.
- Batteries:** Always carry a spare set for your beacon. Also as needed for camera, headlamp, etc.



- Wheeled Duffel:** We like wheeled duffels as they make travel through train stations and airports much easier. We will also leave this at the hotel with extra clothing during the tour. (Patagonia Black Hole Wheeled Duffel 120L)
- Ski Bag:** Fill it to 50 lbs. for flight. The wheeled versions of great! (Patagonia Black Hole 190 Snow Roller)
- Street Clothes:** For start and end of the trip.
- Passport:** Also make a photocopy to carry on the tour.
- Money:** ATMs work well in town. You will need about 40-50 Swiss Francs per hut (for Swiss huts i.e. Haute Route, Berner) or 30-40 Euros for Italian/Austrian huts (i.e. Ortler, Silvretta, Otztal) if you plan to buy drinks, lunch, etc. as most huts do not take credit cards.
- Maps & Books (O):** See the pre-trip information for a list of maps & guide books specific to your tour.

