Steamboat Q&A

Some pretty typical questions to our Ski & Snowboard Trip.

Q: Hey, I just glanced over this Q&A thing and I’ve got way more questions than what’s covered here. Who can I actually speak with regarding this trip?
A: If you’re already registered, most of your questions can be answered at the pre-trip meeting in early November. If they’re good questions, they’ll benefit all the others at the meeting as well. If you need some questions answered prior to deciding if you are going to register or not (you HAVE to go, btw!), your best bet is to email Carson at ctort@gsu.edu or give him a call at 404-413-1773.

Q: When is the earliest one can sign up?
A: Registration is open between the first day of the fall semester (around August 20th) to the end of the first week of October. Special Early Bird Pricing is available, so don’t delay!

Q: How do I sign up?
A: As with all our trips, simply come into Touch the Earth, located on the back of the Student Recreation Center, between 10am & 6pm, Monday through Friday. Be prepared to provide emergency contact info, full legal name with middle name, DOB, personal contact info, and $200 for each registration. We take cash, check, PantherCash, and credit card. You may also put funds on your PantherCard using a credit card via the PantherCard online card office. http://www.gsu.edu/auxiliary/28975.html

Q: I can’t make it to Touch the Earth during those times. I live in New Hampshire (or I’m just really busy)!
A: We are very impressed you have chosen to attend our trip all the way from New Hampshire. It’s an amazing deal, we know! You can download the registration form from our website, fill it out, and mail it in with a check. Spots are not saved for “checks in the mail”. Check out the link at http://recreation.gsu.edu/tte/break-trips

Q: What price do I pay? I see three.
A: As with all our trips, the first price listed is for current GSU students, the second price is for GSU Recreation Members, and the third price is for guests, non-members with GSU, and/or non-affiliated persons. UGA Students, and in most cases a Board of Regents student are invited at the student rate. Non-GSU Students are invited at the student rate without the eligible early bird discount starting 9/14.

Q: How many people attend the trip?
A: Typically we accept between 50 & 65 persons on the trip.

Q: What should we do if we are beginner skiers and have never skied before? (are there any classes available?).
A: The ski school offers phenomenal $25 beginner ski lessons through our special student coupon book provided in your package. By the way, the coupon book has tons of other sweet offers (literally, one is for fresh made fudge!). Steamboat has the voted #1 ski school in the country. Typically about half of the participants on the trip are complete beginners or pretty green skiers. This mountain is fantastic for all levels of skier; It is the best mountain to take every variety of skier. The ski school also offers more advanced lessons that many participants have been known to take in the past.

Q: What level of skiers come on the trip?
A: Approximately two-thirds of the group could be classified as beginners. By the end of the trip at least half of those are well on their way to advanced! Otherwise, the remaining third of the group is considered intermediate or advanced with their own equipment. Wherever you classify yourself, you won’t be alone and there will be someone to push you.

Q: Is the terrain tough enough for me?
A: With chutes, steeps, moguls, phenomenal trees, terrain parks, and half-pipes you shouldn’t be even asking this question. If you’re bored, snow sports is not for you. You’ll be impressed, we promise, unless you do nothing but heli-ski. Steamboat doesn’t offer that.

Q: How do you split up the skiers?
A: We don’t. We do our best to provide a social atmosphere for a meet & greet of like skiers.

Q: I have another friend who is not currently in school but would love to come, how would that work?
A: You can bring family, friends, kids, someone you met on the street - Anyone! They just pay the guest price (3rd price listed). For each individual being registered, be prepared to provide emergency contact info, full legal name, DOB, personal contact info, and $200. One lump of cash, single check, or swiped transaction for all registrants is OK. They do not need to be present to register.
Q: Also, my best friend is attending UGA and I was wondering if that person could come as well?
A: Yes! We love friends from UGA, Tech, or any other school that doesn’t have Touch the Earth’s amazing break trips and we have worked hard to extend the offer!

Q: I have like a premium-platinum-priority membership with some of the airlines. Basically, they love me. Can I use my awesome zoom zoom points to fly on my airline and meet y’all out there?
A: Hey, we love you, too, and we want you to fly with us instead. Seriously, we can’t honor the great group rates if we end up parting out our packages. In the end, we’ve booked half the flights we originally committed to. Some special circumstances apply if you live in, say New Hampshire, and will be flying to Denver from there; we can give a flight credit reducing your trip cost (we call this “Land Only Package”).

Q: I can’t attend the meeting in November because I live in New Hampshire.
A: Ok. No problem. It’s not mandatory but we will just stick you in a condo if you don’t have any roommate preferences. Just contact us for the info prior to the trip.

Q: Is there a particular schedule for each day of the trip? (Or are there free days to explore?).
A: The trip leader gets you there, and then the trip is yours to do with as you please for the next 5 days. An optional group Italian dinner is provided usually on the 3rd night if you choose to come. The trip leader is available if you need assistance with an issue, but this is not a grade school field trip, and generally no tabs will be kept on your whereabouts. Most people ski for the standard 4 days and on their 5th day they’ll shop, go dogsledding, hot air ballooning, or go to the hot springs on the organized group outing. Some folks are hardcore and ski or snowboard all 5 days with an optional 5th day lift ticket at an extra charge.

Q: How does ski rental work? (Is that included in the cost or is it extra?).
A: Skis & Snowboards are extra unless you have your own. Some have found renting is cheaper than paying baggage fees to get your own out there (if applicable on said airline). You can rent several packages of skis or snowboards that are priced by the day. If you get the standard 4 day lift ticket, you would rent for four days. If you only wanted to ski 3 of those days, rent for 3 days. If you get an extra day lift ticket (all 5 days), well, then you’d rent for up to 5 days. See the registration form for clarification. The rentals are roughly half the cost of retail rental prices. They are pre-paid and we add them to your bill; you cannot rent through us when you get there. You are on your own.

Q: If I and my significant other sign up, would we be able to room together?
A: Yes, you can put down with whom you wish to room on the registration form. The condos hold up to 6 people. Special requests for 8 person units can sometimes be honored. You and your honeybun-sweetheart can either sleep in the pull-out couch, or share a bed in one of the bedrooms.

Q: What if I want a condo to myself?
A: The condos typically have 6 bed spaces in them for 6 people. If you were traveling by yourself and wanted a giant, huge, spacious, private condo ALL to yourself, you would have to purchase 5 extra bed spaces. You must then be considered a loser or a baller. Ideally, the Bed Space Buyouts are designed for groups of friends that don’t fill a condo and want to buy out the extra space to keep their party private and separate – or for those who don’t want to share a bed. In the common case, a group of five friends would split a single bed space buyout of about $340, equaling only $68 for each person. Note: one person’s registration must have the full buyout charge applied – no split charges on registration. Condos are filled based on roommate requests. Multiple singles or groups may be in one condo – up to 6 people of course.

Q: Is there group pricing for a bunch of us?
A: No. We’d like all of you to get the full-funded experience.

Q: How does food work?
A: Most of these finite trip details will be discussed in the optional pre-trip meeting. However, the food works out pretty well if you are on a budget. If you choose, get with your condomates and develop a menu for about 4 nights once off the flight. The kitchens are fully equipped for cooking. We stop the charter bus at a grocery store just outside Denver to allow you to stock up. There is also a grocery store in Steamboat Springs that the resort shuttle will take you to.

Q: So the whole campus is talking about this trip. Is it really that fun?
A: Um, yeah, duh! Touch the Earth operates only the finest and most fun trips possible! Seriously, this trip is a great way to meet new friends, learn or progress your skiing ability in challenging terrain, and relax after a long Fall Semester. We have been doing this trip for nearly 40 years. Many people spend all day on the mountain going crazy in the amazing snow, and bring the party back to the condos and hot tubs. Nightlife can be great downtown also. Food, cowboy drinks, and merchandise specials are all around.

It will be great to have you!
Touch the Earth, 404-413-1772, Monday – Friday, 10a.m. – 6p.m.