



Kit List for Introduction to Ski Touring

* These are all items that can be provided for you free of charge. Please email james@offpiste.org.uk in advance to arrange this.

Skis with touring bindings

For ski touring in the Alps, we recommend all mountain skis of approximately 85mm – 100mm underfoot. Examples of these are K2 Wayback, Scott Superguide, Atomic Backland, Dynastar Mythic, Völkl BMT, Salomon MTN Explore. These skis should be fitted with a ski touring binding, that you have prior experience of using. Frame or pin bindings will be suitable.

Please do check your binding is adjusted properly to the correct DIN setting for you, with the appropriate clearance at the toe and heel. As more bindings have appeared on the market, knowledge of the correct adjustment has become more complicated. Please do consult a trusted ski technician or contact us for advice.

Ensure that these have been fully serviced before your trip. Check for sharp edges and that the bases aren't dry (white in colour). For more information on ski servicing visit

<https://www.datawax.com> and their helpful "How to" page.

Ski touring boots

A dedicated ski touring boot, with a Vibram sole. We recommend that these are professionally fitted, and have been well used prior to the trip.

Ski poles

Normal fixed length ski poles, with a large basket. Telescopic poles are acceptable.

Skins

Make sure these fit your skis. We recommend having them cut by a professional.

Ski crampons

Also known as harscheisen or couteaux. Again, ensure that they fit to your skis and bindings. These are essential.

Ski helmet

Helmets are strongly recommended. There are an increasing number a lightweight ski touring models available.

Avalanche transceiver *

A modern digital model is essential. This must have been serviced within the last 3 years and have new batteries in it. The Mammut Barryvox is available to borrow free of charge.

Snow shovel *

This must be a metal shovel.

Avalanche probe *

A full-length probe, greater than 2 metres in length.

Rucksack

A rucksack of 25 – 40 litres is sufficient. It must have a ski carrying system. Generally simple designs work best. A dedicated ski touring rucksack, which allows easy ski carrying options and a separate compartment for shovel and probe, is a good investment.

The use of airbag rucksacks is increasingly common, but they are by no means essential and if considering using one you must be able to cope with the extra weight.

Ski goggles

It is advisable to bring a poor visibility lens.

Ski strap

Needed for carrying your skis.

Sun protection

Sunglasses, sun cream, lip balm and sun hat.

Clothing

Thermal base layer

A thin synthetic or wool thermal top is essential. A light colour will be cooler.

Fleece / soft shell

Having a good layering system will greatly improve your comfort. As a general guide a single thin fleece layer for your upper body and a thin soft shell is ideal.

Ski trousers

A good pair of soft-shell trousers will normally be sufficient. Some people like to combine them with a thin synthetic long john.

Insulated jacket

A synthetic or insulated jacket can be an excellent addition bumping up the insulation for cold conditions. A spare fleece will also suffice.

Waterproofs

A good quality hard-shell is required due to the changeable weather. If you have lightweight models as well, then we would recommend you bring these, allowing you to make a choice on a day-by-day basis.

Socks

Specialist ski socks to fit your ski boots. Often blister problems are down to

using old socks. Treat yourself to a new pair.

Gloves

A thin soft-shell glove, or a thin leather pair, for everyday tasks. These should be combined with a thicker insulating ski glove.

Hats

A warm beanie / bobble or similar hat is essential for cold conditions. Bring a spare.

Additional Personal Kit

Head torch

A small head torch, with new batteries in it. Essential early in the season with limited day light hours.

Personal medication / First Aid

It's worth carrying a few items but most importantly some painkillers and blister kit for personal ailments. We carry a larger group first aid kit so there is no need to pack lots of things.

Water bottle / flask

It's important to stay hydrated and therefore recommend carrying a bottle with 1 litre capacity. The weather can be cold so it's worth bringing a flask, even if you don't choose to use it everyday.

Mobile phone

Ensure this has sufficient battery to last a cold day on the hill and is in a waterproof case.

Documents / wallet / passport

You should always carry details of your insurance policy and assistance number. If you are eligible, we ask that you carry an EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card). Please bring your passport on each day of the course, in case you end up skiing in Italy or Switzerland.

Where can I hire ski equipment?

[Sanglards](#) in Chamonix offer a great service have their own parking, and you can hire ski touring equipment and transceivers from them too.