

Equipment List for Introduction to Backcountry Randonnée Skiing

If you have any questions about equipment or items on (or not on) this list please don't hesitate to call and ask our advice. Every trip will start with a pre-trip session to fine tune our packing. There will be a thorough equipment check at this session so don't plan on finalizing your pack until then. In order to help you maximize your performance and enjoyment on your trip we will be eliminating as much non essential gear as possible; please try to pack carefully and stick to the gear list.

Items marked with a * are items that we rent or are available through a local shop. SMC does not rent ski equipment, but we work with Mammoth Mountaineering (760 934-4191) to get you set up on the correct equipment. MMS has a very wide range of rental equipment that is probably the best you will find anywhere in California. All gear is state of the art, well tuned and rental fees are deductible if you buy a set up from them. (We highly recommend renting before you buy so as to find what suits you best, since a full setup is pretty pricey). We can coordinate the rental but suggest you arrive in Mammoth the night before since proper boot fitting takes some time.

Essentials

- Skis.* Metal edge telemark mountaineering skis or alpine touring skis are essential. Better too short than too long. Get them tuned and check the bindings for tightness and boot fit prior to the trip. Starting the trip with a good base wax is essential.
- Boots*. Examples of good alpine touring boots are the Scarpa Matrix or Avant (the Avant Lady or the Magic for women), Garmont Mega Rides or Dynafit boots. Make sure the boots are a comfortable fit for walking as well as skiing.
- Climbing skins*. These should be close to the width of the ski's waist. Make sure the glue is in good shape.
- Ski Crampons*. Make sure they fit!
- Poles*. Telescoping styles are best.
- Day pack of about 2,500 cubic inches.

Clothing

- Clothing for all conditions.
- Gaiters are not always necessary, depending on your boot/pants system. If in doubt, please ask.
- Good quality rain/wind pants and rain jacket. Must be water proof and jacket must have a hood. Do not skimp on your rain gear.
- Warm hat
- Visor hat (for sun)
- Lightweight gloves
- Shell gloves
- Goggles

Etc.

- Sun glasses. Good quality. If using prescription lenses consider a backup pair.
- Water carrying system with a capacity of 2-3 liters filled with liquids. We prefer bottles in insulated jackets to hydration system since they are less likely to freeze solid. Klean Kanteen style insulated bottles can double as a thermos.
- Toilet paper. The used toilet paper will go in a paper bag, which then goes in a ziplock, which you carry in your pack.
- Sunscreen and lip screen. SPF 30+. A 1oz. bottle will be enough. Make sure the lip screen actually contains a sunscreen.
- Basic first aid supplies such as ibuprofen, moleskin, and tape. Your guides will have extensive first aid kits so please don't go overboard with your personal kits. If you tend to take NSAID's regularly please bring your own, or if your feet require constant blister attention please bring tape and moleskin.
- Camera, a spare memory card and battery. No big cameras please; compacts only.

Food

- Bring a lunch and your favorite snacks.

Group gear that will be provided and divided amongst the group prior to starting the trip:

- Shovel*. If you do not have one we will provide it.
- Avalanche transceiver*. If you do not have one we will provide it.
- One probe per people*. If you do not have one we will provide it.
- First aid kit
- Ski repair kit