

SMUGGLERS NOTCH 'PLUS' TRIP STATUS REPORT

November 9, 2023

Snow Searchers Ski Club (SSSC) is offering a group trip to Smugglers Notch with several options to extend the trip beyond the three-night stay included in the base package. **Nominal dates are Feb. 4-7.** for the Base Package. Group air and/or ground transportation is **not** included. This is a 'hybrid' trip where lodging and lifts at Smugglers Notch will be purchased through SSSC, but individuals will need to make their own arrangements for transportation and for optional extensions to Stowe or other resorts. See Smuggs.com and stowe.com for additional information on the resorts.

Smugglers Notch ('Smuggs') Base Package (Feb. 4-7, \$449)

- Three nights lodging (Sunday-Wednesday) in a slopeside condo with kitchen.
- Four-day lift ticket.
- Gourmet group dinner

Optional Smuggs extension: Stay an extra night or two for \$125 per night. Lift pass included. We have two couples who plan to stay for the two extra nights at Smuggs.

Individual Air Option: You can avoid the long drive by flying on your own into Burlington, VT. For two people traveling together, flying and sharing a rental SUV adds around \$400 per person to the cost. It's less expensive if you use ground shuttles or Uber instead of an SUV rental. **Contact trip leader Mike Preston if you want to coordinate your air transportation with him and possibly share a rental SUV.**

Early arrival option: The four-day lift pass can be used on the Smuggs arrival day (Sunday). Trip leader Mike Preston is planning to stay Saturday night in a hotel in Burlington and drive to the resort on Sunday to ski.

Smugglers Notch signup instructions: A link to the application form to sign up for the Smuggler Notch portion of the trip is available on the trip web page: <https://snowsearchers.weebly.com/smuggs.html>. A \$200 deposit is required at signup, with the remainder due on December 15. You may cancel up to December 31 and get a full refund. Later cancellations receive a credit for a future stay at Smuggs. **The current deadline to sign up for this trip is Nov. 27.**

Optional Stowe extension

- Relocate to Stowe and ski 2-3 days there.
- We have arranged for lodging For Feb. 7-9 (Wed-Fri) at the Commodores Inn or the Little River Inn through the Go Stowe tourism office. Get details and book online at <https://book.gostowe.com/packages/package/73193?code=SnowSearchers24>.
- The discount for a hotel room at the Commodores Inn has been extended to Dec. 31; where a two-night stay is \$296.89 including taxes and fees. The nearby Little River Inn is a bed and breakfast, with a few rooms available for a total cost of \$385.
- This lodging is in the town of Stowe, so we will need to drive or take a bus to the slopes.

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- Stowe is owned by Vail, so lift passes are purchased on www.epicpass.com. The appropriate '32-resort' pass is \$165 or \$239 for 2 or 3 days of skiing. Season passes, including the full Epic (\$969), Epic Local (\$719), and Northeast Value Pass (\$591) are more expensive but can be used at a host of other resorts. Pass prices will rise again on November 19. Children 6-11 are roughly half the cost of an adult ticket, and 5 and under ski free.

Sample Smuggs/Stowe itinerary

- Arrive at Smuggs on Sunday, 2/4
- Ski Smuggs Mon-Wed (or Sun-Wed with the 'early arrival option' above.)
- Check into Stowe lodging on Wednesday, 2/7. Stay two or more nights.
- Ski Stowe Thursday, Friday (and Saturday?)
- Head for home. Note the Super Bowl is Sunday, 2/11.

Additional options for other resorts:

- ***Epic, Epic Local, or Northeast Value Pass holders:*** (1) Ski one or more days at Hunter, Okemo, or Mount Snow after Stowe. The Hubbards plan to head for Hunter, NY after leaving Stowe on Friday. (2) Skip Smugglers Notch and ski earlier at Stowe. Note the discount at the Commodores Inn is now applicable for the entire Feb. 4-9 period. (3) Skip Smuggs and ski at one or more of the Vail-owned resorts on the way to Stowe.
- ***Ikon Pass holders:*** Skip the Stowe extension and hit one or more Vermont Ikon resorts on the way back. These include Sugarbush, Killington, and Pico.
- ***Others:*** You don't have to be a season pass holder to add other destinations on a road trip. Contact Dick Hubbard for additional guidance. For Vail-owned resorts, it is desirable to get appropriate Epic Day passes before the season starts.

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