

Ski Travel



How To Plan A Smooth Group Ski Trip

(NAPSA)—According to a study from Wyndham Vacation Rentals, most travelers take ski and snowboard vacations in groups of four or more. Hitting the slopes with a big group doesn't have to be hard, even when it comes to coordinating everyone's schedules and travel arrangements.

Group Ski Trip Tips

While it can be challenging to keep everyone happy during the vacation, these planning hints can help get everyone started on the right foot.

•Find the right lodging.

When traveling with a larger group, alternative lodging options might be your best bet. A cabin, condo or home lets everyone stay together under one roof without sacrificing privacy. Everyone can have his or her own bedroom, while common spaces such as a living room or dining room make spending time together easy. Most rental homes also feature a kitchen, which can cut down on the stress of dining out as a large group. Have everyone take a night to prepare dinner. You'll not only save money, you'll enjoy time together without the interruptions of a busy restaurant.

•Plan for transportation.

When researching lodging, see if your accommodations rest along a community shuttle route or offer their own shuttle services. Also look into the destination's transit systems. Sun Valley, for example, offers free bus service. If you're renting a car, make sure you plan for times when the group splits up. Leaving half the group stranded won't make for a fun situation.

•**Agree on activities beforehand.** While skiing and snowboarding may be the top priori-



With a little planning, your group ski trip can be “snow” problem at all.

ties, there are plenty of other activities to do during a ski trip. From dogsledding and snow tubing to unique local festivals, you might find attractions you just don't want to miss. Have everyone weigh in on top choices before the trip, especially those who are attending but who aren't avid skiers or snowboarders. Considering everyone's preferences in advance can help reduce stress during the trip itself.

•**Give everyone some downtime.** Opinions often differ, especially within larger groups, so allow for flexibility during the trip. If your muscles are begging for a break, read a book or squeeze in a post-run nap while your fellow travelers stay on the slopes. If half of the group wants to head downtown for the afternoon while the other half wants to get in another mountain activity, split up for a few hours. By staying flexible with the group's itinerary, you'll avoid any tension and better enjoy the time you all spend together.

Learn More

To start your planning now, you can visit www.WyndhamVacationRentals.com for deals on vacation rental homes in some of North America's top ski destinations.