

Guided Backcountry Ski Touring

Yöstmark Backcountry Tours LLC

Frequently Asked Questions

What is backcountry ski touring?

Backcountry ski/snowboard touring is an experience that takes you away from the lifts and noise of the ski area and allows you to experience the winter environment in a majestic setting. We travel in areas without avalanche control and spend our time climbing up the slopes, skiing untracked powder, taking breaks, and exploring the mountains. This is skiing/snowboarding at its best!

How long are the tours?

A full-day tour typically starts at 9am and finishes around 3-4pm.

What can I expect from a backcountry tour?

Teton Pass offers a variety of terrain and access points where we can cater a tour to your ability, stamina and desires for the day. Tours from Teton Pass can start with a hike of approximately 1 hour to the top of our first run. We will spend the rest of the day skiing and touring in this pristine backcountry area.

What can I expect from skiing with a guide?

Let your guide plan and manage your tour so that you can place your focus on your next powder turn! Your guide will set an appropriate pace, coach you on what to wear so that you remain comfortable, provide instruction on efficient skinning technique, safe skiing practices for the backcountry, and much more. Feel free to ask questions, but most importantly you can rely on your guide's ability to create a safe and fun experience.

How hard is skiing in the backcountry?

Yostmark Backcountry Tours LLC customizes all tours to match the fitness level and needs of the participant(s). You should be comfortable hiking at a slow to moderate pace for 45-60 minutes. To enjoy the down skiing part of your tour, you should be able to make parallel turns on blue runs. Because we cater our tours to our clients we are able to accommodate your ski ability and physical stamina. During a typical tour we will take adequate time for water and snack breaks and pace ourselves to ensure a rewarding and enjoyable time in the backcountry. Our focus is safety and fun!

What gear do I need?

The following is a list of equipment for a backcountry ski tour:

- Ski/snowboard touring equipment: skis/snowboard with touring bindings, boots, poles and climbing skins*
- Avalanche transceiver*
- Shovel *
- Ski jacket/ Shell
- Ski pants
- Long underwear (synthetic or wool, no cotton)

- Warm ski hat and gloves (preferably a light glove to hike in and another warm glove or mitten for descents and breaks)
- Neck gaiter or balaclava
- Sunglasses/ Ski Goggles
- Down or synthetic jacket (must be light enough to pack in day pack)
- 1 liter of water
- Day backpack for gear (approximately 2500 – 3000 cubic inches)
- Sun screen/ lip balm
- Lunch, snacks

*Can be provided or rented.

If you do not own touring skis, skins and boots you can rent them from Yostmark Mountain Equipment (208 354 2828) in downtown Driggs at the corner of 1st and E. Little Ave. Yostmark offers both telemark and alpine touring rental packages (also known as Randonee). If you are unable to come to Driggs to pick up your equipment your guide can bring your rental equipment up, provided that he/she has all of your relevant information.

Guides will carry a cell phone, emergency kit, first aid, and repair kit.

Will I need my own transportation?

Yes. Clients are responsible for providing their own transportation to the morning rendezvous at either Grand Targhee or Yostmark Mountain Equipment in Driggs.

*For Teton Pass tours, your tour group will likely arrange shared rides to the Pass after meeting at Yostmark Mountain Equipment. If you are staying at Grand Targhee and do not have a car, check at the lodging desk to see about arranging a ride to Yostmark Mountain Equipment and back.