

# Morningstar Ski Tours, INC

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## **Austria, Andorra, Berlin, Madrid**

WE CAN'T WAIT TO RIP ONCE AGAIN WITH OUR MORNINGSTAR FAMILY! Thank you for making yet another Morningstar dream come true. 120 of us are going. Man, is it gonna rock or what!

**BRING THIS LETTER TO EUROPE!**

### **SIDE TRIPS, OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES, LIFT PASSES**

*SEE ENCLOSED LETTER AND SIGN-UP FORM. MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SENT IN WITH PAYMENT FOR ALL DESIRED OPTIONS BY FEBRUARY 17.*

### **PRIORITY ONE:**

your plane ticket. Enclosed is your air eticket receipt. Check it for accuracy of name, dates, cities. Let us know of any problems. **THIS IS THE**

**INTERNATIONAL TICKET TO/FROM EUROPE ONLY. YOU ARE NOT**

**RECEIVING ANY INTRA-EUROPE TICKETS** (i.e. Berlin to Munich for Berlin pax, Zurich to Barcelona both week pax, Barcelona to Madrid, Madrid pax) **Do NOT CALL US ABOUT THOSE TICKETS.** They are PAPER tickets and we don't want to risk losing them in the mail. These will be distributed to you in Europe.

**PLANE SEATING:** Call Delta ( a few of you are Swiss) and confirm your own seats on your flights. (Intra-Europe flights, do at the airport). Delta: 800-221-1212

**FREQUENT FLYER MILES:** yes, you can get them. Contact the airlines or do it at the airport.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT!** Also, it is a good idea to make a copy of it and put it in a different place than your passport.

**GETTING TO YOUR U.S. GATEWAY AIRPORT:** We recommend you get to your departure airport at least 2 ½ -3 hours prior to take off. Better safe than sorry.

**LUGGAGE LIMITATIONS:** READ THIS OR PAY A LOT OF MONEY!

50 pounds per bag. You are allowed one checked bag, 1 pair of skis and a boot bag, 1 carry on.

With any carrier, do NOT lock your bags. New guidelines require physical inspections of your luggage.

**NOTE ON SKI BAG AND BOOT BAG:** they are getting very strict on this. You can take only ONE pair of skis in a bag. You can NOT take ski tubes (hard-sided carriers). Use a soft ski bag. You can insist on using a tube, but be advised they may make you pay extra money or not allow you to check the skis at all. Don't kill the messenger here... we are just telling you like it is. If you have issues with this, call the airlines, not us.

**BOOT BAG:** Technically, it can only have ski boots in it. If you show up with a huge boot bag full of stuff, they may charge you extra. **KEEP ALL THIS IN MIND WHEN YOU PACK.**

**VERY IMPORTANT EXCESS BAG FEES IN EUROPE:** Be aware that those flying intra-Europe (Berlin pax, both-weekers, Madrid pax) **MAY BE SUBJECT TO EXTRA LUGGAGE FEES FOR SKIS.** The carriers MAY hit you with fees for skis. Do NOT kill the messenger here. It is not our policy or our fee. Just be aware that you may get hit with this excess fee. We don't know which way it will play out. Skiman is not going to ask ahead of time. If he did, we would have to pay it for sure. If paying this fee is a problem for you, it may be another reason to rent skis and not bring them. Please: this is your decision. **Don't call us about this!** We have told you all that we know here.

### **HOW DO I NOT FREAK OUT COMPLETELY IF I MISS MY FLIGHT?**

Talk to the desk of your international carrier first and then contact our European wholesale representative, Holidayze in New Jersey, at 800-526-2827 (ext.15) OR 1-732-280-1120 (ext.16).

BEST ADVICE: don't miss your flight! Be at your departure airport 3 hours before your flight leaves.

## **FLIGHT DETAILS, BUS PICKUP TIMES VARIOUS LEGS OF JOURNEY:**

**Berlin(2/27-3/3) :** All pax arrive 3pm on Feb. 28. Leave hotel on 3/3 at 7:45 AM charter bus.

*Coordinators: Skiman and Lynn*

**Arrival into Ischgl(3/2-3/10):** Berlin pax will fly to Munich and bus from there... mid afternoon arrival in Ischgl.

Delta Pax coming from States: arrive into Zurich at 755 AM.

Swiss Air pax Hunt and Murphy(2) arrive Zurich at 815 AM

Swiss Air pax Newsom and Wierzbicki arrive Zurich at 820 AM

SWISS Air PAX: Get your luggage and find the rest of the group arriving at Delta baggage claim area. If everyone arrives on time, bus will leave @ 9am for Ischgl.

*COORDINATORS FOR 3/2 ARRIVAL: FRED HUNT, DAVID BRUCE, SEBAS MORATO*

**End of Ischgl week (3/10):** Pax going back to States, 5AM bus pickup at hotel.

Spanish guys (7) special charter mini bus, pickup 12 PM

BOTH WEEKERS, END OF ISCHGL: You will have an extra day to ski, shop, whatever. We will have a bus pickup at 4PM at our hotel for the drive to Zurich. Overnight there. Following morning, fly out Zurich to Barcelona on Spainair 98 leaving at 925 AM, arrive Barcelona 1115 AM.

**Andorra (3/10-18):** Peckford, Froehlich, Lane, L. Cosgrove arrive AF 1348 at 1145 AM into Barcelona. You will meet the both-weekers coming in on Spainair 98 from Zurich and will go on the same bus as they do to Andorra.

*COORDINATOR: SKIMAN'S DAUGHTER, JILLIAN*

**ALL OTHERS:** arrive from Paris Air France 1648 into Barcelona at 245pm. Bus takes this group to Andorra.

*COORDINATOR: JOE FLYNN*

**End of Andorra Week (3/18):** Pax returning to states with a **935 AM** departure time (5 of you) mini bus pickup 4AM for BCN airport (*Schneider, Jackson-Travers, Shepard, David/ M. Bruce*)

Pax returning to States with an **11:25 AM** return time, 5AM pickup time.

Pax going on to Madrid: **5 AM** pick up time for your flight leaving BCN at 11AM. Madrid pax will arrive Madrid 1210PM.

**End of Madrid(3/21):** Pick up at hotel 930AM. Flight lvs 1210 PM.

**IF YOUR LUGGAGE DOES NOT ARRIVE:** let your Morningstar coordinator know so he/she has the group wait for you. Go file a claim with the airlines, giving them the name and address and phone number of your hotel. They will have your gear delivered.

**If you are disastrously late due to flight problems** and miss our charter bus, what to do?

**Austria:** take a train to Landeck. Take a bus or taxi for the 50 minutes to Galtur (10 minutes north of Ischgl) to the Ballunspitz Hotel. **Andorra:** This will be a tough one. You will have to take a train or bus from the airport to Andorra. Check at the airport info desk for help. Or call the ArtHotel for help.

**NOTE:** If this does occur and you have purchased trip insurance, make sure to keep all your receipts as you will be reimbursed by Travel Guard. If you do not have this insurance, **the expense is your responsibility. Morningstar will not reimburse any expenses incurred due to air travel problems.**  
BUY THE INSURANCE!!!

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We hope you have purchased it. If you have, great. If you have not and something goes wrong, oh well! **REMINDER:** To get a policy with allows for cancellation due to health-related problems, you had to purchase the policy at time of final payment. However, you can still purchase a policy for @ 60 bucks that will give you all the protection for trip-related problems without the trip cancellation due to sickness feature. Go to Travelguard.com or call them to buy this policy.. Do NOT call us. We have nothing to do with this and we have adequately explained all of this on our website.(nuts and bolts page link to insurance).

**LOBBY POSTINGS:** ALWAYS check in hotel lobby for important information and updates concerning the tour. It is our main way of communicating with you. CHECK POSTINGS DAILY!

**SIDE TRIPS AND OPTIONAL ACTIVITY NOTES** We will post in the hotel lobbies details about each optional trip, including a list of those who have signed up, times of departure, and any changes pertaining to the activities. You can add on to any side trip once in Europe if there is space. You can either write a check or pay cash for the trip when booking it. See Skiman about this at dinner or whenever (but NOT while he is skiing!) **NOTE: \$5 per activity late sign up fee applies to all activities added in Europe.**

**EXPERT GUIDED GROUPS:** The groups will meet each morning at 8:30 am in the lobby of the hotel. **IMPORTANT:** If you are not on time, you will be left. The experts are there to max out their day. They have paid a goodly sum to ski the backcountry, not to wait for people. If you are late, you will be left. (NO refund for any days missed). Those of you who have skied with Dan know that he is rabid about getting first tracks on guided days. Be there...or be left!

**COMPLAINTS:** Past experience necessitates this note about traveling in Europe. You will not be in America. Things will be different. The hotel rooms are usually smaller. The rooms are often different from each other and can vary in size and shape. The toilet paper is different. The light bulbs might not be as bright. The electricity is different. Please do not expect generic Holiday Inn rooms. Europe is different than America. Bring over a sense of adventure and an electrical adapter- enjoy the differences and you will have a great time.

## Phone Numbers for Hotels and Buses All Tours

Berlin Angleterre Hotel  
Friedrichstrasse 31  
D-10969 Berlin

Phone 49 30 20213700

Transfer company Bus Verkehr Berlin 49 30 68389134

Galtur/iSCHGL Alpenresidenz Ballunspitze  
A-6563 Galtur, Austria  
Phone 43 5443 8214

Transfer company: Loacker Tours 43 5523 5909 26 Doing the Zurich airport transfers  
Montana Tours 43 512 365420 doing the Munich airport transfers

Zurich Airport Movenpick

Walter Mittelholzerstrasse  
Glattbrugg/Zurich Airport.  
Phone 41 44 808 88 88  
Transfers: Loacker Tours 43 5523 5909 26

Andorra Hotel Art  
Prat de la Creu  
Andorra La Vella  
Phone 34 93 272 4140  
Transfers being reserved by Hotel Art

Madrid Hotel Agumar  
Paseo Reina Cristina 7  
Madrid  
Phone 34 91 552 6900  
Transfers: Ultra Express  
Phone: 34 91 7582848  
Contact: Teresa Pascual

## Skiman's European Cel Phone Number

*If you are calling from the States:* dial 800 540 6677, follow the prompts and then enter my cell number, which is 447-924-047-286. If that does not work, use 011-447-924-047-286

*If you are calling Skiman while you are anywhere in Europe:* 00 447-924-047-286  
ALSO: Send emails to [skiingman@comcast.net](mailto:skiingman@comcast.net). We will TRY to check our emails daily.

### UPON ARRIVAL at each ski resort:

#### Orientation Meeting First Night

#### **BOTH weeks: Please come. Very important.**

#### **TIME: 6 PM PLACE: HOTEL BAR AREA.. no-host bar available.**

You really have to be there! We will go over everything about the ski week. It is here that we will also discuss purchase of lift passes. Details in Side trip letter enclosed.

**IN CASE WE ARRIVE LATER THAN ANTICIPATED:** If we are delayed for any reason, the party will be moved to after dinner, around 9 PM. This will be posted in the lobby.

**DEPARTURE TIME FOR RETURN TO AIRPORT AT END OF THE SKI WEEK...** Time of departure will be posted in the lobby and is in this letter as well. .

**Meals:** Breakfast and dinner included daily.

**Ski rentals:** There are numerous shops at the resort and in the village. All levels and types of skis are available . Should you take your skis? It is a personal choice dependent on several factors. If you have excellent skis that are modern and you love them, take them. If you have older beater skis that aren't worth the effort required to lug them to Europe, consider this as a possible opportunity to try some modern equipment renting. If you do rent skis, we think it best if you take your own boots, assuming they are comfortable and in good shape. That way, you just have to rent skis and poles.

**Ski Lessons:** If you would like, you can find ski lessons, both private and group, given in English. Check at the resort for details.

**Monoski Tryout & Lessons:** The European Monoski Organisation will have their annual meeting in Galtür. Ask their president Tilo Rust (he will be with us in the Ballunspitz) if you want to learn to Monoski or just want to try it. Lessons are for free for Morningstar people.

· **Expert group:** Details in Side Trip Letter enclosed. Last minute updates at welcome meeting. Be there!.

· **NEVER SKI OUT OF BOUNDS WITHOUT A LOCAL GUIDE!** Skiing in the Alps is safe unless you leave the trails without a guide. The backcountry offers the best skiing possibilities for experts but it can be more dangerous than trail skiing. Sign up for the expert group we offer or hire your own guide. But don't be stupid and think you are too smart to need help. If you do, it could be your last ski run. **Intermediate Guided Groups:** Details discussed at welcome meeting. Be there!

**Safety advice:** use ski helmet!

**GETTING TO THE SLOPES: AUSTRIA:** Our hotel is 10 minutes from Ischgl. There is a free bus that picks up in front of our hotel every 15 minutes or so. Check with front desk for exact times. The buses run until @7pm. Again, check. If you stay too late in Ischgl for the apres ski activities, you can take a taxi back to the hotel. Note: There is another very nice resort only 2 minutes from our hotel called Galtur. The skiing is not as big as Ischgl, but there are far less people and the snow stays untracked much longer. You might consider a day there. Also, Galtur has night skiing (Date: Wed. beginning 7:30 pm. Night Ski Show beginning 9:00pm) If you want to go night skiing hook up with the Monoski people – aks Tilo Rust! Check with the front desk about how to get there by bus. APRES-SKI NOTE ISCHGL: This resort has reportedly the BEST apres ski atmosphere in all of Europe! There is beer and music and festivities every afternoon. When you are done skiing, just wander into the village. You can't miss the action! For those of you who like wild nightlife, Ischgl has the wildest. It is only 10 minutes from our hotel. Remember: there are taxis.

**GETTING TO THE SLOPES: ANDORRA :**The largest ski resort in Andorra is Gran Valira. It is accessed by a 10 minute bus ride to the Encamp gondola. From the top of that you can ski the whole resort, all the way to France! Included in your package is a daily bus ride to the resort each day and a scheduled pick up at end of day. This will be announced in detail at the welcome party. There are also two other areas : Arinsal and Arcalis. Dependant on conditions, we may well visit these areas... all tba. Note to experts: If the snow is good, Arcalis is where we plan on doing most of our off-piste skiing. The place rocks! We may end up with our own form of transport separate from what the main group is doing. Skiman cannot make plans yet. We will see what conditions exist once we are there and make it up as we go.. No worries. We will come up with the best plan based on prevailing conditions.

## So many questions, so little time!

**Money:** You can use credit cards almost anywhere. Or you can use ATM machines or travelers checks. Get checks in American dollars. HELPFUL MONEY CHANGING HINT: Get some money changed at your U.S. gateway airport before you leave the U.S. It is a good idea to have some currency from the country you are traveling to in your pocket. It comes in handy.

**URGENT CREDIT CARD UPDATE:** Be advised that most credit cards are now charging a fee of 3% on ANY foreign purchase. They call it a currency conversion fee. We call it a rip off! You should check with your credit card companies before you leave to see what their policy is concerning this. If you have a Capitol One card, it is our understanding that they are not charging this fee. Use that card if you have it. Otherwise, call your card companies and find out all their charges to avoid any nasty surprises come bill time. Also, inquire about any ATM fees and cash advance charges. Know what you are using and what it will cost you.

Factor this in to your decision about how you are going to get your money. If your credit cards are going to charge you a lot, consider bringing over U.S. dollar traveler's checks, which you can cash and exchange for Euros. In some situations, this may be the cheapest way to go.

**Electricity:** You need a converter, available in any Wal-Mart or travel store. (Europe uses 220 Volt)

**Laundry:** check with your hotel front desk.

**Language:** English, Spanish, French spoken in Andorra... German and English in Austria. Doesn't hurt to have a pocket dictionary along. If you need help ask the Monoski people or Tilo to assist you.

**TIPPING:** At European hotels the staffs work very hard to make your stay excellent. Service is usually outstanding in Europe. **IMPORTANT:** Please tip your waiters at the end of the week, even though no bill is presented at the end each meal or at the end of the week, as they are included in the package. We recommend a 15% tip, the same as in America, guesstimating what the meals would have cost in a restaurant. How much you tip is up to you. Ask the hotel for the preferred way to leave your tip. Tipping is also expected for anyone who helps you at the hotel: luggage porters, a front desk person who went out of their way to help you with some matter, the housekeeping staff at the end of your stay. Concerning guided skiing, it is customary to tip the guide at the end of the ski day/week. Also, the skiers in the guided group **MUST** buy the guide lunch each day. The group members share the cost. If you participate in a guided day trip or excursion, the guide and driver normally are tipped.

**HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD I TAKE?** Here is the sage wisdom of Dan the Ski Man: **BRING AS MUCH AS YOU THINK YOU WILL SPEND.**

You all have spent a lot of time, energy, thought, and money to making this trip happen. We will do all we can to make it as memorable an experience. Skiman has started to twitch with anticipation. He is **MORE** than ready to invade Europe. Be prepared to ski and rock and eat and have a ball, 'cause that is exactly what we are planning on doing!

Thanks again to you all. If not for your love of skiing and your willingness to support our dream, there would be no Morningstar. You guys are the best!

Dan the Ski Man and Lynn  
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