



ADVICE FOR TOUR LEADERS

Here are some suggestions that may be useful for people leading ski tours.

Ensure all participants can do the tour

Check with people beforehand about their ability and suitability for the tour. Feel free to reject anyone who you feel will be too slow or too inexperienced. If they do come on your tour, you *must* adjust it to suit the weakest. This could easily dampen your enjoyment, especially if you were trying to ski to a particular destination or along a particular route.

Keep the tour to a manageable size

Although a maximum group size is not specified, more than 12 is often difficult for one leader to handle. However, this depends on the experience of the party. If you do want to lead a very large group, get the aid of an assistant leader to help you with keeping track of everyone, ensuring no-one gets lost and keeping an eye on everyone's condition.

Lead intermediate tours first

Intermediate tours are often easier to lead, as beginners usually require more supervision and guidance.

Make transport arrangements

One of the hardest tasks for a tour leader is to arrange transport for everyone. By the Thursday before the tour, everyone who wants to go must have told you. Anyone who joins after you have made the transport arrangements must make their own way to the snow, unless there is a spare seat in one of the cars. One way of reducing the number of telephone calls and other work you need to do, is to get the drivers to ring their passengers and make their own arrangements of when and where the pick ups will be. It may be easier if passengers drive to their driver's home. Advise drivers about the option of using the ski-tube if the weather is foul. Once the transport arrangements are made, most of the work in leading a trip is done. Once you are all on the snow, there is little else to do.

Make a meeting place and time at an easily found place

Before a tour can start, everyone must get to the starting point. Allow about 3 hours for the drive from Canberra to the snow-fields, including a rest stop or two. It takes about 2 hours for the drive to Jindabyne and about 1:45 hours for the drive to Adaminaby. You have the choice of making the meeting place where the tour starts or somewhere before then. Making the meeting place at the tour's start can help get the day off to a faster start, as there will be one less break for people to waste time in. Making the meeting place before the tour's start can allow everyone to meet and briefly discuss the tour, as well as ensuring that all expected people have safely come this far.

Popular start-of-tour meeting points are:

- The (lower) car park at Dead Horse Gap
- The ticket office at Thredbo
- Sverre Kaaten Nordic shelter, at the start of the Perisher trails
- The National Parks building, Perisher car park
- Nikki's kiosk in the car park at Smiggin Holes
- Beside the road at Dainer's Gap
- Inside the resort building at Guthega

- In the visitor's car-park at Mulyang power station
- On the road near the day shelter at Cabramurra
- In the car park at Three Mile Dam
- In the car park at Selwyn Snowfields

Popular pre-tour meeting points are:

- The Sundance Bakery, Nuggets Crossing Shopping Centre, Jindabyne
- In the town square, Adaminaby

Leave messages if you need to

This is most useful if you have become tired of waiting for latecomers and want to let them know what is happening. It can also be useful if you have published a tour, need to change it due to weather or snow conditions, and want to leave a record of your new plan for search and rescue.

Wait only a short while for latecomers

If another car is late, it is recommended to wait no more than 30 minutes for it to arrive. Leave a message in the Ranger Station or Nordic shelter at Perisher, or at Wilderness Sports in Jindabyne.

Introduce participants to each other

By letting the tour participants introduce themselves to everyone else before the tour starts, you will help create a friendlier atmosphere for the tour.

Be prepared to change the tour to suit the weather

If the weather is bad, it is often best to change the destination of the tour (or move the tour to another day if better weather is expected).

Show people a map of where the tour is to go

This lets everyone know where you are planning to take them. It also encourages them to participate in the tour more, rather than blindly following the leader.

Let someone else navigate

If you know the area well enough and are confident enough, encourage someone else in the party to navigate. This will give them confidence in navigating and leading. It could also encourage them to lead tours themselves, at some other time.

Rest and regroup when appropriate

Few people enjoy skiing without a break for an entire tour. Rest stops are good for checking that people aren't getting too tired, cold, hungry or blistered. They can also be good for checking where you are, taking photographs, admiring the view, or checking the weather.

Ask someone to write an article about the tour for the club newsletter

Tell the world what a great tour you led and encourage others to come on your later tours. You have done enough work, just leading the tour, so get one of your fellow tour members to write an article for *Off Piste*.

Offer to lead another tour

Now that you've successfully led a tour, and learnt some of the pleasures and pains of leading a tour, why not lead another? The Touring Coordinator will love you.