



Vail to Aspen Ski Tour

January 15-19, 2018

Estin - Gates - Diamond J Ranch - Margy's



This 5-day tour will cover nearly 45 miles with ascents totaling close to 7000 vertical feet, traveling the Western side of the hut system. Cold temperatures, trail breaking, dealing with varying snow conditions and 4-8 hours on the trail daily will demand a competent level of fitness and skill. The huts are stocked with sleeping bags and non-perishable food. Participants will be expected to carry their personal gear along with some fresh food. A participatory approach to the trip is encouraged and often necessary to accomplish hut chores along with cooking and cleanup. Mid-way through the trip is a night spent at the Diamond "J" Guest Ranch located on the Frying Pan River. A hot shower, dinner and breakfast is included as the group prepares for the biggest day, 9 miles and 3000' ascent to the Margy's Hut. The challenges of the trip are often off-set with a warm, comfortable hut, good food, and the companionship of fellow tourers.



ITINERARY:

• **PreTrip Day, Jan 14th - Paragon's Headquarter Edwards, Colorado**

- This meeting with the Guides will deal with rental needs, logistics, gear & clothing and answer any questions you may have.

• **Day One, Jan 15th - Yeoman Park to Estin Hut.**

- We will meet at Paragon Headquarters in Edwards, distribute fresh food bags and have a light breakfast. A 45 minute shuttle leaves the group at the Yeoman Park trailhead south of the town of Eagle. The route climbs the Ironedge Trail to the hut. 5 miles & 2100' elevation gain. An optional afternoon tour from the hut to Charles Peak (12050') is always a possibility.

• **Day Two, Jan 16th - Estin Hut to Harry Gates Hut.**

- Departing the Estin Hut the route descends to Lime Creek Canyon then climbs approximately 500' to the Gates Hut. The route passes through Evergreen and Aspen forest opening into the expansive Lime Park. Distant views of Aspen's Elk Range begin to appear. 7 miles & 1500' elevation loss / 500' elevation gain.

• **Day Three, Jan 17th - Harry Gates Hut to the Diamond "J" Guest Ranch.**

- Departing the Gates Hut the route descends to Montgomery Flats and the Frying Pan River valley. This moderate descent finishes with a short steep section so have your snowplow skills ready. 7 miles & 1500' elevation loss / approximately 400' elevation gain.



• **Day Four, Jan 18th - Diamond "J" to Margy's Hut.**

- Departing the Diamond "J" the route parallels the Frying Pan River for one mile then climbs moderately to Twin Meadows connecting with the Norrie/Aspen trail. A steady climb to the Sawmill Park ridge leaves 1.5 miles to Margy's Hut. This is a Big Day!! 9 miles and 3000' elevation gain. A short tour from Margy's provides great views of the ever closer Elk Range.

• **Day Five, Jan 19th - Margy's to Aspen**

- Departs Margy's Hut and descends Spruce Creek through "old growth" forest. A steady climb up Woody Creek and a tributary leaves a 1.5 mile contour to the MacNamara Hut. The final moderate descent of 5.5 miles passes through Van Horn Park with wonderful views of Aspen, the Maroon Bells and the Elk Range. If time allows the group will enjoy a "celebratory" drink at the Hotel Jerome, site of many 10th Mountain Division troop celebrations. 14 miles and approximately 1400' elevation gain / approximately 4000' elevation loss

THE CHALLENGES OF THE INTERCONNECT SKI:

This multi-day hut to hut tour can test even an experienced skier. Each day's route requires a good level of fitness and skill. Aside from the rigors of many hours on the trail you should expect challenging snow conditions and be prepared for mid-winter storms and cold temperatures. There can be a range of fitness and skill within the group yet the Guides will expect the group to stay together most of the time on the trail. This tour is not a race and will demand the full participation of everyone.

THE INTERCONNECT SKI TOUR INCLUDES:

- Personal phone interviews
- Two Guides
- Hut & USFS fees
- Sleeping bags cached at each hut, clean bag liner and pillow case provided
- Dinners & breakfasts (BYO lunch)
- First Aid and repair kits
- Trailhead transportation

THE INTERCONNECT SKI TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- It is the responsibility of participants to arrange for transportation to the PG Headquarters in Edwards. Lodging is not included for the night prior to trip departure (we recommend the Inn at Riverwalk in Edwards - ask about the PARAGON discount).
- Ski Equipment: Each participant needs to have appropriate gear in good condition and be "trail tested" before the trip. An Equipment List will be sent to all participants. Rental gear (Free-heel Telemark / ATY / Avalanche Kit) is available for rent). We recommend lighter weight skis and boots.
- Personal binding repair kit & blister kit
- Due to the strenuous nature of this route, we would highly recommend a defined training program such as Fit for Trips: www.fitfortrips.com/paragon-guides.aspx

COST: \$1440.00 Per person

Reservations prior to Nov. 1, 2017, trip participants will provide a \$360.00 deposit to confirm spaces held. Major credit card or personal check accepted. Once confirmed, we will send out to you via email or US mail our orientation packet with preparation materials and forms that need to be completed. An additional \$360.00 will be due on November 1st as a deposit on the trip. Reservations made after November 1, will require a \$720.00 deposit. The balance will be due on December 22, 2017.

Reservation Form: Please complete and return to PG office. Print out or this form is in PDF format. Most systems will allow you to type onto the form, save a copy and return via email.

For each member of your group: TRIP: INTERCONNECT 2018

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Mobile phone _____

Home phone _____

Email _____

Age _____ Gender: M F

Dietary considerations:

Pre trip lodging: _____



Cancellation Policy -

A schedule conflict, illness, injury or family emergency can alter the best laid plans...

- If cancelling *more than 8 weeks* out from the trip departure date, we will refund your deposit, retaining a booking / cancellation fee of \$100.00 per person.
- If cancelling *within 8 to 6 weeks* of the departure date there are no refunds available, but we will offer you a percentage of your trip amount paid as a credit toward another Paragon Guides trip, summer or winter, within one year from the date of cancellation.
- If cancelling *within 6 weeks* of the trip date, there are *no* refunds and *no* credits available.
- In the rare event a scheduled trip is cancelled by Paragon Guides, we will refund your money in full.

I, the undersigned, have read and understood the Paragon Guides Cancellation Policy.

_____ Date:



Payment: Complete credit card form below OR check here for secure **WEBPAY** option:



WEBPAY: You will be sent a separate invoice via email with payment link.

Name on card:

Card number:

Leave the credit card form BLANK if Webpay is checked