

What to Bring, Where to Go, What to Do

Mountain Lodge: www.snowshoecondorentials.com

I have many questions that this document should address for your stay in one of the snowshoecondorentials.com condos.

What to Bring:

You should find all condos with most everything to make your stay comfortable. It has a full kitchen setup with paper towels, linens for all beds and pull out sofas, and towels and soap for the bathroom. In the kitchen you will find a microwave, coffee pot (with filters), detergent for the dishwasher, and plenty of plates, utensils, pots, pans, etc. The condo will have satellite TV and a DVD player plus wireless internet access. In the bedroom closet you will find extra blankets for the pull out sofa bed. The direct phone number to the room will be 304-572-0xxx (where xxx is the room #). So what do you need to bring...Most anything you will need for cooking like oil, sugar, spices, (there may be salt and pepper); coffee & hot chocolate; dishwashing soap; shampoo and toiletries; there are no hair dryers.

Where to Go:

Go and get your groceries before getting off the major interstates. No matter what direction you come from, there really is not much in the way of grocery stores near Snowshoe. If you do need something, there is Wildcat Provision just beyond the Mountain Lodge entrance and at the bottom of the mountain; there are a couple of convenience stores.

Restaurants:

Our Favorite is the Elk River Inn B&B. Our friend Gil Willis along with his wife runs the Elk River Inn and although a short drive off the mountain, it will be a memorable experience. Gourmet food, large fireplace, and a relaxing atmosphere await you here. Reservations are recommended on weekends.

On Mountain... Auntie Pastas is in Mountain Lodge - sometimes a good meal, sometimes just OK. If you are there during a very busy weekend, I would recommend this place over the other village eateries as it will not be nearly as crowded. It is not typically open during the summer months. Our favorite is Foxfire Grill for BBQ, fried pickles or any of their comfort foods; Great Sunset views; and a nice but small bar area. Foxfire is privately owned (not by Snowshoe) so overall it is a cut above the other village eateries. Cheat Mountain Pizza: pretty good pizza but again resort pricing. The Junction: Good all around place to eat; lots of TV's; good venison chili; and a decent breakfast. Old Spruce - newer place with decent reviews but have not tried. Newer place in Allegheny Springs lower level is Sunset Cantina, so-so. Shavers Center has cafeteria style food during the day and Moonshine Bar. We like the bar area for late afternoon après ski time! Also, one of my favorites, Starbucks, is in the village.

Entertainment:

Within Mountain Lodge there are a couple of choices in winter. Weekend nights feature a movie in the wing closest to the village. Call the front desk for the time and featured movie. The Mountain Lodge game room has about 30 games and there is a chess board in the lobby by the large fireplace. On weekend nights in ski season a comedian performs on the CC level at the Comedy Cellar. In the village there is the Big Top. If you have kids under 12, it is a great place to spend a couple of hours. Lot of different activities from pool, to games, to bungee rope rides, to skateboarding, foosball, etc. Split Rock Pool complex features an indoor/outdoor heated pool; 2 large hot tubs; sauna; water slide; and kiddy play area. The cost is around \$7/swimmer. The Connection Night Club will provide a bar/dance atmosphere for those way younger than me.

If you are seeking on mountain activities during the winter, there is tubing over at Silver Creek, Snowmobiling, Arctic Cat rides, and snowshoeing. Off mountain you can check out cross country skiing at Elk River Inn or the NRAO (www.nrao.com) the world's largest movable telescope.

In summer on mountain activities are plentiful...of course mountain biking (both x-country and downhill); golf (although it is at the bottom of the mountain); skeet shooting; hiking; water activities at Shaver's Lake; Swimming at Split Rock Pools; off road dune buggy rides; and more. Off mountain, there is the Cass Railroad; the NRAO (www.nrao.com); fishing; scenic drives (Hwy 150); and more mountain biking.

Ski the Mountain:

My insider guide to skiing the mountain... (I like skiing freshly groomed runs, fresh powder, with as few other skiers as possible. If you like a lot of fellow skiers and long lift lines, do not read any further).

No matter what your level of skiing, GET ON THE MOUNTAIN WHEN THE ROPES DROP AT 9AM! You will be glad you did. Groomed runs, fresh powder, and only a few other skiers will be out there. You can get in several runs before any lift lines start forming. You can thank me later once you take your morning break. Make sure you have a game plan where you are going to ski, as there is no time to waste. Beginners go head over to the green slopes; intermediates-check out Ballhooter Skip Jack and Gandy Dancer; and advanced go straight to Western Territory. All skiers...if you are planning on skiing the Western Territory at all...Do it first thing. The runs will be groomed (usually Lower Shays too) and there will be no one on the slopes. Advanced skiers, if you are lucky enough to be there when Lower Shays has been groomed, get there!!!

If you are there and it snows more than a half foot, the best runs that typically hold the deepest powder are Grabhammer (black), Skip Jack (blue), and Spruce-skiers left (blue). Also, Camp 99 and Knot Bumper are good choices to find the hidden stashes of powder. Once again, hit them early to get in fresh tracks.

Lunch and breaks: Take your breaks at one of the huts at the bottom of the hills. It takes too long to go to the room. Take lunch either early or late...don't go when everyone else goes at the

noon hour. Lift lines start getting backed up at 11AM...try to eat by 11:20 or so. Then get back out at noon when everyone else is starting to think about lunch. Another alternative is to ski until you get hungry then go to the room and get lunch. After lunch-especially on weekends, go over to Silver Creek for an afternoon of skiing/boarding. Lift lines will not be near as long and you can ski on into the night, until 9PM or when you get tired.

Misc.

When checking in, your name will be left at the guard gate and front desk. Pull up to the overhang in the elbow section of the building and back in if you are able. Get your key from the front desk which is inside and to the left. On your way you will see some carts next to the elevator. Roll one or two back out to your car and unload.

DO NOT turn up the baseboard heaters to the temps posted on them, especially if you are staying in a 3rd floor condo. They are not accurate. It seems like the cleaning folks always turn them um way too high. Even though I have expressed this, they don't seem to get it. I recommend the bedroom thermostats to be turned off and the living room thermostat be adjusted to suit your needs. Before you go to bed you may want to adjust the bedroom up just a tad until you hear it click on. A word of caution...it is much easier to heat up then it is to cool down.

One thing we always do when we get in from skiing is hang all your wet ski pants, jackets, socks, gloves, and everything else in the bedroom closet that has the water heater in it. Shut the door and it's guaranteed to be dry by morning. No need to pay for the coin operated dryers or the hassle.

If you are not staying in my first floor condo and have small children, you may want to consider a ski locker down at the back entrance. There is a daily fee, but it will allow you to not have to drag the equipment up every time you go in. They are first come-first serve. I will say that I have not ever had any problem with theft when leaving my skis out on the edge of the slopes next to Mtn. Lodge when I took a break.

There is wireless internet access in the room. It will connect your laptop or other smartphone device. Do not expect it to connect an Xbox. During some of the day and especially from about 5pm – 11pm it is difficult to connect and the response times are slow. They are working on a more bandwidth for this winter. I recommend getting up early, check the snow reports and e-mail while drinking your coffee.

On cell phone service. Verizon and most of the other carriers do not have coverage anywhere on the mountain. AT&T DOES have some spotty coverage and if you are able to find a place to get reception, you will be able to use that service.

Prior to checkout, please start the dishwasher and put your trash in the hall. Let housekeeping know if you need towels, trash bags, dishwasher detergent, or paper towels. Call the front desk if you have a maintenance type of issue – but if a light bulb burns out, check under the sink for a spare (please). It turns out to be a \$20 light bulb if maintenance gets involved.