

23rd November 2015

SKI AMERICA & NEW YORK STOPOVER – FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Parent, Carer,

Thank you for expressing an interest in our next Academy Skiing trip which will take place from Friday 17th February until Saturday 25th February 2017.

During the past 20 years I have organised many skiing trips to Europe, Canada and America. After a break of 5 years I have decided to travel once again to America. The whole trip is organised through SkiBound, a reputable company, which is part of the TUI group, who specialise in this area. I have been to the resort previously and can reassure you that the whole experience will be a trip of a lifetime. This adventure will take us via the interesting city of Boston, USA, to the fantastic ski resorts of Loon and Waterville Valley. After 5 days of skiing and a packed evening entertainment programme, we will leave the resort on Thursday morning and travel by coach to New York. We will stop-over in New York on Thursday night and during this stay we will take in many of the famous sights. Our accommodation in New York will be the Holiday Inn, Hasbrouck Heights (approximately 40 minutes from the heart of New York in the Meadowlands area).

The Snowy Owl Inn, at Waterville Valley, is a family run 3* hotel. It is built in the New England style and has plenty of character. It has an indoor swimming pool and jacuzzis as well as large open areas for the students to relax in. It is within easy reach of the 2 ski resorts we will be using and is therefore a perfect base for our holiday. Each room has either 2 double beds that will accommodate 4 students or are multi-bedded rooms. All rooms have en-suite facilities, televisions and telephones. There is free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. The hotel is suitable for large groups. All meals are taken in the large dining room. Depending on the uptake for this trip, there is a strong possibility that we can secure sole occupancy of the hotel.

Loon has 370 acres of terrain with 61 trails available; 20% beginners runs, 60% intermediate and 20% expert. Waterville Valley has 500 acres of terrain with 52 trails; 20% beginners, 60% intermediate and 20% expert. The benefit of skiing 2 resorts is that it gives all students the opportunity to experience a wide variety of runs. All students will have 4 hours of tuition each day provided by the ski school. No student will be allowed to ski on their own at any time. Further information about the ski resorts can be found on the internet.

Obviously due to the nature of the trip the cost will be higher than previous skiing trips. It is therefore the decision to travel during February half-term so that you have 12 months to pay the cost. The total price will be £1400 and your child's place can be secured with the payment of the first deposit which is £200 by December 14th followed by a second deposit of £150 by January 28th. The deposits are non-refundable as the Company will want these to secure flights and the hotel accommodation in both Waterville Valley and New York. Please note that if your child will be over 16 at the time of travel that there will be a £73.00

additional supplement to cover the cost of the Air Passenger Duty. Please note that this is a Government levied fee and is not part of the tour operators charge.

At this moment there is no limit on the numbers that we can take. Our last trip to America had 80 travellers. Accompanying the students will be an experienced group of staff who have been on several trips before.

The trip is open to all students within the Academy. Please note however that this trip takes place during the next academic year and therefore students currently in Year 13 will not be able to go and students in Year 11 must be returning to The de Ferrers 6th Form.

This exciting trip departs on Friday 17th February 2017. The cost includes the following:

- Outbound transatlantic flights to Boston from Heathrow. (BA, Virgin or Delta Airlines)
- Airport/resort transfer
- 6 nights' accommodation at The Snowy Owl Inn, Waterville Valley in New Hampshire on half board basis
- 1 nights' accommodation at the Holiday Inn, Hasbrouck Heights in New York
- Students will be accommodated in rooms of 4 in 2 double beds or in Multi-bedded rooms. All rooms have full en-suite facilities, televisions and Wi-Fi.
- Services of a Representative from the company in resort
- 5 days ski-pass to Loon and Waterville Valley
- 5 days hire of skis, boots, poles and helmet
- 5 x 4 hours ski lessons with fully qualified ski instructors from the resorts
- Full Medical and Travel insurance
- Travel to and from the Academy to the airport by coach
- Entertainment in resort to include:
 - ❖ Swimming
 - ❖ Shopping Trip to Tanger Outlets, Tilton, New Hampshire. New Hampshire is a tax-free state and due to it being Presidents Week there will be many offers available.
 - ❖ Ice-Skating at Waterville Valley Ice-rink
 - ❖ Quiz Night
 - ❖ End of Skiing Party with presentations
 - ❖ Other activities as applicable e.g. Pizza evening
- Excursions in New York include
 - ❖ Thursday afternoon – sight-seeing around Times Square
 - ❖ Evening Meal at the Hard Rock Café on Times Square
 - ❖ Friday morning – 9/11 Fountains and entrance to the 9/11 Museum
 - ❖ Friday afternoon – Entrance to the Top of the Rock observation platform at The Rockefeller Centre for a skyline view of New York
 - ❖ The major sights, World Trade Centre One, Empire State Building, 5TH Avenue, Central Park. The extent of this will depend on the Friday night flight time back to England.

In brief the holiday will cover the following:

- Friday depart England from Heathrow for our transatlantic flight to Boston. We then travel to our hotel and check in during the evening
- Saturday to Wednesday we will ski all day. This will be split between 2 ski resorts.
- Saturday evening – rest and catch up on some sleep!
- Sunday, Monday, Tuesday evenings a range of activities to include some of those listed previously.

- Wednesday evening pack and end of skiing holiday meeting/presentations/party
- Thursday morning depart the Snowy Owl Inn at approximately 8.00am for the journey to New York.
- Thursday / Friday tour of New York with stops at various places of interest.
- Friday evening transatlantic flight back to the UK.
- Saturday arrive back to the Academy.

Exclusions:

- Lunch which be around \$10 per day.
- APD – payable for all students who will be age 16+ at the time of travel.
- ESTA – On-line Visa Application for the USA (currently \$14)

Both of the hotels and the 2 ski resorts can be located on the internet. You will be able to find out about the ski resort facilities and how they are designed to accommodate and challenge skiers of all abilities.

If you wish your child to have a place on this trip, please return the attached slip along with a non-refundable deposit of £200 by December 14th 2015 and a 2nd deposit of £150 by 30th January. All payments should be made using Wisepay. If a cheque needs to be written, it should be made payable to de Ferrers and your child's name must be clearly written on the back. CASH PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

If there are insufficient numbers then the deposits will be returned and the trip will be cancelled. You will be notified by letter if this happens. Places will be filled on a first come first served basis. Once the trip is confirmed I will write to all parents, carers with further details about the trip. A parents evening will take place in October 2016 where I will be able to give you specific details about the holiday. There will be several student meetings to brief them on the details of the holiday.

Please be advised that once you have received confirmation of your child's place on the trip, you are in contract to the Company and any cancellation fees, should you change your mind, will be subject to their policy.

A payment schedule, should you wish to use it, will be put in place at £150 on the 28th of every month (excluding August). The full amount £1400 should be in the account by the end of October.

The October payment will be for £73.00 to cover the APD if necessary, depending on your child's age at the time of travel.

The full balance of the trip must be paid to "SkiBound" in November.

If you have any further enquiries about this trip please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Jeffery
Ski Party Leader.

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Please return this slip to Mrs Jeffery as soon as the first deposit payment of £200 is made on Wisepay. The information given below must be accurate as it will need to be required by the Company to secure the booking.

Full Name of the Student as on their passport	
Date of Birth	
Age on Date of travel (17/02/2017)	
Contact Number (s)	
Contact email address	
Passport – Country of issue	
Any Medical Conditions	YES / NO
If Yes, then please give details as this may affect the insurance.	

Consent slip:

I give permission for my child _____
tutor group _____ to go on the skiing and sight-seeing trip to America in
February half-term 2017.

I have paid the first deposit - £200 on Wisepay and accept that the 2nd deposit - £150 is required by January 30th 2016. I understand that once paid, these deposits are non-returnable unless the trip does not go ahead.

Name of Parent / Carer (print) _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

This must be signed by an adult who has parental responsibility for the student going on the trip.