



Travel & insurance advice for all 2023 Mountain Medicine on Skis courses

Welcome to this exciting course in Europe's premier skiing playground. This note is in advance of the detailed dossier and only aims to cover travel and insurance advice. Please refer to the web page for more generic course information.

<https://www.wildernessmedicaltraining.co.uk/medics-series-courses/mountain-med-on-skis/>

KEY TIMINGS

Arrival: Sunday - 1600 earliest chalet check in. Ideal if you arrive before 7pm, in time to collect ski hire equipment. Pre-1600 arrivals can leave luggage in the chalet ski room.

Departure: Sunday - depart chalet by 10am. Use the left luggage facility if leaving later.

TRAVEL

You need to fly into Geneva, Switzerland. Use www.skyscanner.net to search for you.

Before you book flights, we suggest you investigate **airport transfers** - costs and time options. This is because the cheaper coaches do not run night services and it remains to be seen if the smaller minibus transfers companies will get back up to speed this winter; many such firms can't get drivers (lack of seasonal workers – a consequence of covid and Brexit) – and their services, especially for late or early morning flights, were very limited in 2022. In any case, they are a lot more expensive than a coach. Savings made getting really late cheaper flights into Geneva may well be offset by more expensive airport transfers (and pressure to sort ski hire early in the morning).

Geneva Airport – Chamonix transfers

MINIBUSES

CVT - Chamonix Valley Transfers – is our local partner. Prices vary depending on the time of your transfer and how late you book. <http://wilderness.cvt.ski/transfers/> CVT runs a door to door pick up and drop off service. You'll need the chalet address to book: **The Castle, Chem. Francois Devouassoux** (74400 is the only Chamonix postcode).

Other transfer companies are listed here <https://www.chamonix.net/english/travel>. These include www.easybus.com who drop off and pick up from the main bus station (a flat and easy 8 minute walk from the chalet).

The advantage of door-to-door transfers is convenience. The downside is that you often must wait at the airport for other passengers to land AND then you are driving around to

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other chalets and hotels dropping passengers off. These transfers tend to be much more expensive than the coach services.

COACH SERVICES

The advantages of coach services with one drop off and collection point at the central Chamonix bus station are their set departure times, comfort (twin seats) and lower prices. On balance, the travel time is similar whatever service – scheduled or door to door. Don't bother trying to co-ordinate transfers with other delegates through Whatsapp. No advantages. Just book your own. Trains to/from Geneva airport are complicated.

Swiss Tours – REGULAR line

[https://www.swisstours-office.ch//REGULAR-LINE/Geneva-Chamonix-\(Regular-line\)/Regular-Line/TS0153BT/regular-ligne-shuttle-transfer-service-from-geneva-to-chamonix-464.html](https://www.swisstours-office.ch//REGULAR-LINE/Geneva-Chamonix-(Regular-line)/Regular-Line/TS0153BT/regular-ligne-shuttle-transfer-service-from-geneva-to-chamonix-464.html)

Flixbus

<https://www.flixbus.com/bus-routes/bus-geneva-chamonix>

INSURANCE

Make sure you are insured for guided skiing, on and off piste, including glacier skiing and ski touring (not ski mountaineering).

“Free” travel insurance from a bank or credit card often excludes snow sports. **Buy insurance now** in case you withdraw from the course for an insurable reason, including covid. You've agreed to these <http://wildernessmedicaltraining.co.uk/terms-and-conditions/> with respect to cancellations and refunds.

WMT's directors have annual cover with <http://www.snowcard.co.uk/> (available to UK residents only). Snowcard will insure our medics to come on this course (other insurers - the British Mountaineering Council for example - consider this a WORK trip for medics, not a leisure trip, and won't cover it). You'll need Snowcard's MAX ADVENTURE level of cover. Also there's **Big Cat**. We have spoken to them and they'll cover the course activities and do not consider this a “work” trip for participants (though it's work for WMT staff so we can't use Big Cat.) You'll have to add the WINTER SPORTS EU option. <https://www.bigcattravelinsurance.com/>

Of course there are other insurers! Whoever you choose, even those we've mentioned, you must satisfy yourself that this insurance is appropriate for your needs.

The full dossier covers ski pass advice, clothing, equipment and ski hire and much more and will be available at least a few months before each course.

I hope this satisfies your travel and insurance queries and gets you excited for the course.

All the best,

Barry Roberts

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