

"The ultimate Ski Safari Manual"

Finally, a practical manual with all the explanations you need to organize your Ski Safari adventure in the Dolomites in the best possible way!



Sit back comfortably and dedicate about half an hour of your time to read all the important aspects you need to know (and do) to make your Dolomites Ski Safari experience unique.

In these few pages, you will find more than 20 years of my experience in Ski Safari tours in the Dolomites.

Happy reading!

Estimated reading time: approximately 20-30 minutes



Chapters of this Manual:

1. **Skiers (and Snowboarders) for Ski Safari**
2. **How Many Days to Choose for Your Ski Safari?**
3. **What Are the Lodges and Hotels Like Along the Ski Safari?**
4. **How to Get to Bolzano?**
5. **Renting Skis or Bringing Your Own?**
6. **Backpacking or Luggage Transport?**
7. **The First Day (Departure)**
8. **A Typical Day on a Ski Safari**
9. **The Last Day (Return)**
10. **What Are the Dolomite Slopes Like?**
11. **Additional Information**



1. Skiers (and Snowboarders) for Ski Safari

A Ski Safari in the Dolomites requires about 5 to 6 hours of skiing per day (with a one-hour lunch break), meaning you'll be active for around 6-7 hours daily. For this reason, a Dolomites Ski Safari is:

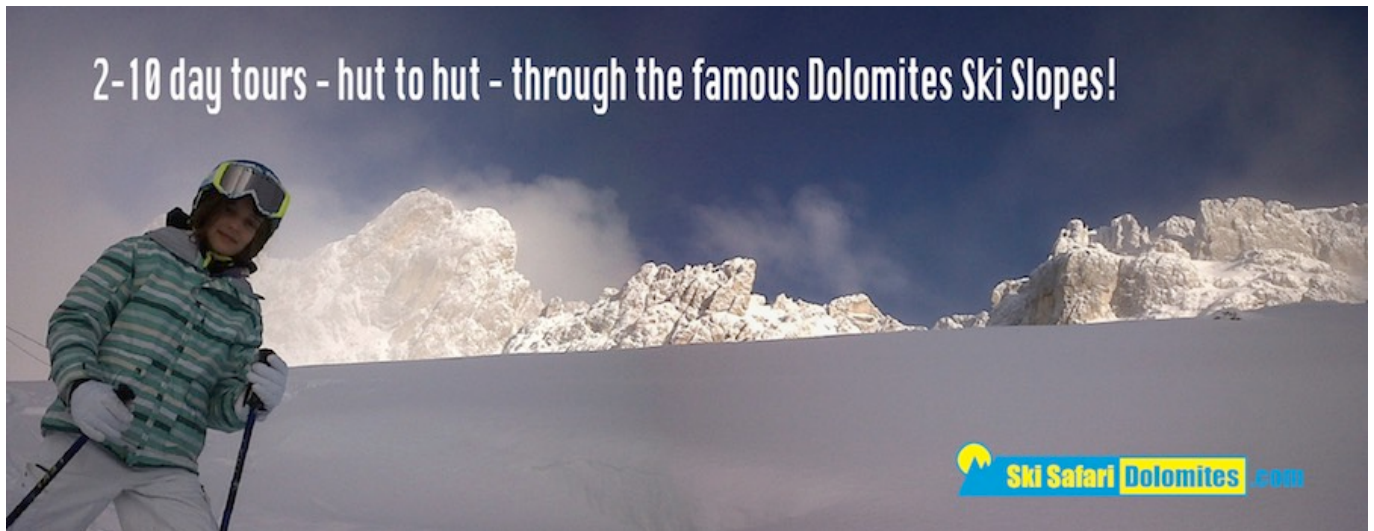
- **Suitable only for intermediate and advanced skiers** with an adventurous spirit and adaptability (*), who love spending their time skiing rather than visiting "Apres-Ski bars". The ideal Ski Safari skier is a passionate sports enthusiast who enjoys discovering traditions, history, and the local lifestyle (**). In short, an enthusiastic skiing traveler!
- **Suitable for snowboarders** only if they are experienced and well-trained.
- **Not recommended** for beginners, "pizza skiers," or those who are unfit and lack physical endurance.
- **Not recommended** for skiers with physical or health issues.

(*) During the Ski Safari, you will need to walk through some villages carrying your skis for about 10 minutes at most.

(**) The uniqueness of our Ski Safaris is that, along the way, we share historical anecdotes and introduce you to the traditions and local lifestyles of the valleys we visit. We believe this is an important aspect that enhances your Ski Safari experience.

Alcohol is strictly forbidden while skiing! This rule is lifted once you step inside a lodge :-)

More details in the final chapter.



2. How many days to choose for your Ski Safari?

This depends on your availability and expectations.

We offer customised Ski Safari tours ranging from 3 to 6 (or more) days.

Traditional Ski Safaris usually last 5-7 days. Within this timeframe, you can complete an 8-shaped route covering most of the Dolomites without missing the most famous ski areas—5 days if you're a fast skier, 7 days if you're slower or traveling with family and kids.

For an even greater adventure, we can extend it to 9-10 days, covering the entire "Dolomiti Superski" area!

If you have an **IKON PASS** (depending on your pass type), you are entitled to 5 or 7 days within Dolomiti Superski. Check your IKON PASS account before departure.





3. What are the Rifugios like along the Ski Safari?

Most hotels in the valleys we cross **do not accept single-night bookings**, especially those with 3+ stars.

There are very few lodges and hotels along the Ski Safari route (mostly at high altitude) that accommodate Ski Safari travelers.

To secure **private double rooms**, we must book well in advance (preferably a year ahead). Booking just a few months in advance may leave only dormitory options with up to 12 beds...

Sleeping in a common room full of "fat skiers" who have been drinking beer and singing all night is **not** part of our service standard! :-)

However, if you expect **luxury 5-star accommodations**, this is neither possible nor in the spirit of the Ski Safari.

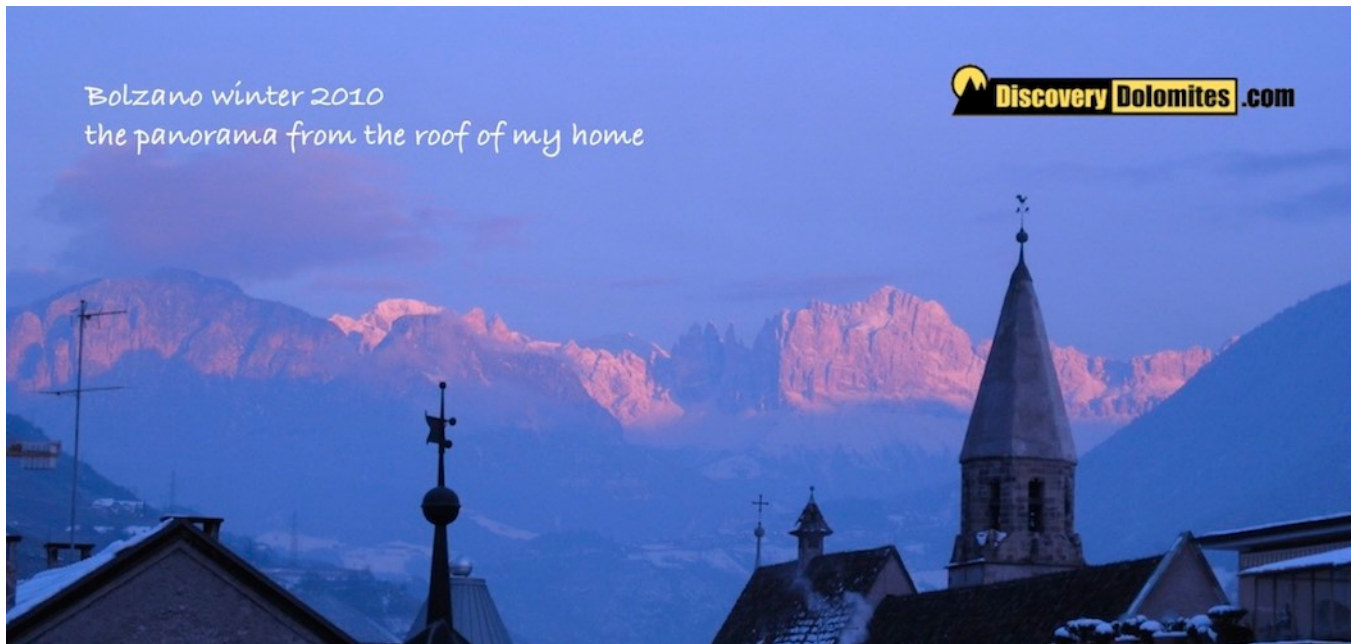
We prioritize **authentic local lodges and hotels**, avoiding those frequented by noisy foreign tour groups (which we personally dislike).

Thanks to our experience and personal connections with the lodge and hotel owners, we guarantee the best accommodations available.

We typically use these Rifugios and Hotels:

- **Rifugio Monti Pallidi:** <https://montipallidi.it/en>
- **Hotel Col di Lana:** <https://www.coldilana.it/en/>
- **Hotel La Montanara:** <http://www.lamontanara.it/en/hotel-dolomites-marmolada>
- **Hotel La Montanina:** <https://www.hotelmontanina.com/en>
- **Ski Hotel Lorenzini:** <https://www.lorenzinihotelski.com/en/hotel-lorenzini-ski-val-fiorentina-hotel-dolomites/>
- **Rifugio Col Gallina:** <https://www.rifugiocolgallina.com/en/>
- **Rifugio La Viza:** <https://www.arabba.it/it/strutture-gastronomia/gastronomia/rifugio-la-viza/110-74100.html>
- **Rifugio Baita Cuz:** <https://www.rifugiobaitacuz.com/en/>





4. How to get to Bolzano?

Reaching Bolzano is very easy. If you land in Munich, Venice, Verona, Bergamo, or either of Milan's airports, you can get to Bolzano by train.

Bolzano is on the Brenner Railway Line, the most important connection between Northern and Southern Europe. Many daily trains depart from airport cities towards this line.

Search for your train schedules on:

- www.trenitalia.com (Italian National Railways)
- www.bahn.de (German National Railways)

Arrival station: **BOLZANO - BOZEN** (it has both Italian and German names).

For detailed travel logistics, refer to this PDF:

[Flight & Transport Info](#)



5. Renting skis or bringing your own?

This choice is entirely up to you. Bringing your own skis is not a bad idea... but when factoring in the transportation costs for a long flight, you'll find it more convenient to bring only your ski boots and rent skis here in the Dolomites.

The **K&K ski rental shop**, located right at the **bottom station of the Siusi cable car** (our starting point on the first day), offers an excellent selection of skis for all levels.

K&K - ROPEWAY'S BOTTOM STATION, SIUSI

<https://www.kandk.bz/en/location/>

It is essential to **book your rental in advance**, especially if your tour is during **high season** (February or March).



6. Backpacking or luggage transport?

Bringing a **small 20-25 liters backpack** with only the essentials for the evening in a lodge/hotel is part of the Ski Safari adventure in the Dolomites! For you, it's a different way to experience skiing; for us, it's everyday life... :-)

If you've never done it before, don't worry—just follow my step-by-step instructions below.

Alternatively, if carrying a backpack is something you'd rather avoid, we offer a **luggage transport service** that can deliver your bags from lodge/hotel to lodge/hotel every day throughout the Ski Safari.

The base cost (regardless of the number of participants/bags) is:

- **€1200 for 5 days**
- **€1500 for 6 days**
- **To be defined for longer Ski Safaris**

I generally recommend this solution for groups of **4 or more participants**.

Packing Your Backpack for a Dolomites Ski Safari

Packing your backpack properly is crucial! The key rule is to **bring only essential clothing and items**.

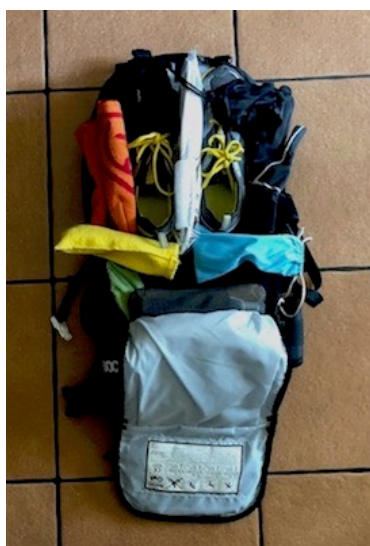
Most hotels and lodges along our route provide **towels**, and in the evening, you'll only need **minimal spare clothing**.



Here's my recommended packing list based on years of experience:

The Backpack (20-25 liters)

1. Choose a small ski-specific backpack (like my Evoc, shown in the photo below) or a regular 20-liter trekking backpack.
2. Minimal Toiletries Kit (see below)
3. Basic Spare Clothing Set (see below)
4. Lightweight Sneakers
5. Flip-Flaps
6. Smartphone in a Protective Case
7. Charger + Spare Battery for Smartphone
8. Sunglasses and Reading Glasses (if needed)
9. Spare Gloves (optional but recommended)
10. Warm Hat



Minimal Toiletries Kit

- A. Comb
- C. Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- D. Lightweight Microfiber Towel
- E. Liquid Soap/Shampoo (2-3 travel-sized items)



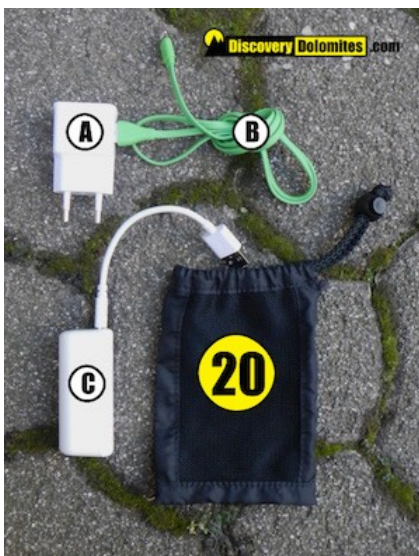
Basic Spare Clothing Set

- A. Lightweight sweatpants
- B. Cotton T-shirt
- C. Light sweater
- D. Underwear
- E. Cotton socks



Smartphone & Accessories

If you plan to take photos during the Ski Safari (good idea!), make sure your phone is secured in a strap-on case. Many expensive phones have been lost on Dolomite slopes due to accidental hand movements! :-)



Charger & Spare Battery

All lodges and hotels have standard EU power outlets. It's a good idea to bring a long charging cable and a small power bank to avoid leaving your phone unattended while charging. For a printable PDF version of this packing list, visit: https://ski-safari-dolomites.com/wp-content/uploads/SSD_PDF_info-1.pdf

7. The First Day (Departure)

We depart from Bolzano at 07:00 AM, already dressed in ski gear, with a small backpack for sneakers (even if using luggage transport) or with your standard Ski Safari backpack (if carrying your own gear). You should also bring your ski boots (and skis if you brought them from home).

We walk about 10-15 minutes to the local bus station, then take a bus to Siusi (40-50 minutes).

At Siusi bottom station, we will:

- Pick up rental skis (if booked from K&K shop)
- Collect Dolomiti Superski passes (unless using an IKON PASS)
- Enjoy breakfast together!
- Start skiing! (usually around 09:00 AM)

8. A Typical Day on a Ski Safari

- 07:00 AM - Wake-up
- 07:30 AM - Breakfast
- 08:30 AM - Start skiing (as soon as lifts open)
- 3 hours of skiing (with short breaks if needed)
- 1-hour lunch break
- 2-3 more hours of skiing (with short breaks if needed)

Total skiing time: 5-6 hours per day, so a basic level of fitness is required.

If we stop at a café/refuge along the way, restrooms may be paid (€0.50 - €1.00) or free if you order something.

On some days, we may need to use a short ski bus transfer to connect different ski areas. Some are free, others require a ticket. In this case, I will purchase the tickets for the group, and you will reimburse me individually.

9. The Last Day (Return)

The final day follows the same pattern as the first. If using luggage transport, you'll still need a small backpack for sneakers.

We finish skiing at a designated village, take a local bus (~30 minutes), and return to Bolzano.

10. What Are the Dolomite Slopes Like?

Forget about bumpy, unmaintained slopes! The Dolomiti Superski network ensures perfectly groomed pistes every day.

At night, a fleet of snow groomers works tirelessly, so in the morning, the slopes are as smooth as a billiard table!



11. Additional Information

Here in the Dolomites, we have a beloved tradition: the **Bombardino**.

How have you managed to live this long without trying it?!!!!

It's a magical concoction made of **Italian egg liqueur + just a splash of brandy + topped with whipped cream and a sprinkle of cocoa powder...**

A true delight that local skiers **never** miss at the end of the day while chatting about their heroic ski adventures! :-)



Lastly the final greetings!



Don't be alarmed by this last photo...

my home is only about a **10-minute bike ride** from your B&B in Bolzano...

so on the last day, I'll be greeting you looking like this! :-)