

Ski Tour Ratings

CLASS I: Tour with less than 1,000 feet of elevation gain and less than 5 miles in total length. Skiers should be able to execute stops and turns. Some, *but not all*, tours are appropriate for novice skiers with minimal cross country experience. The pace will be slow (*1 to 1.5 miles per hour*). Persons with no cross country skiing experience **MUST** take the beginning lessons offered by the Club or must obtain the leader's permission **PRIOR** to joining a CLASS I tour.

CLASS II: Tour with less than 2,000 feet of elevation gain and less than 10 miles in total length. A tour requires intermediate skills and ability to maintain control on moderate slopes with techniques such as snowplowing, turning and traversing. Skiers should have enough stamina for sustained kick and glide touring on near level ground at a pace of 2 miles per hour for several miles and should also be experienced at using climbing skins to climb trails with moderate slopes.

CLASS III: Tour with greater than 2,000 feet of elevation gain and/or greater than 10 miles in total length, or otherwise characterized by technical challenges, or potential for same. A tour usually requires advanced skills and ability to competently and confidently climb and descend steep, narrow trails. The skier should be experienced with using climbing skins for both climbing and safely descending steep slopes. Skiers should have the endurance for skiing ten miles or more within the time constraints of the tour.

Trail slopes are categorized as follows:

- 1) Gentle slopes have less than 5% grades.
- 2) Moderate slopes have grades greater than 5%, but less than 15% grades.
- 3) Steep slopes have grades greater than 15% grades.

Exploratory designation:

In addition to the CLASS rating, a tour may be designated exploratory (Exp). This means the leader has not skied on this route recently (*or ever*) or is unsure about some aspect of the proposed route. Participants should be experienced in backcountry skiing. They should be prepared for any possible situation and should have emergency gear with them.