

Nashville Ski Club

**Crans Montana, Switzerland**

Feb 17-25, 2018

Crans Montana, Switzerland:

-over 87 miles of trails

-19 lifts and gondolas

- 39% easy slopes, 50% intermediate, 11% difficult

-longest run 7.5 miles

- base elevation 4900 ft., top elevation 9800 ft.

- vertical drop 4900+ feet, higher than ANY Colorado resort!

- sledding, ice skating, hiking, sightseeing via Swiss rail system

- 22 restaurants for Swiss slope side dining

-good exchange rate, beautiful villages, quintessential ski vibe!

What is included:

-Flights from Nashville to Milan Malpensa, including airport taxes

 (subject to change, 24 seats on hold)

-One-way coach transfer from Milan airport to Crans Montana

-6 nights at Hotel Valaisia (double occupancy)

-6 breakfasts and 6 - 4-course dinners (2 themed dinners) in CM

-One-way coach transfer from CM to hotel in Milan

-1 night at Starhotel Ritz in Milan (double occupancy)

- 1 breakfast at Starhotel Ritz in Milan

-One-way coach transfer from hotel in Milan to airport

-All taxes included (VAT, City tax)

Price:

Full package with 4-day lift tickets: $2398

2, 3 and 5-day lift tickets also available

single supplement available

Contact: Sara Shamblin saratamasdvm@gmail.com

 Call or text 615.838.3360 [www.nashvilleskiclub.org](http://www.nashvilleskiclub.org)

**Larry & I are going on this Trip, and this is a great trip! It is SO INCLUSIVE, And I hope some of you will consider joining us and Ski Switzerland in 2018 with us!**

It includes Air from Charlotte to JFK where we will meet up the Nashville Ski Club Members, and Fly Together to Milan, Italy. (**I hope you can view the Powerpoint presentation Sara showed her ski club.**) Bus transportation across the border to Crans Montana Ski Resort. The hotels are upscale for our group on a ski trip! All Breakfast’s and 4-Course Dinners are Included at the Hotel, and 2 Themed Dinners. 4 Day Lift Ticket. Bus Transportation back to Milan for our flight back. We will spend the night in the Starhotel Ritz in Milan (4 Star). One Breakfast at Starhotel Ritz, and Transfer to the Milan Airport. Fly back to Miami and on to Charlotte and Nashville.

There are also options to Sight See via the Swiss Rail System. Zermatt, Switzerland is a trip we might take where we can sight see in the city and see the Matterhorn.

**From Wikipedia:**

The resort is located in the heart of the [Swiss Alps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Alps) in the [French-speaking part](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romandie) of the canton of [Valais](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valais). It is located on a plateau above [Sierre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierre) at an [elevation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elevation) of about 1,500 m (4,920 ft) [above sea level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Height_above_mean_sea_level), allowing good view over the [Valais Alps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valais_Alps) and [Weisshorn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weisshorn) in particular. The resort is a fusion of the two centers of Crans and Montana and belongs to 6 municipalities (Chermignon, Icogne, Lens, Mollens, Montana and Randogne).

The skiing area of Crans-Montana is composed of 140 km (87 mi) of [pistes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piste), and includes the glacier of [Plaine Morte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plaine_Morte). It is topped by the [Pointe de la Plaine Morte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pointe_de_la_Plaine_Morte) at 2,927 m (9,600 ft).

Crans-Montana is famous in [alpine ski racing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alpine_skiing) for the [1987 World Championships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1987_FIS_Alpine_World_Ski_Championships) and is often on the [World Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIS_Alpine_Ski_World_Cup) schedule, usually for women's speed events. It also hosts the only winter mountain pop rock festival [Caprices Festival](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Caprices_Festival&action=edit&redlink=1) and the second largest European golf event [Omega European Masters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omega_European_Masters), (an event from the [European](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Tour) and [Asian Tour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_Tour)) which takes place each September. The resort has also been frequently used for bicycle racing, hosting stage finishes of the [Tour de Suisse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tour_de_Suisse) seven times and of the [Tour de Romandie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tour_de_Romandie) eight times as of 2013. In addition Crans-Montana also hosted the finish of the 20th stage of the [1984 Tour de France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1984_Tour_de_France), won by [Laurent Fignon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurent_Fignon), who also took the overall race win that year.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crans-Montana#cite_note-9)

**If you have additional Questions, PLEASE communicate those through me at** **rleighford@bellsouth.net** **, and I’ll ask Sara to get us answer!**

**Questions that We Asked of the Trip Leader**

**Have you ever been to Crans Montana yourself or led a trip over there and what has your experience been?...in Feb?**

What I have heard over the years is that the Europeans do not groom their slopes, so even though there is 50% intermediate skiing it may be too tough for us.  **How well are slopes groomed, daily and how many or % of runs groomed each day?**

The price is right and the trip with meals and lodging, transportation, air fare, sounds good.

Is the hotel at the ski area?

Wonder why they are flying into Milan, Italy instead of Geneva, Switzerland.

**Does lodging include 2 queen beds?**   **The photos on the Hotel site showed a Single, a Double, and a Double and a Single.  Do they have rooms with 2 Singles to accommodate Larry and I who prefer not to sleep in a Double/Queen Bed.**

I tried to look for lift ticket prices, but the site I looked at did not furnish rates.  **I did see that 4 lift tickets are included in our pricing.**

Do we fly to Nashville to catch this trip, or can we get travel arrangements that will allow us to fly from Charlotte and connect with you....If we have to fly to Nashville...can we do it same day and meet up with your group at the airport...i.e. are your trip times in the evening or earlier in the day?

We have never skied in Europe.  I have visited in London and learned that I could pay with my credit card and it would be accepted and converted to their currency by the credit card company.

Are there villages or towns nearby where we could visit on our day(s) off?

**Trip Leader (Sara Tamas Shamblin) Response’s….**

Let me send some replies your way!

1. YES I have been to Crans Montana!  I was an exchange student there in 1976 and absolutely fell in love with the area!

 Feb is the high season because the best snow is then, but that's the time the club chose to travel and I think it will work out fine.  Of course, any resort can have "off years" for snow but this is supposed to be a consistently good ski area.  I know they have a lot of international ski races there, so I'm assuming the slopes are well maintained.  I did not ski in 1976.

2. So far on this trip most are beginner or intermediate skiers.  In reading reviews, sounds like upper beginners will do just fine here.  My experience with European ski resorts is that they DO groom, just not as often as the Colorado resorts (not every slope every night).  They do have a beginner ski area, on the golf course, and several easier slopes.

3.  The hotel is located right next to one of the Gondolas.

Here is a link to the Trail Map

<https://www.mycma.ch/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/plan_pistes_16_17.jpg>

4. I wanted to fly into Geneva and drive up the Valais to Crans Montana, it's such a pretty drive But, the tickets were $800-something into Milan and $1,200 something into Geneva, so the travel agent booked us through Milano.  We'll have a pretty drive through the Italian Alps and along the lake then over the Simplon Pass (or tunnel) into the upper reaches of the valley.

5. Bedding:  I spoke to Pierre, who works for Sports America, our travel agent, and he will be with us on the ground in Switzerland.  He tells me that we can request either a double room or single bed room and he assures me we will get what we request.  For example, two guys who room together do NOT want to share a bed, even if it's two single beds pushed together! So yes, I am assured that if you request two single beds, then you will get it.  And once I know you're going, I'll reach out to not only Pierre but the hotel itself and make sure our requests are granted!  So, when signing up, request single beds and list your spouse as your roommate.

6. As for statistics regarding snow, it's touted as "one of the sunniest resorts in Switzerland" but also is known for good snow (if the snow wasn't good, they wouldn't have FIS races there), so like Steamboat or other sunny resorts in Colorado I assume.

7. Price does include 4-day lift tickets.   You have the option of 2, 3,4 or 5 day lifts.  If you go onto our club’s website    [www.nashvilleskiclub.org](http://www.nashvilleskiclub.org)  and look at "trips" there will be some information there, and a link to the online signup through Sports America Tours.   I'm waiting for a call from them on Wed or Thurs regarding getting flights out of Charlotte for some people vs out of Nashville.

8. Credit cards and paying for things there:  I was in Interlaken skiing a few years ago and don’t recall carrying much cash with me, maybe small bills to pay for small items like drinks.  I used the credit and debit cards everywhere.  This is a cosmopolitan town, lots of international people here, and it shouldn't be a problem.  If you want cash, go to a local ATM and withdraw cash.  Many credit cards will allow you to do this at no charge. Let your card companies know you'll be out of the country and they won't decline the transaction.  When paying for things using credit card, if they ask if you want to pay in francs or dollars, always choose local currency and you'll get the best rates.  And of course, save your receipts and balance your accounts when you get home!

9. I'm only going to ski 3 days.  I want to take one day off and go sledding, sightseeing in town, and probably take the funicular down the valley to Sierre or Sion, both pretty towns.  I'm going to start planning possibilities with Pierre this fall - trying to see if any wineries or cheeseries will be open in the winter, what our other options are, etc.  I definitely want to take a day trip to Zermatt.  I've been there several times but always was on a "schedule" and the days I was in Zermatt it was cloudy and I never got to see the Matterhorn. So, this trip, I'm going to wait for a beautifully clear day then we'll go to Zermatt!  We can easily take the funicular down the mountain to the valley below, then catch a train to Zermatt. Much less expensive (and more fun!) than renting a bus or car.

The price for the trip is fantastic, about $2,398 which includes air, ground transportation, hotel, all breakfasts, all dinners = WOW! Switzerland in the winter!

**Additional Comments**

I hope you guys decide to go, this definitely will be a fantastic trip. There's so much I could tell you about this part of Switzerland but I hope you'll be able to see it for yourself!  The valley is wide and temperate at the bottom, this is where a lot of vineyards are, and up each side the mountains stretch out so high, and the peaks are snow covered even in the summer.  Crans Montana is located on a plateau halfway up the side.  Above the town is a glacier and you can ski on the glacier year-round! The views are spectacular!  Google Crans Montana and check out their website!

Room prices are based on double occupancy.  Pricing is based on double occupancy, so either a couple in a double bed, or two single folks in single beds. Single supplement is $875 per person.  So that seems a bit expensive, but know there will be some people who want this.

Taking your gear or renting? I think it will be split between half the folks bringing their gear and half renting there.  I'm hauling my stuff over so I don't have to hassle with renting, and we will get rental info as the time gets closer.  Right now, everyone in that town is in "summer mode" and not thinking snow, can't get too many specific answers this time of year.

At this point, I'd say wait on signing up until I find out about airfare.  **When you sign up for the trip, you'll be on the Sports America website and they don’t give you an option to "opt out" of the Nashville airfare**, so let's wait and get a price and maybe SA can make the flight out of CLT an option on the sign-up page.

The four-day lift ticket is $254, so if someone is not planning on skiing, deduct that from the cost.  All things considered, this is a fantastic price for a trip like this. Our domestic ski trips are only a few hundred dollars less, and they don't include all breakfasts and dinners! That alone is worth hundreds of dollars!

This will be my fourth trip to this area. Each time the roads have changed and it's so much more developed than the previous time, but i generally know where to go and what to do!

**Mike Hibbard, the president of Sports America, our travel agent, tells me that the flight from Charlotte will cost the same as the trip from Nashville. Both airports are in the same "fare group".**

**To join our trip**, go to the club's website:  [www.nashvilleskiclub.org](http://www.nashvilleskiclub.org), and click on the "trips" tab, then select the Switzerland trip and that will take you to the Sports America website where the actual sign-up occurs.  Here is a link to that:

<http://www.nashvilleskiclub.org/cransmontana2018.htm>

This will require you to set up an account with them, and will give you access to your trip information. There are several pages to be filled out, with your name and address, of course.  Choose a double bed or single bed, the single option will be two separate beds in the same room.  A single supplement is available for an extra $875.   **Mike tells me the way to make sure he identifies your group from Charlotte as being NOT with the Nashville flight out, is where it asks for your Membership ID, put in CATAWBA and that will flag the different flight.**  Your Charlotte flight options will NOT show up on this page, but he will get in and manually change your flight and (I assume) be in touch with you about the flight.  You will be on the same flight over with us, so I'm not sure of the actual departure time from CLT, but you will be on the SAME flight over and back to Europe.

**Sports America** is requiring a $500 deposit when you sign up.

First Payment Due: 9/06/2017 - $500

Second Pmt Due: 11/03/2017 - $500

12/20/2017 – Final Balance

**Remember you must be a Catawba Valley Ski Club Member for the 2017-18 season, in order to sign up for this trip!**

**And another reminder: If you have additional Questions, PLEASE communicate those through me at** **rleighford@bellsouth.net** **, and I’ll ask Sara to get us answer!**