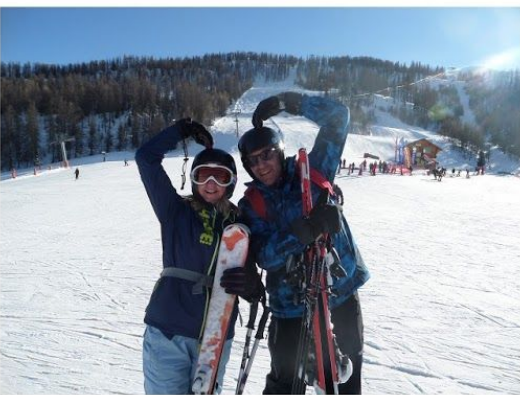


CAG Ski Trip, Sierra Nevada, February 2020

February 16th - 23rd 2020



THIS REALLY WILL BE THE BEST SKI TRIP, SO FAR!!!



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Introduction

Following our awesome 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018 ski trips we are pleased to launch our plans for the **2020** ski trip. Our previous trips have been described by those that went on them as ***the best trips they have EVER been on - including the famous Arden Year 10 ski trip!!!***

Think about it: would you rather go skiing with your teachers, or with Simon?? Be woken up by Dickie, or your geography teacher?? Or, eat dinner with the teacher who gave you detention or watch Stu suck spaghetti through his lips??



This time, we will be going to Sierra Nevada in the south of Spain. We appreciate that you would normally think of a family *Summer* holiday in the south of Spain, but we've researched it and we're really excited about it.

Sierra Nevada is the highest point in Southern Spain, rising to 3348 meters above sea level which means not only is this the highest area in southern Spain, it's also got so much snow the Skiing World Cup uses the resort.

This is a trip available to **ALL members regardless of experience from any age group**: from beginner all the way to expert, from year 6 to year 13 (in 2019 -2020 school year). We have had many year 7 members with us in the past - this is equally applicable to ALL members.

There are other important changes for this trip: we're **NOT** going by coach for the first time ever. Instead, we're flying and so avoiding two 24 hour journeys in a metal tube. Instead we'll be doing a 3 hour journey in a metal tube that will drop us just 45 mins away from the resort.

We are also reverting to the ski company we have traditionally used in the past, Halsbury Travel, because they are the best at running this type of trip. They are an excellent company and take care of everything allowing us to enjoy the holiday and not worry about arrangements.

This is an absolutely brilliant trip, the best EVER: read on!!!!

IMPORTANT: ACTION POINTS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY FRIDAY JAN 22ND 2019 LATEST AT THE END OF THIS LETTER

General Information

Our trip operators are Halsbury Ski: <http://www.halsburyski.com/>. They are the company we used for all of our ski trips in the past except the most recent trip, so we aren't new to them and have been very impressed with their level of service, assistance, approachability etc – they are a good company and we trust in their delivery of the trip.

They have selected a trip itinerary as follows:

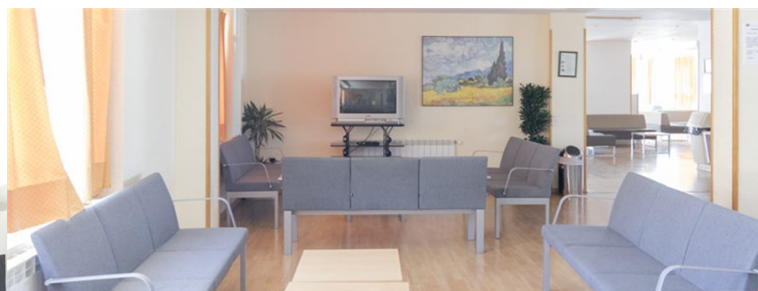
Destination:	Sierra Nevada, Spain
Date of travel:	16/02/2020 – 23/02/2020
Length of tour:	8 days, 7 nights

What's Included

- Flights from a Midlands airport
- 7 nights full board accommodation in multi bedded rooms
- Airport Taxes and any local taxes charged
- 6 days ski and boot hire
- 6 x 4 hours a day skiing tuition
- Winter Sports Travel & Medical Insurance
- Ski Breakage Insurance
- In resort Halsbury Representative
- 24 hour emergency contact assistance from the UK
- Airport to resort coach transfers
- Any daily transport required to reach ski area from accommodation
- 6 days ski pass
- 6 days helmet hire
- In house apres ski programme
- Piste Closure Insurance

Accommodation

We will be staying in Sierra Nevada at the Albergue Inturjovent Sierra Nevada, accommodation specifically for



youth groups with easy access to the Ski Station. The Albergue has fantastic on-site facilities and provides a personalised evening entertainment programme for our



group. Large communal lounge areas, games area with pool tables, TV lounges, meeting rooms, Internet terminals and snack machines. Ski-fit and storage is also available on-site. Youth groups sleep in comfortable 2-4 bedded rooms

with private facilities. Breakfast and dinner are served buffet-style in the on-site restaurant. Hot lunch is provided on the slopes.

Location

The Albergue is at the top of Pragellano village and enjoys spectacular views over the whole resort. Two nearby chairlifts provide direct access to the ski area, or down to the main village centre and amenities.

About Sierra Nevada

Sierra Nevada (meaning "mountain range covered in snow" in Spanish) is a mountain range in the region of Andalucía, in the province of Granada and, a little further, Málaga and Almería in Spain. It contains the highest point of continental Spain and the third highest in Europe, after the Caucasus Mountains and the Alps.



The resort hosted the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in 1996 and occasionally hosts World Cup races such as the last were women's technical races in 2007.[2] In recent years World Slope and Freestyle events have made a very successful appearance here. It was also host to the 2015 Winter Universiade, the world university games. In March 2017, Sierra Nevada hosted the FIS Freestyle Ski and Snowboarding World Championships 2017.

With abundant snow, it is possible to ski almost anywhere on the mountain, as the whole resort is above the treeline. Skiers looking for a real challenge could try the World Cup giant slalom run known as "Fuente del Tesoro". As the resort mainly caters to locals, and less to people visiting for a whole week, it is much busier at weekends resulting in rarely any queues mid-week outside the main Spanish holidays (first week of December, Christmas through to 6 January and

Easter). Even at weekends, queues are generally fairly short by comparison to other European areas especially if the whole resort is open, allowing skiers to spread out across the mountain.

Resort Ski Facts:

Vertical Drop	1,200 m (3,940 ft)	Lift system	2 Cable cars
Top elevation	3,300 m (10,830 ft)		17 Chairlifts
Base elevation	2,100 m (6,890 ft)		2 T-bar lifts
Runs	115: 100 km (60 mi):		2 Magic carpets
Green:	16		1 Ski tows
Blue:	40	Snowmaking	31 km ² (12 sq mi)
Red:	50		390 cannons
Black:	9		

Cost

The trip cost is **£1099 for a fully inclusive trip**. There isn't any need for any extra money aside from a little spending money for hot chocolates, souvenirs / gifts and some food on the flights there and back. All food for the week in Spain is included.

We recognise this is a high cost and is a higher than any we have undertaken in the past. However, unlike most other trips of this style, this includes flight rather than 24 hour coach option and 6 days skiing rather than 5 that is generally offered these days.

Please put the following dates and amounts in your diaries, on the wall, on the fridge, the ceiling above your bed, in your bank account online payment system - wherever you need to put them to ensure the payments are made **on time** - **reminders will not be sent**.

If payments are not made on time this will be a breach of contract and, to safeguard the other members of the trip, we will assume that member is no longer a participant and will cancel their participation with the travel company.

Payment	Amount per person	Payments Can Be Sent From	Payment Deadline	Payment Reference
1st Deposit	£150	Now	January 22nd	"Initial Last name Ski 1"
2nd Deposit	£150	February 18th	March 5th 2019	"Initial Last name Ski 2"
3rd Deposit	£150	July 18th 2019	August 1st 2019	"Initial Last name Ski 3"
Final Balance	£649	Nov 17th 2019	Dec 1st 2019	"Initial Last name Ski 4"

All payments must be made electronically to Challenge Adventure Group at the following details:

- Sort Code: 40-26-22
- Account Number: 41271806
- Please see payment checklist at the end of this letter for dates, amounts and references

If participants are likely to have difficulty meeting payment deadlines we have in the past been able to provide alternative payment arrangements to make it easier for members to participate. If you would like to be considered for this please contact us **SIGNIFICANTLY IN ADVANCE OF ANY PAYMENT DEADLINE**.

Funding

To reduce the out of pocket cost we will look to run a program where participants take part in fundraising events to reduce the cost of their own trip. Our aim is to help members raise the funds they need towards the cost of their trip, primarily through car washing which won't cover the trip cost by itself, and through additional further methods that parents and leaders can suggest and support.

CAG leaders will assist at events but the primary effort will need to come from parents. If you wish to assist in this program please let us know - if you wish to run an event please go ahead, everyone will welcome your leadership.

If you don't wish to take part in the program and are willing to pay the full cost instead that will be fine, but we would rather have all participants involved to create a great team experience if possible.

Other Funding Concerns

We want everyone who wants to take part in this trip have the opportunity to do so, regardless of ability to pay out of own funding. If you have other concerns about funding the trip feel free to discuss these with us in strict confidence – we'll do our best to help.

Ski Lessons

There will be 24 hours of lessons for participants on the slopes when we get to Sierra Nevada. However, some lessons for new skiers in advance of the trip will not only be rewarded by a far better experience on the snow when we get there, they are also required. Some participants on previous trips have been advised to take lessons in advance of their trip, not done so and found out they don't like skiing after all when they hit the slopes for the first time at the start of a 6 day trip. This isn't fair on participants or leaders who pay full price for their place on the trip but will have to spend their time caring for non skiing trip members. Ski lessons in advance are priceless in terms of a happy outcome for all - please do not apply to take part if you don't intend to have lessons before the trip.

Trip Cancellation & Booking Conditions

Whilst we don't envisage that participants will have to cancel their participation we need to point out the financial conditions we have to abide by from the tour operators:

- After payment of first deposit and up until 6 weeks after date of booking: Loss of first deposit.
- Between 6 weeks after booking and up until 10 weeks before departure: Loss of 50% of invoiced price.
- Between 2 & 10 weeks before departure: Loss of 75% of invoiced price.
- Within 2 weeks of departure: Loss of 100% of invoiced price.

Please note: If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges from the insurer. All the trip booking conditions are available to view online at:

<https://www.halsbury.com/ski/DownloadFiles/SkiBookingConditions.pdf>

Leaders

The leaders on this trip are as follows:

Leader

A little about them, in case you didn't already know

Simon Thomas

Likes: Aston Villa, Curry, Muse concerts, offshore yachting & Water & Snow Skiing.

Dislikes: Fishing, Darts, Snooker Birmingham City, Bear Grylls, Westlife, queues, Halifax bank adverts

Age: about 12

Simon has been planning and running trips for youth groups for over 25 years. Simon has many years in the mountains, especially the Lake District, and gained his Mountain Leader award in November 2017. Simon has run this trip many times before and is the only person with a 100% CAG Ski Trip record.

Interesting Fact: Simon can actually levitate and is fighting global warming by using his own built in bio-digester to provide plentiful amounts of renewable natural gas.

Richard Ackroyd

Likes: Aston Villa of course, pulling teeth and sunshine

Dislikes: Birmingham City, Jerry Allen, being 2nd

Age: 25

Richard is a former member of CAG and a fully fledged leader with a huge interest in following Simon around the hills and on the water. Richard is a keen mountaineer and loves getting out and about doing most things. Richard is also CAG's second best skier, after Simon. Richard has never been to Sierra Nevada and is looking forward to skiing whilst looking down at the golden beaches of the mediterranean.

Interesting Fact: Richard is a fully qualified blancmange chef but dissolves on contact with cream.

Stuart Knight

Likes: Bear Grylls, Canoeing, Walking, Grumbling, Beer.

Dislikes: Birmingham City, Skiing with slow people, Channel 5.

Age: 40

Stuart has been with CAG as a parent leader and now a normal leader for many years. Like Simon, Stu is a certified Summer Mountain Leader. Stu left the police force after the bureaucracy limited his ability to investigate cases with the flair and freedom he had enjoyed in the 80s. He has now gone freelance specialising in reopening cold cases in the Miami and Bickenhill areas. He's got a chip on his shoulder, a score to settle and only 48hrs to do it.

Interesting Fact: Stu's lifelong dream has been to beat Dickie at downhill skiing. He achieved this and some on the last CAG ski trip.

Keef Macaulay

Likes: Gin, anything about Simon.

Dislikes: Birmingham City

Age: 21

Keef is CAG's joint newest leader and is relishing life in the light having previously been involved in the dark, dark empire of a famous green uniformed and suitably scarfed national boys (and now girls) organisation. Keef is like a new Spaniel puppy: hugely excited to be involved, almost to the point of "accidents", and great fun. Keef has been skiing before a couple of times and is looking forward to taking Stu's mantle as CAG's third best skier.

Interesting Fact: Keef is in fact an alien from outer space in the body of excitable middle aged man..

Jamie Walker

Likes: Boyzone, Marching, Ironing and Aston Villa

Jamie is the joint newest, most timid, member of the CAG leadership team so please be nice to him. He comes with limited experience of outdoor affairs, most of which is

Dislikes: Birmingham City, The Navy, RAF and part timers
Age: guess!!

wrong and will need to be retrained from scratch. This is Jamie's first CAG Ski trip so will resemble Bambi on ice, but we'll be kind to him.

Interesting Fact: Jamie has previously applied to be on Love Island, X Factor, Blind Date, Play your Cards Right, Fifteen To One, Homes Under the Hammer and the Ten O'Clock News but only got to be in the audience at the Big Brother house.

Kit

The end of winter is the best time to consider purchasing ski clothing if needed – not the end of summer! Good deals on end of season kit are available at various retailers or online at the right time. Aldi also have some great value ski kit – it's usually available from mid-November - <https://www.aldi.co.uk/specialbuys/about-our-specialbuys/skiing>. If you know of anyone who has been skiing but won't be going during that period (there will be hundreds in the Solihull area) consider borrowing or renting their gear.

We will issue some guidance on ski kit over the course of the year as opportunities arise.

Next Steps

We need to get your booking form and deposit. The booking form is available at the end of this letter. All payments and forms need to be **with us by Tuesday January 22nd 2019**.

If you can't make this date but would like to be considered for participation **PLEASE LET US KNOW**.

To apply to go on the trip please make payment of the deposit and return your Intention to Participate form to:

Simon Thomas
75 St Johns Close
Knowle
Solihull
B93 0NN

Please return your form to the address **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** and certainly by January 22nd!! If you want to bring your forms to a meeting night please do so. If you can't return your forms by that time please email simon@challengeadventure.org to notify him of your intention to take part.

Acceptance on the trip

We have only been able to book a limited number of places **which we expect to sell out.**

In order to be able to book more places we need to know how many, which means we need your forms back:

PLEASE DON'T DELAY - PLEASE GET YOUR FORMS BACK TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OR WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BOOK ANY EXTRA PLACES - IF YOU WANT A PLACE DO NOT DELAY!

We will award places on the trip when the initial deposit payment (or full payment if you wish) and the required form has been submitted and received - places will not be awarded to an application until BOTH of these are returned to us.



Checklist

CAG Ski Trip, Sierra Nevada, February 2020

If you elect to take part in this trip please pin this checklist to somewhere extremely noticeable to help you.

ITEM	DUE BY	Done (tick)
1 Make deposit payment: £150 using reference "Initial Last name Ski 1" - or tell us to use member funds account.	January 22nd 2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Complete and return "Intention to Participate" form	January 22nd 2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Make 2nd deposit payment: £150 using reference "Initial Last name Ski 2" - or tell us to use member funds account.	March 5th 2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Make 3rd deposit payment: £150 using reference "Initial Last name Ski 3" - or tell us to use member funds account.	August 1st 2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Make final balance payment: £649 using reference "Initial Last name Ski 4" - or tell us to use member funds account.	December 1st 2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 New skiers: Get ski lessons in advance of the trip.	Any time before trip	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Go on trip, have outrageously good life changing experience	February 16th 2020	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Come back from trip with amazing memories and lots of washing!	February 23rd 2020	<input type="checkbox"/>



Intention to Participate

CAG Ski Trip, Sierra Nevada, February 2020

Member Name:

Parent name:

I understand the trip will run from the dates of February 16th - 23rd 2020. I understand the cost of the trip will be £1099 and wish to pay the initial deposit as follows (tick one):

- I have paid the first deposit of £150 online, **or:**
 I wish to use member funds account for the first payment

I understand subsequent payments and deadlines are:

- March 5th 2019: £150
- August 1st 2019: £150
- December 1st 2019: £649

I understand ski lessons for new skiers in advance of the trip are a requirement of taking part.

I understand the deadline for application and payment of the first deposit will be Tuesday January 22nd 2019. If I don't complete subsequent payments by the dates as shown I understand my son's place will be cancelled and subject to the cancellation conditions shown.

I understand that acceptance on the trip will only be when both the trip form ("Intention to Participate") and first deposit payment have been received by the organiser.

By signing this form I confirm that the above named CAG member will take part in the trip and I will be liable for the full cost of the trip, if necessary, according to the trip conditions as shown at:

<https://www.halsbury.com/ski/DownloadFiles/SkiBookingConditions.pdf>

Signed:

Date: