

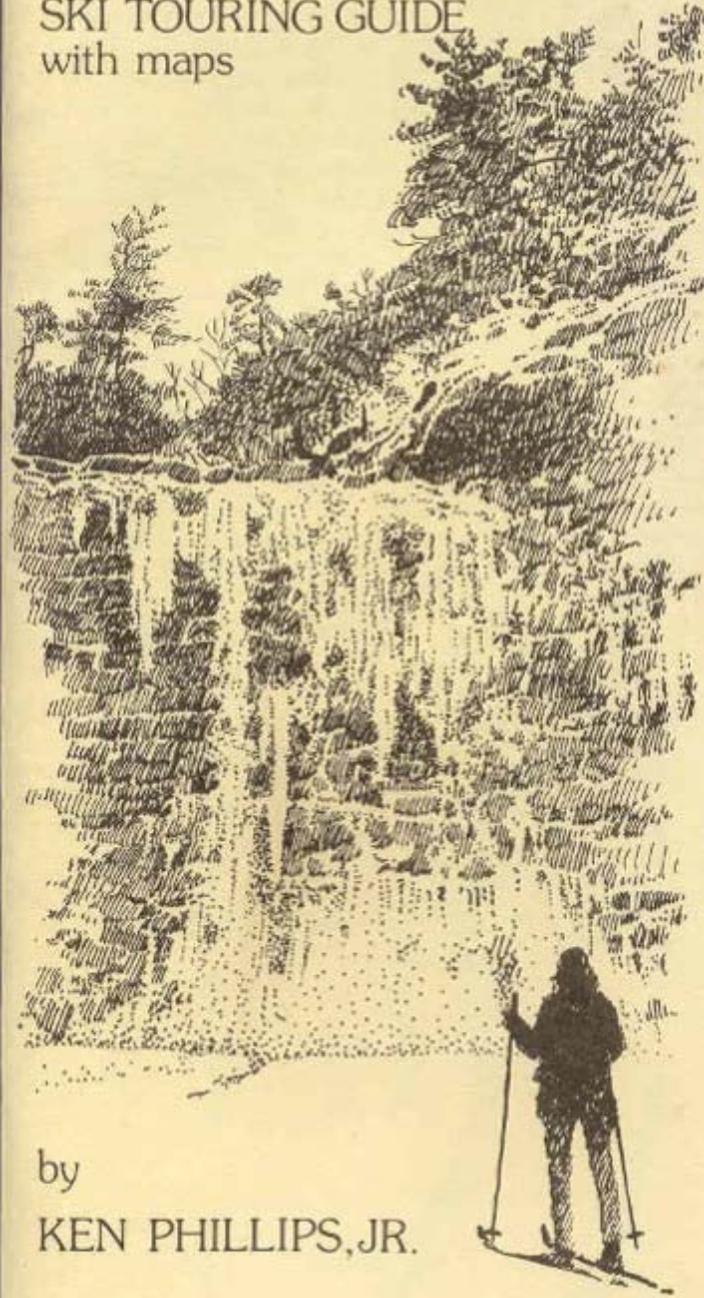
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Please note that this guide is still very much an excellent ski guide. Of course any references to the hotel, ski shop, summerhouses and such will no longer physically be there. Also, the parks system may have discontinued any of these trails so be advised that they may no longer be marked as indicated in this guide.

www.lakeminnewaska.org

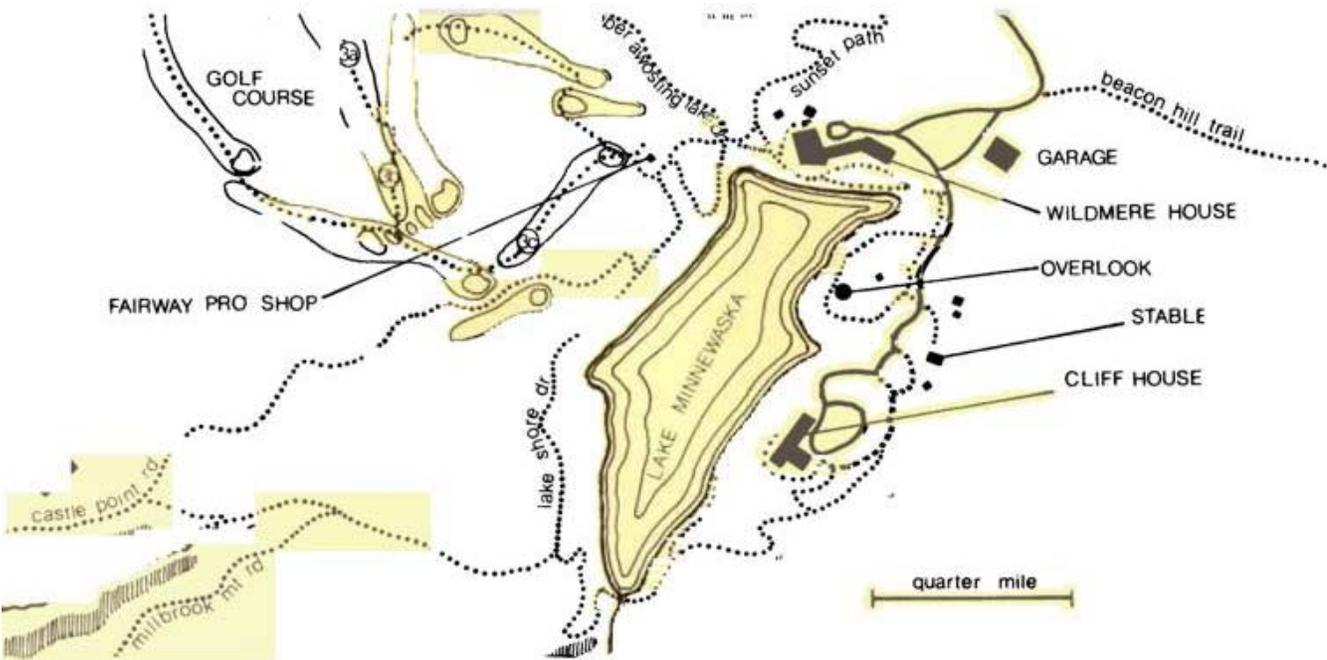
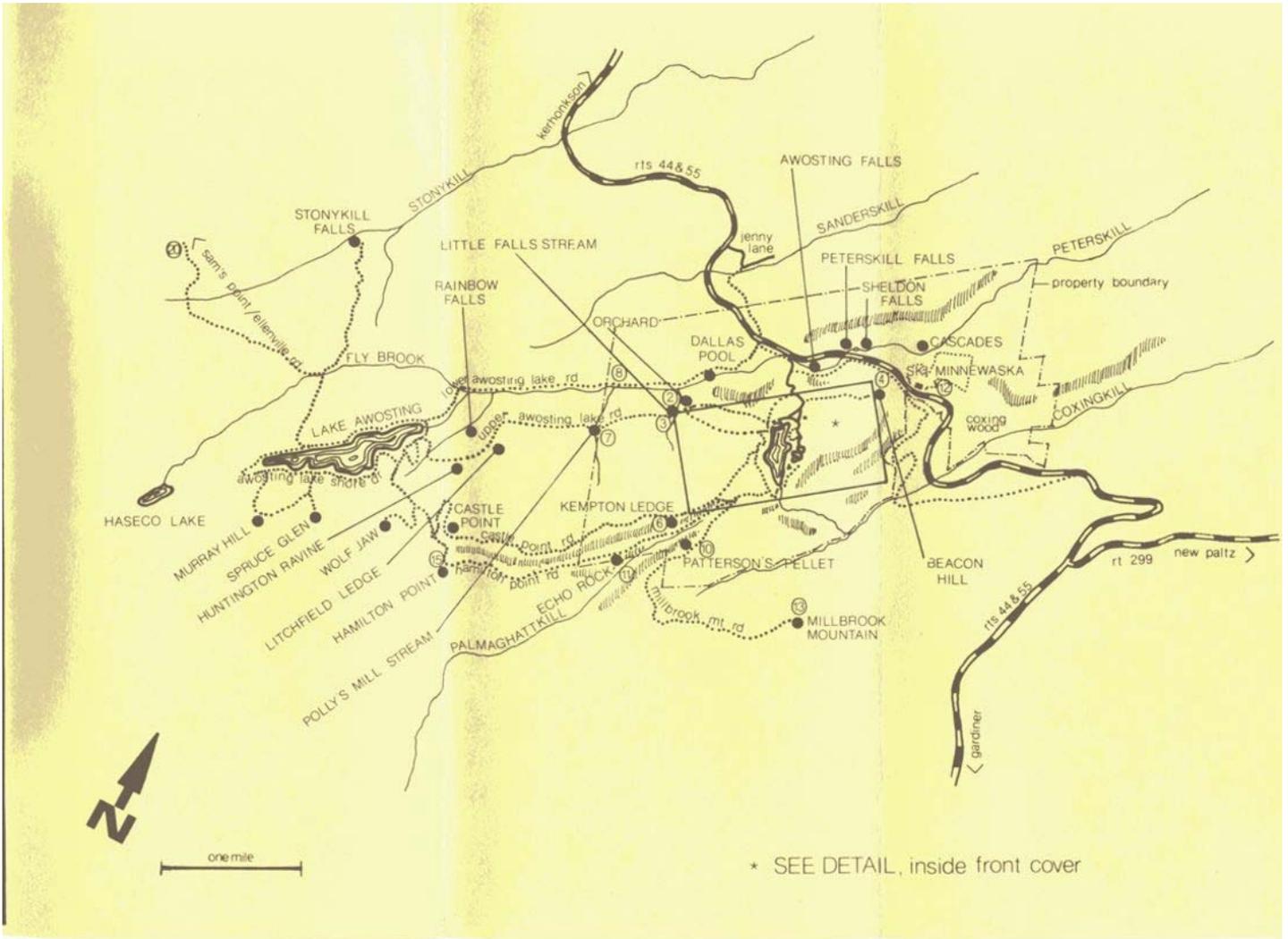
Lake *Minnewaska*

SKI TOURING GUIDE
with maps



by
KEN PHILLIPS, JR.





SKI TOURING AT LAKE MINNEWASKA

It's now a rainy afternoon in September and only one thing remains to do before this touring guide goes off to the printer: to write an introduction. So I've slipped on my jacket and walked out to one of the little shelters which stands at the edge of the cliff overlooking Lake Minnewaska. Here, with only the sound of raindrops falling on the brightly-colored leaves, I sit looking out at what must be one of the most beautiful places in the world; Lake Minnewaska. The exquisite natural beauty of this mountaintop is something one never gets tired of. For each of us it evokes a special feeling. Alone, in the rain, on a day like this, I am overwhelmed by the solitude and the quiet. With Susan, my wife we share the sunshine, the streams, and the warmth of the fireplace. Together with our children, Kenny and Jonti, we share the excitement of the first snowfall, the wide-eyed anticipation of a new adventure, and the tears and laughter of learning our own limits.

We'd like to share the special feeling and the natural beauty of Minnewaska with you and hope this guide will help.

Ken Phillips, Jr.



The Touring Center is located in the Wildmere Hotel of the Lake Minnewaska Mountain House Resort. The resort itself covers over 3500 acres and is further surrounded by 7000 acres of primitive and wild lands presently under the auspices of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. The resort complex is privately owned by Kenneth and Lucille Phillips and includes a downhill ski area, Ski Minnewaska, and two hotels, the Wildmere and the Cliff House.

Because Minnewaska is privately owned it pays substantial land and school taxes. For this reason an admission fee is necessary to preserve the incredible natural beauty the owners strive so hard to maintain.

The ski touring trails start at the Wildmere Hotel and wind along the crest of the Shawangunk Mountains. They were laid out throughout the past century specifically so that people might enjoy the natural beauty and the distant vistas. No motor vehicles are permitted on the trails, our snow grooming and safety equipment being the sole exception. All of these roads are at least ten feet wide, with the touring tracks set to one side so that hikers won't disturb them.

The Ski Touring shop at the Wildmere carries waxes and accessories, which you may need on the trail. Here we also rent both waxable and no-wax skis in varying widths. If you haven't bought your own equipment, we suggest trying both waxable and no-wax skis on a rental basis. With so many kinds of equipment on the market this will give you the advantage of knowing what to purchase based upon your own needs. The Ski Shop is open seven days a week throughout the winter season and a register is located there for those who may be taking an advanced tour.

If you would like more information about the Minnewaska Touring Center, you're welcome to write us at Lake Minnewaska, New York 12561 or call 914-255-6000 or, in New York, 212-WA5-5638. Please ask for the Ski Touring Director.

SKI SCHOOL PROGRAM

A STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

At Minnewaska we feel that skiing has purpose which transcends the physical sport: the healthy enjoyment of nature in winter. This philosophy is reflected in our teaching program from the very beginning. Each Lesson is composed of a period of demonstration followed by a carefully selected tour designed to present the techniques being learned in a natural setting. In this manner we hope that we can introduce you to skiing on both levels: as a sport and as a means of appreciating the incomparable natural beauty of Lake Minnewaska



The following is a description of the subjects which are covered during our five-lesson "Learn to Ski" program. This program may be purchased as a series of individual lessons or as a total package, in which case the price is less and you are free to repeat courses as often as you wish with no charge for the lesson itself. This is a distinct advantage as it allows you to set your own pace through the entire learning process.

We would like to mention that we use a graduated width method in our ski touring program which enables the beginner to start skiing on wider, more stable skis, gradually advancing through different styles and types of equipment to find that which is most comfortable.

LESSON 1: Topics covered include choosing equipment that fits and fitting it to you, walking on skis, star turn, negotiating gentle slopes, gliding and stopping.

LESSON 2: Topics covered include diagonal stride, snowplow turn, kick turn, negotiating moderate slopes and side stepping.

LESSON 3: Topics covered include basic waxing, skating turns, stem turns, herringbone, partial herringbone, tacking and negotiating intermediate slopes.

LESSON 4: Topics covered include a review of previous techniques, double pole stride, telemark position and more about waxing. Prior to this lesson it is recommended that you take a tour on narrower skis reviewing the topics covered in Lesson 3.

LESSON 5: Putting it all together. This is a lunch lesson tour to Lake Awosting, a distance of approximately 9 miles. You should bring your lunch. Throughout the lesson you will have an opportunity to discuss your program with your instructor and to experience a variety of snow and ski touring conditions. We highly recommend this lesson prior to undertaking any extensive touring on your own. Among the topics covered will be rewaxing for varying conditions, selecting clothing for a distance tour, carrying a lunch pack, some basic first aid pointers, and of course, a complete review of the items covered in the previous lessons.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM-Children love to ski, up to a point! What we mean is that children enjoy the excitement, feeling of accomplishment and the light weight of ski touring equipment but they do get cold sooner and have shorter attention spans. So we designed a special learning program just for them. Children 5 to 10 can join us at the Ski Shop at 11:00. We'll select equipment and spend some time walking around on it-inside. Then at 11:30 we'll gather on the sunny side of the hotel in front of the Ski Shop for a lesson which takes about 45 minutes.

A couple of words about physical conditioning and clothing-because ski touring permits you to set your own pace, it is no more strenuous than hiking; in fact, skiing on snow is much easier and safer than walking on it! Touring is an activity, however, and you should plan your dress accordingly. The tendency is to overdress; therefore we offer the following suggestions.

1. Wear two pairs of socks: one light, next to the skin; and second, a heavier, preferably woolen pair.
2. Wear several layers of loose clothing. This permits you to adjust your clothing to suit your level of activity. An ideal combination on most days would be long underwear and slacks, a turtleneck sweater and windbreaker. A negative example would be a summer shirt and a goosedown jacket which leaves you only two alternatives: sweltering or freezing.

TOURS AT LAKE MINNEWASKA

Tours for Novices

NOTE: Please do not ski alone. We recommend parties of three or more. Novice trails are marked at every intersection and every tenth of a mile thereafter. The marker will be facing you and will be similar to the sample sketched below:

The background color shows the degree of difficulty: Yellow for novice skiers, Orange for intermediate trails, and red for advanced trails. The arrow indicates the direction of travel and the number refers to this tour guide. Novice trails assume proficiency in all activities covered in ski lessons 1 and 2.

Novice

Tour 1: THE FROZEN LAKE; the round trip is 1.5 miles. This tour should be attempted only when the lake has been declared safe for skiing. It is the easiest tour offered at Lake Minnewaska and yet it affords magnificent views of the towering cliff so you should take your camera with you. From the Ski Shop turn to the right and walk to the bottom of the library hill located at the south end of Wildmere on the way to the golf course. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SKI DOWN THIS HILL. At the bottom of the hill, the lake is to your left.

Tour 2: APPLE ORCHARD; 1.5 miles. This trail also leaves from the bottom of the library hill. Turn to the right following the trail markers until you reach the Apple Orchard. There are some slight slopes on this run and a beautiful view of the valley to the west. I often see deer on this trail especially near the orchard.



Tour 3: THE APPLE ORCHARD and return over the GOLF COURSE; 2 miles. If you feel comfortable, warm and confident after reaching the Apple Orchard, you can continue on Trail #3 which loops back to the hotel by longer but more scenic routes. These are lettered A, B, C, in order of difficulty. Here you will find gentle uphill and down hill slopes with some turns as you near the lake to help you build your confidence.

Tour 4: BEACON HILL; 2 miles. From the Ski Shop turn to the left and follow the signs for Beginners Trail #4. The trail leads along the crest of the mountain to Beacon Hill where a beautiful view of the Wallkill and Rondout Valleys spreads out before you. You will also look down upon the slopes of Ski Minnewaska. If you

really want to get into the spirit of things, take some wine and cheese and linger in the gazebo on top of the cliffs.

Intermediate Tours

Intermediate tours are marked only at intersections with an orange disk. These tours assume proficiency in all activities covered through Lesson 3 of our Ski School agenda.

Tour 5: THE GOLF COURSE; 2.5 miles. The golf course tour offers you an excellent opportunity to try out your skills over varying terrain but in a relatively straight forward setting. The fairways are wide and you can practice your turns and sharpen your stopping ability without fear of running into immovable objects. You will find several trees and bushes on the slope of Fairway #9 which are ideal practice areas. You should feel confident about dealing with these before attempting any of the intermediate trails listed below. A tour of the golf course in its entirety also offers you a chance to get the feeling of a relatively long run without being far from home base.

To reach the golf course turn to the right at the Ski Shop and continue to the base of the library hill at the south end of Wildmere. From there, follow the road around the lake-the golf course will be on your right as you are climbing up the first hill. From the Pro Shop, continue bearing somewhat to the left between the #1 and #9 fairways. There is a road which will lead you around the very steep hill on the #1 fairway a hill which you should not attempt to negotiate. From there on simply follow the fairways in order for a tour of approximately 2 miles and return to the hotel the way you came.

Tour 6: KEMPTON LEDGE; 4 miles. Once you feel confident of your skiing ability, you will find the Kempton Ledge tour an exhilarating experience. From the Pro Shop on the Golf Course, turn to the left up the #9 fairway. At the top of the mountain you will find a road which continues along the crest of the Shawangunk ridge. The tour itself is relatively level once you reach the top of the mountain and the view from the summer house at Kempton Ledge is absolutely breathtaking. Just a reminder-please do not stand too close to the edge of the cliffs during winter!



Tour 7: POLLY'S MILL STREAM; 4 miles. If it is windy or there isn't a lot of snow, a tour to Polly's Mill Stream is recommended. At the bottom of the library hill, turn to the right on the Awosting Lake Road. Ski past the Apple Orchard and the Little Falls. Polly's Mill Stream is just past the State Park property line. By the way, I used to go dish-panning on this stream (roughly equivalent of tray sliding in the park). Watch for deer on this route, especially near the orchard.

Tour 8: THE LOWER AWOSTING LAKE ROAD to the State line; 4 miles. If the day is exceptionally windy or cold, you may find a tour along the lower Awosting Lake Road, which leads from the Minnewaska gatehouse, an enjoyable experience. The tour itself is along the level road which leads south west from the gate. It is sheltered by the Shawangunk Ridge, and yet is open enough to be warmed by the sun. I enjoy this tour most when I return along the ancient bridle path which parallels the Peterskill. Take a moment, here and there, to pause and listen to the stream, or walk down to Dallas Pool. If you feel energetic, you'll find the tour back up the carriage road to the hotel worthwhile exercise. You may, of course, ski to the gatehouse, extending the tour to almost 6 miles, but the trip downhill should be approached with caution.

Tour 9: AROUND LAKE MINNEWASKA; 2 miles. The tour around Lake Minnewaska is one of the most scenic ski tours imaginable. From the bottom of the library hill, bear to the left and follow the Lake Shore Drive. The views of the Cliff House are magnificent. You will also look out toward the east over the Wallkill and Hudson Valleys all the way to the Berkshires. You should definitely take a moment to pause at the Cliff House itself. At the circle you are almost 1800 feet above sea level overlooking Mohonk and New Paltz. Ski to the lakeside of the hotel and there from the cliffs high above the lake there are spectacular views of the rugged granite boulders, windblown pines and distant vistas of the Catskill Mountains. If you can, linger for the sunset. The silhouetted forms, the winter wind and the silence of the ancient hotel create magic... and you can still be back to the Wildmere by dark.

Intermediate

Tour 10: PATTERSON'S PELLET via the Millbrook Mountain Road; 4.5 miles. From the base of the library hill, continue to the left on the Lake Shore Drive past the golf course and the Castle Point Road. Approximately halfway around the lake you will reach the Millbrook Mountain Road, which will branch off to your right. Continue until you reach a fork in the road, approximately 1/2 mile from the Lake Shore Drive. Turn to the left. You will ski out the back of the Shawangunk along the easterly edge of the Palmaghatt Ravine. In places the view will be magnificent. Once you reach Patterson's Pellet, a huge granite boulder at the edge of a 250-foot precipice, you will be standing above a place of true solitude and beauty. If you feel quite confident of your ability, continue out along the crest of the Shawangunks toward Millbrook Mountain. The complete tour is relatively level; however, we are unable to groom trails on the state property and, therefore, you will find the trail unbroken once you turn away from the Palmaghatt Ravine.



Tour 11: ECHO ROCK; 5 miles. Echo Rock is another beautiful trail leading off the Millbrook Mountain Road. When you reach the fork in the road mentioned above, turn to your right. This will lead you down through the Palmaghatt to Echo Rock. This is an excellent trail to take when there is a minimum of snow, as the Palmaghatt Ravine maintains an excellent cover until very late in March. This is wild rugged land and the views at Echo Rock and along the Palmaghatt Gorge are magnificent. This is a highly recommended tour into true wilderness. Again, please be careful along the edges of cliffs and watch out for runoff conditions.

Tour 12: SKI MINNEWASKA; 2.5 miles one way. Although this is primarily a downhill run, it must be considered the most difficult intermediate trail. If you have no trouble skiing around the lake, you will find this an exciting and beautiful tour. From the Ski Shop turn to the right and continue to the library end of the hotel. There the road forks and you should go uphill over Sunset Path and down along the ledges overlooking the Rondout Valley. The trail here will lead you down the mountain toward the gatehouse. You may have to remove your skis and walk along the Mountain Drive for approximately 100 yards, about half-way down, but from there on you will be able to ski a steady downhill run listening to the booming sound of Awosting Falls. You may also drive your car to the gatehouse and put on your skis at the bridge which crosses the Peterskill Stream.

As you wind down along the stream you will find a severe icing condition. Here we have strung a cable and supports. However, you should be careful, as this is obviously a dangerous natural condition. Once over the "Iceman's Slide," the trail winds along the Peterskill Stream past Awosting Falls. This is a magnificent sight. Later in the season a towering cone of ice will reach almost to the top of the waterfall and the stream will rumble within it. Continuing, you travel down through hemlocks along a relatively level trail and once you leave the stream you will have some intriguing views of the Rondout Valley. Follow the signs to Ski

Minnewaska, where you will find a friendly smile, a hot cup of cocoa, and, if you plan ahead, one of our Minnewaska drivers more than glad to bring you back to the hotel unless, of course, you'd rather ski.

Advanced Tours

Advanced tours assume proficiency in ski touring and a recognition of one's own limits. If you wish to sample an advanced tour you may join us for one of our #5 ski touring Lessons. You should bring your lunch. The tour travels to Awosting Lake, a distance of approximately 9 miles, and throughout the lesson you will have an opportunity to discuss your skiing with your instructor. Advanced tours should never be attempted alone and all parties should sign in and out at the register located just outside the Ski Shop. Also, trails may not be marked within the State Park-take a map!

Tour 13: MILLBROOK MOUNTAIN and return around the lake; 7.5 miles. Probably the easiest advanced tour is the one leading to Millbrook Mountain and around the lake. From the Ski Shop turn to the right and take the Lake Shore Drive toward the southeasterly end of Lake Minnewaska. Follow the Millbrook Mountain Road, bearing to the left toward Patterson's Pellet at the intersection with the Hamilton Point Road. You will continue along the precipice overlooking the Palmaghatt, then along the crest of the ridge until you reach the turn-around at Millbrook Mountain. From the road it is just a couple of strides to the crest of the Shawangunk ridge, where a magnificent view of the Wallkill and Hudson Valleys spreads out before you.

At this point you are roughly 1000 feet above the valley floor... truly at the top of the world!



Expert

Tour 14: AWOSTING LAKE and return; 8 miles Awosting Lake is another popular advanced tour. At the base of Library Hill, turn to the right and follow the Upper Awosting Lake Road past the orchard and along the northwestern ridge of the Shawangunks. After you pass the power line you will reach Litchfield Ledges. Caution should be exercised here as runoff conditions exist and a brief section of ice will undoubtedly be encountered. After the Litchfield Ledges you will pass through Huntington Ravine, where beautiful tall hemlocks and open forest may well lure you off the trail. The terrain is relatively level and a trip down toward Rainbow Falls will be quite rewarding. Return to the trail and you will rise up a short slope toward the end of Awosting Lake. Here you will see numerous state signs. I personally enjoy the tour to the left as you approach from Minnewaska. This takes you along the high cliffs on the southeasterly side of Lake Awosting. You may also wish to take the Overlook Trail branching off to the left just before you begin your descent to Awosting Lake. This trail doubles back upon itself after approximately a mile and gives you a beautiful view of the Litchfield Ledges and the rugged valley below. If you feel the least bit tired we recommend you return by re-tracing your glide along the Upper Awosting Lake Road. This is mostly downhill now and you've already broken the trail, which should make the return relaxing and pleasant.

SIDE TRIPS FROM LAKE AWOSTING

If you feel more energetic, there are numerous side trips to be taken at Awosting Lake. These are listed below. Distances are from the junction of the Upper Awosting Lake Road and the Awosting Lake Shore Drive. For total distance of a tour from Lake Minnewaska, add 8 miles.

14A: MURRAY HILL; 3 miles. From Awosting Lake Shore Drive you may travel to Murray Hill, a trip of almost 3 miles. The views of this rugged mountain are awesome and you cannot help but feel that you are alone with nature. Near Murray Hill you will find Spruce Glen. Here beneath the spruce and hemlock you will reach an abandoned shale bank which is an ideal place for luncheon, as it is sheltered from the wind and there is plenty of dead wood nearby.

14B: WOLF'S JAW; 3 miles. Wolf's Jaw lies along the Castle Point Road. Before you reach the Castles, turn to the right and you will wind down beneath the cliffs to an abandoned shale bank; an ideal place for luncheon. Just after you enter from the Castle Point Road, there is a spring to your left, at the base of the rock, about 200 feet from the first sharp right, just before you pass beneath the high cliffs. The water is clear and, sometimes, ice free during the winter.

14C: FLY BROOK; 3 miles. Another beautiful spot for lunch, relatively close to Lake Awosting, is the Fly Brook. The trail is quite overgrown and, certainly, much more difficult than any of the other short tours near Awosting. However, the feeling of solitude is well worth it. The snow must be good and deep, however, or you may damage your skis. To reach Fly Brook, turn to the right as soon as you reach the Awosting Lake Shore Drive, coming from Minnewaska. Continue around the north-westerly shore of the lake past the ranger's cabin. Once past the cabin, turn to the right, away from the lake. Just before you reach an open clearing you'll see an overgrown path branching off to your left. This leads to the Fly Brook.

14D: Across the FROZEN LAKE; 3 miles. Although I have often skied and skated on Lake Awosting, I would like to caution you about trying it yourself. There are areas of thin ice often found here and there, apparently because the lake is shallower than Minnewaska. Be careful-never cross the lake alone. When with friends, maintain a safe distance between skiers. Remember, you're a long way from home and it's a long way to the bottom.

Tour 15: THE HAMILTON POINT TRAIL AND LOOP via Awosting Lake Road; 9 miles. From the Ski Shop, take the Lake Shore Drive to the southeasterly end-of Lake Minnewaska. Here you will take the Millbrook Mountain Road. Bear to the right when you reach the fork at the point of the Palmaghatt Gorge. You will pass down through the Palmaghatt past Echo Rock, amid some of the most beautiful scenery anywhere. You will then ski along the edge of the Palmaghatt Ravine toward Hamilton Point, which has an elevation of 2020 feet. The Hamilton Point and Castle Point Trails meet a short distance thereafter. If you turn to the left you may travel to Awosting Lake and return by the Upper Awosting Road. If there is a good snow cover you can turn to the right and come back to Minnewaska along the top of the ridge past Castle Point.

Tour 16: THE CASTLE POINT TOUR; 9 miles. The Castle Point tour is another advanced trail full of magnificent scenery. Here, you tour the absolute crest of the Shawangunk ridge, rising to a point almost 2200 feet above the valley floor. To reach Castle Point, turn to the right from the Ski Shop and proceed around the lake on the Lake Shore Drive. Approximately 1/2 of the way around you will see the Castle Point Road, which leads up past the golf course to Kempton Ledge. The trail is groomed, as are all the others until you reach the state boundary. From there you will continue to wind along the crest of the Shawangunks until you reach the Castles. Just past the Castles, still at the crest of the ridge, you will find drinking water on your right. You may have to chop through some ice but you'll probably appreciate some cooling refreshment by then. The Castle Point tour should not be attempted unless there is adequate snow covering and the day is still. This can be an extremely cold place in winter and if there is the least bit of wind I recommend the Hamilton Point Trail. Ski carefully!

Tour 17: THE "GRAND TOUR"; 10-12 miles. Here's an exhilarating way to spend a complete day surrounded by the natural beauty of the Shawangunk Mountains. From Lake Minnewaska, follow the directions to

Hamilton Point. If you leave about 8:30 the sun will be warming and pleasant as you travel through the Palmaghatt Ravine. Proceed out and around Hamilton Point and turn to the left at the base of the Castles. This will take you down toward Awosting Lake. The first road to the left after you reach the Castle Point Drive would take you to Wolf's Jaw, and unless you feel especially ambitious, save that one for another tour. Take the second left, however, to Lake Awosting along the southern edge of the lake until you reach the Spruce Glen Road, which branches off to the left, approximately 2/3 of the way around Lake Awosting. Spruce Glen is the ideal spot to enjoy your luncheon. Hopefully the sun will be warm. There's a little stream with good water and you're sheltered from the breeze. Coming back out from Spruce Glen, you can again turn to the left and take the Murray Hill Trail up and over Murray Hill or, if you're not quite that energetic, retrace your steps on the Awosting Lake Shore Drive turning to the left when you meet the Castle Point Trail. This will give you a beautiful view, then lead you back to the Upper Awosting Lake Road. Keep turning to the right. You'll pass through Huntington Ravine, past the Litchfield Ledges, and descend gradually to Lake Minnewaska.

Tour 18: WOLF'S JAW AND AWOSTING LAKE; 10 miles. Another version of "The Grand Tour" takes you by Hamilton Point to Wolf's Jaw. There you can enjoy your lunch sheltered from the wind and then proceed to Awosting Lake. Instead of turning left toward the lake itself, continue to ski straight ahead toward the hill. From there you'll get a beautiful view of Awosting Lake and, as you ski on, you will enjoy the Huntington Ravine and Litchfield Ledge area. This route is not as ambitious as "The Grand Tour" but it is equally pleasant. If you are an advanced skier looking for a real challenge, the following tours may interest you.

Tour 19: AWOSTING LAKE AND STONYKILL FALLS; 13 miles. Probably the most enjoyable way to travel this tour is to go to Awosting Lake by Castle Point or Hamilton Point. Upon reaching the Awosting Lake Drive continue straight ahead and around the northern end of Lake Awosting to the site of the ranger's cabin. After you pass the ranger's cabin turn to the right and continue to bear to the right until you reach an open field. As soon as you see the field you will notice a trail, quite narrow and somewhat overgrown, leading off to your left. This will lead you down to the Fly Brook. Be careful and plan your crossing while enjoying your lunch in this beautiful sheltered area. If you haven't made it this far in time for an early luncheon, it's best to go on. On the other side of the Fly Brook you will turn to the right down the hill in a northerly direction until you reach the Stonykill Falls. As you will be at the top of the falls, please be careful. Retrace your steps completely until you reach the Awosting Lake Drive and then return to Lake Minnewaska via either Awosting Lake Road.

Tour 20: THE OLD ELLENVILLE ROAD to Sam's Point, the Village of Ellenville, or Ice Caves Mountain; round trip, 25-26 miles. The Sam's Point Trail also leaves from the Fly Brook. At this point, turn to the left, proceeding in a southwesterly direction. You will be along the top of the Shawangunk ridge on an old road which was constructed by the Smiley Brothers to connect Lake Minnewaska, Awosting Lake and the Shawangunks with the railroad which ended at the Village of Ellenville. Upon completion of the road, rail service was promptly extended to Kerhonkson! The road was used only a little while and is now in a bad state of disrepair. Do not attempt this trail unless there is adequate snow coverage: a minimum of two feet.

The trail itself is quite straightforward and relatively level, though rocky unless there is sufficient snow. You will ski all the way to the Village of Ellenville and it's a good idea to either take a car and leave it at the other end or arrange transportation in advance. You will descend from the Shawangunks just at the rear of the town truck garage. You may also extend this tour to Sam's Point. The round trip distances for these tours are roughly 25 and 26 miles-which makes the idea of leaving a vehicle in Ellenville seem quite attractive.

SKIING OFF THE BEATEN PATH

If you've been thinking of enjoying a trip through open woods, there are three areas which deserve special attention. The first is HUNTINGTON RAVINE, just before reaching Awosting Lake. This area is not very big

but it is beautiful and offers an excellent opportunity for an introduction to bushwhacking. The round-trip distance is approximately 8 miles, plus whatever time and distance you cover in the Huntington Ravine.

COXING WOOD is another enjoyable area for bushwhacking. Follow the trail to Ski Minnewaska, where you may pause for a cup of hot chocolate, and then continue down the mountain along the base of the Dickie Barre Cliffs. It is quite open here and as you approach the Coxingkill you will find tall evergreens and rolling land. It's a good idea to ask directions to this area from the Ski Shop at Ski Minnewaska. Round-trip distance is approximately 6 miles; however, you can drive to the ski area if you're just seeking the open woodland.

JENNY LANE AND SANDERSKILL; 5-8 miles. This is probably the best area for bushwhacking in the Shawangunks. Ski to the bottom of the mountain or take your car to the gate and then follow the lower road toward Awosting Lake. You'll reach an open clearing about ½ a mile from the gatehouse. Turn to your right, cross the main highway, and you'll be on the trail to Jenny Lane. Follow this trail down past the Sanderskill and continue to bear right along the stream. The scenery is beautiful, with tall hemlocks and some very pleasant views and open fields. I especially enjoy the area to the northeast of the Sanderskill, where the high cliffs drop off, giving beautiful views of the Rondout Valley.

SAFETY TIPS

1. Never go out alone.
2. Always sign out. If you go out again, sign out again
3. Know your ability; don't go on trails too difficult or too strenuous.
4. Plan to be back to the lake an hour before dark.
5. If you think you are lost, follow your tracks back out.
6. Always bring a hat. When you get cold, put it on. Half your body's heat loss is through your head.
7. Dress warmly in layers. Take them off as you get too warm and put them on as you get cold again.
8. Eat well. It takes energy to create heat.
9. STATE PARK LANDS ARE UNMARKED AND UNTRACKED. Know where you are going. Take a friend. Be careful

GUT TUR

A concluding note: please ask us if you have any questions or suggestions. This is our first tour guide and can certainly use improvement. Additional tours and information will be included in later editions. Also remember that our Ski Shop is open every day in season with waxes, rentals and instruction.

LEGEND

golf course	
cliffs	
buildings	
trail	
road	
highway	
lake	
stream	

design of cover&maps — gary allen

ACCOMODATIONS

Lake Minnewaska doesn't appeal to everyone. Our romance is subtle and old-fashioned, like the woodburning fireplaces in most of our guest rooms. Our hotel does not gleam with stainless steel and formica; rather, it charms with old-fashioned wallpaper and oak banisters. Our Wine Cellar, with its rough-hewn beams, granite walls, and cozy fireplace, was a real cellar, and many of the antiques which line our halls first came to Minnewaska via the Delaware and Hudson Canal.

If you enjoy nature, quaint country inns, excellent food, and winter with all its beauty and activity, then plan to stay with us at Lake Minnewaska.

Please send for our color brochure or call for reservations:

Lake Minnewaska

LAKE MINNEWASKA, N.Y. 12561
 914-255-6000 212-WA5-5638
 Only 88 miles via the Thruway from N.Y.C.

