



KMC Trip Grading Scale

All our trips are graded with a letter and a number to help you choose a trip that is appropriate for your level of fitness and technical expertise. If you are unsure about your ability to complete a given trip, talk to the trip coordinator before signing up for the trip. We also use the standard Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES) ratings for all **winter** trips. More information on the ATES can be found [here](#).

Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale:

Simple: Exposure to low angle or primarily forested terrain. Some forest openings may involve the run-out zones of infrequent avalanches. Many options to reduce or eliminate exposure. No glacier travel.

Challenging: Exposure to well defined avalanche paths, starting zones or terrain traps; options exist to reduce or eliminate exposure with careful route-finding. Glacier travel is straightforward but crevasse hazards may exist.

Complex: Exposure to multiple overlapping avalanche paths or large expanses of steep, open terrain; multiple avalanche starting zones and terrain traps below; minimal options to reduce exposure. Complicated glacier travel with extensive crevasse bands or icefalls.

Physical effort for all trips:

A = easy, less than four hours of travel, little elevation gain.

B = moderate, 4 to 6 hours of travel, 400 to 600 metres (1300 - 2000 ft) of elevation gain.

C = strenuous, 6 to 8 hours of travel, 600 to 1000 metres (2000 – 3300 ft) of elevation gain.

D = very strenuous, over 8 hours of travel, more than 1000 metres (3300 ft) of elevation gain.

E = extended, multi-day trip.

Technical Difficulty for Ski and Snowshoe Trips:

1 = track skiing.

2 = Off-track touring (cross-country touring skis, possibly skins).

3 = Back-country skiing on slopes to 30 degrees, telemark, AT or light touring skis with skins.

4 = Advanced back-country skiing on slopes over 30 degrees, telemark or AT skis with skins.

Technical difficulty for Hiking Trips:

1 = hike

2 = scramble

3 = scramble, perhaps with some exposure

4 = climb

5 = climb, continual belays

Technical difficulty of Biking Trips:

1 = suitable for all bikes

2 = hybrid or mountain bike recommended

3 = moderate mountain biking skills required