

Sandstone Ice Climbing Trip – February 2017

The St. Boniface & Manitoba sections are partnering to host an ice climbing trip on the February long weekend to Sandstone Minnesota. Join us as we make our way down to Sandstone, Minnesota for two days of ice climbing in the Robinson Quarry Ice Park.

Check out the ice park in this short video: <https://youtu.be/nyp04bmZV9c>

Dates

The trip leaders will be traveling to Sandstone on Friday (February 17), for climbing on Saturday, Sunday & Monday morning, then beginning the voyage home at noon.

Travel

Depending on individual schedules, participants may choose to travel on different days (e.g. Friday or Saturday). The trip leaders will help those who would like to make shared travel arrangements.

Accommodation:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Day's Inn in Hinckley, which is approximately 10 minutes away from Sandstone. Call 1-320-384-7751 to book a room, using the code **ACC Ice Climbing**. Room includes free wifi and breakfast (note: at the time of booking, the pool and hot tub were closed, but may be re-opened by the trip). The costs are as follows (USD):

- Friday: \$121.46 + tax
- Saturday: \$94.46 + tax
- Sunday: \$67.46 + tax

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn/hinckley-minnesota/days-inn-hinckley/overview?CID=LC:DI:20160927:RIO:Local:SM-diwnct>

Other nearby options include:

- America's Best Value Inn
- Grand Casino Hinckley
- Grand Northern Inn

Winter camping is also an option at Robinson Park. Contact the city office for more information:

http://www.sandstone.govoffice.com/index.asp?SEC=EAAE6132-1B65-4E89-8E04-AA3859708563&DE=0D27ABCD-59DE-46CF-BCC8-911286DF3F3C&Type=B_LOC

The trip leaders will help those who would like to make shared accommodations arrangements.

Climbing:

Climbing at the ice park is free. If you need to rent ice climbing gear, the St. Boniface section will make a limited amount of equipment available to members on a first-come/first-serve basis. The costs for a weekend rental are as follows:

- Axe: \$16
- Harness: \$8
- Boots: \$30
- Crampons: \$14
- Helmet: \$8

Contact the trip leaders to make arrangements for equipment.

Meals:

If staying at the Day's Inn, breakfast is included. All other meals will be at your expense. There are grocery stores nearby, and lots of great dining options nearby for lunch and dinners.

Travel to the United States:

Ensure you have **valid identification** to enter the US (e.g. passport). Visit the link below for more information or call U.S. Customs & Border Protection at (877) 227-5511:

https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/619/kw/canadians%20entering%20US

Ensure you have **sufficient travel health insurance**. The Alpine Club of Canada offers trip insurance that includes climbing-related coverage. Visit the link below for more information:

<http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/acc-trip-insurance/>

Other activities:

Have a non-ice-climbing partner? There are lots of nearby activities for non-climbers too. Minneapolis and The Mall of America are about 1 ½ hours away. Spas and casinos are just down the road.

For more information or to reserve equipment, please contact the trip leaders:

- Jackie Hope (jhope@kibogroup.ca)
- Ray Hope (rhope@kibogroup.ca)