



Aspen Winter Conferences

Helpful Hints & Important Information

Visa Assistance

If you need a letter of invitation to process your visa, contact the Center at acp@aspenphys.org. Be sure to allow enough time for the visa process as it has been taking longer than in years' past.

Traveling to Aspen

To get here, you may drive, fly, or take a shared shuttle van. Due to the excellent, free bus system and the town's walkability, generally you do not need a car during your stay.

By Air

If you are flying, please make reservations far in advance, flights to Aspen often sell out.

Aspen has its own airport (ASE), about 10 minutes from town. It is served by United Airlines, American Airlines, and Delta Airlines with nonstop flights from Atlanta, Austin, Denver, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Los Angeles, Orange County, Phoenix, and San Francisco. Please note that some flights operate seasonally, and that all of the options below are subject to change. See Aspen Snowmass's guide to "[Getting Here](#)" for more information or use Google Flights.

Please note: In winter, cancellations and delays are very common with flights to and from Aspen. We recommend travel insurance when flying into Aspen in winter.

Other Airports

Eagle County Airport

There are also direct flights to [Eagle County Airport](#) (about **1.5 hours or less by car** from Aspen) from Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, and Houston. You can take buses from the Eagle Airport to the Aspen Center for Physics, instructions [here](#).

Grand Junction Airport

Flying to [Grand Junction Regional Airport](#) (about **2 - 2.5 hours by car** from Aspen) is an option with direct flights from Denver, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Dallas, and Los Angeles. It may make sense to fly to Grand Junction and drive, as the drive is flatter and shorter than the drive from Denver, and would be safer for those who are not familiar or comfortable with driving in the winter and in snow.

Denver Airport

Many participants choose to fly to Denver and take ground transportation to Aspen (a **4+ hour drive**.) See options for [Ground Transportation from Denver to Aspen below](#).

Ground Transportation from Denver

By Car / Rental Cars

Rental cars are typically available in Denver, Grand Junction, as well as Aspen. If you are driving from Denver, please note that Independence Pass is closed in the winter. (Directions [here](#).) Please note, this is a mountainous drive and there is frequently snow. If you are not comfortable driving on mountain roads in snow, we advise against driving this route. We recommend renting a car with all-weather tires, and 4-wheel or all-wheel drive.

Parking

Parking is free at the Center and at the Meadows. Please pick up an ACP parking permit at the front desk when you arrive. To park in downtown Aspen, you need to use the [PayByPhone App](#) or the parking meters.

By Shared Shuttle Van, Bus, Train or Rental Car

- Reserve a Shuttle service via [Roaring Fork Express](#) (5 hours, advance reservations required, by phone (970) 486-3002)
- Public Transportation 1: Take train from the airport to Union Station, then take the [Bustang](#) from Denver to Glenwood Springs and transfer to a local [RFTA bus](#) to Aspen. (See [here](#).)
- Public Transportation 2: Take the Peak Express bus from DIA to Vail, then transfer to the Eco West bus to Glenwood, then take the RFTA bus to Aspen. (See [here](#).)
- The [Amtrak California Zephyr](#) train runs from Denver (Union Station) to Glenwood Springs where you can transfer to a local [RFTA bus](#) to Aspen.
- Rental car (*one way rentals are available. You will want a car with 4-wheel or all-wheel drive when driving from Denver.*)
- Shared ride found through the Center's Ride Board (*details below*).

How to Use ACP's Ride Share Board

If you are interested in sharing a car ride to Aspen (from Denver or other), please check the [ACP Ride Board](#) on our website to offer or request a ride, or to share a rental car.

- Click this link to access the [ACP Ride Board](#)
- Enter password "highway82"
- At the bottom of the page, click Add/Edit
- Choose the date you wish to share a ride
- Choose the approximate time you need the ride
- In the text entry box enter the details of your travel and your contact information
- Click the "Create Event" button to add your entry to the calendar

Local Transportation (Once you arrive)

- We recommend downloading the "[Transit App](#)" which will help you navigate our free bus system with a very user-friendly interface.
- [RFTA](#) is a free bus system between Aspen and Snowmass. The Crosstown Shuttle picks up one block away from the Center and goes downtown. All other buses will stop at 8th St. and Main St. which is about 3 blocks away from the Center. You can use the [Transit App](#) to plan your RFTA bus trip, or use the RFTA website. The transit app is a little easier to use.

- [Downtowner App](#) is a **free ride service in the downtown core**, similar to Uber, but subsidized by the City of Aspen. It is free, but we encourage you to tip the driver a few dollars per ride. It does not go to the airport, but is handy for getting from the Physics Center to downtown Aspen.
- Most hotels have their own shuttle service to/from the airport, downtown, and the ski areas. Check with the front desk to see if they will drive you to other locations, such as our campus. (The Aspen Meadows offers a free shuttle to the airport.)
- [High Mountain Taxi](#)
- [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#) have some cars in the Aspen area but are not as frequent as in major cities. *They are typically only here during peak holidays, and can be very expensive.*

Note: Aspen is a very walkable and pedestrian friendly town with numerous flashing crosswalk signs and roads with no thru traffic, making it easy to get around town safely. However, in winter, there is typically snow and ice on the ground. **We suggest bringing Yaktrax or other stabilizing devices/traction cleats.** It also gets dark early, so some participants have found a headlamp useful.

Aspen Meadows Shuttle Information

If you are staying at the Meadows, please note the following information about their shuttle, which is different than in previous years:

Aspen Meadows Airport Shuttle

Please email your flight information to the Aspen Meadows front desk at frontoffice-dl@aspenmeadows.com (NOT ACP!) at your earliest convenience once you've booked your flight. **Aspen Meadows airport shuttles run once an hour**, and leave the hotel at :30 after, and should arrive at the airport around :40 after. Please call the front desk when the flight has landed to notify our guest services team of your arrival.

Hours of Operation: 6:30 AM- 10:30 PM | Front Desk Phone Number: (970) 544-7805

Aspen Meadows Downtown Shuttle

Downtown Shuttles depart the hotel once an hour, on the hour. The shuttle makes 3 stops* at Rubey Park, Gondola Plaza, and Hotel Jerome before returning to the hotel.

Please call the front desk to request a pickup at one of our three stops in town.

**Shuttles should be able to drop physicists off at the corner of 8th street, one block from the Center, in the mornings.*

Hours of Operation: 7 AM-10:30 PM | Front Desk Phone Number: (970) 544-7805

Aspen Meadows Ski Shuttle

The Aspen Meadows also delivers guests to Buttermilk or Highlands in the morning (leaving the hotel at 8:15am and 9:15am), and can return guests from Buttermilk or Highlands to the hotel in the afternoon (those shuttles leave the hotel around 2:15pm and 3:15pm, and go to the respective mountains, and then return.)

Please call the front desk to request a pickup or for more information.

Front Desk Phone Number: (970) 544-7805

Learn more: <https://www.aspenmeadows.com/activities/transportation>

Weather

Check the Aspen weather here: <https://www.wunderground.com/forecast/us/co/aspen>

Aspen is located in the mountains at an elevation of nearly 8,000 feet. The surrounding mountains reach 14,000 feet. Please be aware of the effects of high altitude, including headaches and dizziness. Drink a lot of water when you first arrive and limit physical exercise and alcohol intake until you acclimate. Due to the intensity of the sun's reflection from the snow, sunscreen and sunglasses are essential.

Clothing/Attire

You'll want to dress casually but warmly with a winter coat, hat, gloves, wool socks and winter boots. We recommend wearing winter boots with non-skid soles or bringing traction devices. If you plan to ski, you need ski pants. Most of the clothing stores in Aspen are very expensive, so we do not recommend waiting to buy winter clothing here. We recommend the [Aspen Thrift Shop](#), [Replay Sports](#), or [Susie's Limited Consignments](#) for affordable options in town.

[Click here for the Aspen Snowmass ultimate ski trip packing list.](#)

Lodging

Aspen Meadows

We have reserved a very limited block of rooms at the Aspen Meadows Resort. It is located a short walk from the Physics Center, and a free shuttle is provided. There is a group booking link with details on our registration page.

Book as soon as possible to ensure you have a reasonably priced room! The rooms are large, so often people share who would not normally do so. There is a link to find a roommate on our registration page. You may also find your own accommodations in Aspen if you prefer.

Amenities Include:

Covered Self-parking Garage, Daily Housekeeping, Complimentary Wi-Fi, Shuttle Transportation to and from the Aspen Airport and into town of Aspen, 24-hour front desk assistance, State of the art health center, outdoor heated saline lap pool and hot tub, Half-Court Basketball Gymnasium, Complimentary snowshoes, crampons and cruiser bikes (seasonally available), Two on-site art galleries and art installations, with a self-guided walking and art tour and map available, in-room Nespresso coffee maker, bottled filtered water.

Other Hotels

If the Aspen Meadows hotel block sells out, we will provide discounts for other hotels in town.

Restaurants & Food

Food can be expensive in Aspen! While we provide light refreshments in the morning break, and afternoon snacks during the evening break, please be aware that we do not have a cafeteria on campus, and we do not provide lunch on campus.

Restaurant List

Below is a fairly comprehensive list of restaurant suggestions for you, ranging from delicious \$3 tacos at the gas station to award-winning sushi by Nobu.

 Restaurants and Food - ACP Recommendations & Information

Please see the [“Eat Aspen”](#) website for more information about dining in Aspen. You can also visit the Aspen Chamber for dining recommendations [here](#).

No-host Dinners

ACP does not provide dinner during the conferences, but we have recommendations for restaurants each night for a restaurant that is capable of accommodating large groups. We have built relationships with many of these restaurants over the years, and they should be expecting you. **We will post our suggestions at the Center when you arrive.**

Printing Posters

If there is a poster session during your conference, you are welcome to hang a poster at any time. There is masking tape along the hallway for you to hang your poster on the walls in Smart Hall. Please do not move trash receptacles, plants, or furniture to hang your poster. Please do not hang your poster over building signs, doors, blackboards. The maximum size is 5'x5' but smaller posters are easier to hang than larger posters.

If you will be displaying a poster, we recommend that you print it before you arrive. If you do wait to print your poster, we recommend [Aspen Reprographics](#), who has a special rate for the Physics Center or FedEx. However, it will likely be more expensive than printing at your home institution.

Please remember to remove your poster and tape from the wall before you depart.

Winter Recreation

Activities

Aspen offers a wide variety of winter sports, including downhill and cross-country skiing, ice-skating, and snowshoeing. Equipment can be rented for all activities, and instruction is also available.

Ski Lift Tickets & Rentals

We sell ski lift tickets at a discounted rate and provide a discount code for ski rentals.

Nordic/Cross-Country Skiing

The [Aspen Nordic Trail System](#) features 60 miles of groomed trails and does not require a lift ticket. The [Aspen Cross Country Center](#) is a free 10-minute bus ride on [RFTA](#) (take the "L" local bus to the Truscott stop). There, you can rent skis, poles, and boots, and group and private lessons are available. There is also a restaurant, the [Red Mountain Grill](#) on-site. ACP does not have discounts on nordic skiing. 970-925-2145 or [aspennordic.com](#).

Gondola Sight-Seeing

Plan to ride the gondola on Aspen Mountain or the chairlift at Buttermilk and meet your skiing friends for lunch. Pick up a discount voucher at the ACP front desk to purchase a discounted sightseeing pass at the lift ticket office. The views are breathtaking!

Recreation Centers

Discounted passes and tickets are available for purchase at the front desk in Smart Hall:

[Aspen Recreation Center](#) (ARC) – Daily passes for use at the ARC and/or the Red Brick Recreation Center.

[Snowmass Recreation Center](#) - Daily passes for use at the Snowmass Rec Center (which includes an outdoor saltwater pool!)

[Winter Activities with Aspen Center for Environmental Studies](#)

Visit Hallam Lake, go birding, or go on a guided Naturalist snowshoe tour!

Cultural Activities (ACP's Recommendations)

[Resnick Center for Herbert Bayer Studies](#)

Located next door to the Aspen Center for Physics, this is a must-see during your visit. Admission is free, and the current exhibit has been thoroughly enjoyed by every physicist who has visited. The current exhibit features Bayer's World Atlas for the CCA, and includes his graphic representations of our galaxy, universe, and world.

[Aspen Art Museum](#)

Located in the middle of downtown, this is another option to spend the afternoon break if you are not a skier! Admission is free, and the Cafe on the roof has stunning views and delicious food which features ingredients from local farms.

[ISIS Movie Theater](#)

This historic movie theater was recently purchased by the local non-profit Aspen Film. It's a great place to see a blockbuster - but also keep an eye out for art-house and indie films that might have limited showings.

Other Activity Guides

[Winter Activity Recommendations from the Aspen Chamber](#)

[Winter Activities through Aspen Snowmass \(Skiing Company\)](#)

Childcare

Childcare Brochure

[Childcare Brochure](#)

This document was prepared with our summer session in mind, however, many of the agencies are the same!  [Childcare Brochure - 2024](#)

Childcare can be expensive in the valley. We recommend finding other conference participants with children who may want to split a nanny for the week.

The list above also includes the equipment we have available to borrow for kids (cribs, etc.).

Aspen/Snowmass Childcare

[Day Care](#)

Aspen Snowmass' child care facility is located in the Treehouse Kids' Adventure Center (at Snowmass Mountain) and caters to children ages 1 through 4, with each group having their own private area.

“Safe and comfortable, your child will have a blast in this interactive environment, while under the attentive care of our nurturing staff.” Pricing starting at \$216. Child care is limited this winter season, for available dates and booking, please call 800-525-6200. Hours 8:30-3:30pm. [Learn more.](#)

[Ski School - Child & Teen Lessons](#)

Child and Teen Group Lessons for skiing and snowboarding are available at Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk, and Snowmass. Ages 2.5-17. Depending on the age, different things are included in the lesson. For older ages (7+), you will need to purchase a lift ticket for them. Please click “Learn more” below to see the different specifications for each age group.

Our Aspen Physics group discount code (which was emailed to you) includes a discount on these lessons (**Excludes the ages 2.5-3 Program and Adult First Time Lessons*). Please book in advance for 15% off lessons. Generally it's around \$265 depending on the day and age with the discount. A customary tip for the instructor is (at least) \$20 for a group lesson. You can also sign up for Private lessons, but they are much more expensive. [Learn more.](#)

Rentals are 35% off with our code at least 24 hours in advance (25% off if you rent day-of.)

[Aspen Recreation Center](#)

ACP offers discounted passes to the Aspen Recreation Center. They are typically \$28 for adults and \$26 for kids. We sell them at the front desk for \$12.

Learn more: <https://www.aspenrecreation.com/aspen-recreation-center>

There is a “Whoa Nelly” sledding hill, a waterslide, a lazy river, ice skating, and more! While they do not offer childcare, it's a great place to visit with kids.

Campus Information

We are a smoke-free campus, please do not leave cigarette butts in the parking lot.

[Office Hours](#)

ACP staff offices are located in Smart Hall, and staff members are on site Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Outside of business hours you may leave a voicemail message for staff at (970) 925-2585. In case of a medical emergency, call 911.

To contact our office, please email acp@aspenphys.org.

[Wi-Fi](#)

Please choose the **“ACP-physicists”** network, which provides coverage in all three of our buildings, as well as most of the lawn area. The network password is **“telescope”**. There is no off-campus access to the ACP network.

[Participant Offices](#)

You will not be assigned an office. Please select any office you would like. Please be considerate of others if you choose to take Zoom calls while you are here.

[Zoom Meetings](#)

We realize that with the rise in Zoom meetings, you may be more compelled to join meetings from your home (or other) institutions. However, this is disruptive not only to other participants, but also can take away from the immersive “Aspen” experience. We recommend that you only take Zoom meetings that are absolutely necessary, and if you do so, please do it in an environment where you will

not be disturbing others. **Please bring headphones if you are going to participate in Zoom meetings on campus.**

ACP Store

ACP's company store is located in the Smart Hall lobby and offers a variety of merchandise and gifts. Please select your merchandise and bring it to the front desk for purchase.

Payment

ACP accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover, personal checks from U.S. banks, travelers' checks, and cash. All bills must be settled before your departure.

Mail

You may receive mail and packages at Aspen Center for Physics from USPS, UPS, and FedEx. Address them to yourself, c/o Aspen Center for Physics, 700 West Gillespie Street, Aspen, CO 81611.

Computing

In addition to our wireless network, offices are equipped with ethernet connections for use with your own computer. If you are visiting from a foreign country please bring your own adaptor to plug into our electrical outlets. The [Miners Building](#) in town usually has foreign adaptors.

Printing & Supplies

Black and white and color printing is available in Smart Hall. Instructions are located by the printer. If you have a VPN, you may need to turn it off. Notepads, pencils, pens, scissors, and a pencil sharpener are available in Smart hall in the "nook" across from the first alcove.

ACP Staff

Administrative Vice President
Communications and Development Manager
Accountant

Amanda Jenkins
Emily Taylor
John McGrath

Aspen Center for Physics

700 W Gillespie Street
Aspen, CO 81611
970-925-2585
acp@aspenphys.org