

# Southwest Lightweight Backpacking - Adult Travel and Logistics

## Course Start

Arrive	1 day before your course start date
Meeting place	NOLS Southwest 2751 N. Soldier Trail Tucson, AZ 85749. Phone: (520) 749-0955.
Meeting time	Please arrange all travel (air and/or ground) to allow you to arrive at the NOLS Southwest campus between <b>5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on the day before</b> your course start date.

## Flight Destination

Airport	Tucson International Airport, Tucson, AZ (TUS)
Date	Arrive the day <b>before</b> your course start date

## Flight Return

Airport	Tucson International Airport, Tucson, AZ (TUS)
Date	Depart the day <b>after</b> your course end date

## Ground Transportation

From airport to NOLS	Please make a reservation with one of the shuttle or rideshare services listed below to transport you from TUS to the NOLS Southwest campus between 5 and 6 pm on the day <b>before</b> your course start date.
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## NOLS

From NOLS to airport	On the last night of your course, NOLS will transport you from campus to the Comfort Suites hotel. Please make a reservation at the Comfort Suites hotel for this evening. See information below.
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### Accommodation

Before Course	You will spend the night at the NOLS Southwest campus
After Course	You arrange accommodations for the last night of your course

## Prepare to Travel to Your Course

(Further details following)

1. Submit your health form on your [Dashboard](#) as soon as possible. Once NOLS clears it, you can start booking travel.
2. Book your travel.
3. Arrange ground transport for before and after course
4. Arrange accommodation for after the course
5. Complete and submit Travel and Logistics form on your [Dashboard](#)
6. Consider Tuition Protection coverage (see [Dashboard](#), highly recommended)
7. Check your medical insurance coverage will be adequate for your travels and expedition activities
8. For International Travel:
  - a. Check that your passport is valid for the appropriate dates
  - b. Arrange visa and/or parent letter if needed
  - c. Notify your bank/credit card company that you will be travelling internationally
  - d. Get cash in local currency

- e. Prepare for important cultural considerations
  - f. Get inoculations as required
9. **Contact NOLS Admissions:** 800-710-6657 / [admissions@nols.edu](mailto:admissions@nols.edu) (Save our contact info so you have it while you travel!)

## Further Details:

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## Welcome to NOLS!

The following information provides some details on course logistics and planning your travel to the Southwest. We look forward to meeting you at the start of your course and hope the following information will help you arrive with a minimum of difficulty and expense.

## Course Start

Your course will begin at the NOLS Southwest campus in Tucson, AZ at 6:00 pm on the night **before** the start date of the course.

Please make a reservation with one of the shuttle or rideshare services listed below to transport you from the Tucson airport (TUS) to the NOLS Southwest campus between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. on the day **before** your course start date. Please make sure to eat and drink throughout your travel day to Tucson. NOLS Southwest will provide a simple dinner on the evening you arrive on campus.

## Post-Course Lodging

Discounted rooms may be available for NOLS students at the Comfort Suites at Sabino Canyon. Please call the hotel directly for the latest NOLS discount information or use the link below. Tucson is a popular tourist destination and room availability and discounts may be limited. Please make room reservations as early as possible at the Comfort Suites hotel for the final night of your course.

Comfort Suites at Sabino Canyon  
7007 East Tanque Verde Road  
Tucson, AZ 85715  
(866) 890-1399 or (520) 298-2300

[Direct link to the Comfort Suites reservation process for NOLS students](#)

**If you call, you must mention NOLS to get a discounted rate.**

## Camping

For those individuals driving to Tucson, camping is a less expensive option than the hotel. There are numerous campgrounds on Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mountains on the Coronado National Forest. Expect a small fee of approximately \$10 and bring water, as there is none on the mountain. Visit the [Coronado National Forest website](#) for more information.

**Please remember that you still need to meet up with your group at the NOLS Southwest campus between 5:00 and 6:00 pm on the day before your course start date.**

## Airport Shuttle Options

**Tucson Stagecoach Express Shuttle:** runs a commercial van shuttle from the airport to local destinations. Book online 24 hours in advance to make a reservation at <https://stagecoachexpressshuttle.com/tucson.php> or call (520) 889-1000

**Rideshare companies:** Uber ([www.uber.com](http://www.uber.com)), Lyft ([www.lyft.com](http://www.lyft.com)), and TotalRide ([www.totalride.com](http://www.totalride.com)) rideshare companies are available as shuttle options in the Tucson area.

## The First Day

The night before your course start date will include an initial orientation and light dinner. Then, the first full day will be very busy. You'll continue to meet your instructors, fellow expedition members, and the NOLS Southwest staff. After a more extensive course orientation, the remainder of the morning will be spent issuing equipment and preparing food supplies for the entire expedition. You'll depart for the backcountry early that afternoon or in the following few days, depending on specific course logistics.

## The Last Day

On the final day of the course you'll be transported back to NOLS Southwest. Upon arrival, you'll clean all the group equipment used during the course and return any rental gear. During this time you'll also have an opportunity to purchase equipment or souvenirs from our gear store. After lunch, you'll debrief your course experience with a member of the NOLS Southwest administration. Later that afternoon, staff and instructors will join you in celebrating your success. There will be a graduation dinner where diplomas are awarded.

After you pack up for your departure, you will be transported back to the Comfort Suites hotel at approximately 6:00 p.m. This marks the official end of the course.

**The last day will be very busy. Do not plan to depart from Tucson until the morning after the course end date. You will be responsible for making your own reservations for transport to the airport (TUS).**

## Receiving Mail

You'll be able to receive mail before and after your course while at the NOLS Southwest campus, but not while you are in the backcountry.

Please inform family and friends that the letters and packages they send to you must include your course code and date (example: LWB mm/dd/yy), which you will find in your enrollment letter. The student mailing address is:

Your Name - Course Code & Date  
NOLS Southwest  
2751 North Soldier Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85749

### **Other Communications and Contact**

The NOLS Southwest campus has public wireless and three desktop computers with internet access for students while at the campus. There will be no internet access while in the backcountry or on the road to your course area.

As a NOLS student, you will not be able to be contacted by phone or receive email while in the backcountry. NOLS does not permit students to carry their own personal smartphones or personal locator beacons (e.g., Spot, Fast Find, inReach) in the field. In the event of a serious emergency at home, all efforts will be made to contact you in the backcountry.

### **Travel During Your Course**

Please note that you may pass through a Border Patrol checkpoint while traveling to and from your course area in NOLS vehicles. Non-U.S. citizens should be prepared to carry original personal identification documents throughout the duration of their course, including while in the backcountry. U.S. citizens may carry a photocopy. Check with your instructors before departing for the field if this applies to your course.

### **Luggage, Valuables and Vehicles**

We have storage lockers available for you to store personal gear and extra clothing while you are in the backcountry. Please try to limit items to one or two duffels or suitcases, as space is limited. Your valuables (i.e., plane tickets, credit cards, electronics, and money) can also be placed in a separate lockable storage safe and held for you at NOLS Southwest. Although due care will be taken, **NOLS assumes no liability for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property while in our care.** You may want to obtain personal insurance to cover such items.

If you are driving to Tucson, free long-term parking is available at NOLS Southwest while on your course.

## Prescription Drugs

If you are taking prescription drugs or other medication of any kind, please make sure they are listed on your health form and that you inform your instructors during your orientation meeting on the first day. This includes epinephrine for allergic reactions. If you are prescribed epinephrine, make sure you bring it even if you have not needed to use it before. Such information and medication could be critical in an emergency situation. You should plan to bring extra doses of essential medication with you in case some is lost or damaged in the backcountry.

## Miscellaneous Expenses

You are advised to bring enough cash and/or credit cards to cover miscellaneous expenses encountered while traveling to and from Tucson. These potential expenses include lodging costs in Tucson before and after the course, airport shuttle fees, laundry, non-NOLS meals, and any other non-course related expenses. There are several ATM machines within walking distance of the Comfort Suites hotel. **Suggested minimum: \$300**

## If Delayed

If your arrival to Tucson is delayed and you are not able to make the initial meeting time, please do the following:

1. Rebook for the next available flight.
2. Then, contact NOLS Southwest to let us know of your new plans at **(520) 749-0955**.

## Emergency Contact During the Course

Should your family experience an emergency and need to reach you, they should contact the **NOLS Southwest office in Tucson, AZ at (520) 749-0955**.

## NOLS Administrative Headquarters

All tuition payments and completed enrollment forms should be sent to: NOLS, 284 Lincoln St, Lander, WY 82520. Questions concerning course content, enrollment, college credit, physical fitness, or other course matters should be directed to the above address, or please call the NOLS Admission office at (800) 710-6657 or [admissions@nols.edu](mailto:admissions@nols.edu) between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. MDT.