

## BEGINNERS' GUIDE TO THE MOUNTAIN



#### **BRILLIANT FOR BEGINNERS**

Our resort faves for your first time on the mountain

#### THINGS TO DO

When you're not skiing or snowboarding

Let's ski what it's all about - get ready for 'pinch me' views, setting off for ski/snowboard school and making your first turns on the slopes. To get you started, we've answered some of your frequently asked questions and picked out resorts we know are brilliant for beginners. They've all got great ski schools and plenty of easy slopes to get you going.

Booking a ski trip has never been so simple. All of our holidays include flights, transfers and accommodation. Plus, you can add lift passes, equipment hire and lessons too, so everything's ready for when you arrive.

You'll get expert service every step of the way, and of course, we've got you covered with ABTA and ATOL protection.



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#### **CONTACT US**

Got questions? Our friendly staff are always happy to talk about all things ski. Call 020 3451 2821, chat on our social media or visit us at a Crystal Hub. You'll find them at Chill Factore in Manchester, Snozone in Milton Keynes and SnowDome in Tamworth.













When you're done with when you're done with this brochure, why not pass it on to a friend, or use it to make a piñata? If not, just recycle it – bring it into a TUI Store or Crystal Hub and we'll do it for you.

#### TRAVEL AWARE - STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY ABROAD

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and National Travel Health Network and Centre have up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad.

For the latest travel advice from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office including security and local laws, plus passport and visa information check www.gov.uk/travelaware and follow @FCDOtravelGovUK and Facebook.com/FCDOtravel.

More information is available by checking www.tui.co.uk/destinations/info/travel-aware

Keep informed of current travel health news by visiting www.travelhealthpro.org.uk

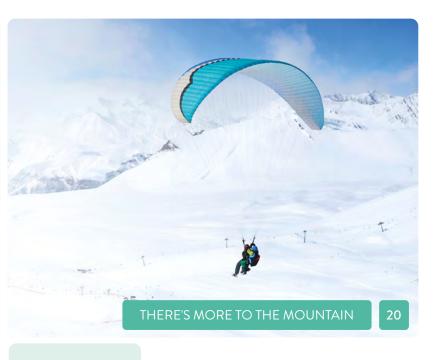
This advice can change so check regularly for updates.













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We know a thing or two about planning the perfect ski holiday. Don't just take our word for it – see what other customers are saying about us on Trustpilot.

Read our reviews

For full terms and conditions, and all the important details about booking with us, go to <a href="mailto:crystalski.co.uk/our-policies">crystalski.co.uk/our-policies</a>

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## Getting started on the slopes

So you're thinking about a ski holiday? We've answered your FAQs to help you get the most out of your first time.



#### Q: Where do I go?

As with any holiday, you'll need to look through your options and pick a resort. To make it easy, we've marked our 'best for beginners' resorts – use the filters on the website or read the next few pages for ideas of where you could start your ski journey. Lots of beginners choose **Andorra** or **Bulgaria** as they're more affordable for your first time on the slopes.



#### Q: Do I really need to book lessons?

Even if your friends think they can teach you, always get lessons for your first time skiing or snowboarding – you'll learn the basics, meet other beginners and see the mountain with a local expert, aka your instructor.

#### Q: Do I need to take lessons before I go?

You don't need to take ski or snowboard lessons before you go. But if you fancy giving it a try before booking, take a couple of lessons at one of the UK's snow centres.



#### Q: How does ski school work?

Ski school is typically for five or six days, and there are separate groups for adults and children. Full-day tuition is often available, but lots of beginners like half-day lessons in the morning, so they can practise in the afternoon.

#### Q: Which is easier, skiing or snowboarding?

There's an old saying that skiing is easier to learn but harder to master, whereas snowboarding is harder to learn but easier to master. You can start ski school as young as 3 or 4 years old in most resorts, but you often need to be 7 or 8 to take snowboarding lessons. If you choose to snowboard, look for a resort with fewer drag lifts as they can be difficult to get on and off with one foot attached to a board.

#### Q: What do I need to budget for?

You'll first need to choose a ski holiday package, which includes your flights, transfers and accommodation. And once you've picked one, you'll also need to think about ski clothing, equipment hire, lessons and your lift pass. Of course, activities and meals are other costs you'll need to consider. Lots of skiers choose half-board accommodation because it's usually good value for money, plus you can try local dishes on the mountain at lunchtime.

#### Q: Do I need to buy lots of ski clothes and equipment?

Most people pre-book their skis or board, boots and helmet hire, and then you just pick them up when you arrive. As for what to pack, you'll need a ski jacket and salopettes (ski trousers), ski gloves and goggles. Remember to pack some long ski socks too and warm layers, like microfleeces, and thermal tops and leggings. Borrow from your mates, hire items from Crevasse clothing or buy second hand from #SkiBay4DSUK and charity shops for some bargains. Off the slopes, sturdy shoes, sunglasses, gloves and a hat will come in handy. And don't forget sun cream as the snow glare is strong, even on cloudy days.

#SkiBay4DSUK is where you can buy second-hand clothing, plus a portion of the price will go to Disability Snowsport UK - a charity that helps everyone get on the slopes regardless of disability, injury or experience. Now that's what you call win-win.

Go to SkiBay4DSUK



#### Q: How can I get the best deal?

#### Pick a less popular week

Holiday prices increase with demand, so pick a time that's less popular - you'll often get a good deal on the week just after New Year.

#### Choose a good-value destination

Andorra and Bulgaria are well known for being good value. Not only do the holidays and lift passes generally cost less, but you can keep your spending down while you're away as food and drink on the mountain is easy on the wallet too.

#### Pick a lesser-known resort

Most well-known ski resorts have a lesser-known neighbour. For example, if you really want to ski in the Three Valleys, you could stay in Les Menuires over bigger name resorts like Méribel or Val Thorens.

#### Weigh up self-catering vs half board

Booking self-catering accommodation is cheaper initially, but buying in mountain supermarkets and eating out adds up quickly. Sometimes, booking a half-board hotel is more convenient and cheaper overall.

#### Go for entry-level skis

There's no need to book intermediate or advanced equipment for your first time you won't feel the difference if you're a beginner. Entry-level skis and snowboards are just fine.

#### Buy a local lift pass

It's unlikely you're going to cover an entire ski area on your first ski holiday, so ditch the area lift pass and stick to a local one. They're typically much cheaper.

#### Pick a resort with a beginner bundle

First-time ski or board bundles include your equipment, lessons and lift pass - it's the cheapest and most convenient way to get everything sorted. These packages are available in lots of holidays to Europe, including France, Italy, Austria, Andorra, Bulgaria and Finland.



#### How it works on your holiday

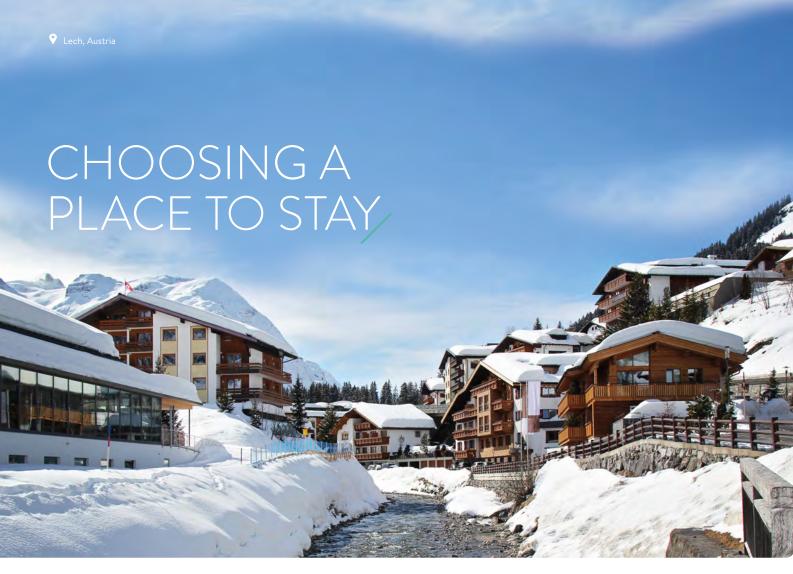
When your plane lands, we'll text you with info on where to find your transfer coach. And after you've got your bags, you can head straight there. Then you'll get your Welcome to the Mountain pack, which'll include info on any ski essentials you've booked, like lift passes, ski school and equipment hire.

It's worth going to pick up your equipment when you arrive in your resort so you're ready for your lessons the next day. You can still go in the morning before lessons start, but give yourself some extra time in case it's busy. At the end of your holiday, you'll need to return your equipment back to the shop.

On your first day of lessons, head to the ski school meeting point where your instructor will be waiting for you. They'll make sure you're in a group with other beginners like you.

Need help during your trip? You can call us any time and find useful resort info in our Ski Explorer app. Or ask a Crystal Rep – most of our resorts have one who can answer your questions. Then when your time on the slopes is coming to an end, we'll text you to let you know what time your transfer coach will pick you up to head back to the airport.

Go to our Ski-Buzz blog for more info, tips and ideas.





#### HOTELS

#### Best for: Convenience

The classic pick when it comes to where to stay. And some are especially good for families - look out for hotels with our own Crystal Childcare.

#### **PROS**

- Lots of facilities, from restaurants and bars, to swimming pools, saunas and full-blown spas.
- · Some have a kids' club and games rooms.

#### **CONS**

- Families sleep in one room, and larger families may need to stay in separate rooms.
- Usually the most expensive option upfront.





#### **GUESTHOUSES**

#### Best for: An authentic experience

Simple and cosy, you can look forward to a warm welcome and traditional décor here. You'll find most guesthouses in Austria (often called pensions), and sometimes Italy.

#### **PROS**

- Small and often family-run.
- Owners typically have loads of local knowledge.
- Lower costs upfront.

#### **CONS**

- · No fancy facilities, like swimming pools.
- · May be further from the slopes, unlike hotels that are often purpose-built near the ski lifts.





#### **APARTMENTS**

#### Best for: Space to spread out

Choose from one-room studios to bigger apartments with multiple bedrooms and separate living rooms. And you don't necessarily have to miss out on the facilities-front – some apartment buildings have their own restaurants, bars and pools, or share them with nearby hotels.

#### **PROS**

- Often budget friendly.
- Big families and groups can stay in one space.
- Full kitchen or a kitchenette with basic equipment like a microwave and hob.

#### CONS

- Supermarkets are small and can be pricey in resorts.
- You might need to pay extra for towels, bed linen and end-of-stay cleaning.
- Sometimes you need to make your own bed on arrival.

#### UNDERSTANDING BOARD BASIS OPTIONS

**Self-catering:** The flexibility to cook what you like, when you like – or still eat out if you want to.

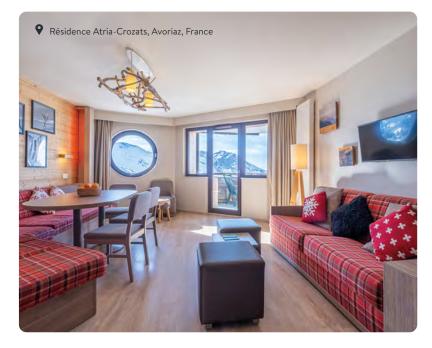
**Bed & breakfast:** Get breakfast included and visit local restaurants for your other meals.

Half board: Your morning and evening meals are taken care of, and you can eat wherever you like for lunch.

Full board: Breakfast, lunch and evening meals are covered and paid for in advance, so you won't need to think about where to eat. But you will need to pay for drinks with your meals.

All-inclusive: All of your meals and some drinks are included. It's a good pick if you're happy to head back to the hotel at lunchtime, though you won't find many all-inclusive options in ski resorts.







### A QUICK GUIDE TO SKI ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

Some accommodation descriptions might mention the following. Here's what it all means.

**Ski-in**, **ski-out**: Accommodation that's close to a lift or piste – so getting on and off the slopes is easy.

**Boot rooms:** A communal, safe place where you can store your ski or snowboard boots.

**Heated boot warmers:** A storage rack that dries your boots at the end of the day and warms them up in the morning, so you can hit the slopes with toasty toes.

**Ski lockers:** A safe place to store your equipment. Most people put their boots, skis or snowboard, helmet, goggles and gloves in here.

**Shuttle services:** A bus that takes you to the slopes or ski lift. Look out for this if the accommodation is a little further out of the resort.

Your trip starts at crystalski.co.uk

## BEGINNER-FRIENDLY STAYS

Here's just some of our favourite accommodation for beginners – all a 5-minute walk or less from ski school.



**BOROVETS** | BULGARIA

#### 

The Hotel Rila couldn't be more convenient for ski school – the meeting point is right outside.

- \* At the foot of the nursery slopes and opposite a chairlift, so getting around is so easy.
- \* Extra-special spa with large indoor pool, hot tub, sauna, steam room and more.
- \* Experience Borovets' famous nightlife in the hotel's own nightclub.

#### **HOTEL AUSTRIA**

NIEDERAU | AUSTRIA

#### 

This is your typical Austria stay, full-to-the-brim with Alpine style.

- \* A Tyrolean theme throughout, from the wood-panelled dining room to the traditional bar.
- \* It's only a 2-minute walk to ski school and the nursery slopes are right opposite the hotel.
- Head to the indoor pool, sauna and steam room for a spot of R&R.









## VILLAGE MONTANA APARTMENTS VAL THORENS | FRANCE

Modern self-catering apartments with the option to eat out at either of the two onsite restaurants.

- \* All apartments have a well-equipped kitchenette with hot plates, oven, microwave and dishwasher.
- \* Borrow fondue and raclette machines from reception to cook French mountain classics.
- \* Ski school's a 5-minute walk away.

#### HOTEL TAUERNHOF

KAPRUN | AUSTRIA

The Hotel Tauernhof might have opened as a traditional inn back in 1953, but these days it's full of top-notch facilities.

- \* In the village centre and in front of the beginners' slopes, so it's easy to get to ski school.
- \* Relax in the modern spa's indoor pool, saunas and steam room.
- \* Traditional bar where you can sip a local tipple before your 4-course evening meal.





## FRANCE

France has some of the highest resorts in the Alps, which means snow conditions are excellent, and the accommodation is usually close to the slopes too.



#### **VAL THORENS**

Three Valleys

Best for: Après-ski & nightlife

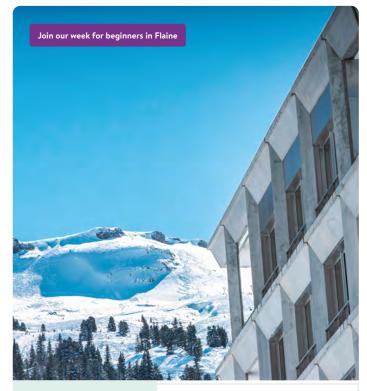
#### **PISTES**

KM of piste: 600 Resort height: 2,300m Say it: Val-tor-ron

#### Transfer:

2hrs 45mins - Chambéry 3hrs 45mins - Geneva

- Europe's highest ski resort with plenty of piste-side accommodation.
- The variety of skiing makes it a popular pick for mixedability groups.
- A gentle slope in the centre of the resort to get you started and lots of blue runs to try once you're feeling confident.
- Check out some of the best après-ski in the Alps.



#### **FLAINE**

**Grand Massif** 

Best for: Superb snow

#### **PISTES**

KM of piste: 265 Resort height: 1,600m Say it: Flen

Transfer: 2hrs - Chambéry 1hr 45mins - Geneva

- Stacks of snow and an excellent weather record - conditions here are spot-on for learning.
- Love-it-or-hate-it looks, with an unusual mix of concrete, wood and stone designed to mirror the surrounding mountains.
- Free beginner lifts next to town, and gentle, tree-lined pistes circle the resort.
- Lots of activities from ice karting to bowling.

Stay at: Hotel Club MMV Le Flaine

Stay at: Belambra Club Panorama

Stay at: Hotel Tango

Stay at: Hotel Club MMV Les Arolles







#### **ALPE D'HUEZ**

Grand Domaine

Best for: Sunny slopes

#### PISTES

38

3 1

KM of piste: 250 Resort height: 1,860m Say it: Alp-do-wez

Transfer: 2hrs 15mins - Chambéry

- Gets on average over 300 blue-sky days a year, earning it the nickname 'The Island in the Sun'.
- One of the largest nursery areas in the Alps.
- Four beginner-friendly lifts that are free to use.
- Take your pick from a variety of bars, from the laid-back to the lively.



#### **AVORIAZ**

Portes du Soleil

Best for: Easy access to the slopes

#### PISTES

62

28

KM of piste: 650 Resort height: 1,800m Say it: A-vor-ee-az

Transfer: 3hrs - Chambéry 2hrs 15mins - Geneva

- Wood-clad buildings blend in with the mountain scenery here.
- Car-free streets filled with horse-drawn sleighs.
- Plenty of good-value, selfcatering apartments to help you save some pennies.
- The nursery area is wellconnected to some gentle runs, so you've got a variety of slopes to explore as your technique improves.

Stay at: Hotel Petit Prince



Stay at: Hotel Royal Ours Blanc



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Stay at: Résidence Atria-Crozats



Stay at: Belambra Club Les Cimes du Soleil

## AUSTRIA

Austria's all about authentic mountain villages, family-run hotels and sheltered, tree-lined slopes.



Best for: Off-slope activities

#### **PISTES**

KM of piste: 109 Resort height: 828m Say it: Nee-da-row

Transfer:

1hr 30mins - Innsbruck 2hrs - Salzburg

- nursery slope.
- Plenty of easy blue runs to try once you've learnt the basics - even the red pistes are quite gentle here.
- Also a popular pick for families.
- Try snow tubing or go on a horse-drawn sleigh ride.



#### **KAPRUN**

Kaprun

Best for: Mountaintop views

#### **PISTES** 23km

KM of piste: 61 Resort height: 775m Say it: Kap-roon

Transfer: 1hr 45mins - Salzburg 3hrs - Innsbruck

- Dedicated beginners' area near the centre of the village.
- For wide-open slopes, head to the Kitzsteinhorn glacier.
- Visit the Gipfelwelt 3000 viewing platform to enjoy the impressive mountain views.
- Visit the luxurious Tauern Spa or hop on the free ski bus to Zell am See, where the lake sometimes freezes over.





Stay at: Hotel Tauernhof







#### **ISCHGL**

Silvretta Arena

Best for: Après-ski & nightlife

#### **PISTES**

132km

KM of piste: 218 Resort height: 1,400m Say it: Ish-gul

Transfer: 1hr 40mins - Innsbruck

- A proper farming community with a glitzy resort centre.
- Take the lift up to the nursery slopes - you'll learn high up here.
- Wide, sunny slopes on the Idalp bowl where you can practise your new skills.
- Join the party atmosphere in one of the massive clubs for a taste of Ibiza in the Alps.

#### **BAD GASTEIN** Gastein Valley

Best for: Spa time

#### **PISTES**

KM of piste: 198 Resort height: 1,000m Say it: Bad-gas-tyne

#### Transfer:

2hrs - Salzburg 3hrs 20mins - Innsbruck

- Filled with grand hotels and trinket shops, this isn't your typical Austrian ski resort.
- Really convenient beginner slopes, right next to the main gondola.
- When it's time to venture further, head up to Stubnerkogel to explore gentle blue runs.
- Don't miss the Felsentherme - an impressive spa with mountain views.

Stay at: Hotel Ischgl





Stay at: Hotel Salzburger Hof

Stay at: Thermal Resort Hotel Elisabethpark

## ITALY

Relaxed hospitality, quiet slopes and comfort-food favourites are all part of la dolce vita.



#### **PASSO TONALE**

Adamello Ski

Best for: Off-slope activities

#### PISTES

10 24

KM of piste: 100 Resort height: 1,880m Say it: Pass-o-toh-nah-lay

Transfer: 2hrs 45mins - Verona

- Small town and ski area that's packed with plenty of runs for first-timers
- Hop on one of 10 lifts at village level to practise on gentle blues and a few easier reds.
- For more of a challenge, take the gondola down to Ponte di Legno.
- Snowmobiling, snowshoe walking and ice skating activities to try.



#### **CORTINA D'AMPEZZO**

Cortina d'Ampezzo & Dolomiti Superski

Best for: Quiet slopes

#### **PISTES**

38 32 13

KM of piste: 120 & 1,220 Resort height: 1,224m Say it: Cor-teena-de-am-pezzo

> Transfer: 2hrs 45mins - Innsbruck

- A really authentic Italian atmosphere.
- Most visitors come here for the social scene rather than the skiing, so the slopes are among the emptiest in the Dolomites.
- Top-notch nursery slopes by the Socrepes lift station and they're close to greens and blues where you can practise.
- Browse high-end boutiques and spot supercars around town.

Stay at: Hotel Grand Paradiso











#### CORVARA

Alta Badia & Dolomiti Superski

Best for: Sunny slopes

#### **PISTES**

74

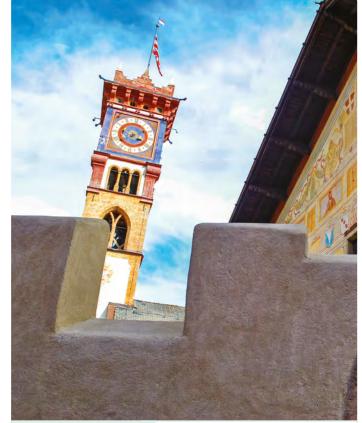
74 47 9

KM of piste: 130 & 1,220 Resort height: 1,568m Say it: Cor-va-ra

#### Transfer:

2hrs 30mins - Innsbruck 4hrs - Verona

- Picturesque village with an authentic feel, from the wooden buildings to the traditional food.
- A mix of impressive, jagged peaks and snow-covered valleys.
- The easy beginner runs next to the village are nice and gentle – great for building confidence.
- To explore further, one of the world's largest ski areas is on your doorstep.



#### CAVALESE

Val di Fiemme – Obereggen

Best for: Charm

#### **PISTES**

51

KM of piste: 110 Resort height: 1,000m Say it: Ca-va-lay-see

> Transfer: 2hrs - Verona

- A small town with alpine charm down to a T. Think cobbled streets around a picturesque bell tower.
- Browse family-run shops before stopping for an aperitivo on one of the terraces.
- You'll start on the Doss Dei Laresi nursery slopes, then there are beginner-friendly blues to try across all five ski areas.
- Kids and adults alike can end the day with some night-time tobogganing.

Stay at: Family Hotel & Residence Veronza

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Stay at: Hotel Orso Grigio

The Stay at: TH Corvara Greif Hotel

Stay at: **Hotel Planac** 

## NORDIC ADVENTURES

Where beginner-friendly skiing and great scenery come hand-in-hand.





Best for: Winter wonderland

#### **PISTES**

KM of piste: 44 Resort height: 200m Say it: Lev-e

> Transfer: 20mins - Kittilä

- Convenient village centre, right next to the main ski lift.
- Slopes are uncrowded and lots of pistes are floodlit, so you can keep on skiing even when the sun goes down.
- Head out on a reindeer sleigh ride, explore the Snow Village and even go on a snowmobile in search of the Northern Lights.



#### **SALLA**

Best for: Winter activities

#### **PISTES**

KM of piste: 10 Resort height: 213m Say it: Sah-la

Transfer: 2hrs 30mins - Kuusamo

- A pretty resort full of cosy wood cabins and surrounded by snowy forests.
- Lots of self-catering accommodation and you'll often have your own private sauna.
- Convenient nursery area and quiet blue slopes you can loop over and over again.
- Earn your reindeer driving licence or sightsee on a snowmobile ride.

Stay at: Lapland Hotel Sirkantähti

Stay at: Panorama Hotel

Stay at: Kelorinne Log Cabins



Stay at: Salla Cabins



#### **BEITOSTØLEN**

Best for: Easy access to the slopes

#### **PISTES**

KM of piste: 21 Resort height: 900m Say it: Bite-a-stolen

Transfer: 3hrs 30mins - Oslo

- A village made up of wooden buildings and a handful of restaurants and bars for a postski tipple.
- A small, easy-to-navigate ski area with quiet green and blue runs - they all lead back to the resort centre.
- Try your hand at ice fishing or go for a meal in an authentic lavvu tent.



#### **GEILO**

Best for: Traditional Nordic charm

#### **PISTES**

KM of piste: 34 Resort height: 800m Say it: Yay-low

Transfer: 3hrs 30mins - Oslo

- One of Norway's oldest resorts, and with a frozen lake it's snow-globe scenic.
- Learn on gentle slopes in the Slaatta nursery area.
- On the Vestlia side of the resort, ski from mountaintop to valley bottom on greens and easy blue runs.
- Off the slopes, zoom down the 1.8km-long toboggan track.

Stay at: Radisson Blu Resort



Stay at: Forest Cabins



Stay at: Vestlia Resort

## GREAT-VALUE DESTINATIONS

Bulgaria, Andorra and Slovenia are all firm picks for great-value ski trips. And these are some our of favourite resorts for beginners.



#### **BOROVETS**

Best for: Après-ski & nightlife

#### PISTES

24 29

KM of piste: 58
Resort height: 1,350m
Say it: Boh-roh-vets

Transfer:

- It's all about the party vibe in Bulgaria's first ski resort.
- Ski essentials like lift passes, equipment hire and ski school are easy on the wallet.
- A small ski area that's great for finding your way around and practising on runs you know well.
- Most slopes are pretty and tree-lined, so you'll have better visibility on snowy days.



#### **ARINSAL**

Best for: Authenticity

#### PISTES

KM of piste: 63
Resort height: 1,500m
Say it: Ah-ren-sal

Transfer:

3hrs 45mins - Toulouse 3hrs 45mins - Barcelona

- Known for its fantastic ski school and budget-friendly accommodation.
- Build confidence by looping the long blues on either side of the snow park.
- All the slopes lead back to the same spot, so you can easily meet up with family or friends for lunch.
- Catch the cable car to Pal for even more blues.

Stay at: Hotel Lion Borovets



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Stay at: Hotel Princesa Parc



Stay at: Hotel Montané



#### **KRANJSKA GORA**

Best for: Charm

#### PISTES

10 8

KM of piste: 20 Resort height: 838m Say it: Kran-ska-gor-ra

Transfer: 3hrs 20mins - Salzburg

- A picture-book village just a few miles from the Italian and Austrian borders.
- Nursery slopes right next to the resort centre.
- Once you've mastered the basics, hop on the bus and explore the blues in Zelenci.
- For off-slope fun, swap skis for ice skates on nearby frozen Lake Jasna.









# TAKE OUR QUIZ

Still not sure where to go? Tell us a bit about you and we'll suggest ski resorts that seem just right.

Find your perfect resort

Visit your local travel agent / 19

Call 020 3451 2821 / Visit crystalski.co.uk / Visit a Crystal Hub

## THERE'S MORE TO THE MOUNTAIN

Think ski resorts are just about skiing and snowboarding?
Think again. Here are just a few of our favourite things to do away from the slopes...



#### **MOUNTAIN MEALS**

Whether you're inside a cosy wooden chalet by the fire or in the spring sunshine on the terrace, there's nothing quite like a meal in the mountains. And it's not just your surroundings that'll knock your socks off – the food's one of our fave things about ski holidays. From gooey cheese fondue in France to lip-smackingly good goulash soup in Austria, each country's got its own must-try specialities.



#### **FROZEN FUN**

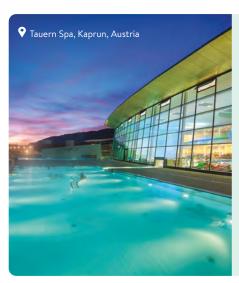
Gear up with a drysuit and oxygen tank, and dive into the frozen lake in Tignes-le-Lac, France, to see an underwater world of ice formations, shifting colours and bubbles. Or if you'd rather stay on top of the ice, take the wheel in a car, buggy or kart to drift around Europe's highest ice driving circuit in Val Thorens, France. To slow things down, glide across an ice rink on skates. Lots of resorts have one - and sure, you can go skating back at home, but it's 10 times better surrounded by snowy mountains. In some places, you can have a go at curling too, or cheer on local teams in an ice hockey match.





#### **FEEL THE THRILL**

Zoom through the forest on a snowmobile tour that'll leave you grinning from ear-to-ear. In Finland, you can even head out on a night-time snowmobiling safari to spot the Northern Lights. Or get a bird's-eye view of the slopes as you fly across them on a zipline – the highest one in Europe is in France's Val Thorens. It's a real resort highlight, starting up the mountain at 3,320m and stretching for 1.3km. Or to appreciate the views at a slower pace, you can paraglide over the mountains and valley in most big resorts.



#### **MAKE A SPLASH**

Pick somewhere to stay with a pool, hot tub or sauna where you can unwind, or go for a resort with an amazing public spa. In Austria, Kaprun's Tauern Spa has different 'worlds' of wellness bliss. And in Andorra, you can visit the modern Caldea Spa in the capital. If bigger is better, you'll love Europe's largest waterpark – the Aquamotion in Courchevel, France.







#### TIME TO CHILL

Sometimes it's the little things that make a holiday. Take a break from skiing or snowboarding for a lazy lunch up in the peaks. In the evenings, you can join a pub quiz in the local, challenge your mates to a board game, or cosy up by the fireplace with your favourite tipple and play a few rounds of cards.

Your skiing holiday starts at crystalski.co.uk

## A BEGINNERS' GUIDE TO APRÈS-SKI

A post-ski tipple is a classic way to end a day on the slopes. Here are our top après picks, from the lively to the laid-back.

#### VAL THORENS, FRANCE

Popular with younger groups, Val Thorens serves up some energetic après. Show off your best moves at La Folie Douce – a bar you'll find in a handful of French resorts, famous for its carnival atmosphere, colourful costumes and live music. On the run into the resort is 360 Bar, where drinks are cheaper and the atmosphere's just as fun.



#### ALPE D'HUEZ, FRANCE

With foam machines, lasers and the latest dance tunes, L'Igloo nightclub is the place for all-night partying. For something less lively, sip a cocktail at Sphere Bar or head to the quirky Freeride Café, which has a slide to the toilet and a bar where prices work on a stock market model – changing every 100 seconds.

#### **BOROVETS, BULGARIA**

When it comes to nightlife, you get a lot of bang for your buck in Borovets. Find some slopeside action at the Black Tiger Bar, where a karaoke machine adds to the lively atmosphere. Or for something more traditional, look out for a mehana – a typical Balkan bar – where you can often see live folk music and dancing.



#### CERVINIA, ITALY

You won't find any wild mountaintop parties in Cervinia, as most of the action happens in smart hotel bars. The Après Ski Bar in the Hotel Principe delle Nevi is a top pick. Head here for a bombardino – a hot Italian cocktail made with advocaat and brandy – then chill out on the deck by the pool.

#### PAS DE LA CASA, ANDORRA

The liveliest resort in Andorra, 'Pas' packs a big après punch thanks to its huge choice of bars and affordable prices. Start by sipping a mojito at the mountaintop Iqos Terrace. Then in the evening, visit the Underground nightclub – it hosts top DJs from Ibiza to keep the party going all night long.





# SLOPE STARTERS

## Brand new to skiing or snowboarding?

Join one of our first-timers' weeks in France, Andorra or Austria this winter.

#### Package includes





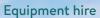


















## WHERE NEXT?

Choose from over 135 resorts across Europe, North America and Japan, with flights from more than 19 regional airports.



#### **Best for beginners**



**NOREFJELL** | NORWA

Best for: **Nordic charm** 



Best for: Picture-perfect village



Best for: Activities



**LES ARCS** | FRANCE

Best for: **Big ski area** 



**PAMPOROVO** | BULGARIA Best for: **Value for money** 



Best for: Scenic skiing



#### STAY

Best for beginners

F Best for families

#### **ANDORRA**

- **BF** Arinsal
- **BF** El Tarter
  - B La Massana Pas de la Casa
- RF Soldeu

#### **AUSTRIA**

- **BF** Alpbach
- Bad Gastein Bad Hofgastein
- Ellmau
- **BF** Fieberbrunn
- F Fügen
- F Galtür
- **BF** Hinterglemm Hochgurgl Hochsölden lals Innsbruck
- Ischgl B Kaprun
- Katschberg Kitzbühel
- F Lech
- B Leogang Mayrhofen
- B Montafon
- Nassfeld
- Nauders Neustift
- **BF** Niederau
- **BF** Obergurgl
  - B Obertauern Ramsau im Zillertal
- **BF** Rauris Reith im Alpbachtal
- **BF** Saalbach Schladming Seefeld
- B Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis Sölden Söll
  - St Anton

- St Christoph
- **BF** St Johann in Tyrol
- **BF** Wagrain
- **BF** Zell am See Zürs

#### BULGARIA

- **BF** Bansko
- **BF** Borovets
- Pamporovo

#### CANADA

Banff Fernie Jasper Lake Louise

- Panorama
- F Tremblant F Whistler

#### **FINLAND (LAPLAND)**

- B Iso-Syöte Kuusamo
- F Levi
- F Pyhä
- **BF** Ruka **BF** Salla
- **BF** Ylläs

#### **FRANCE**

- **BF** Alpe d'Huez Auris-en-Oisans
- **BF** Avoriaz Bourg-Saint-Maurice Brides-les-Bains Chamonix
- Châtel Courchevel
- **BF** Flaine La Clusaz
- **BF** La Plagne
- **BF** La Rosière La Tania
- **BF** La Toussuire
- **BF** Le Corbier **BF** Les Arcs

- F Les Deux Alpes Les Gets
- B Les Menuires
- **BF** Méribel
- B Megève Montgenèvre
- Morzine
- **BF** Mottaret
- **BF** Risoul
- F Sainte-Foy B Samoëns
- Serre Chevalier B St Gervais
- **BF** St-Sorlin-d'Arves
  - F Tignes Val d'Isère
- **BF** Val Thorens
  - Valloire
  - Vars

#### F Vaujany **ITALY**

- **BF** Bardonecchia
- **BF** Cavalese
- B Cervinia
- B Colfosco
- B Cortina d'Ampezzo
- B Corvara
- Courmayeur
- **BF** Drei Zinnen
- **B**F Folgaria F Folgarida
- Gressoney Kronplatz
- **BF** La Thuile
- B Livigno Madonna di Campiglio Ortisei
- **BF** Passo Tonale
- F Pila Pinzolo
- B Prato Nevoso San Martino di Castrozza Sansicario

- Santa Cristina Val Gardena Sauze d'Oulx
- B Selva Val Gardena
- B Sestriere
- Val di Fassa

#### **JAPAN**

Furano

B Niseko Tomamu

#### **NORWAY**

- **BF** Beitostølen
- **BF** Gausta
- **BF** Geilo
- **BF** Myrkdalen **BF** Norefjell
- **BF** Trysil Voss

#### **SLOVENIA**

- Bled
- Bohinj **BF** Kranjska Gora

#### **SPAIN**

- F Baqueira-Beret
- **BF** Sierra Nevada
  - **SWEDEN**
- B Kläppen
- **BF** Sälen
- **BF** Stöten

#### **SWITZERLAND**

- **BF** Crans Montana Grindelwald
- Saas Fee F Wengen Zermatt

#### USA

Aspen-Snowmass Beaver Creek

Breckenridge Vail

#### **WHAT NEXT?**

Call 020 3451 2821, chat on our social media or visit us at a Crystal Hub.

You'll find them at Chill Factore in Manchester, Snozone in Milton Keynes and SnowDome in Tamworth.

