

CRYSTAL

— SKI HOLIDAYS —

BEGINNERS' GUIDE TO THE MOUNTAIN

BRILLIANT FOR BEGINNERS

Our resort faves for your first time on the mountain

CHOOSING A PLACE TO STAY

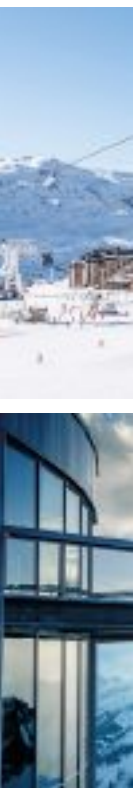
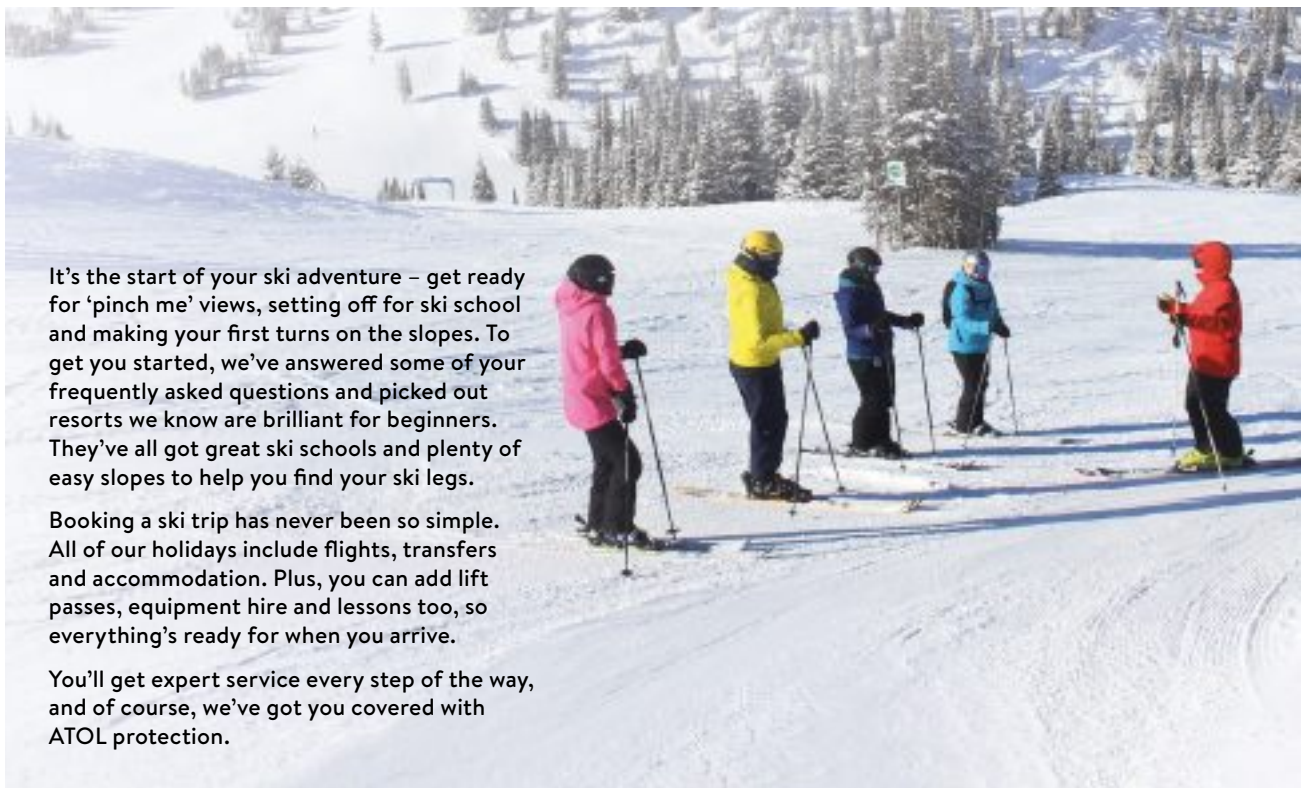
Everything you need to know about ...

GETTING STARTED ON THE SLOPES



BEGINNER-FRIENDLY STAYS | GREAT-VALUE DESTINATIONS | ACTIVITIES & APRÈS-SKI GUIDE

EDITION 21



It's the start of your ski adventure – get ready for 'pinch me' views, setting off for ski 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 help you find your ski legs.

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 ATOL protection.

CRYSTAL SKI EXPLORER APP

Our free app's packed with snow reports and resort info, like ski tips, things to do and the best places to eat. Plus, all your travel info is saved in there too.



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](https://twitter.com/FCDOtravelGovUK) and [Facebook.com/FCDOtravel](https://www.facebook.com/FCDOtravel).

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

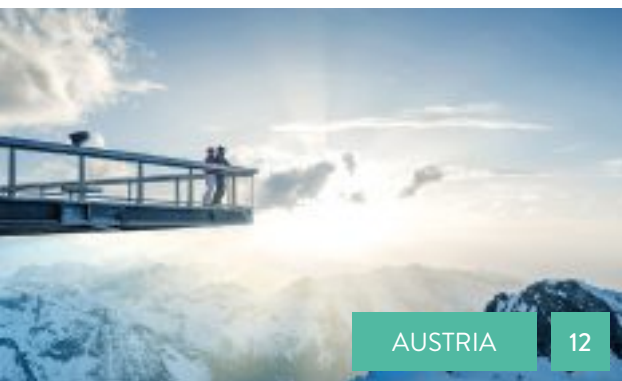
Keep informed of current travel health news by visiting www.travelhealthpro.org.uk

This advice can change so check regularly for updates.

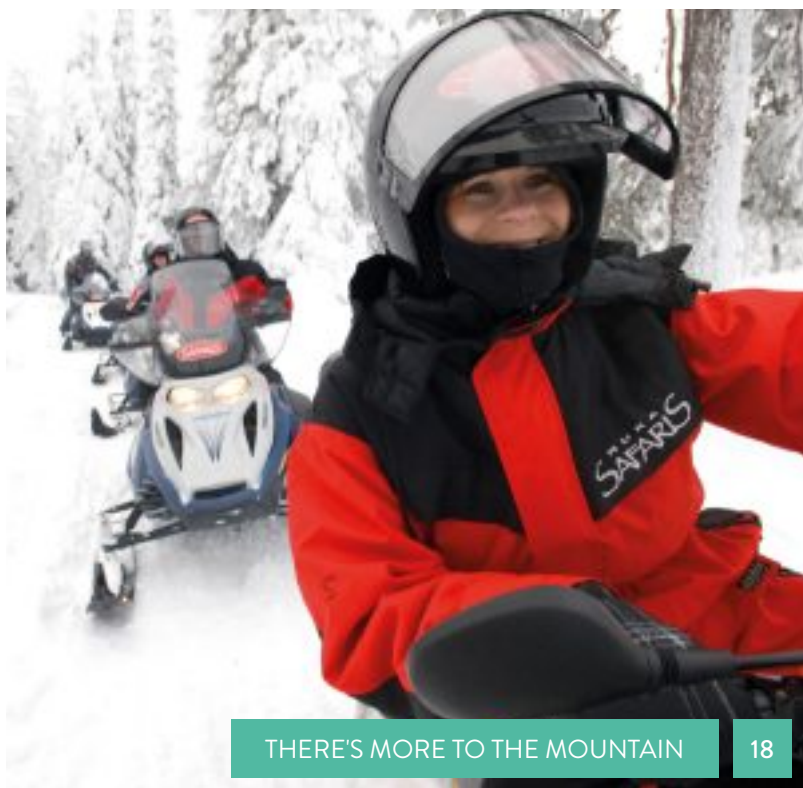




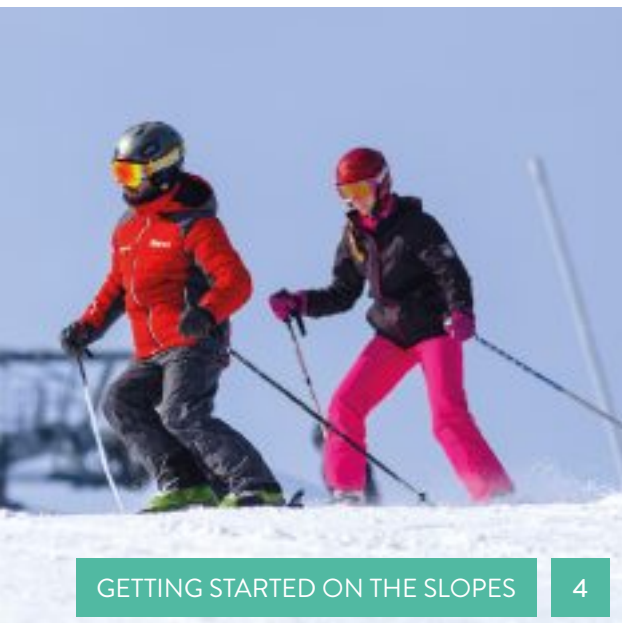
FRANCE 10



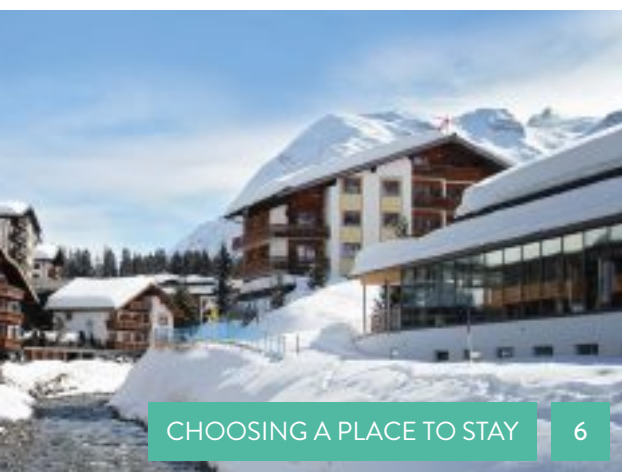
AUSTRIA 12



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For full terms and conditions, and all the important details about booking with us, go to crystalski.co.uk/our-policies

All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this guide are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate. Crystal Ski Holidays is a trading name of TUI UK Limited, a member of TUI Group. Registered office: Wigmore House, Wigmore Lane, Luton, LU2 9TN. Registered in England No: 2830117. This guide was published in August 2021.



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 adventure. 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 – you'll learn the basics, meet other beginners and see the mountain with a local expert, aka your instructor.

Q: DO I NEED 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 go to ski school from as young as 4 years while in most resorts, children need to be 7 or 8 to start snowboarding. 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 snowboard.

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 microfleece, and thermal tops and trousers. Borrow from your mates, get last season's kit online for less and browse the high street 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.

Did you know, there are loads of other things to do on the mountain when you're not skiing. Find out more on pages 16-17.



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 big-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 package

Our first-time ski packages include your equipment, lessons and lift pass – it's the cheapest and most convenient way to get everything sorted. And these packages are available in many resorts that are marked as 'best for beginners'.



SKI JARGON

Ski area: The area of the mountain where you can ski and snowboard.

Piste/run/slope: Colour-coded paths that keep you on track – green and blue for beginners, red for intermediates and black for experts.

Lift pass: A ticket to the lifts that gets you up the mountain.

Magic carpet: Flat escalators (like in an airport) that you stand on to move up a hill, found in beginner areas.

Alpine skiing: The type most of us will do – skiing downhill, on a piste.

Snowplough: One of the first moves you'll learn in ski school – also called the 'pizza'.

Parallel skiing: The 'French fries' technique that comes after you've mastered the snowplough.

Traversing: Any time you ski across the ski slope (instead of down it), you're traversing.

Snow cannon: Machines that make artificial snow when there's not enough natural snow.

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

CHOOSING A PLACE TO STAY



HOTELS

Hotels are the classic pick when it comes to where to stay. Lots of them have excellent facilities, from restaurants and bars, to swimming pools, saunas and full-blown spas, which are great for relaxing in after a day on the slopes. And some are especially good for families, with things like kids' clubs and games rooms. If you're with little ones, look out for hotels with our own Crystal Childcare.

PROS

- Lots of facilities.
- Some have a kids' club.

CONS

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

GUESTHOUSES

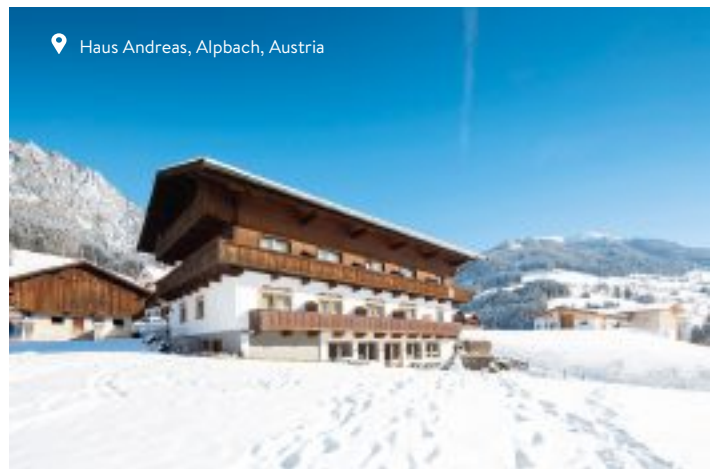
For a more authentic experience, you can go with a guesthouse – they're often smaller than hotels and family-run. Most of them are simple and cosy, so you can look forward to a warm welcome and traditional décor. You'll find most guesthouses in Austria (often called pensions), and sometimes Italy.

PROS

- Small and friendly.
- 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

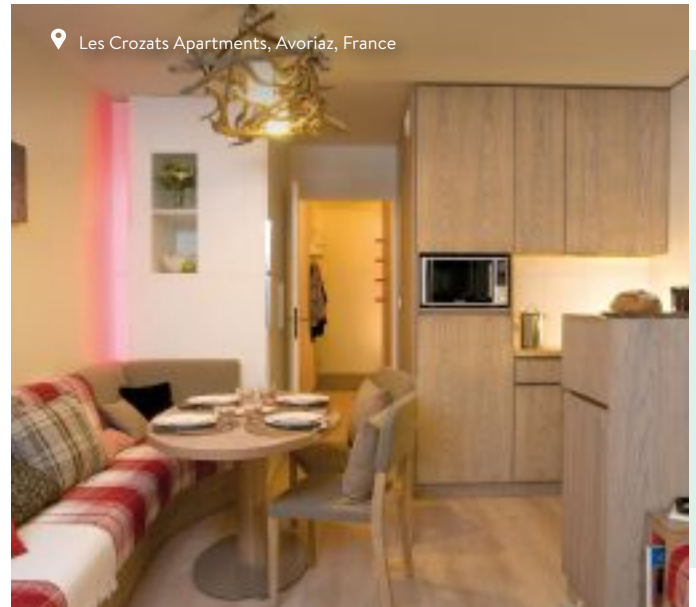
You can't beat an apartment if you want a bit more space. They range from one-room studios to bigger apartments with multiple bedrooms and separate living rooms, where you can relax in the evenings and catch up or play board games. They'll also have a full kitchen or a kitchenette with basic equipment like a microwave and hob. And you don't 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.
- Option to cook your own meals to your taste.

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.



Les Crozats Apartments, Avoriaz, France

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 dinner 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.



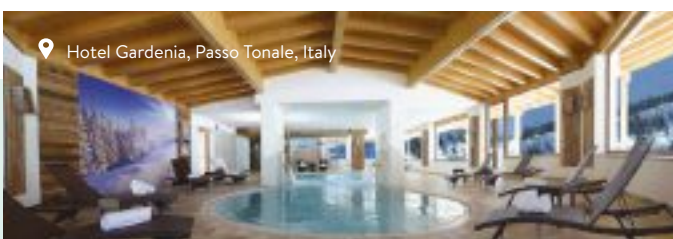
Hotel Greif, Corvara, Italy



Break Sokos Hotel, Levi, Finland

CRYSTAL FINEST

Choose a place to stay from our collection of luxury, 4 and 5-star hotels and apartments. They've all got something special – from stylish décor to modern spas – and you'll get a bigger 25kg baggage allowance on TUI flights too.



Hotel Gardenia, Passo Tonale, Italy

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 are just some of our favourite accommodations for beginners – they're all under a 5-minute walk from ski school.

HOTEL RILA

BOROVETS | BULGARIA



A hotel with every facility under the sun, at the foot of the nursery slopes.

The Hotel Rila couldn't be more convenient for ski school – the meeting point is right outside. Plus, it's at the foot of the nursery slopes and opposite a chairlift, so getting around is so easy. After a day of skiing, you can take a dip in the large indoor pool and whirlpool before heading to the hotel's bar and restaurant. And if you want to experience Borovets' famous nightlife, this place even has its own nightclub.



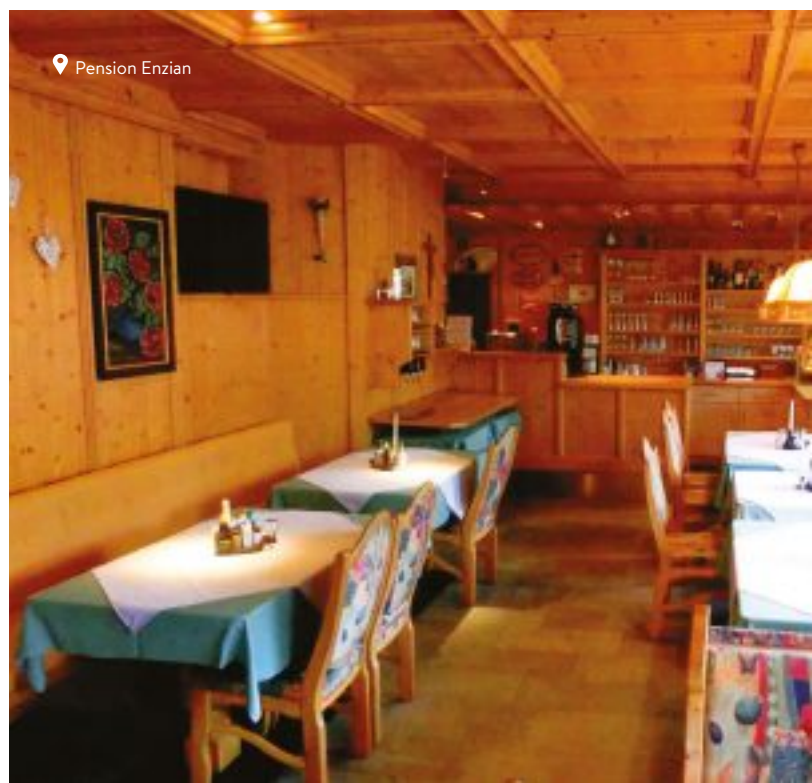
PENSION ENZIAN

NIEDERAU | AUSTRIA



A simple affair, right across the road from the nearest lift.

This is your typical Austrian guesthouse – simple, friendly and really welcoming. A Tyrolean theme runs right through Pension Enzian, from the wood-paneled bedrooms to the traditional dining room, where you'll be served homemade breakfast and evening meals – often a hearty affair with the region's best dishes. As for ski school, you can walk there in 5 minutes, or once you've got to grips with the basics, it's as simple as crossing the road and skiing along gentle nursery slopes to the meeting point.





VILLAGE MONTANA APARTMENTS VAL THORENS | FRANCE



A self-catering apartment complex with two restaurants.

It really is the best of both worlds in these apartments. All of them come with a well-equipped kitchenette, and you can borrow fondue and raclette machines from reception to cook these French mountain classics. Or just head to either of the two restaurants in the complex for a bite to eat. There's a bakery delivery service too, so you can enjoy a croissant before heading to your lessons – ski school's a 5-minute walk away.

HOTEL TAUERNHOF KAPRUN | AUSTRIA

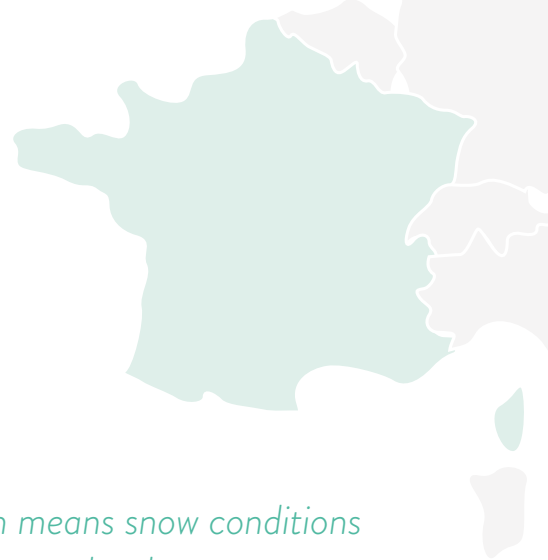


Traditional inn meets luxury hotel – part of the Crystal Finest collection.

The Hotel Tauernhof might have opened as a traditional inn back in 1953, but these days it has all the top-notch facilities to earn its Finest status. It's in the village centre and backs onto the beginners' slopes, so it's easy to get to ski school. And after your day on the slopes, there's a 500m² spa to relax in, or head straight to the daily afternoon coffee and cake to keep you going until your 4-course evening meal.

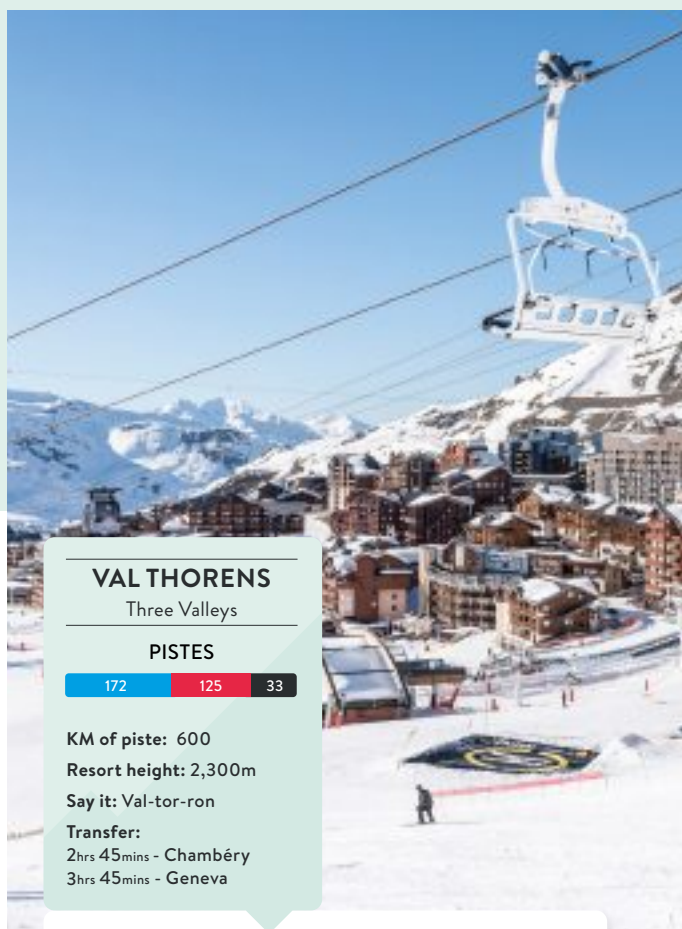


Brilliant for beginners



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

PISTES

172 125 33

KM of piste: 600

Resort height: 2,300m

Say it: Val-tor-ron

Transfer:

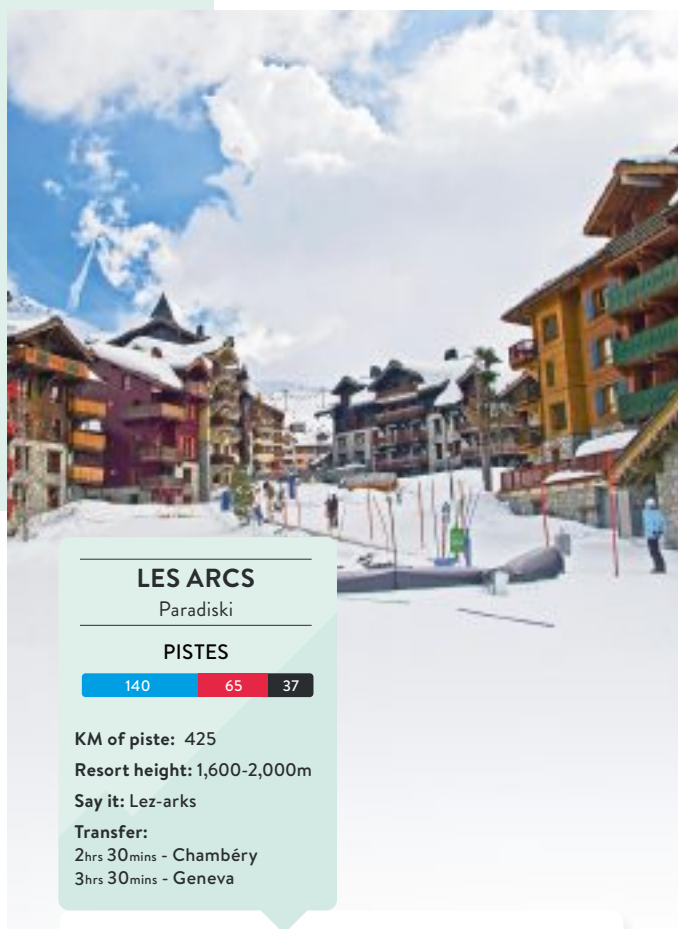
2hrs 45mins - Chambéry

3hrs 45mins - Geneva

Best for: Après-ski & nightlife

Lively Val Thorens is Europe's highest ski resort. It's got plenty of piste-side accommodation, and the variety of skiing makes it a popular pick for mixed-ability groups. There's a gentle slope in the centre of the resort to get you started – and once you're feeling confident, you can find lots of blue runs to tackle. After a day on the mountain, head to a bar and sample some of the best après-ski in the Alps.

 Stay at: **Hotel Tango**



LES ARCS

Paradiski

PISTES

140 65 37

KM of piste: 425

Resort height: 1,600-2,000m

Say it: Lez-arks

Transfer:

2hrs 30mins - Chambéry

3hrs 30mins - Geneva

Best for: Tree-lined runs & gentle blue pistes

Each of Les Arcs' villages has its own nursery slope, so wherever you stay, you'll have somewhere handy to practise. Arc 1800 has the biggest area for beginners, with two quiet runs next to the Mile 8 leisure complex. And on snowy days, explore the sheltered tree-lined pistes above Peisey-Vallandry, where the visibility will be better. Away from the slopes, swap skis for ice skates, unwind at the bowling alley or play a game of laser tag.

 Stay at: **Hotel L'Aiguille Rouge**



ALPE D'HUEZ

Grande Domaine

PISTES

38 68 17

KM of piste: 249

Resort height: 1,860m

Say it: Alp-do-wez

Transfer:

2hrs 15mins - Chambéry

Best for: Sunny slopes

Sunny Alpe d'Huez gets on average over 300 blue-sky days a year, earning it the nickname 'The Island in the Sun'. And when it comes to making your first turns, you'll find one of the largest nursery areas in the Alps here, with four beginner-friendly lifts that are free to use. In the evening, the drinks are always flowing in this atmospheric resort – take your pick from a variety of bars, from the laid-back to the lively.



Stay at: **Hotel Petit Prince**



AVORIAZ

Portes du Soleil

PISTES

162 106 28

KM of piste: 650

Resort height: 1,800m

Say it: A-vor-ee-az

Transfer:

3hrs - Chambéry

2hrs 15mins - Geneva

Best for: Easy access to the slopes

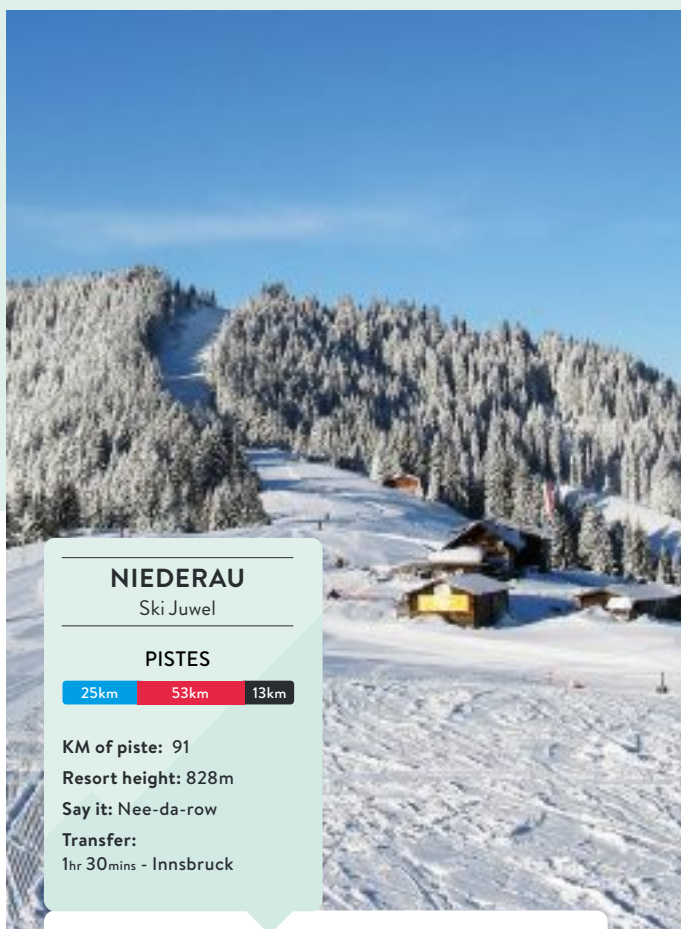
Avoriaz may be purpose-built, but it still has plenty of character – the wood-clad buildings blend in with the mountain scenery, and its snowy, car-free streets are filled with horse-drawn sleighs. There's also a good choice of accommodation here, with plenty of excellent self-catering apartments to help you save some pennies. And the nursery area is well connected to some gentle runs, so you've got a variety of slopes to explore as your technique improves.

Stay at: **Les Crozats Apartments**

Brilliant for beginners

AUSTRIA

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



NIEDERAU

Ski Juwel

PISTES

25km 53km 13km

KM of piste: 91

Resort height: 828m

Say it: Nee-da-row

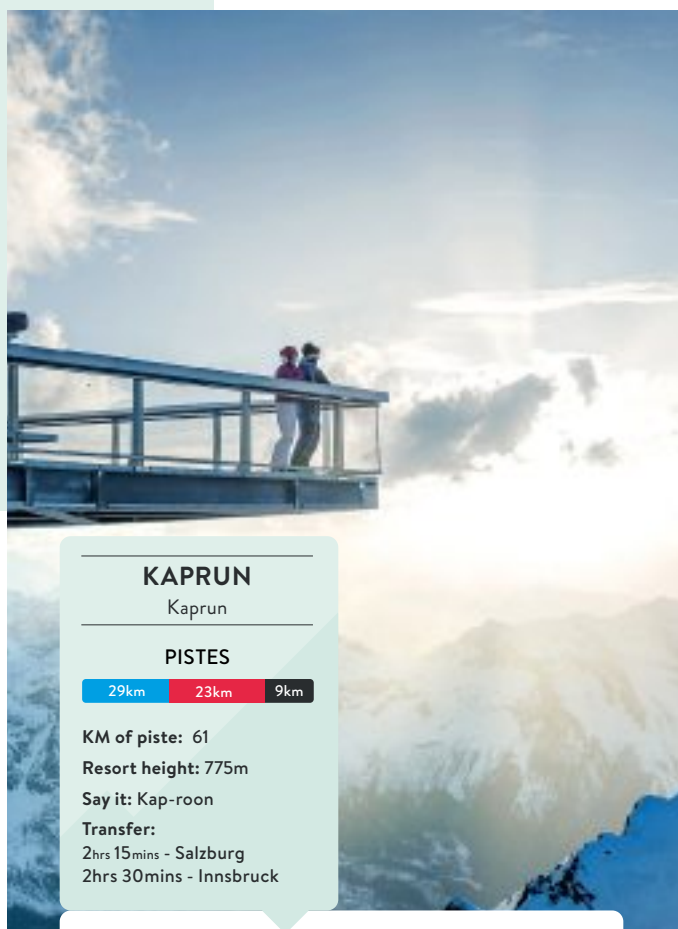
Transfer:

1hr 30mins - Innsbruck

Best for: Off-slope activities

Head to the edge of the village and find your ski legs on the nursery slope. Once you've learnt the basics, there are plenty of easy blue runs to tackle – even the red pistes are quite gentle here, so you'll be able to explore most of the mountain. Niederau's also a popular pick for families, with lots to do when you're not skiing. Why not try snow tubing or go on a horse-drawn sleigh ride?

 Stay at: [Hotel-Pension Hannes](#)



KAPRUN

Kaprun

PISTES

29km 23km 9km

KM of piste: 61

Resort height: 775m

Say it: Kap-roon

Transfer:

2hrs 15mins - Salzburg

2hrs 30mins - Innsbruck

Best for: Mountaintop views

There's a dedicated beginners' area near the centre of the village, so first-timers don't have far to go for lessons. For wide-open slopes, head to the Kitzsteinhorn glacier – don't forget to visit the Gipfelwelt 3000 viewing platform to enjoy the impressive mountain views. If you fancy some time away from the slopes, you can hop on the free ski bus to Zell am See to visit the luxurious Tauern Spa and the lake, which sometimes freezes over.

 Stay at: [Hotel Tauernhof](#)



WESTENDORF

SkiWelt

PISTES

126km 127km 35km

KM of piste: 288

Resort height: 800m

Say it: Western-dorf

Transfer:

2hrs - Salzburg

Best for: Charm

Built around an onion-domed church, Westendorf is full of traditional charm. There's a nursery area with two free magic carpet lifts to get you started. And when you're feeling confident, the SkiWelt area has plenty of picturesque, tree-lined slopes where you can practise your new skills. Things are pretty quiet in the evenings here – just right if you prefer cosy nights in, rather than wild nights out.

 Stay at: **Hotel Jakobwirt**



BAD GASTEIN

Gastein Valley

PISTES

59km 86km 4km

KM of piste: 149

Resort height: 1,000m

Say it: Bad-gas-tyne

Transfer:

2hrs - Salzburg

3hrs 20mins - Innsbruck

Best for: Spa time

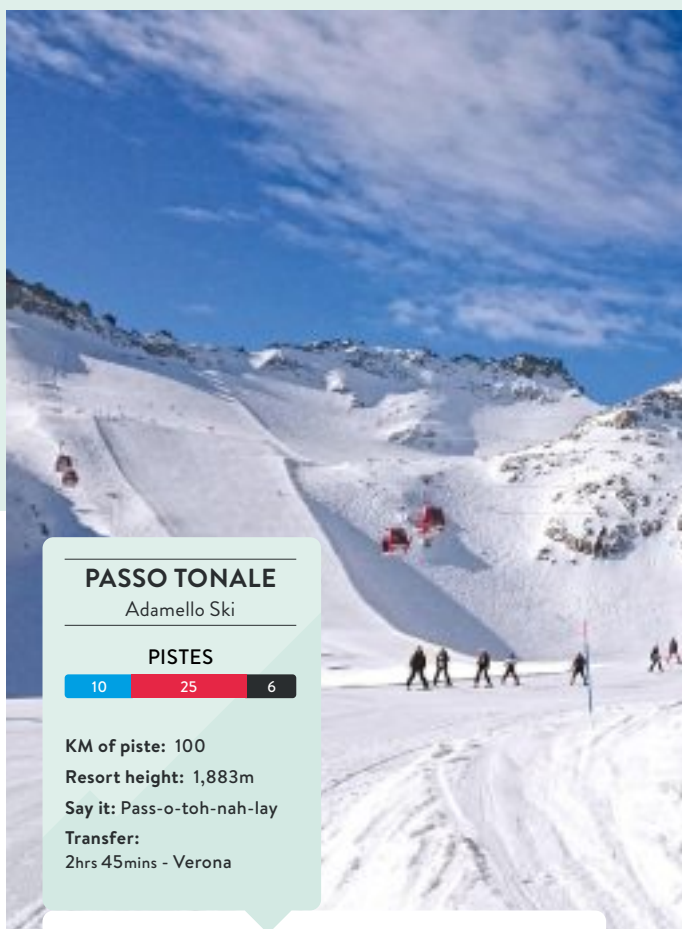
Filled with grand hotels, trinket shops and an impressive spa with mountain views – the Felsentherme – Bad Gastein's a far cry from the typical chalet-style Austrian ski resort. The beginner slopes are really convenient, right next to the main gondola. And you can head up to Stubnerkogel when it's time to venture further, where there are gentle blue runs to explore.

 Stay at: **Hotel Salzburger Hof**

Brilliant for beginners

ITALY

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



PASSO TONALE

Adamello Ski

PISTES

10 25 6

KM of piste: 100

Resort height: 1,883m

Say it: Pass-o-toh-nah-lay

Transfer:

2hrs 45mins - Verona

Best for: *Après-ski & nightlife*

High in the Italian Alps, Passo Tonale's a 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. And those looking to step it up a level can take the gondola down to Ponte di Legno. Not skiing every day? There are plenty of other activities to try, like snowmobiling, snowshoe walking and ice skating.

 Stay at: **Hotel Gardenia**



CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

Cortina d'Ampezzo & Dolomiti Superski

PISTES

54 43 18

KM of piste: 140 & 1,220

Resort height: 1,224m

Say it: Cor-teena-de-am-pezzo

Transfer:

2hrs 30mins - Innsbruck

3hrs - Verona

Best for: *Quiet slopes*

Visitors from Milan and Rome flock to Cortina for the weekend, so there's a really authentic Italian atmosphere. And as most come here for the social scene rather than the skiing, the slopes are among the emptiest in the Dolomites. The top-notch nursery slopes by the Socrepes lift station are close to a network of green and blue runs, meaning you can practise your turns all day before heading back to town to browse high-end boutiques and spot supercars.

 Stay at: **Hotel Serena**



CORVARA

Alta Badia & Dolomiti Superski

PISTES

70 52 8

KM of piste: 130 & 1,220

Resort height: 1,570m

Say it: Cor-va-ra

Transfer:

4hrs - Verona

2hrs 30mins - Innsbruck

Best for: Sunny slopes

Picturesque Corvara's a mix of impressive, jagged peaks and snow-covered valleys. And when it comes to learning the ropes, the easy beginner runs next to the village are nice and gentle – great for building up your confidence. You'll also have access to the Dolomiti Superski area, so when it's time to explore some new slopes, you've got the world's largest ski area on your doorstep.

 Stay at: **Hotel Greif**



BARDONECCHIA

Bardonecchia

PISTES

16 18 5

KM of piste: 100

Resort height: 1,312m

Say it: Bard-o-neck-ya

Transfer:

1hr 15mins - Turin

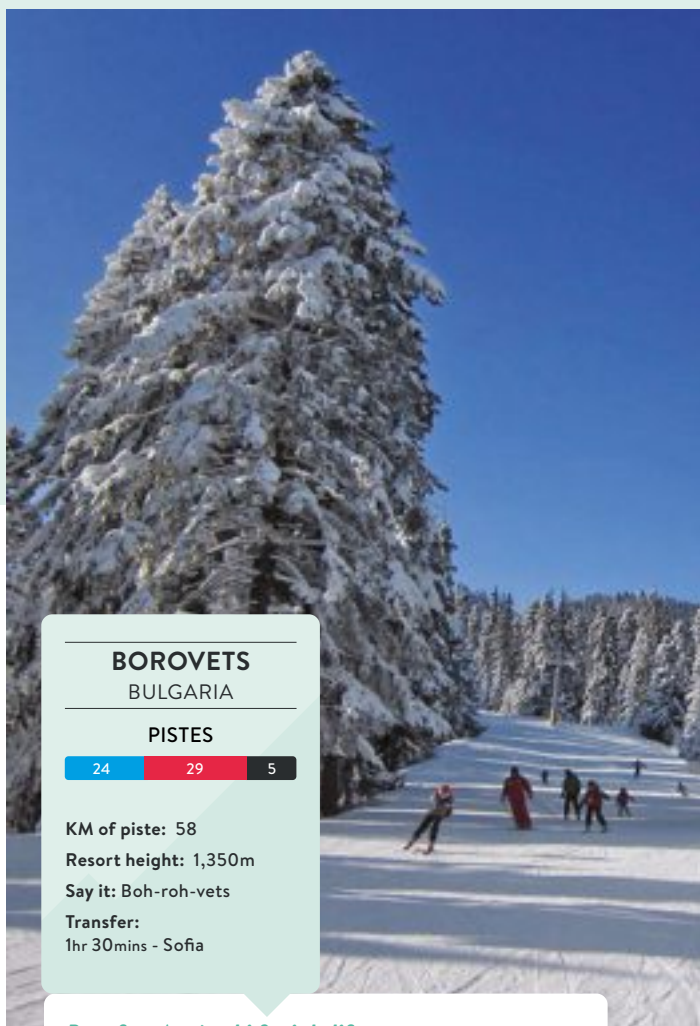
Best for: Easy access to the slopes

Get a taste of both Italy and France in Bardonecchia – a small town right next to the border that was fairly overlooked until it hosted events in the 2006 Winter Olympics. You can get started in the Campo Smith and Melezet beginner areas, and when you're ready, practise on the longer, tree-lined blues and gentle reds. In the town itself, there's an ice rink, alpine coaster and a lively little après scene to try too.

 Stay at: **Hotel Cà Fiore**

GREAT-VALUE DESTINATIONS

A ski trip needn't be spendy. Stretch the pennies and check out these cheaper options.



BOROVETS BULGARIA

PISTES

24 29 5

KM of piste: 58

Resort height: 1,350m

Say it: Boh-roh-vets

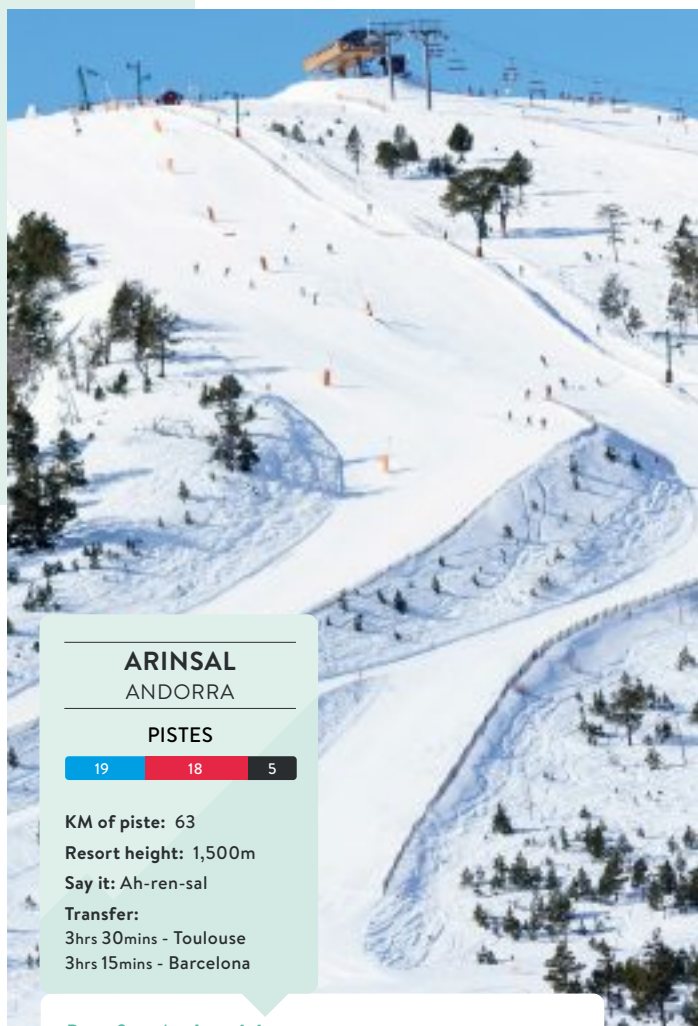
Transfer:

1hr 30mins - Sofia

Best for: *Après-ski & nightlife*

It's all about the party vibe and cheap drinks in Bulgaria's first ski resort, Borovets. And ski essentials like lift passes, equipment hire and ski school are easy on the wallet too. It's a purpose-built town with a small ski area, so it's great for finding your way around and practising on runs you know well. Plus, as the slopes are mostly tree-lined, you'll have better visibility on snowy days.

 Stay at: **Hotel Rila**



ARINSAL ANDORRA

PISTES

19 18 5

KM of piste: 63

Resort height: 1,500m

Say it: Ah-ren-sal

Transfer:

3hrs 30mins - Toulouse

3hrs 15mins - Barcelona

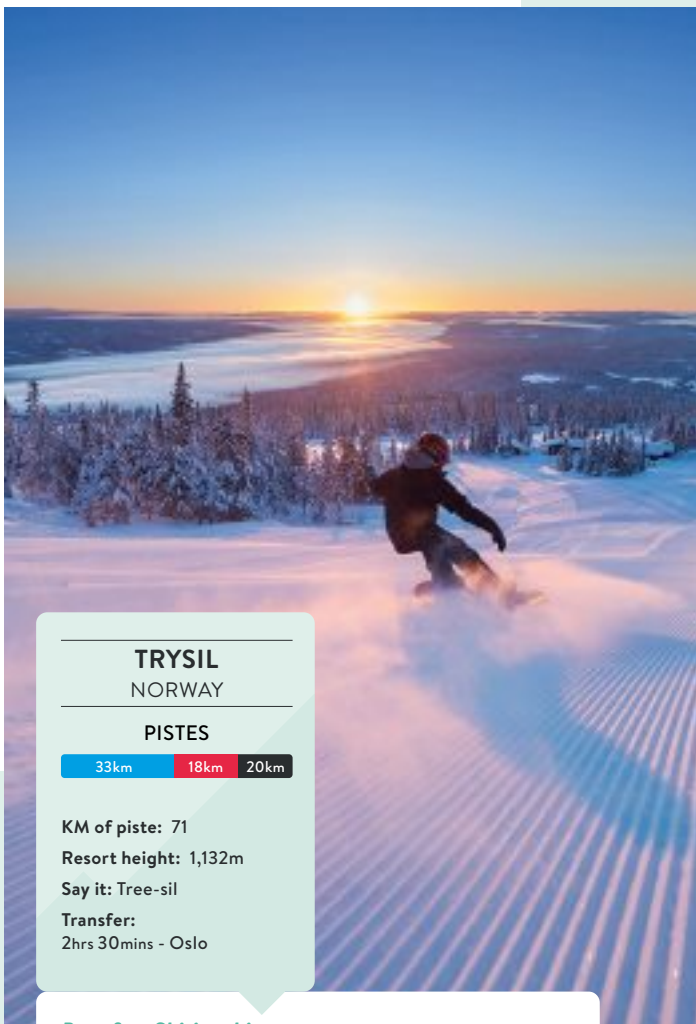
Best for: *Authenticity*

Arinsal's known for its fantastic ski school and budget-friendly accommodation. You'll build confidence by looping the long blues on either side of the snow park. And as all the slopes lead back to the same spot at the top of the gondola, you can easily meet up with family or friends for lunch. Then when you're ready to explore, catch the cable car over to Pal and enjoy practising on the tree-lined blues.

 Stay at: **Hotel Princesa Parc**

NORDIC ADVENTURES

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



TRYSIL NORWAY

PISTES

33km 18km 20km

KM of piste: 71

Resort height: 1,132m

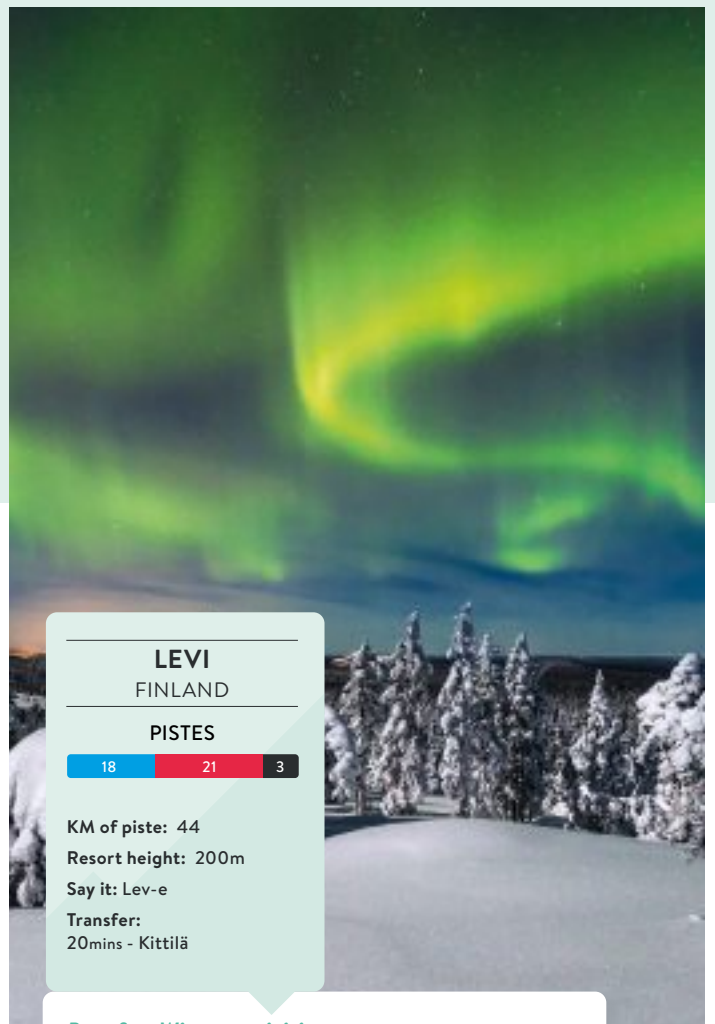
Say it: Tree-sil

Transfer:
2hrs 30mins - Oslo

Best for: Ski-in, ski-out stays

Winter's a way of life here, with ski-in, ski-out hotels and apartments and pristine pistes that have hardly anyone on them. Spend your mornings getting confident on the nursery slopes in Turissenter and in the afternoon, you can practise on the gentle greens in Høyfjellsenter. And when you want to hit some more beginner-friendly blues, head higher up the mountain where you'll also get unspoiled views of Nordic scenery.

 Stay at: **Radisson Blu Mountain Apartments**



LEVI FINLAND

PISTES

18 21 3

KM of piste: 44

Resort height: 200m

Say it: Lev-e

Transfer:
20mins - Kittilä

Best for: Winter activities

Snuggle up in a log cabin and explore uncrowded slopes in Levi. The village centre is right at the bottom of the main ski lift and lots of pistes are floodlit, so you can keep on skiing even when the sun goes down. And there are plenty of activities for an afternoon off – head out on a reindeer safari, explore the Snow Village and even ride into the wilderness on a snowmobile in search of the Northern Lights.

 Stay at: **Break Sokos Hotel**

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...

WINTER WONDERLAND

Cuddle up in a horse-drawn sleigh for a ride through snowy scenery – it's a must-do in resorts like **Trysil in Norway**. In lots of places, you can also strap on some snowshoes and set off with a guide to explore the mountain away from the ski slopes. And if you're in **Levi, Finland**, wander through a whole wintery world on a trip to the Snow Village, which has a restaurant, bar and chapel all carved from snow and ice.



Whistler, Canada



Ruka, Finland

FEEL THE THRILL

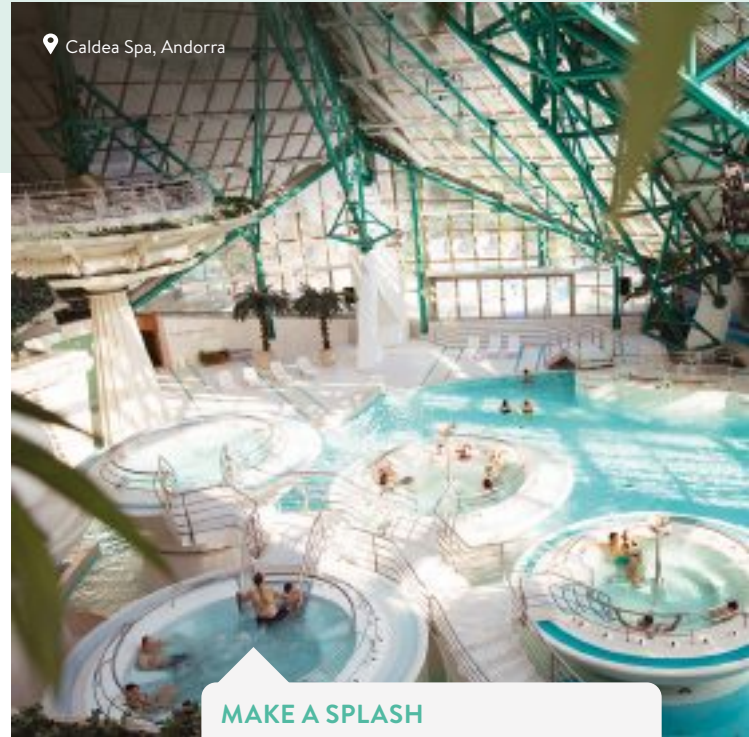
Is there a more exciting way to travel than zooming across the landscape on a snowmobile? In **Finland**, you can even head out on a nighttime snowmobiling safari to spot the Northern Lights. Or get a bird's-eye view of the slopes on a ziplining adventure – the highest one in Europe is in the French resort of **Val Thorens**, stretching for 1.3km and starting up at 3,320m high. And to appreciate the views at a slower pace, you can paraglide over the mountains and valley in most big resorts.



Tignes, France – ©Monica Dalmasso

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 to 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 ten 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.



Caldea Spa, Andorra

MAKE A SPLASH

Pick an accommodation with a pool, whirlpool 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 heaven. 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 Aquamation in **Courchevel, France**.



TIME TO CHILL

Sometimes it's the little things that make a holiday. Take a break from skiing to linger over lunch in a mountain restaurant. In the evenings, you can join a pub quiz in the local, challenge your mates to a board game, or just cosy up by a lounge fire and play a few rounds of cards.

Your skiing holiday starts at crystalski.co.uk

A BEGINNERS' GUIDE TO APRÈS-SKI

Whether it's to warm up by the fire or dance on a table with a drink in hand, heading to a bar for a post-ski tippie 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.

SÖLL, AUSTRIA

Get your fill of classic Austrian après here – think cheesy tunes and frothy mugs of beer. The Moonlight Bar is a rustic mountain hut, where you can dance on the tables and join in with some singalong classics. To keep the party going later, check out the disco at the Whiskymühle bar.

**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 Principi 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

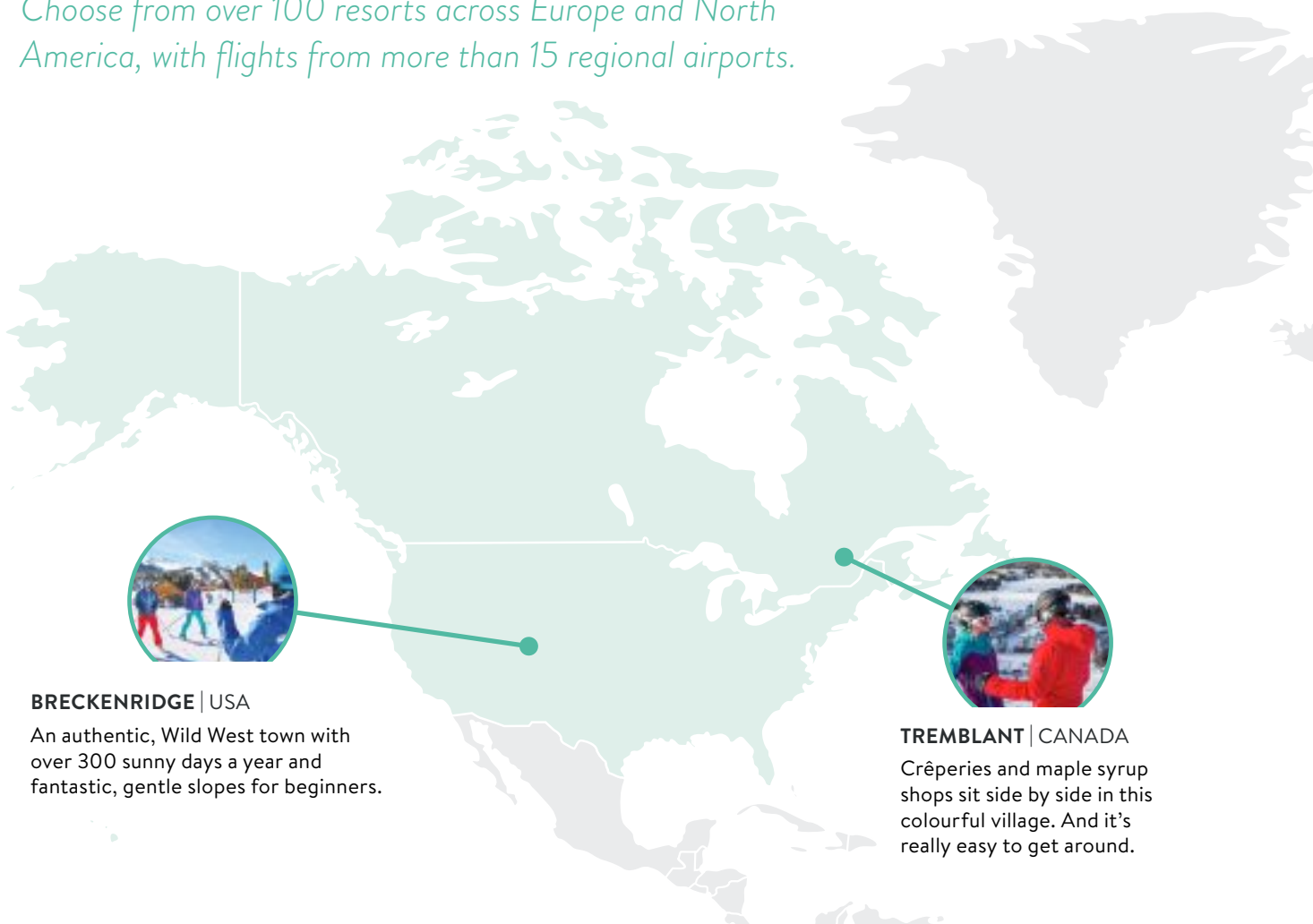
The liveliest resort in Andorra, 'Pas' packs a big après punch thanks to its huge choice of bars and affordable prices. Start by sipping a mojito at the mountaintop IQOS Terrace. Then in the evening, visit the Underground nightclub – it hosts top DJs from Ibiza to keep the party going all night long.

**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.

TAKE YOUR PICK

Choose from over 100 resorts across Europe and North America, with flights from more than 15 regional airports.



BRECKENRIDGE | USA

An authentic, Wild West town with over 300 sunny days a year and fantastic, gentle slopes for beginners.



TREMBLANT | CANADA

Crêperies and maple syrup shops sit side by side in this colourful village. And it's really easy to get around.

FLY

Aberdeen
Belfast
Birmingham
Bournemouth
Bristol
East Midlands
Edinburgh
Exeter
Glasgow
Liverpool
London City
London Gatwick
London Heathrow
London Luton
London Stansted
Manchester
Newcastle

STAY

ANDORRA

Arinsal
El Tarter
Pas de la Casa
Soldeu
AUSTRIA
Alpbach
Bad Gastein
Bad Hofgastein
Ellmau
Galtür
Hintertglemm
Hochgurgl
Hochsölden
Igls
Ischgl
Kaprun
Kirchberg
Kitzbühel
Lech
Mayrhofen

Nassfeld
Neustift
Niederau
Obergurgl
Obertauern
Rauris
Saalbach
Scheffau
Schladming
Seefeld
Sölden
Söll
St Anton
St Christoph
St Johann in Tyrol
Westendorf
Zell am See
Zürs
BULGARIA
Bansko

Borovets
Pamporovo
CANADA
Banff
Fernie
Jasper
Lake Louise
Panorama
Tremblant
Whistler
FINLAND (LAPLAND)
Levi
Pyhä
Ruka
Salla
Ylläs
FRANCE
Alpe d'Huez
Avoriaz

Brides-les-Bains
Chamonix
Châtel
Courchevel
Flaine
La Plagne
La Rosière
La Tania
Les Arcs
Les Deux Alpes
Les Gets
Les Menuires
Méribel
Montgenèvre
Morzine
Mottaret
Sainte-Foy
Serre Chevallier
Tignes
Val d'Isère
Val Thorens

ITALY
Arabba
Bardonecchia
Cervinia
Colfosco
Cortina
d'Ampezzo
Corvara
Courmayeur
Drei Zinnen
Folgarida
Gressoney
Kronplatz (San Vigilio)
La Thuile
Madonna di Campiglio
Ortisei
Passo Tonale
Pila
Santa Cristina
Val Gardena

Sauze d'Oulx
Selva Val Gardena
Sestriere
Val di Fassa
NORWAY
Beitostølen
Geilo
Hemsedal
Trysil
SWITZERLAND
Engelberg
Grindelwald
Saas Fee
Wengen
Zermatt
USA
Breckenridge



RUKA | FINLAND

A real winter wonderland with one of the largest beginners' areas in Finland and lots of activities.



FLAINE | FRANCE

Accommodation as convenient as it gets, right next to a huge range of beginner slopes.



ALPE D'HUEZ | FRANCE

One of the largest nursery areas in the Alps with four beginner-friendly lifts that are free to use.



DREI ZINNEN | ITALY

A handful of small villages, all with their own beginners' area within walking distance.



ALPBACH | AUSTRIA

There's a convenient and separate area just for beginners in what was voted Austria's most beautiful village.



ARINSAL | ANDORRA

Stone-clad buildings line this traditional, budget-friendly village – and free lift passes for kids are available.



RAURIS | AUSTRIA

A picture-perfect market town in a compact ski area – perfect for beginners to explore.



crystalski.co.uk | 020 8610 3123



Join the conversation with #getmorewinter and head to **www.ski-buzz.co.uk** to read our in-depth guides and blog articles.

SKI EXPLORER APP

Our free app's packed with snow reports and resort info, like ski tips, things to do and the best places to eat. Plus, all your travel info is saved in there too.

