



But your life savings can provide for your family after you've gone.



SKI SPECIAL

The best ski holidays for beginners

Ben Clatworthy | Gemma Bowes

October 4 2019, 5:00pm, The Times

Europe



Give husky-sledding a try in Finland SHUTTERSTOCK

Share [Email] [Facebook] [Twitter] Save [Star]

Snowshoeing in Finland

If you just want to dip a toe into the snowy holiday thing, but aren't too sure about downhill skiing just yet, Walks Worldwide has a lovely, gentle new itinerary near Kuusamo in Finland. You'll dabble with the easy, relaxed snow sports of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, learn to make an igloo (and sleep in it overnight), track animals such as elk, wolverine and wolves, and try husky-sledding.

Details The Call of the Wild group tour departs on December 28 and costs from £1,649pp, including seven nights' full board, transfers, return flights and an eight-day guided adventure (01962 302085, walksworldwide.com)



Scott Dunn's new Ski Explorers programme

Beginners' intro for kids

Those looking for a no-pressure introduction to skiing for children aged three to four, but who don't want to do it all themselves, could try the luxury operator Scott Dunn's new [Ski Explorers programme](#), in which tots get to experience the fun of being on skis without taking structured lessons. Nannies escort them to the two-hour sessions, which are in groups of six, and keep the snacks and hot chocolates flowing.

Details A seven-night B&B stay with Scott Dunn at Hôtel Christiania in Val d'Isère costs from £1,725pp based on a family of four, including return flights from Heathrow, transfers, six days' crèche with Scott Dunn nannies for two children and three mornings of the ski programme for three to four-year-olds. Five three-hour morning lessons for adults costs from €425pp (020 3811 3177, scottdunn.com)



Grindelwald offers charm and a range of slopes for novices SWITZERLAND TOURISM

Swiss sweetheart

The Swiss resort of Grindelwald is a good introduction to skiing for novices, with a great choice of slopes and oodles of charm that will win you over to the magic of the Alps. The first stage of the V-Cableway, a huge new lift project in Grindelwald and nearby Wengen, opens in December, expanding the skiing area. Powder Byrne runs a learner programme for adult beginners and lessons for children.

Details A week's half-board staying at the Hotel Belvedere, with views of the Eiger and a fondue restaurant, costs from £2,230pp, including flights from London, transfers, guiding and kids' clubs. Over the February half-term it costs from £11,760 for a family of four. The adult learner course costs £855pp a week (020 8246 5300, powderbyrne.com)

Green light for Val Cenis

Peak Retreats says that its top tip for beginners is the French resort of Val Cenis, in the pretty Haute Maurienne area, which has 12 green runs, including Escargot — at 9.5km, one of the longest. For a break from the skiing there's dog-sledding, themed snowshoe outings during which you'll learn about local history, archaeology and heritage, and an escape-room game. It advises beginners to ski in late March or April, when the weather is warmer, the snow is softer and prices are lower.

Details Stay at Les Alpages de Val Cenis, which is 50m from the ski school and where a week in a one-bed self-catering apartment with an outdoor heated pool and hot tub costs from £869 (£1,113 for a two-bed apartment) for weeks starting on March 21 and 28, including Eurostar crossing (023 9283 9310, peakretreats.co.uk)

New Austrian glacier lifts and spa

Two new lifts will transform the Kaprun-Zell am See ski area in Austria this winter, when for the first time skiers will be able to ride from Kaprun village to the snowy glacier of the Kitzsteinhorn (3,029m) on the 3K K-connection gondola. Another lift, the MK Maiskogelbahn, opened last season, making it easier for beginners and families to access broad flat pistes. Now six gondola lifts will link together, covering 12km across Salzburgerland. Beginners are well catered for here, at the Lechnerberg area at the resort base.

Details Beginners will appreciate a spa hotel, where the saunas and hot water relieve the aches and embarrassments of the day. Tauern Spa, which costs from €124pp a night, opens in November and features a vast waterworld, with 11 pools and 10 saunas and steam rooms, as well as a kids' spa (00 43 654 720 400, tauernspakaprun.com). Fly to Salzburg

Europe

Share [Email] [Facebook] [Twitter] Save [Star]

Related articles

SKI SPECIAL
Best for families
Ben Clatworthy | Gemma Bowes
Chalets in the Portes du Soleil
The Family Ski Company has one of the best formats for skiing with nippers in the Alps. Its group chalets are...
October 4 2019

SKI SPECIAL
Best on a budget
Ben Clatworthy | Gemma Bowes
Cool new hostel-hotel in Les Arcs
Base Camp Lodge is a new wallet-friendly hotel and hostel in Bourg Saint Maurice, linked to Les Arcs by...
October 4 2019

SKI SPECIAL
Best for experts
Ben Clatworthy
New ski pass for Innsbruck resorts
If you fancy checking out a new resort every day, Innsbruck — the so-called capital of the Austrian Alps —...
October 4 2019

Holidays of a lifetime that you need to add to your 2020 bucket list
♦ SPONSORED

Small change, big difference
♦ SPONSORED

20 reasons to visit this underrated destination in 2020
♦ SPONSORED

Introducing the Car of the Year
♦ SPONSORED

Comments are subject to our community guidelines, which can be viewed [here](#).

Comments (1)

Newest [Dropdown] Nicola Moss [Dropdown]

N Add to the conversation...

T TV 5 OCTOBER | Edited
of all the dozens of beginner-friendly resorts across the Alps, you pick Grindelwald?! Bizarre to say the least. Limited skiing options, few beginners slopes, over-crowded with impatient Swiss skiers, massive lift queues at weekends, ridiculously expensive.... Best for sunny hiking and the amazing mountain scenery, though!

Reply Recommend Report