The 20 best ski holidays to book now

From chalet breaks in Chamonix and luxury new openings in Switzerland to an all-inclusive in Japan, our expert shares the best trips to book

Rebecca Miles

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Kitzbühel in Austria is renowned for world-class skiing Credit: Westend61

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It's that time of year again. The ski season is approaching, and British skiers are eager for the first snow to fall. They have plenty to look forward to, not least a strong El Niño weather front building in the Pacific. It's tipped to bring big snowfalls to the western US, and the European Space Agency says it could impact the Alps too – good news when 78 per cent of skiers name snow reliability as the biggest factor when picking a resort (according to a recent survey by Iglu Ski).

On the slopes, expect new lifts in both Verbier and in Courchevel, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary, autonomous drones patrolling the mountains in Val Thorens, an expanded ski area in Lake Louise, plus the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in Crans-Montana in February.

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This winter, climate-conscious travellers are increasingly spoilt for choice, with Crystal Ski, Inghams and Ski Solutions among those offering train travel as a genuine alternative to flying, the latter two even letting you take the train out and fly home, or vice versa. New flight routes to Norway have launched; there are fresh chalet options for short breaks in France; and incentives to learn to ski in Austria's Carinthia.

With the latest data from the Mountain Trade Network showing 54 per cent of survey respondents have already booked at least one ski trip for this season, now's the moment to secure your own.

Based on more than two decades of researching and booking trips to the mountains, here I've chosen 20 ski holidays that showcase the best this winter has to offer, for all budgets, abilities and ages.

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Les Arcs

Best for train travel

It is simple to travel to Les Arcs by train from the UK Credit: Yann Allegre

Easy skiing is the name of the game this winter in Les Arcs. It's long been simple to access the resort by train from London – direct, following a change in Lille, to Bourg St Maurice, followed by a free funicular to Arc 1600 – but now things are simple on the slopes too with the addition of "Easy Ski" routes. These designated pistes are quieter than others, to get you safely back down in peace.

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TravelSki (020 4579 4052) offers Residence La Cascade in Arc 1600 from £693, self-catering, including trains from London St Pancras to Bourg St Maurice, departing Jan 2, 2027.

Chamonix

Best for short breaks

Chamonix is an hour's drive from Geneva Airport, so it's ideal for a short break Credit: Martial Colomb

With plenty of hotels and an hour's drive from Geneva, Chamonix has long been an easy short-break destination. This winter, catered chalet stays are possible too, thanks to SkiWeekends' new properties at the foot of Grand Montets.

SkiWeekends (02380 20697) offers three nights from £432, chalet board, including transfers from Geneva, departing March 22, 2027. Flights with easyJet from £123 return.

Courchevel

Best for octogenarians

2026 is Courchevel's 80th anniversary Credit: iStock Editorial

Still skiing in your 80s? Celebrate with the grande dame of the French Alps herself, Courchevel, who marks eight decades of ski holidays this December. Splurge on one of 1850's 15 five-star hotels – Saint Roch is the hottest new opening – and eight Michelin-starred restaurants, or enjoy the same slopes for less in one of the other villages.

Peak Retreats (023 9283 9310) offers Le C Residence in Moriond, self-catering, from £947, including Eurotunnel crossing, departing Jan 9, 2027, based on five sharing.

Samoëns

Best for foodies

Gorge on French cheese in Samoëns Credit: Sami Sert

If you visit the Alps for the cheese as much as for the skiing, this Haute-Savoie Mont Blanc resort is a must. From Jan 14-17, the Cheese Party is taking over the historic village, bringing a fragrant feast of food trucks and culinary *après* vibes. You'll have the Tomme of your life!

Erna Low (0203 011 1222) offers a four-person apartment from £371, self-catering, departing Jan 9, 2027.

Tignes

Best for chalet accommodation

Tignes has both luxury chalets and budget-friendly accommodation Credit: Hemis/Alamy

In recent years, finding a classic chalet holiday has been challenging, so it's great to see Inghams expand its chalet programme to match the demand. This season welcomes the 14-person Chalet La Bergerie in Tignes Les Brévières, just 100m from the lifts and the 300km of slopes in Tignes/Val d'Isère.

Inghams (01483 319658) offers Chalet La Bergerie from £1,098, chalet board, departing April 10, 2027.

Italy

Kronplatz

Best for easy-access slopes

Kronplatz has plenty of beginner-friendly slopes, and excellent restaurants Credit: Alamy /Piero Cruciatti

All 78 miles of Kronplatz's runs descend from one summit plateau, and all the lifts return to that same spot, the Concordia 2000 bell, so you can ditch the piste map. Less faff means more time for lunch – a real treat at AlpiNN, Michelin-starred chef Norbert Niederkofler's mountain restaurant, right next to LUMEN, the photography museum.

Ski Solutions (020 3918 9523) offers the Falkensteiner Hotel Kronplatz, from £2,195, departing Dec 12, 2026.

Courmayeur

Best for glamour

Courmayeur is a sophisticated resort which draws a well-heeled Italian crowd

Courmayeur exudes Italian elegance, and this season that extends to its lift system too, with the opening of two smart 10-person gondolas: one replacing a two-man chair to Maison Vielle, the other replacing the Chécrouit gondola. Swish up the mountain, shimmy down, and straight into the greatest *passeggiata* in the Alps, Courmayeur's Via Roma.

Momentum Ski (020 7371 9111) offers the Gran Baita Hotel & Wellness, from £1,495, departing Jan 10, 2027.

Val Gardena

Best for families

Val Gardena in the Dolomites is exceptionally family-friendly Credit: Image Broker/Alamy

What makes a successful family ski holiday? Friendly ski instructors and gentle slopes, of course. But also fun sledging options, efficient gondolas for tired bodies, a hotel with a swimming pool and lots of hot chocolate – which is what you'll find in abundance in Val Gardena.

Heidi (0117 409 0422) offers five nights at the Boutique & Fashion Hotel Maciaconi - Gardenahotels, from £1,963, B&B, departing Feb 13, 2027.

Austria

Bad Kleinkirchheim

Best for wellness

Austria's Bad Kleinkirchheim is home to superior spas Credit: Gert Perauer

Thousands of new holidays have launched to this lesser-visited region of Austria thanks to Iglu Ski, and Bad Kleinkirchheim's healing heritage is rich, running through everything from the grandiose thermal spas in the town to on-demand sauna cubes on the pistes. With racing pedigree to match – Franz Klammer hails from here – that thermal water will come in handy for easing any aching muscles.

Iglu Ski (020 3993 4157) offers the Hotel Gut Trafflerhof, from £1,737, departing March 13, 2027.

Alpbach

Best for beginners

Alpbach is a traditional alpine village – and it's a great place to learn to ski Credit: Photodisc/Neil Beer

It's the little things that can make or break it when you're learning to ski. Gentle slopes and expert tuition are a given in Alpbach, but for many, it's dropping into any one of the 25 traditional Tyrolean mountain huts that kick off their love affair with the mountains.

Crystal Ski (020 3451 2821) offers the Hotel Alphof, from £836, departing March 13 2027.

Kitzbühel

Best for literary fans

Ian Fleming spent his formative years in Kitzbühel in Austria Credit: Tennerhof

Retrace Ian Fleming's footsteps and ski tracks in Kitzbühel, a century after the James Bond creator arrived to prepare for his Foreign Office exams. His time here, studying at the Tennerhof, now one of Kitzbühel's luxury hotels, and learning to ski with a local friend, later immortalised in *Octopussy* as Oberhauser, inspired 007's Alpine adventures.

Sno (020 7770 6888) offers the Hotel Aurach, from £450, departing Dec 19, 2026.

Leogang

Best for a child-free break

Leogang is renowned for luxurious wellness hotels Credit: Forsthofgut Leogang

Leogang is the chilled-out side of the Saalbach-Hinterglemm Skicircus and Forsthofalm is the hotel to match it: slope-side access to 270km of pistes, rooms built from moon timber – felled during a waning moon and believed to have calming effects – plus yoga, a roof-top infinity pool and sundowners on the terrace.

Sunweb (0203 170 8206) offers the Forsthofalm Holzhotel, from £1,755, including lift pass, excluding travel, departing Jan 15, 2027. Fly to Salzburg with easyJet from £70 return.

Switzerland

Verbier

Best for experts

Verbier is well-suited to advanced skiers Credit: E+

Verbier's freeride terrain is world-class, but hotel beds in the resort are rare – just 14 hotels with 503 rooms in total; chalets and apartments are the norm here. This December, its 15th hotel opens. The Ski Lodge is a 36-room boutique address, 100m from Place Centrale, with an indoor pool, sauna and cold plunge.

The Ski Lodge has double rooms from £1,750, including breakfast. Fly to Geneva with easyJet from £123 return.

Interlaken

Best for epic views

Interlaken is a great base from which to explore the Jungfrau mountains Credit: Marco Bottigelli

New on the books for Inghams this winter, it doesn't get more classically Alpine than Interlaken, gateway to the Jungfrau region and more than 200km of slopes, all connected by famously efficient Swiss trains. Set between two lakes and watched over by the mighty Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau mountains, with this heritage it's a wonder Inghams hasn't had it on the books sooner.

Inghams (01483 944786) offers the Hotel Metropole, from £1,311, departing Feb 20, 2027.

Andorra

Pas de la Casa

Best for Christmas

Pas de la Casa in Andorra has reliably good snow Credit: Dietrich Herlan

With Christmas Day falling on a Friday this year, skiers will want to avoid the standard Saturday changeover traffic and spending Boxing Day at an airport. In Pas de la Casa, Sunday travel is much more common. Enjoy a week of festive cheer and great value on its reliably snow-sure 134 miles of slopes.

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WeSki (020 3991 1273) offers the Hotel Camelot by Nexta from £890, departing Dec 20, 2026.

Scandinavia

Ruka, Finland

Best for crowd-free slopes



Head to Ruka in Finland for crowd-free skiing Credit: iStockphoto/Borisenkov Andrei

The skiing in Ruka, just 124 miles south of the Arctic Circle, is easy-going and the Lapland adventure is unrivalled, with huskies, reindeer and Northern Lights (largely) on tap. But what really stands out is the peace among the snow-laden forests, whether around your lodging or at the new ForRest, a private lakeside sauna experience hidden among the ancient trees.

Crystal Ski (020 3451 2821) offers the Maston Aitio Cabins, from £854, self-catering, departing Jan 24, 2027.

Lyngen Alps, Norway

Best for ski touring



Lyngen is the perfect place to try summit-to-sea ski touring Credit: iStockphoto/Svein Petter Asgjerd

If this is your winter to try ski touring, join Mabey Ski's annual Intro to Ski Touring trip, taking place in the remote Lyngen Alps in northern Norway. Learn to skin, transition and kick turn among the Arctic fjords while staying in a remote lodge on Ulsøya Island and, with a high chance of seeing the Northern Lights, you'll never go to a "normal" resort again.

Mabey Ski (020 7183 1754) offers seven nights from £4,125, including accommodation with breakfasts and dinners, guiding, equipment and airport transfers from Tromsø airport, departing on March 28, 2027. Excluding international flights.

North America

Mammoth Mountain, USA

Best for snow



Mammoth Mountain is in the remote Sierra Nevada range Credit: Vernon Wiley

With forecasters tipping California's Central Sierra to get the brunt of the heavy El Niño snowfall, Mammoth is a smart bet. Hole up in style at the Limelight Mammoth hotel, the first new luxury hotel since 2006, it opened last winter to strong reviews and is a few steps from the Village Gondola.

Ski Independence (0131 243 8097) offers the Limelight Mammoth from £2,450, room only, including nine nights at Limelight, one at The Westin LAX, flights and car hire, departing Jan 25, 2027.

Whistler, Canada

Best for late-season thrills



The World Ski & Snowboard Festival (WSSF) in Whistler is an annual celebrated of mountain culture Credit: Andrew Chin

Catch the end of the season in Whistler, when bluebird days, soft spring snow and long après sessions mark the arrival of the World Ski & Snowboard Festival (WSSF), from April 6. Part competition, part cultural festival and part mountain-wide party, it's Whistler at its most energetic.

Ski Safari (01273 224060) offers 10 nights at the Listel Whistler, from £1,539, room only, departing April 4, 2027.

Japan

Hakuba

Best for a trip-of-a-lifetime



Hakuba in Japan is more affordable than ever before Credit: iStockphoto

If you dream of skiing Japan's powder but the price has put you off, here's your sign to book now: Action Outdoors, known for its great value all-inclusive French holidays, is taking the concept to Hakuba for three weeks this winter (the first two weeks are already sold out). Included are seven nights half-board in Hakuba, a night in Tokyo, transfers, six days' lift pass and six days' instruction.

Action Outdoors (020 3328 5443) offers the Alpx View Hakuba from £1,214, departing Feb 10, 2027. Excluding international flights.

Unless otherwise stated, prices are per person, half board, including return flights and transfer, based on two sharing.

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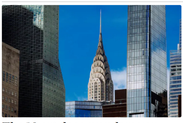

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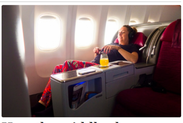

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