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Ski deals: Which one is for you?

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What do you want from your ski holiday?

Whether you're an adrenaline-junkie or a family looking for child-friendly facilities, we've picked out our top ski deals for the 2012/2013 season:

Family-friendly fun:

Heading to the slopes with all the family this ski season? Are children's clubs, ski lessons and fun activities top of your list?

Scott Dunn has just launched Tots with Altitude in Val d'Isere. A special offer created especially for families with pre-school children, it includes free ski lessons, lift passes, rentals and complimentary Scott Dunn Explorers children's club places for three to five year olds. With a saving of £600 per child the holiday is valid for chalet bookings departing on January 20th and 27th and April 7th and 14th 2013.

Belambra, a holiday club in France, is also a good bet for families and is currently offering 25 per cent off ski holidays in their L'Alisier resort in the Northern Alps throughout January. Set in the charming village of Praz-sur-Arly in the magnificent surroundings of the Northern Alps, Belambra offers a range of activities, from cross country skiing to horse drawn carriage rides through the mountains. Prices start from £243 per person, based on a seven night stay, half-board. Flights are not included. Guests will also receive 10 per cent off ski-passes when booking online.

Direct Ski advises families to head to Mayrhofen in Austria, and is offering a week's stay from £653 for a family of four at the Hotel Alpenschlossl. A traditional Tirolean town, Mayrhofen is home to friendly family-run hotels, English-speaking ski schools and good crèche facilities – all close to the centre, simplifying pre-ski drop off and pick up for younger kids.

Off the beaten piste

If the Rockies no longer have the edge and the Alps have lost their shine then there's now a more adventurous challenge where the slopes are yet to be tamed – the unknown pistes of Kashmir in the mother of all mountain ranges, the Himalayas.

A destination not for the faint-of-heart, Kashmir in northern India offers some of the best adventure skiing on untouched and undiscovered slopes. The resort of Gulmarg is Kashmir's ski hub and now boasts the world's highest gondola, whisking skiers up to the giddy heights of 13,400ft (4,084m) from where the valley invites exploration of the magical landscapes and challenges with sheer drops, deep powder and pine littered terrain making for an exhilarating ski experience. Asia travel specialists **Ampersand Travel's 'Unknown Kashmir Ski' package** starts from £1,890 per person.

Want some more 'off the beaten piste' ideas? [Check out our feature here.](#)

Travel Directory Articles

Positano: drop anchor here to discover its beautiful scenery



The town of Positano is often regarded as the most beautiful of the Amalfi Coast, and with good reason. Choose to include this on your sailing holiday in the Med, and you won't be disappointed by its breathtaking scenery, beaches and buildings.

Where to find Newcastle's best nightlife experiences



Newcastle is well-known for its nightlife, with most venues within easy reach of each other. Perhaps the best thing about a night out here is the fact that there's something for everyone,

whatever your preferences. Read our guide to find out more.

A guide to heli-skiing when on holiday to Whistler Blackcomb



Whistler Blackcomb in Canada is one of the world's most famous winter sports resorts. While thousands of people come here every year to ski and snowboard on its vast amount of powder,

there are lots of other activities on offer, including heli-skiing.

Short stay skiing

Can't get away for a week this year? [Club Med](#) has just launched short stay ski holidays, to ensure that ski lovers can maximise their time on the slopes in some of Europe's finest resorts and ski domains. Club Med is offering three or four day/night flexible durations, leaving from Sunday to Thursday or from Thursday to Sunday, on selected dates. The offer includes lift passes, ski and snowboard group lessons, an open bar for great après-ski entertainment, gourmet cuisine and children's clubs for 4-17 year olds.

Ski & Spa

Choosing a resort that has great spa facilities is a must for those who love to relax after a day on the slopes. BadGastein, in Austria, is world-renowned for the soothing properties and the alleged healing powers of its natural thermal waters. Its snow record is pretty good too, which makes it a perfect ski and spa combination for those looking to relax after a tiring day on the slopes. [Direct Ski](#) is offering a week at the four-star Sporthotel Alpina in Bad Gastein, Austria from £473 per person including return flights (London, Manchester or Belfast), half board accommodation and transfers, based on two sharing.

The famous doctor Paracelsus once described the St. Moritz Mauritius spring as one of the healing springs of Europe and the exclusive resort in Switzerland has undoubtedly got some of the best ski resort spas in the world. The Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains is home to the luxurious Kempinski The Spa – an extensive retreat home to a series of saunas of different temperatures, a fitness room, a ladies only spa and a host of treatment rooms. [Carrier](#) is offering seven nights from £1,595 per person based on two people sharing on a bed and breakfast basis plus a six day lift pass. Price includes return flights from London Heathrow to Zurich with British Airways. Excludes transfers. Offer valid for travel from December 7th – 22nd, January 13 – 23th and March 10th – 31st 2013.

Beginners

If you want to check out the best ski resorts for beginners this upcoming season [check out our feature here](#).

Worried about the expense of ski lessons? [Crystal Ski](#) is offering a 'free learn to ski package' when you book a standard package holiday, including free tuition, free lift pass and free equipment hire, departing on January 13th 2013. Staying at the three-star Chalet Marsala with catering and free wine, the price of £625 per person includes flights from several UK airports including Gatwick, as well as private transfers.

Adrenaline junkies

If you want to check out the best ski resorts for experienced skiers this upcoming season [check out our feature here](#).

Black runs not even a thrill? Need more of an off-piste challenge? [Powder White](#) is offering adventurous skiers an off-piste experience in one of the Alps' most snow-sure and challenging resorts – Val d'Isère. Powder White Tracks includes three days of off-piste – also known as backcountry, sidecountry or freeriding – allowing you to get the most from your ski holiday, all under the watchful eye of an expert. Prices include a week's fully catered chalet accommodation and three days of off-piste guiding, starting from £718 per person in Val d'Isère in the Chalet Elodie.

Or, how about heli skiing in the Austrian Alps? [Powder White's](#) fly-ski package you can get up close and personal with the awe-inspiring Austrian Alps. Based in the Alpine party capital of St Anton, the thrilling heli ski experiences depart from nearby Lech Zürs, providing an exhilarating hour-long descent. Seven nights in a fully catered chalet at Chalet Nina in St. Anton with unlimited wine costs from 850 per person, including two heli ski drops, transport to the take off point and collection from Lech on return, a mountain guide and all safety equipment. Flights are not included.

Budget skiing

If you want to check out the cheapest resorts for this upcoming season [check out our feature here](#).

The best way to trim the cost of a ski holiday is to ski in mid-January when Christmas and New Year are over, but before half term, take some friends, find a good value apartment in the French Alps and self-cater for a week. France's La Plagne together with Les Arcs is one of the largest ski areas in the world with extensive access to high altitude skiing on uncrowded pistes. [Direct Ski](#) has a week's self-catering ski holiday in France's LaPlagne for £263 per person from Gatwick (£244 from Manchester, £313 from Belfast and £308 from Dublin) including self-catering accommodation at the three-star Belambra Residence Cassiopee apartments, return flights and transfers, based on four sharing.

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