



[ EXPERIENCES ]

# GET THIS SNOW ON THE ROAD

*Ski and snowboard season is upon us once again. But don't get caught short – from places you can ski in July to how to get your very own ski butler, let us guide you through all the resorts and holidays you need to know about this year*

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## 21 RUNS

On Mount  
Parnassos,  
Greece

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## 1,346M

Altitude of  
Strbske Pleso  
lake, Slovakia

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## 305HA

Skiable ground  
in Tremblant,  
Canada

**T**EMPERATURES ARE DROPPING, nights are drawing in and there's a very special season on the horizon. No, we're not talking about Christmas – we're talking about *snow*.

But no matter how eager you are to get out on the slopes, there's an absolutely baffling array of choice to get your head around.

This year, we've done the hard work for you and scoured the globe to bring you a list of resorts and holiday ideas to put at the top of your priority list. Whether you're travelling with your family, you want to go somewhere completely different, or don't even want to ski at all, we've got you covered... >

Words by  
ESCAPISM TEAM

📷 Bradford White

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### RAISING HELI:

*These skiers have reached this untouched slope in Alberta by helicopter – which, if you ask us, is a pretty baller move*



**HIT THE SLOPES IN SUMMIT IN  
SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA**

There's nothing more exhilarating than skiing or snowboarding down a steep, snowy mountain slope. In California, the best spots for this are in the Sierra Nevada range, where you can find some of the most challenging terrain in the world. The snow is deep and the slopes are steep, making it a great place for those looking for a challenge. The views are also spectacular, with snow-capped peaks and clear blue skies. It's a truly unforgettable experience.

**COMBINE SNOW AND ANCIENT  
HISTORY IN GREECE**

Ancient history meets the snowy slopes in Greece. The snow-capped mountains of the Balkans provide a stunning backdrop for a winter holiday. The snow is deep and the slopes are steep, making it a great place for those looking for a challenge. The views are also spectacular, with snow-capped peaks and clear blue skies. It's a truly unforgettable experience.

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## BEST FOR... THE UNEXPECTED

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### ESCAPE THE CROWDS IN HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

Thanks to the Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Olympics, Japan is the current it

Geihoku Kokusai is one of the largest ski resorts in western Japan and gets some of the best snow in the area. It's only an hour and a half from Hiroshima City, too.

destination in sports tourism. Throw in a legendary ski scene and you've got a country that's hard to resist. But skip the famed powder of Niseko and go off-piste (geddit?) at [Geihoku](#) in the

Hiroshima prefecture. It's got 10km of slopes, five lifts and is easily reached thanks to its proximity to Hiroshima City.

**NEED TO KNOW:** Stay at Geihoku Hiland Hotel from £95pn. [geihoku-hotel.jp](#); Japan Airlines flies from Heathrow to Hiroshima via Tokyo from £604 return. [jal.co.jp](#)

### HIT THE SLOPES IN SUMMER IN SQUAW ALPINE, CALIFORNIA

Next summer, swap swimmers for snow at Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows near Lake Tahoe. No, we're not joking – the California resort had a record-breaking 2018-19 snowfall season that closed on 7 July, and eight metres of snow in February alone. But there's plenty of reasons to visit whether you go in summer or not: a high-speed quad chairlift that'll take you to the piste faster than you can say "après-ski"; a 1970s-style bar in a restored tram car; and more besides.

**NEED TO KNOW:** Ski Solutions offers seven nights at The Village at Squaw from £1,215pp including flights. [skisolutions.com](#)

### COMBINE SNOW AND ANCIENT HISTORY IN GREECE

Ancient history at the Acropolis; buzzing nightlife in Athens; beaches and calamari on the islands; and, er, skiing. Is there a holiday that Greece can't do? While the country is better known for its sun-drenched islands, 80% of Greece is mountainous, with its most popular peak Mount Parnassus measuring in at a lofty 2,260m – and easily reached from Athens. What's more, the slopes are much-loved by Greeks, but not so well-known

elsewhere, which means more space for you to carve to your heart's content.

**NEED TO KNOW:** Stay at Domotel Anemolia Mountain Resort, Aráchova from £73pn. [anemolia-resort.gr](#); Aegean Airlines flies from Heathrow to Athens from £140 return. [aegeanair.com](#)

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## BEST FOR... NON-SKIERS

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### TAKE THINGS SLOW IN ST MARTIN DE BELLEVILLE, FRANCE

This picturesque village offers a tranquil

contrast to the livelier resorts found elsewhere in Les 3 Vallées. Renovated Savoie farmhouses sit side-by-side with cosy bars serving up brandy-laced coffee and shots of *génépi*, a gently floral alpine spirit made from mountain herbs. St Martin's small size makes it a good base for non-skiers – you'll get chatting to locals in no time and everywhere is easy to reach on foot. Arrange a guided snowshoe walking tour through the vast forest trails nearby; as they're in the opposite direction to the slopes it's highly likely you'll be the first person to set foot on the pristine powder in days. Afterwards, head back down to the new Lys outdoor



spa, where you can appreciate the mountain setting from one of the five hot tubs.

**NEED TO KNOW:** Peak Retreats offers seven nights self-catered at Chalets Caseblanche from £629pp including self-drive Eurotunnel crossing. [peakretreats.co.uk](http://peakretreats.co.uk)

### DRINK WINE ON THE SLOPES AT WEIN AM BERG FESTIVAL, AUSTRIA

Snow-covered slopes aren't just for skiing,

**SNOW BUSINESS:** [clockwise from main] Making the most of the snow in Zermatt, Switzerland; Squaw Alpine, California; ski and sail in Lofoten, Norway

y'know. Head to Sölden, Austria, in April and you'll find the pistes given up in favour of three days of drinking wine and eating food. From high-altitude wine tastings to a Big Bottle Party that serves, erm, big bottles, Wein am Berg – hosted by ice Q bar and the sleekly luxurious hotel Das Central – brings together international chefs, winegrowers and unparalleled mountain views. We'll raise a few glasses to that.

**NEED TO KNOW:** Stay at Das Central Hotel from £178ppn on a half-board basis. [central-soelden.com](http://central-soelden.com); Austrian Airlines flies from Heathrow to Innsbruck via Vienna from £146 return. [austrian.com](http://austrian.com)

### GO SNOWSHOEING IN THE CATALAN PYRENEES, SPAIN

Swerve the skiing completely and book in for an entirely different kind of snow holiday. The peaks and valleys of the Catalan Pyrenees provide a dramatic backdrop on this seven-night walking tour that begins in the picturesque village of Rialp, on the banks of the Noguera Pallaresa river. You'll spend your mornings snowshoeing through the wild Parc d' Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici (good luck saying that all in one go) and your afternoons sampling local cheese, tasting local wines and visiting Romanesque villages. Simply delightful. >



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