

The Special Edition 13 January 2007: go with the snow



INTRODUCTION:

About 15 years ago going on a winter sport holiday was still a luxury trip only for the rich and famous. But now a days there are more people in Holland who can afford this. Ski country's such as Norway, Tsjech Republic, Bulgaria, Andorra and even Turkey have been discovered as reasonably cheap alternatives.

SUMMER SKIEN

Skiing in the summer is also a possibility. There is no need to travel to Australie, New-Zealand or Chili anymore. This can be done in Norway, places are Folgefonna, Galdhopiggen and Styn. In France this can be done on the Alpe d'Huez, Les Deux Alpes, La Plange or Val Thorens.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF SKIING

Alpine skiing and track skiing

Most ski tourist chose for the usual alpine skiing. Then there are the track skiers, this is a combination of walking and sliding on snow. There are different levels from just walking/sliding till complete marathons.

Freestyle and snowboarding

This is very popular among the younger skiers. Making figures in the air on skies is called freestyle. The more difficult the figure or combination of figures the better the score. There are two styles namely aerals en moguls. With aerals you make your figures skiing from a practically upright ski jump. With moguls this is similar but on top of that there are also small ski jumps to be taken and all that has to be done in a short amount of time.

Snowboarding found its origin in wave surfing. Also in snowboarding there are different styles, such as free ride, freestyle and alpine skiing. But the most spectacular is the freestyle, with all its jumps, stunts and tricks from various slopes. And all that at speed close to 100km/hours.

Upcoming ski countries in Europe

NORWAY

Ski areas:

- Skei/Gausdal:
one of the oldest ski resorts, about 40 km from Lillehammer and well known for the best snow guarantees of Norway.
- Hafjell/Hunderfossen:
has the longest ski track in this area 5km, speciality is the family park and the Alpiene Center where you can ski both in winter and summer time.
- Hemsedal:
because of its rough mountain territory it has spectacular slopes.
- Geilo:
on both sides of this city there are slopes, in the valley you will find 50 km ski track and on the mountains there is a total ski track of 170 km
- Trysil:
an area with many possibilities, there is a halfpipe, 72km alp skiing and another 90km for track skiing

Special activities: summer skiing

- in Galdhøpinen in the Sommerskicenter, it has slopes from 400 and 1500m
- in Sogn og Fjordane Strynefjellet Sommerski, there are 8 tracks for alpine skiing, and 775 glacier routes. Summer skiing is possible from May till August in Stryn Sommerskicenter.

Info:

www.noorwegen.org

www.noorwegen.net

www.lillehammerturist.no

FINLAND

Skiing/cross-country:

- Rovaniemi:
at Ounasvaara ski school there are 6 slopes, 3 ski jumps and a 100 km cross-country routes
- Levi:
has 45 slopes with a length of 3km, a height difference of 463m, also 250km cross-country routes
- Yllas:
an area with 35 slopes of which 5 are illuminated, longest track is 3km and there are 7 slopes where artificial snow can be made.

Special activities: snow scooter and dog rides, ice rock climbing.

Info:

www.finland-tourism.com

www.rovaniemi.fi

www.laplandhotels.com

SWEDEN

Got 3 ski areas with a total of 39 slopes and many track skiing routes and is situated in the border area of Sweden and Norway

- Hovfjället:

Lays north of Torsby, got 15 slopes, 6 green tracks, 1 blue, 5 red and 3 black ones, also 60km track skiing routes

- Ski-sunne:

lays south of Torsby, got 12 slopes, many track skiing routes of various lengths and skill levels. Ideal area for beginners.

- Hagfors:

got 9 slopes, about 70 km track skiing routes and there are special off the road-tracks

Info:

www.directline-skiing.co.uk/sweden

ANDORRA

Is a little state like Lichtenstein and Monaco and is situated between France and Spain. From November until February is the main skiing season. After February it is still possible but only on artificial snow. There are 4 ski resorts with 153 slopes and a total length of 250km.

- Grand Vilara:

got 4 ski areas Soldeu, El Tarter, Pas de la Casa and Grau Roig. Grau Roi is the biggest, got many ski elevators, 8 green, 11 blue, 23 red and 13 black ski tracks.

- Andorra la Vella is the capital, specialised in tax free products such as electronics and other luxuries
- outside the capital lays Caldea, the biggest spa resort of southern Europe.

Special activities: heli-skiing

Info:

www.andorra.be

www.skiandorra.ad

TSJECH REPUBLIC

Ski area:

- Spindleruv Mlyn:

is the biggest, highest and most popular ski area of the Tsjech Republic. It got 3 ski resorts, de Svaty Petr, Medvedin and Misecky with a totaal 25km slopes. Very suitable for families and less advanced. Also got 2 snowboardparken and a separate track skiing area. Ski area is open from 1. December until 15. April and is well known for good snow, terrain and attainability.

Info:

www.spindl.com

www.spindlleruv-mlyn.cz

TURKEY

Istanbul is situated in the nature resort Kocatepe, where alpine skiing, track skiing, snowboarding and hiking is all possible.

Ski areas

- Kartalkaya:
height of 1800-2660m, is situated in Yedigöller Park. And this area lies between Ankara and Istanbul, got 30km skiing slopes, with blue/green 20km, red 7km, black 3km skiing tracks
- Palandöken:
It takes about 20 minutes drive from the airport Erzurum, got 30km skiing slopes with blue/green 10km, red 15km, black 5km skiing tracks
- Uludağ:
got also 30km skiing slopes, with blue/green 15km, red 12km, black 3km, skiing tracks

Info:

www.quidetourturkey.com/ski_centers/

BULGARIJE

This is really an upcoming ski country. Highest point is mount Musala, 2823 m. There is also Rodopen mountain area with a height of 1931m.

Ski areas

- Borovets:
at a height of 2530m, got 50km of skiing slopes, the longest is 6km
- Pamporovo:
at a height of 1900m, got 25km of skiing slopes, the longest is 4km

Info:

www.bulgaria.com

www.skiapartmentsborovets.com