

Travel

Ski

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10 of the best last-minute spring ski holidays

Here's where to go for the last weeks of the ski season, as fresh snow transforms skiing in Europe's top resorts

Sophie Butler, DESTINATION EXPERT

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The ski clock may be ticking, but there's still plenty of opportunity to get to the mountains before the resorts close. And, whether you're yet to book or you're planning yet another flit to the snow, the truth is that late season can be the [best time to go](#).

Latest snow depths in the world's top ski resorts

Search resort or country

Resort	Country	Lower (cm)	Change	Upper (cm)	Change	Percentage of total open
St Anton	Austria	50	0	385	0	81
Mayrhofen	Austria	0	-2	90	-10	92
Lech	Austria	115	35	325	5	81
Kitzbühel	Austria	34	-2	102	3	80
Obergurgl	Austria	114	-22	189	-43	91
Ischgl	Austria	40	0	155	-5	89
Zell am See	Austria	0	0	300	40	89
Sölden	Austria	15	-16	367	-10	96
Saalbach	Austria	50	-10	120	0	78
Obertauern	Austria	110	0	180	0	100
Winkl	Germany	10	20	221	20	20

Last updated: March 14, 2024. Change in upper and lower snow depth is weekly, published by resorts. Terrain open estimated from latest resort statistics.

But even if you're locked into school holidays, there are also reasons to be cheerful. As spring approaches, the days are getting longer, the lifts open later, and warmer temperatures make days on the mountains more enjoyable, particularly for young children and beginners who are more susceptible to cold.





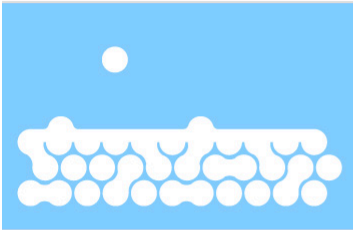
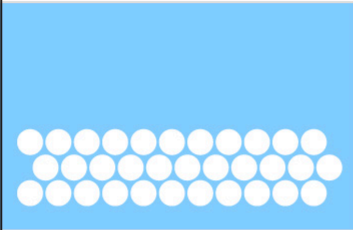
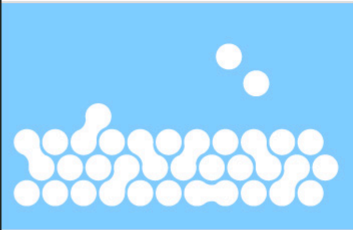
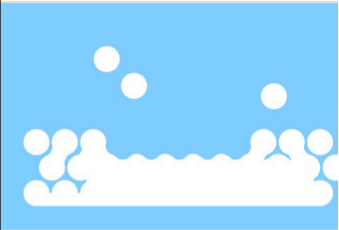
And what about the snow? Well, things are looking rosy in that direction too. After some fallow weeks at the start of 2024 and into February, there has been [recent heavy snowfall across the Alps](#), with Italian resorts reporting the heaviest falls of the year so far and even lower-lying resorts in France experiencing a substantial top-up.



Norway offers some of the best conditions for skiing in spring | CREDIT: Norway Home of Skiing

Ian McIlrath of Ski Solutions, says: “The conditions in [Austria](#) are exceptional at this point in the season. In particular, the Arlberg region covering St Anton.” Further north, Scandinavian resorts continue to offer some of the best conditions in Europe. Andy Hemingway of Ski Safari comments: “[Norway](#) is in the midst of an unbelievable winter, the powder days have been plentiful and, with fewer people on the slopes than other destinations, the snow stays untracked for longer.” And while winter got off to a slower start in some North American resorts, snow is now falling with moderate to heavy snow predicted over the next week.

TIMELINE OF A SPRING SKI DAY

 Early morning Snow is icy	 Late morning Snow is just right	 Lunchtime Snow is sticky	 Afternoon Snow is wet
			
The wet snow from the previous afternoon will have been groomed smooth then frozen hard – great for fast cruising but sharpen your edges.	As the icy surface is exposed to the morning sunshine and temperatures rise quickly above freezing, it softens to produce the perfect surface by mid-morning.	You'll find your skis sticking as the snow gets softer and wetter – find better snow for longer on shaded runs.	As wet pools begin to appear in the sodden, carved up snow surface, only funny-seeking kids and very determined skiers will battle on.

So, when should you book and where should you go? The key strategy is to [aim high](#) so, if you do hit a warm spell, you still stand a good chance of decent skiing. Here are 10 last-minute deals to snow-sure resorts to help you make the most of the last few weeks of the ski season.

Tignes, France

With lifts operating to above 3,400m, [Tignes](#) has a season that runs into May, followed by summer snow sports on its Grande Motte glacier.



Stay at Le Lodge des Neiges | CREDIT: Foudimages

Book it: Peak Retreats (023 9283 9310; peakretreats.co.uk) offers stays in Le Lodge des Neiges residence, near the Boisses telecabine in Tignes 1800, with indoor pool and hot tubs, from £549, self-catering, based on five sharing a two-bedroom apartment, including Le Shuttle crossing with a free upgrade to FlexiPlus. Departs March 16.

Mayrhofen, Austria

At a relatively low 630m, [Mayrhofen](#) can be bathed in warm spring sunshine but still with plenty of opportunity for late-season skiing and snowboarding as slopes rise to a snow-sure height of 2,500m.



Slopes at Mayrhofen rise to 2,500m, meaning plenty of snow | CREDIT: Getty

Book it: Crystal Ski (020 3451 2821; crystalski.co.uk) offers stays at Eberharter Apartments, near the resort centre and close to the ski bus stop, from £1,233, self-catering, with the option to upgrade to half board. Departs March 23.

Myrkdalen, Norway

One of the country's snowiest resorts, open until April 30, Myrkdalen offers slopes that are best suited to beginners and improving intermediates, with off-piste skiing for more confident experts.



The Myrkdalen Hotel offers ski-in/ski-out lodgings near the ski school and slopes | CREDIT: Myrkdalen Hotel

Book it: Ski Safari (01273 224060; [skisafari.com](https://www.skisafari.com)) offers the four-star Myrkdalen Hotel, a ski-in/ski-out hotel near the ski school and slopes, from £990, half board, based on two adults and two children under 12 years sharing a family room. Departs April 7.

Cervinia, Italy

Glacier skiing, a top station at 3,480m and a resort at 2,000m mean snow can cover the roofs of the upmarket hotels and apartments until early May – [Cervinia](https://www.cervinia.com) has it all at the end of the season.



Skiers can enjoy Cervinia until May | CREDIT: Getty

Book it: Elegant Resorts (01244 897581; elegantresorts.co.uk) offers stays at the five-star Saint Hubertus Resort, with spa, pool and gourmet restaurant, from £2,530 based on a prestige room. Departs March 16.

Val Thorens, France

Not only the highest resort in the huge, 600km Trois Vallées area, but also in Europe, [Val Thorens](#) (at 2,300m) has lifts that continue to operate into early May.



Val Thorens is the highest resort in the Trois Vallées area | CREDIT: Getty

Book it: Erna Low (020 3011 1222; ernalow.co.uk) offers stays at four-star Le Hameau du Kashmir, a ski-in/ski-out residence with two restaurants and pool, from £564, self-catering, based on four sharing a two-bedroom apartment, including return Flexiplus LeShuttle crossing. Departs April 13.

Whistler, Canada

After a slow start, snow is falling on the linked mountains of [Whistler](#) and Blackcomb in western Canada's Coast Mountain range, a vast ski area of more than 8,000 acres with slopes for all abilities.



Whistler is a great option for families with slopes for all abilities | CREDIT: Ben Girardi/Tourism Whistler

Book it: Frontier Ski (020 8776 8709; frontier-ski.co.uk) offers the Summit Boutique Hotel Whistler, in Whistler Village with pool and hot tubs, from £1,545, room only, based on deluxe studio with kitchenette. Departs April 8.

Avoriaz, France

[Avoriaz](#) is the highest of the dozen resorts that make up the Portes du Soleil area, and, at 1,800m and with slopes rising to 2,225m, its purpose-built, car-free centre is strong on ski-in/ski-out accommodation.



Avoriaz is the highest resort in the Portes du Soleil area | CREDIT: Oreli.b

Book it: Sunweb (020 3170 8206; sunweb.co.uk) offers stays at Résidence L'Hermine, 100m from the slopes, from £818, self-catering, based on two adults and two children sharing a one-bedroom apartment with kitchenette, including lift passes. Departs March 30.

St Anton, Austria

Situated in Austria's Arlberg ski region, [St Anton](#) is one of Europe's snowiest resorts, with fast links to neighbouring Lech and is particularly popular with experts.



St Anton is one of Europe's best resorts for sure-fire snow | CREDIT: Getty

Book it: Ski Solutions (020 7471 7700; [skisolutions.com](https://www.skisolutions.com)) offers the four-star Hotel Banyan, with modern interiors, pool and sauna, from £1,895. Departs March 16.

Breckenridge, USA

With a top lift rising to a giddy 3,915m – the highest in North America – and a resort height of 3,000m, this Colorado resort, extending over five peaks, has an upper snow base of 140cm, which bodes well for late-season skiing.



The top lift in Breckenridge is the highest in North America

Book it: Ski Independence (0131 243 8097; ski-i.com) offers stays at the Residence Inn by Marriott, near the Quicksilver chairlift, from £2,348 per room only based on studio accommodation. Departs March 21.

Zermatt, Switzerland

It is possible to ski all year round on the highest slopes of [Zermatt's](#) Matterhorn glacier at 3,883m, but the main season for this atmospheric resort usually runs into late April.



Slopes in Zermatt are busy until late April | CREDIT: Getty

Book it: Inghams (01483 938047; [ingham.co.uk](https://www.ingham.co.uk)) offers Aparthotel Naco, from £1,419 based on three sharing a studio with kitchenette, balcony and use of an indoor pool, including train travel from St Pancras. Departs March 23.

Q&A

A guide to spring skiing

Is it safe to go off-piste?

Spring is traditionally when the snowpack is at its most stable. As the weather gets warmer...

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Unless otherwise stated, prices are per person, based on two sharing, including breakfast, flights from London and transfers and are subject to availability

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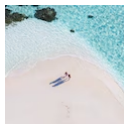


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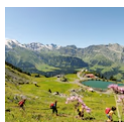
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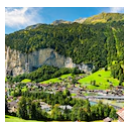
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