

SPRING SKIING

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If you've not yet made it to the slopes this season or are tempted to go back for more, spring skiing is an unbeatable experience.

The benefits are many – longer daylight hours, warmer weather, and quieter slopes, just for starters. Add to that the fact that snow builds up all winter, often peaking in March before the spring thaw starts. Plus, the vibe on the slopes is relaxed and fun, with mountain restaurant terraces perfect for catching some sun without freezing.

This season, there's even more to get excited about, as ski holiday companies are highlighting the latter half of March 2025 as the best-value weeks of the season.

With Easter weekend falling late this year (19–21 April), there are almost no school holidays across Europe in March. Most schools only start breaking up on 4 April, providing a quieter and more affordable experience for skiers.

Choosing Your Spring Skiing Destination

Where to go in spring depends on when you plan to ski – March, April, or even May – and the type of experience you want.

If long days skiing into the afternoon are essential, opt for ski areas with plenty of terrain over 2,000m altitude (and ideally over 3,000m) if you're heading to the Alps, particularly for an April or May trip. Alternatively, consider travelling to the far north – Scandinavia, Canada, or Japan are excellent options.

The resort's altitude is less important if its ski area extends high, with quick lifts to transport you there. Switzerland's Engelberg is a great example. Although the resort is at just 1,000m, lifts take you to glacier-topped slopes at 3,000m, which remain open into May. However, if you want to ski back to your resort in late

April, aim for a high-altitude destination like Tignes or Val Thorens.

For a more relaxed approach to spring skiing – perhaps focusing more on festivals or enjoying activities like hiking, biking, or sunbathing in the afternoons – nearly every ski area will fit the bill. Late March and late April offer the best prices this season.

This season, the latter half of March offers better value than January, which has traditionally been the cheapest time of year for skiers. This shift has emerged over recent years as more skiers book January for snow reliability, lower prices, and quieter slopes compared to the December holidays. The increased popularity has driven up January prices and led to busier slopes.

Additionally, the final weeks of the season, after the late Easter break, offer significant discounts to maintain skier numbers. However, by late April, there is less terrain open, and even high-altitude skiing is usually only ideal in the mornings.

"The second half of March will be the best-value weeks of the whole season. January was busier than usual," said Xavier Schouler, head of ski holiday companies Peak Retreats and The Ski Collection.

"The end of March is currently the best-priced time to ski this winter. We're advising bargain hunters looking for the best possible price to choose the last two weeks of March," agreed Richard Sinclair of ski holiday travel agency SNO.co.uk.

If you've not hit the slopes yet, it's definitely not too late to enjoy a fantastic trip to the mountains for some snow and sunshine – all at the best prices of the season.