



15 Zip line in Val Thorens, France

next to the hotel. Off the slopes activities for little ones include snowmobile safaris through the forest and northern lights hunting.

**Details** A week's half-board at the three-star Hotel Suomotunturi costs from £699pp, including flights, transfers and lift passes, departing on January 27 (020 8610 3123, [crystalski.co.uk](http://crystalski.co.uk))

## 15 Zip line in Val Thorens

Europe's highest ski resort, Val Thorens in the French Alps, is snow-sure and great for families, with a huge beginners' area near the centre as well as a toboggan run and a fun slope with tunnels and obstacles. There is also a new tandem zip line opening this season, after the opening of Europe's highest zip line in the resort a few years ago. The new 1,600m line, 65m above the slopes, is split into three sections, allowing you to whizz from the top of La Moutière down into the resort.

**Details** A week's self-catering at Les Montagnettes costs from £820 for a family of four sharing a two-bedroom apartment (020 3797 8768, [ernalow.co.uk](http://ernalow.co.uk)). Fly to Geneva

## 16 Active Pyrenees

Based at the pretty resort of Luchon Superbagnères in the French Pyrenees, the Adventure Creators offers family holidays where guests can pick and choose the activities they want to try. Each person has nine "activity points", which cover, for example, a two-day ski-lift pass at Superbagnères, an airboarding session, a ride with huskies and sledging.

**Details** A week's self-catering in a two-bedroom apartment in February costs from about £440pp (01202 798443, [adventurecreators.com](http://adventurecreators.com)). Fly to Lourdes

## 17 Swiss snow park

The pretty, car-free Swiss village of

made even better this winter with the arrival of a new ski-cross piste (with jumps and rolls) near the existing slalom racecourse at Winteregg. There's also a large snow park with boxes, kickers and rails, as well as an airbag jump.

**Details** Stay at the Hotel Alpenruh, which has undergone a large makeover this year. B&B doubles cost from SwFr180 a night (00 41 33 856 88 00, [alpenruh-muerren.ch](http://alpenruh-muerren.ch)). Fly to Zurich

## 18 Historic Samoëns

The French describe Samoëns — just an hour's drive from Geneva airport — as one of their *monuments historiques*. Small artisan shops line the main street and the square is archetypal historic France. Linked to the vast Grand Massif ski domain, which consists of five resorts, Samoëns has access to 265km of slopes and there's plenty of family-friendly terrain. Peak Retreats, which

this year won the *Times* travel editor's prize at *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Travel Awards, has 10 per cent off holidays to the resort (if booked by October 31).

**Details** A week's self-catering at the Alexane costs from £291pp, based on five sharing a two-bedroom apartment, including Eurostar (023 9283 9310, [peakretreats.co.uk](http://peakretreats.co.uk))

## 19 Aurora in Yukon

After ultimate bragging rights? Trailfinders has launched a new trip that combines a trip to the Yukon to spot the northern lights with a few days on the slopes in Whistler. The Yukon, in the northwest of Canada, bordering Alaska, is one of the best places in the country to spot the lights. You'll stay in Whitehorse, Yukon's capital, and enjoy a city tour and dogsled outing. In Whistler there's also a snowmobiling adventure and a helicopter ride.

**Details** Thirteen nights costs from £2,120pp, including room-only accommodation and activities

country's best resort in the Tatra mountains, is much loved by pros, with great off-piste terrain and fast lifts. There are dedicated "free-ride zones" on the north side of Chopok mountain. **Details** Seven nights' half-board costs from £598pp, including a six-day lift pass, ski hire and transfers, departing on February 16 (00 42 190 72 16 280, [jasaadventures.co.uk](http://jasaadventures.co.uk)). Fly to Poprad

## 21 Austria for families

Crystal Ski has added Serfaus in the Austrian Tyrol to its portfolio for this season. With 198km of pistes, the resort is linked by lifts to nearby Fiss and Ladis. It's a great base for families, with children's areas, family-friendly restaurants and a traffic-free village.

**Details** A week's half-board at the three-star Hotel Komperdell costs from £639pp, including flights and transfers (020 8712 5926, [crystalski.co.uk](http://crystalski.co.uk))

## 22 Blue runs in Italy

Italy is a great place to learn to ski, with a fun atmosphere and great food — plus it's cheap. Passo Tonale is a favourite for beginners, with sunny slopes near the village (for the first few wobbly turns) plus lots of wide blue runs. The Presena ski school ([scuolasci-tonalepresena.it](http://scuolasci-tonalepresena.it)) has English-speaking instructors.

**Details** Seven nights' half-board at the Hotel Eden costs from £589pp, including flights from Birmingham and transfers (020 3131 2919, [igluski.com](http://igluski.com))

## 23 Budget Bansko

Bansko, in Bulgaria's Pirin National Park, has modern high-speed lifts and is the cheapest place to ski this season, according to the *Post Office Ski Resort Report*, released today. A week costs about £390pp for a six-day ski-lift pass, equipment hire, ski-school lessons and lunch on the slopes, but excluding accommodation and flights.

**Details** A week's half-board at the Hotel Lion costs from £443pp, including flights and transfers, departing on January 19 (020 8712 2964, [crystalski.co.uk](http://crystalski.co.uk))

## 24 French refuge

Sitting at the foot of the Aiguille de Manigod, the Refuge D'ze Voye has been newly refurbished to include six smart bedrooms and a small swimming pool and sauna. Reached by snowshoe or on skis from nearby Manigod — which links to La Clusaz to offer 130km of slopes — the refuge, built in 1779, is traditional in style, but has modern touches.

**Details** One night in a double room with bunks costs from £50pp. Breakfast costs €12 and dinner €24 (00 33 688 17 28 36, [refuge-dzelavoye.fr](http://refuge-dzelavoye.fr)). Fly to Geneva

## 25 All-terrain Germany

The towns of Garmisch and Partenkirchen have slowly merged over the years, yet retain their own character. There are also two ski areas: the low-altitude winter slopes, which offer tough challenging terrain, and the glacier area, which has more gentle pistes.

**Details** Seven nights' half-board costs from £723pp, including flights and transfers (020 3553 0710, [igluski.com](http://igluski.com))



Clarian Chalets, France