



Have heli, will travel – in style. Inset: Enjoy luxuriating in Lech

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Splash it

You don't have to be rich to ski, but it sure helps. Heliskiing extravaganzas, luxury hotels, and immaculate, celebrity-grade chalets – here are the best ways to flash the cash this winter. And not all of them are as expensive as you might think

SWISS AIR

You don't have to cross the Atlantic to go heliskiing. In Switzerland it may be a heavily restricted activity but it's not banned, and a new company Swiss Ski Safari (0041 27 398 2194; www.swisskissafari.com), has devised a cunning and spectacular itinerary to take in the best descents on offer. Its four day, five night Ultimate Journey runs three times this winter (in

March and April), taking in Verbier, Zermatt and Saas Fee, staying in five-star hotels, and featuring daily heli drops, as well as helicopter transfers between resorts. From start to finish you'll feel like 007. From £4514 per person, not including flights and train transfers.

UNDERSTATED CLASS

For luxury that's just a tad more discreet, try Lech – just across the

STASH IT

Skiing and snowboarding needn't cost the earth. In fact, they needn't cost more than a bog-standard package holiday to Benidorm. There are thousands of low-cost holidays out there, and all kinds of ways to make them even cheaper. Here's how

EAST IS LEAST

If you're new to winter sports, and want to take the kids too, then look east, to the likes of Borovets in Bulgaria. Over half term it's not exactly cheap, but you'll find you get a lot more for your money. A week's half board stay, commencing 11 February, at the modern, functional, ski-in, ski-out Hotel Rila costs £635 per person with Neilson (0870 333 3347; www.neilson.co.uk). The transfer is only 90 minutes from airport to hotel, and the slopes are beginner friendly. Neilson also runs its highly-rated Learn to Turn programme here – £155 per

person for equipment, lift pass and six days of tuition.

TAKE THE MOTOR

Compare Inghams' (020 8780 4433; www.ingham.co.uk) flight-inclusive price for a four-person apartment in Les Alpagnes de Chantel in Les Arc 1800, with the same week in the same property if you do your own driving. Arriving 4 March, it's £468 per person, versus £240 with self-drive specialists Erna Low (0870 750 6820; www.ernalow.co.uk), including return ferry crossing. Factor in motorway tolls and fuel (£90 per person is generous) and that's still a saving of over £100. >



Bargain central, Borovets in Bulgaria