



DOG-SLEDDING, GERMANY

With your dogs taking the strain, ride a sled through Germany's pine-fresh Black Forest to the sound of your panting pack's paws padding the powder. Sometimes known as 'mushing', the best place for dog-sledding is Todtmoos, home of the German dog-sledding championships. Tours and lessons are offered on weekends from December to April. Learn how to guide the huskies without tipping the sled. Expect high speeds, lots of laughter and an original adventure that combines sport, nature and lovable animals. Sleep in igloos or snow tents and dine out around the bonfire.

Other dog-sledding destinations:
Norway, Sweden



BANDY, SWEDEN

For ice hockey with a twist, check out the popular Swedish sport, Bandy. Skating players wielding sticks compete on ice to score in the rival team's goal. However, unlike ice hockey, a ball is used instead of a puck, and team and rink size are bigger, meaning the sport is much faster paced. With few stops of play, the action is exciting to watch – passing, changing on the fly, blocking shots with bodies, the sound of blades scraping ice.

Bandy player Mikael Sandberg says: 'The fan base is growing and when matches are televised, up to 900,000 people tune in. For a country with only nine million people, that's a large number'.

Spectators at matches traditionally bring coffee, glögg (a spicy mulled wine) and gingerbread, or enjoy hot dogs and burgers, cooked over an open flame and sold rink-side. Asked what a fan is likely to see at a bandy game, Mikael says: 'Speed, strategy, glögg and a lot of goals.'

FLIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

From dog-sledding to snow rafting, we look at some of the alternative winter sports to be enjoyed this season

Words » **Ava Chisling**

The adrenaline rush of ploughing down the piste; the joys of crisp air and mountain scenery – it's time to hit the slopes for the winter holiday season. Enthusiasts the world over will be jetting to resorts such as Aspen, Colorado, Chamonix in France and Lebanon's Faraya, but while skiing and snowboarding are the most popular activities, there are some alternative pastimes on snow and ice now capturing our imagination. We take a look at some high-octane winter sports with a difference.



SNOW RAFTING, ITALY


If a sport best known as ‘white fear’ sounds thrilling rather than scary, then snow rafting is for you. Appearing more like a Jackass-style prank than an extreme sport, participants climb into a rubber dingy at the top of a ski slope, and, well, off they go! Reaching speeds in excess of 50 miles per hour, the dingy spins you round as much as any white-knuckle amusement park ride. And you don’t have to be in great shape to try it, all you need is warm clothing and some leaping ability – few people make it down without crashing a few times. Cortina, in the Italian Alps is a great place to try the sport.

Other snow rafting destinations:

Quebec, Canada; Utah, USA; Slovakia

Clockwise from left: indoor fun at Ski Dubai; bandy on ice in Sweden; dog-sledding is popular in Germany, Sweden and Norway; snow rafting action in Italy

INDOOR SKIING, DUBAI

When the weather is hot in the United Arab Emirates, the best place to cool down is Ski Dubai, the indoor ski resort attached to the shopping and entertainment development, the Mall of the Emirates. Whether you’re a seasoned professional or beginner, the year-round snow park is the perfect spot for skiing, boarding, tobogganing and even Zorbing, where you roll down the slope in a giant protective ball. The venue is filled with real snow, unlike many other ski centres. Its five runs range from gentle slopes to expert black runs and visitors can hire clothing and equipment on site. For young children, there is also a large snow play area where you can make a snowman, or throw yourself onto the ground and make snow angels. For après ski relaxation, the St Moritz Café or Avalanche Café offer great views of the finesse and falls on the slopes. 

essential info »

Frankfurt

1,769 m / 2,847 km
4 hr 45 min from Amman
Daily flights in January
Daily flights in February

Stockholm

2,071 m / 3,333 km
10 hr 55 min from Amman
Daily flights in January
Daily flights in February

Rome

1,458 m / 2,347 km
3 hrs 25 min from Amman
5 weekly flights in January
5 weekly flights in February

Dubai

1,258 m / 2,024 km
3 hrs from Amman
Daily flights in January
Daily flights in February

More info

visitsweden.com
germany-tourism.co.uk
italiantourism.com
dubaitourism.ae

directory »

Bandy » internationalbandy.com
Dog-sledding » adventuresportsholidays.com/
dog-sledding
Snow rafting » cortinahotel.com
Ski Dubai » skidxb.com



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