

GET SERIOUS ABOUT LUXURY THIS WINTER – AT 3000FT

If you're going to do it, you might as well do it properly. This is what we at 69 degrees thought when it came to booking in for a bit of winter sun and snow with a side order of super luxury. The checklist included a charming but contemporary chalet with roaring log fire alongside state of the art sound systems and technology in every room, some epic skiing and snow board routes plus something adventurous for non-skiers, authentic mountain meals but not forgetting some serious gastro dining, spa treatments and great nights out. 69 Degrees found just the place in the glacial mecca of Chamonix-Mont Blanc.

When you book a skiing holiday with luxury travel agency Dynamic Lives (as we did), your whole experience is managed by their Exclusive Concierge service. They can arrange for you to be chauffeured from Geneva airport, in a premium motor, to one of their exclusive chalets in the spectacular, high mountain resort of Chamonix, with its skyline of jagged peaks and the domed white Mont Blanc. Their Exclusive Concierge service can organise just about anything you require: from the best private ski instruction, or off-piste and backcountry tours with respected local high mountain guides, to daily child-care, and even book you tables at the most exclusive restaurants, bars and clubs.

When it comes to dream chalets, a firm favourite is Chalet Le Marti nestling at the top of the Chamonix Valley in the centre of the charming village of Argentiere, minutes from ski-pistes, shops and bars. The wonderfully warm and ambient Chalet Le Marti (www.le-marti.com) is Chamonix's premier boutique styled ski chalet and comes complete with its own private chef, chauffeurs, and premium wine collection, as well as a hot tub and sauna. The welcoming open-plan living and dining area, that integrates traditional comforts like a roaring log fire, cosy blankets and huge sofas, is designed to mix traditional ski chalet comfort with creative decor and high end finishings. It can be booked on an exclusive basis or with others.

Fantastic accommodation is just the start of your perfect winter holiday, with in-chalet massage, sauna and yoga facilities adding to the experience. And the food at Le Marti, is second to none. Dynamic Lives carefully select very experienced international chefs, such as Le Marti's Andrew Isherwood, who is on hand to provide delicious dishes, for example rack of venison with sweet chestnuts, wild mushrooms and goji berries. Yum.

If you come to Chamonix-Mont Blanc, you really ought to try it out for its adventures, as well as its gourmet offerings.

Chalet Le Marti and Dynamic Lives' guests get the chance to book famous high mountain guide Remy Lecluse (and Olympic-standard skier) for a whole day, as part of the luxury travel agency's Dynamic Days Out. Starting early, you could head up the famous L'Aiguille du Midi lift to 3842m of altitude, from where Remy takes you skiing down the legendary La Vallée Blanche's glacier terrain. It's a must-try, never to be forgotten experience. The ski finishes up at Montanvers, famous for its mountain train, glacier cave and historic hotel. Or you could take two cable cars up to the top of Les Grands Montets, 3300m, and ski all the way down to the delightful La Cremerie du Glacier restaurant, serving authentic fondue, raclette and croutes in the forest above Argentiere village, for a well deserved late

lunch. Wherever you go with Remy, he will guide you down the steeps and through the powder to show you some essential off-piste skiing tips.

You don't need to ski to love snow, though. There are fantastic alternatives for getting your adrenaline kicks. On certain days during the winter, winds and thermals permitting, you can try a paraglide flight from the top of Le Brevent, Chamonix - an experience to make your spirits soar. Or, work your arm muscles with the increasingly popular experience of dog sledding with a team of huskies, up at Le Tour. The husky teams get booked out quickly these days - and it's not hard to see why. Nothing beats the thrill of racing a powerful pack of galloping husky dogs around the plains below La Domaine du Balme, through fantastic scenery. It's unmissable. Or how about a helicopter ride that allows you to swoop over the jagged Chamonix peaks before flying over the peak of Mont Blanc and the world famous La Mer de Glace (Sea of Ice)? Ever gone backwards in a helicopter? Here's your chance. Alternatively, you can take the classic funicular railway train up the side of Europe's highest mountain to Montenvers, where you can experience the scary thrill of glacier walking and learn some of the basics of ice-climbing. The train ride down from the glacier completes the trip.

What's for sure is that all this activity is a hungry business. When it comes to eating, the in-chalet dining will make your day when the private chef serves you four courses of gourmet cuisine, along with carefully chosen vintage wine to complement each course. If you're heading out though, an every day trip in Chamonix can be accompanied by amazing food, too. For traditional Haute Savoie fare, eat lunch at L'Alpage de Balme on the Col des Posettes. This is up the mountain of Le Tour, where the pistes are mellow enough for all levels of skiing, boarding, or even snowshoeing - and the views are breathtaking. Or sample Stephane Gassot's chef's menu at Chamonix's famous La Maison Carrier at the Albert Premier Hotel. There are plenty of organic restaurants in the Chamonix Valley, as well as those offering just their own locally sourced produce.

While chalets such as Chalet Le Marti have their own masseuse on call and their own private hot-tub, nothing beats a spa-trip to Italy's best kept secret, Pre Saint Didier - only a hop and ski(p) away from Chamonix, through the Mont Blanc Tunnel. With outdoor thermal pools, massage

water jets, Turkish baths, hammams, colour therapy rooms and unlimited healthy teas and snacks, you can easily lose an afternoon there in perfect tranquillity – it's also perfect if, like me, you had aching limbs. Dynamic Lives' tend to encourage you to leave the Italian spa in time for a transfer back to Chamonix town for some boutique shopping. Any winter brand worth their salt have a boutique signature store in Chamonix, from Chanel to Patagonia.

From shopping to spas, husky sledding to skiing the steeps, this is just the tip of the iceberg of what Chamonix and Dynamic Lives have to offer. Come and try it out for yourself. We had a blast.



Dynamic Lives are luxury travel specialists who offer tailor-made high-end holidays in luxury Chamonix chalets in winter and exclusive Ibiza villas in summer. A luxury seasonal holiday with Dynamic Lives combines sublime high-end accommodation, exquisite gourmet dining, relaxation treatments and specialised adventure in supreme locations. Dynamic Lives have created an amazing new range of 'Dynamic Days Out' – distinctive five-star Chamonix experiences, including premium helicopter charters around Mont Blanc, high octane glacier skiing, fine dining at the best tables and luxurious spa treatments.

A corporate or family trip with Dynamic Lives allows clients to invest in themselves, with a sophisticated seamless luxury holiday experience, ensuring relaxation and rejuvenation.

To book a luxury chalet holiday in Chamonix and arrange your dream ski trip. Call Dynamic Lives on +44 (0)203 411 3675 or visit: www.dynamiclives.com.

To get to Chamonix is easy. Swiss fly direct to Geneva (10 daily connections), with only an hour's transfer away from the mountains. We recommend Swiss from both London Heathrow and London City, particularly as ski and snowboard carriage is included in the price. www.swiss.com

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