

Best family friendly resorts of all time

We asked Ski Club Reps, Team HQ and industry experts for their pick of the child-friendly mountain bunch. Cue zip-lines and secret trails...

SAINT GERVAIS LES BAINS, FRANCE

Bruce Goodlad, SCGB Safety Advisor

It is where we live and we love it. It is only 20 minutes from Chamonix and the views of the Mont Blanc Massif are incredible.

There is a huge amount of variety, from steeper runs from the summit of Mont Joly to cruisy green pistes for those finding their ski legs. There are lots of different areas around the mountain – it is always possible to find a quiet spot, even in the busy holiday periods. On the mountain all the restaurants are owned and run by local people, so the food and experience is more authentic.

I'll always remember the first time we skied all over the mountain as a family, when my kids were five and seven – we skied all the pistes, from green to black, on a perfect winter's day. [ski-saintgervais.com](#)

VERBIER, SWITZERLAND

Warren Smith, pro freeskiier and Level 4 coach

Many people will think I'm bias, but Verbier (pictured below), where I live, has been a great place for me to bring up two children. Verbier has a reputation as an extreme-skiing party town. But what often gets hidden behind this image is just how family friendly it is.

My first son is now 21. He was born and brought up in Verbier. I quickly became aware of the fantastic beginner ski areas for a gentle progression into skiing; with the Les Moulins and Les Esserts nursery slopes, and excellent instructors, you couldn't be in better hands. My second son, almost two years old, is now going through the same process as my first.

For teeny ones, the Crèche les Moulins is fantastic. It's based on the Moulins beginners' slope, easily accessible



from anywhere in Verbier, open to locals and tourists, and receiving great support from the Ecole du Ski Verbier. [verbier.ch](#)

3 ZINNEN, ITALY

James Gambrill, SCGB General Manager

Tucked in the far north-eastern corner of the Dolomites, 3 Zinnen (3 Peaks) was only created as a resort in recent years, with the lift system linking up several ski areas to create 115km of pistes. This recent development means everything is new, from the state-of-the-art lifts to the 'Punka' base station with ski school, ski rental, café and lockers all in one central location next to the gondola.

It works so brilliantly for families due to its 'Goldilocks' size, just right for kids and parents alike. If the kids are in a half-day ski school, you want an area that delivers plenty of variety without an hour-long hike or endless lifts – 3 Zinnen delivers. This year will be our fourth trip to the area, and we're taking 20 friends!

There's a choice of accommodation, including several ski-in/ski-out options, but we choose to stay in the beautiful town of San Candido a few minutes' drive from the mountain base. Why? Great restaurants, night skiing on the local mountain, and a huge swimming pool complex with a superb pizzeria overlooking the pool. Everyone's happy.

The final clincher is the fact the resort is excellent value, from the accommodation to ski school. February half-term is just another week here, so prices are kept low and crowds are generally not a problem. Even better, Ski Club members can save 15% off the lift pass price, so go now before everyone else discovers this hidden gem! [dreizinmen.com](#)

LIVIGNO, ITALY

Patryk Szymanski, Mountain Tracks Manager

Tucked in a valley between the Carosello 3000 and Mottolino mountains, this is a go-to resort for family skiing. From moving carpets at the bottom of most ski lifts, to childcare next to base-station gondolas, and restaurants with staff looking after kids, it ticks all the boxes. There are good ski schools and an abundance of blue runs to take kids on and enjoy amazing views. After a full day of fun skiing in kids' zones on blue runs, you can enjoy authentic Italian cuisine in restaurants scattered across the village. [livigno.eu](#)



PHOTO T LOUBEREVAL THORENS

▲ Superb ski schools and secret trails in Whistler. What's not to love?

WHISTLER BLACKCOMB, CANADA

Nickie Mabey, founder of Mabey Ski

There is an endless amount of family friendly activities, both on the mountain and off. Whistler Blackcomb has one of the best kids' snow schools in North America, and has dedicated family zones with secret trails, enchanted forests, and hidden tree forts to explore. Aside from skiing, there's tubing, ice skating, light shows, and more adventurous activities such as dog sledding and snow mobiling. One of my favourite memories from here is snowmobiling up to a remote cabin for an authentic Canadian breakfast.

There are plenty of family friendly restaurants too, and ski-in/ski-out hotels making pre- and post-ski routines much smoother. [whistlerblackcomb.com](#)

VAL THORENS, FRANCE

Robert Dixon, Marketing Manager at Skiworld

It's the highest ski resort in Europe, meaning you are never going to be disappointed due to lack of snow. Many properties are also ski-in/ski-out, which minimises the whinging factor to and from the slopes.

My children are teens now and our family has a great variation of ability levels, so having access to the Three Valleys means everyone can find what they want. Also, with so many ski lifts, the queues are never too bad, even at February half-term. Plus, there's the highest zip-line in the world (at 3,230m)! [valthorens.com](#)

◀ Freeski fun in Verbier (far left) and Val Thorens: home to the world's highest zip-line