



## Ski & Snowboard News From Around the World

### Ski/board in the desert? Visit Dubai

Planning a trip to Dubai anytime soon? Be sure and take your skis or snowboard.

Even though this desert city on the Arabian Gulf in the United Arab Emirates boasts sand and not snow, that will all change soon.

Ski Dubai, an indoor ski resort, is under construction as part of the Mall of the Emirates, the largest mall complex in the world outside of North America.

The ski complex will take up 22,500 square meters, with five slopes of varying difficulty levels and steepness. The longest run will be 400 meters with a vertical drop of over 60 meters. All the slopes will be covered with man-made snow year-round.

"Our facility is specially designed as a massive cold box," said a Ski Dubai representative.

"The walls have numerous levels of insulation and the roof is five meters higher than the ceiling providing very efficient insulation. This makes Ski Dubai one of the best refrigerators in the world.

"We have 23 blast coolers (air conditioner type machines) that chill the air and maintain a temperature of -1c during operating hours. There are also kilometers of glycol tubing running through the floor (similar to the back of your refrigerator) that chills the snow, keeping the base of the snow solid. Thirty tons of fresh snow is made daily to cover the base."

Ski Dubai will also have a 3,000 square meter snow park, making it the largest indoor snow park in the world, a freestyle park, and a 90-meter long quarter-pipe for skiers and boarders to test their skills on.

The snow park will include a Snow Cavern for the kids to play in.

Ski Dubai will have everything a regular ski resort would have, including retail and rental shops, ski/board lessons and several cafe-style restaurants.

For more information and photos, visit [www.skidubai.ae](http://www.skidubai.ae).

### St. Anton on tap for trip in March 2006

Skiers and boarders (and even non-skiers/boarders) can sign up for the trip of a lifetime when the Winterset Ski Club - part of Alpine Adventures - travels to St. Anton, Austria on Mar. 10, 2006.

Want to know more about skiing and boarding in St. Anton? Read on.

Like every other resort - well, in fact like the whole sport of skiing, this group of ski areas is adapting and evolving.

It moves and improves with the times.

Although this evolution is both unstoppable and good for the resort, there will be some who will swear the resort is "not what it used to be."

You see, this area of The Arlberg has long been thought of as the "serious skiers" resort, and almost since time began (as far as skiers were concerned) it attracted those who awoke at the crack of dawn in search of the "steep and the deep."

Hard ski, hard party was and still is the name of the game. And these loyal, and welcomed skiers were largely responsible for both St. Anton's formidable reputation as a ski resort, as well as the development of one of the most awesome après ski line-ups in the Alps.

Great. And more power to them.

However, many lost sight of the fact that, in order to survive and prosper, any great resort has got to attract a wider base of skier, and must market to the beginner, the families well as the ever-aging ski population.

And let's face it. This section of the Arlberg has always had the facilities to attract and please all comers, it was just that its "bad boy of the Alps" reputation preceded it.

This marketing is paying off, and more and more less serious skiers, including families and beginners are enjoying all St. Anton has to offer.

However, some things never change. St. Anton still draws and still delights in the attentions of the serious skier.

Late November the annual migration to the powder mecca begins, and there is no let up until after Easter. An early local pioneer, Hannes Schneider, developed ski instruction methods that are not all that different than those we know today, and as the progress of St. Anton went over the years, so too did the progress in the sport world wide.

St. Anton is a leader in the



Photos courtesy of Ski Dubai

Skiers and boarders visiting Dubai in the United Arab Emirates will soon be able to take to the snow as Ski Dubai opens in the Mall of the Emirates. Above, an artists rendering shows what the indoor ski area will look like. Below, the project nears completion. The city is also building life-size replicas of famous buildings like the Eiffel Tower and Pyramid of Giza, the world's tallest tower, and an underwater hotel.



skiing business.

Much of St. Anton's following is largely made up of younger "serious" skiers who dearly love the challenge presented by the resort.

For the skiing here can be very stiff indeed. Names like the Valluga, the Tanzboden and the Kapall will be familiar with "clued in" skiers.

And the opportunity for "off piste" or powder skiing here is legendary.

A look at some of the wild places showing fresh ski tracks will bear this out. But no resort can live by challenge alone. A good resort must provide ski terrain for all standards of skiers. A good resort must provide easy access at different levels so beginners can be

assured of decent snow to make their mistakes on.

A good resort must feature well groomed intermediate grade slopes, so not-so-proficient skiers can feel and look a bit more proficient. More stylish. More confident. This St. Anton provides.

Then you have the bonus of the other resorts in the immediate vicinity on the same lift pass.

St. Christoph is one such entry just a little ways up on the Arlberg pass.

This much smaller and much quieter resort, has immediate access into the mainstream of skiing in the area, and allows those looking for the opportunity to get away from it all, in style.

The little resort of Stuben offers that elusive special Austrian resort atmosphere that is coveted by so many winter holiday makers.

It too has a lift system that is immediately connected into the St. Anton network.

Skiers based in Stuben can enjoy skiing almost directly above the resort via the Albona lift system, and use it as an entry point into the main skiing areas.

If that's not enough to satisfy you - top it all off with Lech and Zürs on the same lift pass (but not interconnected by ski lifts) and you have got a major league ski area for major and minor league skiers.

Winterset's trip to St. Anton, Austria will take place Mar. 10-19, 2006, with an extended stay option through Mar. 23.

For more information, visit [www.HitTheSlopes.org](http://www.HitTheSlopes.org), or call (916) 737-SNOW.

### New ski mag debuts in China Reported by Natives.co.uk

While the Chinese ski industry is still very young, progress is being made. Large ski areas, new boarding events, plans for more resorts, indoor snow fields - the speed at which the market is growing is incredible. China is rapidly becoming a big part of the snowsports industry.

The latest news is that the first ski and snowboard magazine is in the cards to be launched. Seven issues a year of "Speed Snowboard" have been scheduled to be published this season.



Photo © Tourist Association St. Anton am Arlberg

A gondola carries skiers high up the mountain at one of the resorts in St. Anton, Austria.