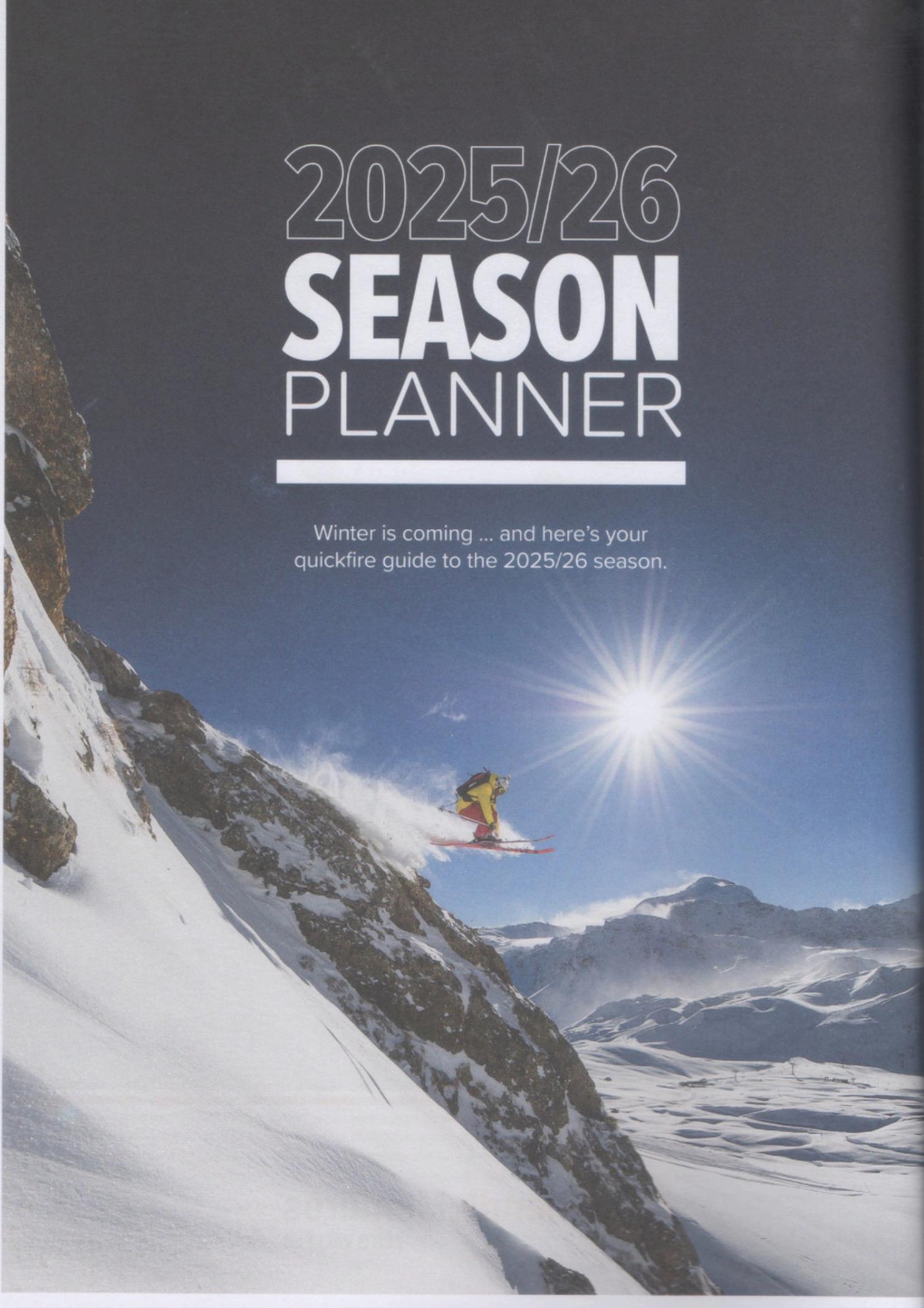


# 2025/26 SEASON PLANNER

Winter is coming ... and here's your quickfire guide to the 2025/26 season.



## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SKIING

With Christmas and New Year falling on Thursdays (New Year's Day in 2026), weekend travel allows time to settle in and recover. The peak holiday period runs 20 December to 3 January, with busy slopes and high prices. For quieter resorts and better deals, consider the week of 13 December – UK private schools break then, and prices can be half that of New Year. Snow-sure resorts like Tignes and Val Thorens are already seeing strong demand.

## DON'T WAIT TO BOOK

"One of the strongest trends we have seen in the last four decades is skiers' willingness to book a year or more in advance. Many of our clients rebook shortly after returning from their ski holiday, and we are seeing strong demand for Christmas and New Year 2025, and other high season dates," says ski holiday chalet company Ski Beat's Laura Hazell.

## BE READY FOR BIOMETRICS

As was mooted last winter but didn't happen, it looks like this season, thanks to Brexit, UK travellers entering the EU must complete biometric registration – fingerprints and facial scans – via booths

or handheld devices, so that may well cause delays. However, on the upside, once done, it should mean a return to the e-gate access we lost with Brexit for future trips. Implementation may vary depending on which place you enter the EU, as the rollout will continue through the season to 10 April 2026. Registration is free but mandatory.

## FEB HALF-TERM

European holidays begin 7 February, with French school breaks spanning four weeks. The busiest period will be 21–28 February, when Paris joins the mix. UK half-term falls on 14–21 February, overlapping with Dutch and Belgian holidays – and availability is already tight. "Book ASAP to secure your trip – prices may rise as demand builds," says Xavier Schouler of Peak Retreats. Expect limited travel and accommodation options if you delay, and busy slopes regardless.

## WEEK OF 21 MARCH 2026 THE BEST OF SEASON?

If you're flexible on travel dates, tour operators are highlighting the week from 21 March as potentially this season's best-value week. Not only should you get low prices before Easter crowds arrive but it's also, potentially, timed at the "sweet spot", when the season's snowfall should be at its

deepest before the spring thaw sets in, and warmer and lighter than mid-winter so more terrain should be open and stay open later in the day. Slopes should also be quieter during the late-season lull.

"The sweet spot between good snow and low prices has always been January, but the big change this year is the bargain prices mid to late March, with the week before Easter holidays, starting 21 March, being the cheapest of the whole winter," explains Richard Sinclair of ski holiday agency Sno.

## SPRING

Easter Sunday is a fortnight earlier next year, on 5 April, meaning schools break up a week earlier with the Easter weekend in the middle rather than the end of the holidays, and the chances of better snow conditions are higher. There's also a greater choice of resorts staying open to Easter. With nearly all UK schools off from 28 March, demand is reported to be soaring for that week. French holidays begin later, on Easter weekend itself, and are staggered – meaning 28 March is low season in France, ideal for British skiers. Belgian holidays also start then but have minimal impact. Snow conditions are typically excellent, prices are low and top French resorts like Val Thorens and Tignes stay open into May, offering the chance for sunny, late-season skiing in lighter gear.