

Forbes

Heli-Ski Safari in the Alps



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Travel

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Heli-skiing on the Ultimate Heli-Ski Safari LEO TRIPPI

Anyone who's taken to the skies to go heli-skiing knows how exhilarating it can be. It's the ultimate ski day, with a helicopter drop off on a wild mountain slope that is otherwise unreachable, followed by a descent through untrammelled powder. While solid intermediates can handle some of the runs, heli-skiing is marked by runs that are often very long, very challenging and very steep. At the end of the descent, you get picked up by a helicopter to do it again — and again. Not unlike polo and Formula One racing, it helps to have very deep pockets if you get hooked.

Now Leo Trippi, a Swiss-based company that has been arranging luxury ski vacations to the Alps for more than a century, is offering the Ultimate Heli-Ski Safari for those who can't go through winter without their luxury heli-trip. This is a 10-day cross-border, deep-powder adventure in Switzerland, Italy and France that's clearly aimed at the big dogs.



At the Chedi, Andermatt LEO TRIPPI

Brand new for the 2019/20 ski season, the itinerary takes in some of the most iconic resorts in the Swiss Alps, from St Moritz, the birthplace of winter sports, to Glacier 3000, the highest slopes of the Vaud Alps. Amazing descents and glacier skiing are promised, in the company of world-class ski guides. Accommodations include multiple night stays at such lauded five star accommodations as the Carlton Hotel in St. Moritz, the Chedi in Andermatt, the Omnia in Zermatt and Chalet Renee in Crans Montana.

Two days of warm up skiing in St Moritz, on the pistes of Corvatsch and Corviglia, is followed by a day of dramatic off-piste heli-skiing on the glacier at Hufifirn. Then it's off to Andermatt, taking advantage of new lifts that link it to the high plateau at Oberalp and Dieni. They make the SkiArena Andermatt-Sedrun the largest ski area in central Switzerland. Experts will want to test themselves on the Bernhard Russi black run and legendary Giraffe and Geissberg off-piste routes.



on the Ultimate Hel-Ski Safari in the Alps LEO TRIPPI

In Zermatt, there is more heli-skiing at the Glacier Paradise ski area, before crossing over into Italy for lunch, followed by an afternoon of skiing in Cervinia. The next day there is more skiing in Zermatt, ideally off piste from the Sunnegga-Rothorn, Gornergrat-Stockhorn, Schwarzsee areas as well as the Matterhorn glacier.

Guests depart Zermatt via a helicopter flight and arrive at the top of Verbier ski resort, where they will have access to 410 kilometers' of pistes in Les 4 Vallees. Later on, there's a road transfer to Chalet Renee at Crans Montana, with a stop en-route to sample some of the region's best and most traditional Valais wines at the Clos de Tsampéhro.

At Crans Montana, advanced skiers can take the chairlift to La Toula for a hair raising descent and ski the Piste Nationale, a 12 kilometer run.

On the final morning, a helicopter will transport guests to the top of Glacier 3000 in Villars les Diablerets, which offers more than 112 kilometers of spectacular slopes and scenery. These are the highest slopes in the Vaud Alps, with expert terrain on the challenging Combe d'Audon. The trip ends with an afternoon transfer to Geneva.

The ultimate Heli-Ski Safari starts from CHF 24,000 per person (\$24,483), based on a group of eight skiers. This includes all transfers, helicopter rides via an Airbus Ecureuil B3 helicopter, accommodation, breakfasts, lunches, ski guides, ski passes and ski rental. Rooms are based on two people sharing a combination of grand deluxe/corner suites, in addition to Chalet Renee.

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I have been traveling the world and writing about it for a living for more than three decades, starting with a story for The Washington Post about the sleeping giant tha... **Read More**