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The coolest place on the slopes

If Cosmo invented holidays, Snowbombing would be the blueprint. Fun and filled with famous sexy men, Kate Spicer checks out the latest place to bag a bloke



It's a holiday with specs appeal...



Super-fun for Superwomen (and men...)



Snowbombing is an alpine music festival in Mayrhofen, Austria, that mixes cool and hardcore partying within the more normally cheesy and wholesome environment of the ski resort. Not surprisingly, guys love it, which, if you're a girl, means there are heaps of happy guys to bounce around with. The words 'rich pickings' come to mind.

I've had two hours' sleep and am now crashing down a red run with a bunch of

DJs, including Dave Beer of legendary Leeds club Back To Basics. Dave is probably the most famous party animal in the history of British raving, and he's not a bad snowboarder either. We pass beginner classes packed with snow virgins dressed as penguins, bananas and beer bottles. Superman and a man dressed in drag whistle by. Feeling a little bit shy, I'm glad I've got some of snowbombing's weirder sights to talk about

because it's going to be a long time before I'm in such excellent male company again.

The original idea of the first Snowbombing event - 10 years ago - was to escape the dodgy disco sounds of the ski-resort nightclub, and my, the organisers certainly manage to do that. Imagine 4,500 committed fun lovers >

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taking over an already pretty cool ski resort with 150km of runs, and doing it mostly in fancy dress. Snowbombing features parties up mountains by day and then, once the last lift has dropped everyone into town, the all-night parties begin. To say these are held in special locations would be an understatement. Big ol' raves with brilliant DJs kick off in the middle of forests, in closed-off tunnels and – my personal favourite – in a giant igloo at the top of a mountain. It doesn't take a hedonism rocket scientist to work out this is one special party. And it goes on for a week.

Despite the lack of sleep, I come off the mountain feeling weirdly OK. Nothing removes a hangover like gulps of the Evian-clean air of the mountain, spring sun and bursts of adrenaline as you navigate the slopes. I've packed a small but clever makeup bag and my ski look is loads of smudgy black eyeliner, a Hermès scarf and some skinny Peak Performance ski wear.

By midweek, an awful lot of people aren't doing much more than 'Chairliftin', as Mike Cuban of the Cuban Brothers calls it, meaning you go up the mountain on a chairlift and not much else. So every day the number of guys to go snowboarding with reduces down to a cool pool of committed types. Full of post-mountain beans, walking through the village I bump into a friend who is sitting with Mr Hudson, who is loose tongued about Kanye West's party habits (all or nothing apparently). The Cuban Brothers are in constant evidence: if you've never seen someone snowboard in a



It's not your average winter-sports scene



2 Many DJs gig at 2009's Forest Party



Kate at the Arctic Disco

posing pouch before or watched Dizzee's crew slithering about on a mountain, then Snowbombing's the place to see it. And while the naked sauna scene might seem weird at the start of the week, by the end it's completely normal.

Of all the parties and festivals I've been to, I can think of none that's as friendly as this, or where the talent is so mixed in and accessible to all – there is no backstage. I

spend the igloo party with Madness's manager and his friends. (When I come home my Facebook friends increase by about 50.) Later that night we end up drinking beers with Krafty Kuts and the incredible Soul Of Man. And when the one-time British snowboard champ Scott Nixon drops the Skream remix of La Roux's *In For The Kill*, the dancefloor full of fit blokes and a few lucky girls goes crazy. The next morning at breakfast I sit next to Grandmaster Flash and his crew, who have two Austrian girls in tow. How do you say, 'Got lucky' in Austrian?

Snowbombing is without doubt the most hedonistic and extraordinary way to hit the slopes and meet super-fit guys I have ever encountered (and I've done a few, believe me). This is the maddest party I have ever been to. I will be back this April for sure.

BOOK IT

For more info, go to www.snowbombing.com. Snowbombing 2010, 5-10 April, prices from £279 to £399 depending on accommodation. Confirmed artists include Friendly Fires, The Enemy, Disco Bloodbath, Jade Jagger's Jezebel, Skream and Plump DJs. ☺

Other holiday HOT SPOTS

Skiing and snowboarding not really your thing? There are plenty of other places filled with sexy men...

Gilles Peterson's Worldwide festival, in Sète, south of France

A four-day music extravaganza, with the highlight (in our minds) being the final 16-hour beach party on Sète's private beach. Go, flirt, enjoy. (And you will). 8-11 July. www.worldwidefestival.com

The Relentless Boardmasters festival, Fistral Beach, Newquay, Cornwall

Five days of live music, surfing competitions and partying. Plus ripped surf dudes. 4-8 August. www.relentlessboardmasters.com

Ibiza Opening Party week

Always a wild time as the hedonistic island gets its groove back. As we go to press, most dates are still to be confirmed, but Wonderland at the mighty Eden is set for 26 June. www.loveibiza.net



Ibiza is a renowned party island

COSMOLIVES TRAVEL

