

askjo YOUR AGONY AUNT FOR THE ALPS



Q I filled in an application and sent my CV in to a couple of people and I haven't heard anything back. Should I just give up?

A Not at all! You're going to have to do some hard graft to get your place in a ski resort. So many jobs are really popular such as drivers, bar staff, guides and reps. Be persistent. Also make sure that your CV is relevant to the job you are applying for and keep it short - two pages max. Read through the job description and fill in all the questions asked on the application form. Get all the important stuff out there and you will stand out from the crowd.

Q I have been skiing for quite a number of years, but have never spent anytime in a park. I always seem intimidated. What's the general vibe of people when you are trying to learn rails, grabs, boxes etc? I don't want to be the amateur who brings everyone down cos' I don't know the first thing about anything!

A Our best advice is...Just go for it! It can seem daunting and embarrassing if you mess up but most people there are up for helping you out. It is handy if you can get some mates who are a bit better or enthusiastic to learn too, because you can always push yourself then or ask for help. Most importantly make sure you don't snake people (cut them up), or stand in the way of the kickers, blocks or rails - that will upset people.

Whatever you do, know your limits, start small and gradually build things up. Make sure you have the right protective gear, starting off with a helmet. You might also want to look into things like back protectors and crucial for those starting out, bum pads. For more info and to buy online check...

tinylink.com/?gmvgaxgasV

Q I need your help! I'm an ex-season worker and obsessed with all things snow. Now I'm back in Blighty, in a 'sensible job', and I've got myself a new

TOP TIPS FOR GARLIC HATERS

I make an awesome garlic chicken, but find that I still reek when I head to the pub. Without using bleach or other strong chemicals, how does one get rid of the smell of garlic off one's fingers?

Ah, the eternal problem for all cooking season workers. Garlic can be a key ingredient in many recipes but what to do about the smell?

First you could look at total prevention. Gloves are a great buy, not only for smell prevention but also for protection against water, starch etc (especially if you suffer from eczema).

I'm sure there is an old wives' tale out there that says to rub lemon on your hands to counteract the smell. But then you might smell like a lemon? Another one of my chef mates swears by covering their fingers in salt straight after dealing with said garlic and rubbing it in. Then rinse your hands in cold water. Alternatively you could try lemon and salt.

fella. Herein lies the problem. HE HAS ONLY EVER DONE ONE WEEK SKIING! We're going to attempt our first 'love ski' but I'm stumped on places to go.

A Can you ever truly love a punter? We know what we would do. Book a holiday to my ideal location, stick him into lessons and see him in the evening for a vin chaud. However, that's us. We'd say if you up for doing it cheap and cheerful, try getting a last minute self catering deal with one of the bigger tour ops (and, hey, he can have your dinner on the table when you get in knackered from hitting that sweet powder). Above all, keep encouraging him - he may well be as good as you one day!

Q Just wondered if you could give me any advice/reassurance. I'm 34 and have just decided to take a career break, or possibly change career entirely. I know many season workers are taking gap years after uni or are couples, so am I too old?

A No way! 34? You're still a spring chick. It's never too late and you're never too old to drop everything and start living the dream.

Q Is there anything similar to a chalet host job you can do at a beach resort?

A Loads of the winter tour ops also run summer seasons too so it may be possible to head for the beach working for them. Although if you really wanted to stay as a chalet host, you could head back to the mountains - summer in the 'winter' resorts can be fab, plus you've the added bonus of riding the glacier in some resorts.

After a season slaving away in the kitchen you might fancy something different like repping, or if you have the qualifications you could try instructing in watersports. Check out www.resortjobs.co.uk for more info and to apply for jobs online.

Q I have just spent 5 months catching a chairlift to work, going out every night and living in snow-covered mountain village. How do I adjust to working in an office in a city?

A It's all about altitude, I mean attitude! The best thing about doing a season is the memories. The times that made you want to quit, the guests that shouted at you in the airport or the days that the lack of snow or severity of the hangover prevented you from going up the mountain. All of these pale into a distant memory and you are left with only the warm fuzziness feeling that only a winter season can induce.

The memories of drinking the night before change-over day till there's no point going to bed, watching the video when you finally pulled that 360, the friends you made that you swore you wouldn't ever lose touch with.

Never fear, Natives is here for you with season workers parties galore, including the reunion in May. Meanwhile get in touch with those mates using MyNatives.co.uk, find out where they're going this season and get yourself organised for the next one at www.natives.co.uk.

If you're resigned to settling down in a 'proper' job and it feels like there's no light at the end of the tunnel, ring your mates and organise your next snow holiday. Book it now and it will definitely give you something to focus on and get you through the dark months of winter in the UK. 🇬🇧

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Join us for the remainder of this season or organise your place with us for next year. We have management roles, chalet and cooking jobs and positions with our professional child care team.



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