

EXCLUSIVE

Skeleton on the Mountain

The Chilling Tale Behind the Discovery of Reinhold Messner's Lost Brother

Outside

Kelly Slater

Surfing's Coolest Champ on the Art of Making a Comeback

Hallowed By The Biceps
Inside the Body by God Fitness Empire

+50 Ways to Live Large

- #18 Start Dye in the Caribbeean
- #27 Make the Perfect Morning
- #38 Ride the Four de France

PLUS: FITNESS EXTRA
15 Essential Tips—
Get in the Best Shape Ever

The Osbournes Take El Cap • Winter Goes Hip-Hop
• B.C. Bunny Ski the Untracked Slopes

»COST: US\$575-\$700 PER PERSON PER DAY, INCLUDING MEALS
 »SWEETEST STASH: GO AIRBORNE AT LUNCH LAKE, WHICH OFFERS MULTIPLE CLIFFS WITH PERFECT LONG, STEEP RUNOUTS
 »CONTACT: 250-352-0006, WWW.BALDFACE.NET

Retallack Resort and Alpine Adventures

Seth Morrison and fellow freeskiier Dan Treadway filmed segments for a Poorboys Productions ski film in Retallack's high-alpine powder bowls last January. With 3,500-foot descents that take you through three different climate zones and more open-bowl skiing than most operators deliver near Nelson, Retallack is for devotees of steep and deep. The lodge, which sleeps 24, is powered strictly by its own hydroelectric plant, so the three-story fireplace comes in handy on cold nights—as do the heavy German chicken-fried steak and green beans, fuel for the next day, when you'll be arcing two-foot-deep turns down 30-degree faces.

»WHERE: 62 MILES NORTHWEST OF NELSON OFF PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY 31A

»COST: US\$443 PER PERSON PER DAY, INCLUDING MEALS

»SWEETEST STASH: BIG WOODY, A FOREST OF 100-FOOT CEDARS

»CONTACT: 800-330-1433, WWW.RETALLACK.COM

Valhalla Powdercats

Valhalla is one of very few single-day skiing options near Nelson, which makes it perfect for those who want an extra powder shot after skiing the groomers of nearby Red Resort or Whitewater Winter Resort. And with seasoned guides like Chris Moyle, who does harrowing heli-rescues in his spare time, you'll feel right at home among the 50,000 acres of steep fluted stashes, elegant rolling bowls, and hike-up summits.

»WHERE: STAY AT HISTORIC NELSON LANDMARK THE HUME HOTEL (DOUBLES, \$75; 250-352-5331, WWW.HUMEHOTEL.COM) AND MEET A SHUTTLE WEST OF TOWN FOR THE 30-MINUTE DRIVE TO THE SNOWCAT

»COST: US\$333 PER PERSON PER DAY (CAT SKIING ONLY)

»SWEETEST STASH: IF YOU'VE GOT A STRONG STOMACH AND LIKE BIG DROPS, MAGIC NOSE IS EXCITINGLY VERTICAL, WITH NO OPTION BUT TO GO BIG

»CONTACT: 888-352-7656, WWW.VALHALLAPOW.COM

AIR CANADA: DAILY TAKEOFFS FROM NELSON, B.C.



Sleeping with Giants

Now you can explore Easter Island's famed stone statues in style



LUXURY HAS FINALLY LANDED on one of the earth's most isolated spots. With the recent introduction of Casas Rapa Nui, on Easter Island—a 64-square-mile volcanic speck midway between Chile and Tahiti in the South Pacific—visitors can finally enjoy this outpost in upscale digs. Run by Explora, well known for its beautiful lodges in Chile's Torres del Paine National Park and the Atacama Desert, Casas Rapa Nui uses the same winning formula of adventure by day (Easter Island guests explore hundreds of the 15-ton *moai* statues that the island is famous for) and pisco sours and plush down comforters by night.

The lodge has nine spacious rooms with rattan-and-wood furnishings, and its dining room and adjacent bar serve up fresh-caught swordfish and tuna accompanied by ever flowing Chilean wine. But all this ambience is just a stopgap: By 2007, Explora will have completed a 30-room lodge with a wellness area, swimming pool, and terrace restaurant offering South Pacific views. The real reason to go, of course, is to investigate the stone monoliths and the vanished culture that built them. Explora organizes a dozen guided excursions, like trekking along cliffs honeycombed with abandoned dwellings and caves, biking the trails hugging the island's southern coast, and swimming at the sandy beach where Captain James Cook once waded ashore. After a few days of soaking up the island's mysterious vibe, when your tattooed local guide tells you that his ancestors levitated the statues with nothing but *mana* (Polynesian magic), you just might believe it.

The best time to go is during the carnival atmosphere of the Tapati Rapa Nui Festival, which this year runs February 2 to 18. LAN Airlines (866-435-9526, www.lan.com) flies round-trip to Easter Island from Santiago for about \$700. Three to seven nights at Casas Rapa Nui from \$1,230 per person, all-inclusive based on double occupancy; 011-56-2-2066060, www.explora.com. —JASON STEVENSON