**Chamrousse**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

31

**Intermediate Runs**

18

**Advanced Runs**

8

**Total Runs**

57

**Lifts**

17

**Chairs**

6

**Drags**

10

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Chamrousse is a mid-sized, purpose-built ski resort that’s one of the closest in France to a major city and airport – in its case Grenoble, only 30km (19 miles) away.

Although there has been downhill skiing here since the early years of the sport, Chamrousse really leapt to fame when it became hosted the Alpine events at the 1968 Winter Olympics. These were particularly important to the French as local boy Jean-Claude KIlly won three gold medals, rocketing him to worldwide fame – the giant ski area that links Tignes and Val d’Isere is named after him.

Since the Grenoble Olympics, now nearly 50 years ago, Chamrousse has established itself as a low-key, low-budget, family-friendly destination and a weekend snow fix provider to the nearby city’s residents. Most accommodation is provided in apartment complexes and there’s a modest selection of shops and restaurants.

There are two main resort bases at Chamrousse 1650 (Recoin) and Chamrousse 1750 (Roche Béranger), which are linked by ski slopes, forests tracks and an efficient bus service. The slopes extend above and below the resort with spectacular 360-degree views from the highest point, Croix de Chamrousse at 2,250m (7,382ft).

**Location**

Chamrousse is located at the southern end of the Belledonne mountain range, 30km (20 miles) away from Grenoble. The resort is in the Isère region of France, part of the southern French Alps.

**Website**

http://www.chamrousse.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.chamrousse.com/ski-map.html

**Hit The Slopes**

Chamrousse’s southerly location and south and west facing slopes would not usually provide the best combination for snow cover; but the resort’s 100-plus years of skiing has proven it to be a relatively reliable destination. This has also been enhanced in recent years with increased investment in snowmaking equipment.

The 90km (56 miles) of runs here provide something for all ability levels, from well thought-out beginner runs to the challenges of the Olympic men’s downhill course. But much of the terrain is composed of glorious wide, fast, intermediate and sunny slopes perfect for day-long cruising.

Chamrousse is a great choice for beginners with its easy-to-ride lifts and convenient slopeside access to facilities. The resort also affords good value for money with its ‘mini-area’ ski pass providing access to key, easy trails and the four drag lifts and one chair lift that serve them.

For advanced skiers, the resort’s greatest challenge is the Casserousse couloir, with its 850m (2789ft) vertical descent. Accomplished skiers can test their avalanche awareness skills in Chamrousse’s ARVA Park at the top of the slopes, while there’s also night skiing on the floodlit Les Gaboureaux run.

Boarders and freestyle skiers will enjoy the resort’s Sunset Park in Chamrousse 1750, which contains a series of big airs and many rails, including rainbow and C-boxes. There are also shred line and crossline courses with a series of woops and banks. For younger riders, the Kids’ Park offers mini boardercross, slopestyle, tables and a speed skiing course. A Sunset ski pass is available for skiers and boarders who only want to use the park, giving unlimited access to the required Bachat Bouloud chairlift for less than the cost of a regular day ticket.

Those who prefer to take things at a slower pace will love the 40km (25 miles) of cross-country tracks for all ability levels in the Nordic area.

**Chamrousse**

**Resort**

1650

**Base**

1450

**Top**

2250

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There are more off the slope activities at Chamrousse than your average ski resort, particularly when it comes to outdoor pursuits. Among the variety of options are: snowmobiling, paragliding, dog sledding, ice diving  or driving on one of two ice circuits at the resort; while Chamrousse’s Nordic area has hiking and snowshoeing trails. Chamrousse 1650 is home to an ice skating rink and a bag jump, while the village puts on night-time sledging every day – reservation is required (tel: +33 6 2724 3406).

In terms of indoor entertainment options, Chamrousse has a cinema and library, which visitors can join for the week. For a spot of pampering, try one of the local spas, which have a full range of treatments available.

**Family Fun**

Chamrousse is a relaxed and affordable resort for families, with the added bonus of most facilities being easily accessible.

Les Marmots (tel: +33 4 7689 9614) non-ski nursery can look after children from as young as three months old to six years. Additionally, the French Ski School (tel: +33 4 7689 9425; [www.esf-chamrousse.com.fr](http://www.esf-chamrousse.com.fr)) offers care with ski lessons tailored to the child’s age and ability, with the Piou Piou Club for those under-six and a separate grouping for six to 13 year-olds.

Among the non-ski activities for children is kids-only sledging and dog sledging.

**Retail Therapy**

Chamrousse has a selection of about 20 shops spread across the base villages; about half of these are snow sports shops, while there are also several food outlets in each village. A market is held in the resort every Tuesday, which alternates between Chamrousse 1650 and Chamrousse 1750.

Although not a resort for shopaholics, there are some nice souvenir outlets. Le Chalet (tel: +33 4 7601 1984) supplies shoppers with crêpes, waffles and hot drinks while they browse the locally made products, including everything from t-shirts to home decoration.

For a haircut experience with a difference, try L'esprit Chalet Karine Coiffure (tel: +33 4 7689 9353), which combines a lovely gift shop with a unisex hairdressing salon.

**Splashing Out**

Paragliding is a popular activity at Chamrousse, where participants fly high above the slopes suspended below a parascending sail, accompanied by an instructor. The activity is offered by the Corole paragliding school (tel: +33 4 7689 9366) and is available to all levels, from beginner to the already proficient.

**Apres Ski**

Après-ski in Chamrousse is generally limited to restaurants and low-key bars, but there are a handful of places open until late. Among the best, L'Iceberg Café (478 avenue du Père Tasse – beneath the shopping centre at Chamrousse 1750) is open until 0300 and provides pool tables, cocktails and a VIP lounge.

For a slightly more sophisticated evening L'i-Glou (tel: +33 4 7651 1696; [www.liglou-chamrousse.fr](http://www.liglou-chamrousse.fr)) is a well regarded wine bar with more than 100 vintages to choose from, it’s also one of the best restaurants in town.

The resort organises a range of regular night-time activities, including toboggan runs from the top of the slopes at the start of the evening, and dance parties at the ice rink and cinema.

**Eating Out**

There are about 30 places to eat in and around Chamrousse, the majority of which are family-run establishments specialising in mountain favourites such as fondue, raclette, crêpes and the omnipresent pizza. Many have large, outdoor terraced dining areas; such is the resort’s reputation for sunshine – these are particularly popular towards the end of the season.

Among the more intimate locations, Le Chalet des Neiges (tel: +33 4 7659 3982) serves traditional fare amidst a reproduction of an old wooden chalet and is regarded by many as the best in the resort. La Pierre Chaude (tel: +33 4 7689 9241; [www.pierre-chaude.com](http://www.pierre-chaude.com)) has a good reputation for its grilled meat dishes and mountain specialities. For crêpes, home-made chocolate and Breton draft cider, try Le Sorbier (tel: +33 4 7651 0965).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Grenoble-Isere Airport (GNB); Chambéry Airport (CMF); Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport (LYS).

Distance to resort: 80km (50 miles); 90km (57 miles); 125km (78 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 20 minutes; 1 hour 30 minutes; 1 hour 50 minutes.

**Getting Around**

A free shuttle bus links the different parts of the resort from approximately 0800 to 2300, so there is little need for a car or taxi. The night bus allows resort guests to stay out later to experience the various entertainment and dining options on offer.

**Hotels**

The majority of accommodation in Chamrousse is in the form of apartments; however, there are some basic hotels, including some good family options. The highest graded property in the resort is currently three stars.

**L'Auberge du Virage**

This hotel is located 300m (328 yards) from the slopes and offers pleasant views of the valley. Facilities include a bar, open fireplace and a south-facing terrace.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

10 Rue de la Cembraie

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Chamrousse 38410

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38410

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7689 9063.

**Website**

http://www.aubergeduvirage.com

**Hotel la Datcha**

This basic 100-room 2-star hotel is located 400m (437 yards) from the ski lifts and 600m (656 yards) from the town.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

84 Rue des Biolles

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Chamrousse 38410

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38410

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7689 9140.

**Website**

http://www.hotelladatcha.com

**L'Ecrin des Neiges**

A modern 3-star slopeside residence with apartment-style accommodation, L'Ecrin des Neiges has a small swimming pool and sauna area.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Roche Béranger

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Chamrousse 38410

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38410

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 8 2595 0202.

**Website**

http://monalisa.fr

**Auberge de Jeunesse de Chamrousse**

A basic hostel quite close to the maimn gondola, amenities at the Auberge de Jeunesse de Chamrousse include a sauna, hot tub and free Wi-Fi.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

20, rue des Alisiers

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Chamrousse 38410

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38410

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7689 9131.

**Website**

http:// www.auberge-chamrousse.com

**Les Residences-Le Recoin**

A selection of self catering apartment complexes dotted around the resort centre, all of Les Residences-Le Recoin’s accommodation is within a few hundred metres of the resort centre and slopes.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

49 Rue des Gentianes

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Chamrousse 38410

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38410

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 1 5332 8200.

**Website**

www.les-balcons-de-recoin.fr

**Les Domaines de l'Arselle**

The Les Domaines de l’Arselle is a large and popular, three storey, slopeside apartment complex, situated close to chairlifts. The hotel benefits from an on-site restaurant and outdoor swimming pool.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Lieu-dit Bachat Bouloud,

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Chamrousse 38410

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38410

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7615 1530.

**Website**

www.mvacances.com