**Pas de la Casa**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

63

**Intermediate Runs**

30

**Advanced Runs**

25

**Total Runs**

118

**Lifts**

65

**Chairs**

33

**Drags**

28

**Gondola Cable Cars**

4

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

2.5m (8.3ft).

**Overview**

The combination of skiing at a snowsure altitude and duty-free shopping has made Pas de la Casa a popular ski destination throughout its 55-year history.

Its proximity to France and a drag lift and ski run allows visitors from across the border to ski on Andorran slopes with relative ease. In recent years, however, this link has aided the movement of people heading out of Andorra for lower-priced goods and services in France, rather than vice versa.

In 2004, Pas de la Casa ski resort merged with Soldeu to form the giant Grandvalira area, the largest in the Pyrenees and one of the world's 50 largest resorts, with more than 200km (124 miles) of pistes linked by a state-of-the-art high-speed lift network.

Today, Pas de la Casa is officially just another part of Grandvalira and, despite a gradual move upmarket, it maintains its strong independent identity and reputation as a base for hardcore snow sports fans and après-ski devotees; perhaps more than any other Andorran ski village.

**Location**

Pas de la Casa ski resort is part of the Grandvalira ski area, which takes up much of the northeastern region of the small principality of Andorra. Andorra is sandwiched between Spain to the west and France to the east in the Pyrenees mountains, and is about 160km (100 miles) north of the Mediterranean Sea.

**Website**

http://www.grandvalira.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.grandvalira.com/en/interactive-map-grandvalira

**Hit The Slopes**

Pas de la Casa has an excellent English-speaking ski school and wide, sunny slopes on which to learn; so it's a good choice for beginners. Once those first turns have been mastered, there are 21 very easy green runs on which to totter around. The largely easy-to-ride high-speed detachable chairlifts or walk-in gondolas take beginner skiers back up the slopes without needing to master the dreaded drag lift too early on.

About two-thirds of Grandvalira's skiing is on wide, fast blues and reds above the treeline, which are perfect for confident intermediates.

Experts, meanwhile, have 25 blacks, including the toughest run, the 2km-long (1.2 miles) Avet No Fifteem. Accomplished skiers can also try heli-skiing, or an off-piste powder course with the ski school when snow conditions are right.

Despite its southerly latitude, the high altitude of the Grandvalira ski area, its mostly north-facing slopes, and its extensive snowmaking have been proven to provide snow cover over much of the terrain even in poor snow years. The ski season in Pas de la Casa typically runs from early December until late April.

Grandvalira and the other Andorran ski area, Vallnord (which covers three resort bases at two other ski areas), participate in the Ski Andorra lift pass, which is valid at any ski area in the principality.

**Pas de la Casa**

**Resort**

1710

**Base**

1710

**Top**

2640

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Pas de La Casa ski resort has fairly limited facilities beyond snow sports, but there is a leisure centre with an indoor pool and a gym. However, other resorts on the Grandvalira pass, that linked by a bus service, do widen the choice.

Test your skills behind the wheel when ice karting or ice driving on the Grandvalira Circuit, located at Port d'Envalira, five minutes from Pas de la Casa. The circuit is the highest in Europe (2,370m/7,775ft) and is the site for one of the stages of the prestigious Andros Trophy and the Andorran ‘Speed on Ice’ championships.

Canillo, a 20-minute bus ride down towards La Vella, has another sports centre with a small indoor pool, ice rink and squash courts. Other activities here include snowmobiling, snowshoeing and dog sledding. Nearby Encamp also offers a range of on-snow activities; while a large and luxurious spa centre, the Sport Wellness Mountain Spa (tel: 870 510; [www.sportwellness.ad](http://www.sportwellness.ad)), can be found in Soldeu.

**Family Fun**

Pas de la Casa is a friendly resort for families, with very good childcare and ski-school facilities – just be wary that the accommodation does not incorporate a lively late-night bar, as getting children to sleep may be an issue.

The local nursery (tel: 872 920) in Grau Roig accepts children from a year old, while there are additional nurseries in Canillo, El Tartar and Soldeu. The Grandvalira Ski and Snowboard School (tel: 871 920), which has a special snow garden nursery incorporating indoor areas, takes kids from age three.

**Retail Therapy**

Pas de la Casa's growth and success has, in part, been built on retail as well as winter sports. Its location on the French border meant it was the first place for visitors arriving from France to be able to purchase duty-free goods, so it rapidly grew in popularity.

The most widely available duty-free items are tobacco, spirits, electronic goods, music, jewellery, perfumes and cosmetics, designer clothing and photography equipment. These products can be found in a number of shops in Pas de la Casa.

For a wider choice, it’s a 30-minute drive to the province’s capital, La Vella, where there’s a vast range of retail options.

**Splashing Out**

Ease the post-ski aches and pains at the Caldea spa (tel: 800 999; [www.caldea.com](http://www.caldea.com)). For the ultimate in relaxation, choose one of the spa’s two-day packages encompassing various massages and treatments; among the options is the Massages of the World package that includes a Thai massage, Hindu foot massage and a facial ayurvedic massage.

**Apres Ski**

Pas de la Casa has a reputation as *the* top party resort in Andorra, and attracts a largely young crowd who maintain this standard to the full. The action continues around the clock, but the key period is typically from 2300 (when the numerous après-ski bars get going) through to the official closing time of 0300 (0400 for clubs).

Billboard (Carrer Bearn 14) is especially popular with the British and Dutch and plays all types of music through to the early hours. Crack (Carrer de la Solana 20) is also open late at weekends with music ranging from dance to grunge. The Kamikaze Surf Bar (or KBS) (Carrer dels Vaquers 13) has live music and theme nights with a ‘surf' atmosphere until 0300.

**Eating Out**

There are about 50 places to eat in Pas de la Casa ski resort, so there's plenty of choice. The majority of establishments are small, family-run businesses serving affordable pizza or paella and international dishes.

However, those looking for fine-dining restaurants in Pas de la Casa need not be disappointed, as The Marmita in Hotel Grau Roig (tel: 755 556; [www.hotelgrauroig.com](http://www.hotelgrauroig.com)) is highly regarded for its use of fresh, local produce in its culinary creations.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Toulouse-Blagnac Airport (TLS); Barcelona Airport (BCN).

Distance to resort: 160km (100 miles); 186km (116 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours; 3 hours.

**Getting Around**

Most accommodation, ski lifts and facilities in Pas de la Casa are within easy walking distance of each other. A ski bus circulates around the village and between ski area bases throughout Grandvalira. Driving can be difficult due to road overcrowding and limited parking.

**Hotels**

Although not the prettiest resort - accommodation in Pas de la Casa is mainly found in concrete box-style hotels and apartment buildings near the lift base and slopes - there is plenty of choice when it comes to apartments and hotels in Pas de la Casa; and there are also a few chalets.

**Hotel Meta**

Hotel Meta is a slopeside 3-star hotel that's near all of Pas de la Casa's main facilities. On-site parking is available for use by guests, and the hotel features a friendly bar.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Plaça dels Coprínceps 19

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pas de la Casa

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

755 635.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-meta.com

**Font d'Argent**

This slopeside 4-star hotel is the perfect place to unwind with its saunas, hot tubs, steam rooms and massage service.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Carrer de Bearn 20-24

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pas de la Casa

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

739 739.

**Website**

http://www.fontdargent.com

**Hotel Llac Negre**

Hotel Llac Negre provides cheap, cheerful and clean 2-star accommodation with basic facilities and good food.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Carrer de Sant Jordi 43

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pas de la Casa

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

755 025.

**Website**

http://www.hotelpasdelacasa.com