**Meiringen-Hasliberg**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

8

**Intermediate Runs**

13

**Advanced Runs**

2

**Total Runs**

23

**Lifts**

13

**Chairs**

4

**Drags**

4

**Gondola Cable Cars**

5

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

4m (13.1ft).

**Overview**

An area of outstanding natural beauty, Meiringen-Hasliberg ski resort is one of Switzerland’s leading resorts. While some associate Meiringen as the place where Sherlock Holmes fell to his supposed death in a struggle with Professor Moriarty in *The Final Problem*, few realise it’s also claimed to be the home to the meringue. The egg-white-based dessert is believed to have been created here first in the early 17th century by a patisserie chef named Casparini, who originally called the fluffy treat ‘meiringe’ after the town.

The Sherlock Holmes connection abounds throughout Meiringen-Hasliberg ski resort. The Reichenbach Falls, where the tussle ensued, provide a spectacular day trip in the summer months (the funicular up to the waterfall is closed during winter), while a museum housed in the charming English Church is dedicated to the Baker Street-based detective. Holmes’ creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, stayed just yards away in the Parkhotel du Sauvage – his chosen setting for the fictional Englischer Hof hotel.

Meiringen-Hasliberg ski resort attracts mainly Swiss locals and German visitors, but there is a general smattering of other nationalities, which fails to detract from its authentic Swiss mountain town feel. One of its main target audiences, however, is families; and the Swiss Snow Sports School here is highly rated. Its terrain is suited mainly to beginner and intermediate skiers and snowboarders; although the more advanced can make use of a challenging black run and off-piste areas.

**Location**

Meiringen-Hasliberg ski resort is situated within the Haslital ski area of the Bernese Alps in the Swiss canton of Bern. It lies near Lake Brianz, between the cities of Interlaken to the west and Lucerne to the northeast.

**Website**

http://www.haslital.ch

**Piste Map**

http://www.sisag.ch/download/bmh/sismap/winter\_large/SisMap.html

**Hit The Slopes**

The ski season in Meiringen-Hasliberg runs from mid-December to early April. As with most Swiss resorts, the snowfall is not always reliable; but with some slopes above 2,000m (6,562ft) and snowmaking facilities available on a number of runs, Meiringen-Hasliberg offers relatively good skiing conditions throughout the season.

There are no marked green runs, but there are options for beginners who can progress steadily from the varied nursery slopes of the Skihäsliland Swiss Snow Sports School at Bidmi, to wide and gentle blue runs, part of 60km (37 miles) of groomed pistes. As well as ski and snowboard instruction, the ski school provides tuition in cross-country skiing, heli-skiing, Telemark skiing, slalom training and deep-snow skiing.

Intermediates are also well catered for with nearly two thirds of runs classed as red. These slopes connect the areas of Mägisalp, Käserstatt, Bidmi and Lischen; offering varied skiing and terrain.

Facilities for experts are more limited, however, with only the ‘Nordpol’ (North Pole) black run, which stretches from the Alpen tower at 2,250m (7,382ft) to Mägisalp at 1,710m (5,610ft), and the Ringturen run, which has been upgraded from a red for the 2013/14 season. But guides can be hired from the Skihäsliland Swiss Snow Sports School to explore off-piste areas.

Beginner snowboarders have a terrain park to explore at Mägisalp, while the blue, red and black slopes are suitable for more competent boarders. There is also a Skicross-Piste in the area of Mägisalp, which is a lot of fun for skiers and boarders.

Cross-country skiers, meanwhile, can make the most of 38km (24 miles) of trails, including the 15km (9-mile) Gadmen circuit along the scenic Gadmerwasser River.

Meiringen-Hasliberg is home to a number of ski rental services, including Glatthard Sport AG (tel: 033 972 5272) and Pollux Sport AG (tel: 033 971 4318) in the town itself and Fahner Sport GmBH rental at Bidmi (tel: 033 971 1229).

**Hasliberg**

**Resort**

1060

**Base**

1060

**Top**

2433

**Meiringen**

**Resort**

600

**Base**

1060

**Top**

2433

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Given its comparatively small size, there’s a surprising abundance of activities in Meiringen-Hasliberg away from the slopes. But unsurprisingly, the Sherlock Holmes connection looms large, with a museum (tel: 033 972 5151) dedicated to the detective housed in the basement of the English Church in Casinoplatz, opposite the ice rink.

Another attraction is the Ballenberg Swiss Outdoor Museum (tel: 033 952 1030; [www.ballenberg.ch](http://www.ballenberg.ch/)) in nearby Hofstetten, which includes full-scale rebuilt houses dating back as early as the 14th century.

For a taste of local industry, watch craftspeople at work in the Oberhasli Weaving Studios (tel: 033 971 1457; [www.waebi.ch](http://www.waebi.ch/)) in Innertkirchen or violinmakers putting the finishing touches to their instruments at the Violin-Making School (tel: 033 951 1861; [www.geigenbauschule.ch](http://www.geigenbauschule.ch/)) in Brienz.

If skiing and snowboarding have not sapped all of your energy, play a game of tennis at an indoor court in the Alpine Tenniscenter Meiringen-Hasliberg (tel: 033 971 3900). There’s also a family-friendly 5.5km (3.4-mile) toboggan run (tel: 033 854 1616) from Schwarzaldalp on the Grosse Scheidegg peak, which overlooks the town, as well as 40km (25 miles) of winter hiking trails and an abundance of snowshoeing tracks.

**Family Fun**

Meiringen-Hasliberg is a family-friendly resort and has been granted the ‘Family Welcome’ award by Switzerland Tourism.

Children can find their feet on skis, on the nursery slopes at Skihäsliland Swiss Snow Sport School (tel: 033 972 5141; [www.skischule-hasliberg.ch](http://www.skischule-hasliberg.ch/)) at Bidmi, with group, individual and parent and child tuition available. Once proficient, children can be taken by instructors on the guided Muggestutz ski trail, which tells the story of Muggestutz, a forest-dwelling dwarf (descriptions mainly in German). The mascot of the Haslital ski area, this cheerful dwarf is also honoured in the Muggestutz Winter Dream exhibition in Alpentower.

Children under six years old are eligible for free lift passes, while the Junior Card, which can be purchased from the tourist office or at the railway station, gives a 10% discount on lift passes for all family members.

A kids’ club (tel: 033 972 5050) is available for children (aged two to 12) throughout the season at Hotel Viktoria in Hasliberg-Reuti. Babysitters (tel: 033 971 0763) are also on hand to help with childcare needs.

**Retail Therapy**

As befits a small Alpine town, Meiringen has a range of shops to suit most needs. The large Migros supermarket (Bahnhofstrasse) will be the first stop for self-caterers. For more specialist local food products - including a wide variety of cheeses, yoghurts and homemade ice cream - head to Molki Meiringen (Lenggasse 1; tel: 033 971 1432; [www.molki-meiringen.ch](http://www.molki-meiringen.ch/)). Or for something a little sweeter, including meringue, cakes and chocolate, try Frutiger (Bahnhofstrasse 18; tel: 033 971 1062) or Hotel Café Bäckerei Konditorei Brunner (Bahnhofstrasse 8; tel: 033 971 1423).

Heimatwerk Oberhasli (Rudenz 4; tel: 033 971 3376) offers locally made woven gifts and crafts.

**Splashing Out**

Make the most of being among some of Switzerland’s highest peaks with a scenic helicopter flight, which takes in the iconic Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau summits, as well as the glistening Aletsch Glacier. Flights are operated by Berner Oberländer Swiss Helicopter AG (tel: 033 828 9000; [www.swisshelicopter.ch](http://www.swisshelicopter.ch/)) in Interlaken. The company also offers heli-skiing and skydiving packages.

**Apres Ski**

Like many Swiss resorts, Meiringen-Hasliberg does not have as thriving an après-ski scene as party hotspots in neighbouring France and Austria, but there are a handful of bars from which to choose.

Sherlock Alpenclub (Sandstrasse 58; tel: 033 971 0003) is a good stop for late-night clubbing, while Lyon’s Pub (Bahnhofstrasse 10; tel: (033 971 6369; [www.lyons-pub.ch](http://www.lyons-pub.ch/)) offers pub-style games in a friendly setting. Aquarium Bar (tel: 033 971 2786) on the slopes at Käserstatt is the place for a post-ski drink amid Europop sounds.

A number of night-time activities are available from the tourist office, including a meal and night skiing at Käserstatt every Friday, and a choice of fondue or raclette plus unlimited night tobogganing at Mägisalp on Wednesdays.

**Eating Out**

Swiss specialities such as rösti, fondue and raclette can be found at restaurants throughout the resort. Among the best on the slopes is Berghaus Mägisalp (tel: 033 972 5326/20; [www.maegisalp.ch](http://www.maegisalp.ch/)) at Mägisalp. This wood-clad chalet-style restaurant has a roaring fire, serves local dishes and hosts musical entertainment. A similar concept operates at Berghaus Käserstatt (tel: 0033 971 2786) in Käserstatt, which also offers generous helpings of moreish meringue.

For pre-skiing nourishment with spectacular views, catch the gondola up to Alpentower, home to Panoramarestaurant Alpentower (tel: 033 972 5326) with its breakfast buffet, brunch and lunch options. And between runs, head to Balisalp in Bidmi next to the ski school – it has a varied menu including steak, schnitzel, hamburgers and salads.

For something a bit more luxurious, Hotel Victoria (Bahnhofplatz 9; tel: 033 972 1040; [www.victoria-meiringen.ch](http://www.victoria-meiringen.ch/)) offers gourmet dining with a French and Asian twist.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest Airport: Bern-Belp Airport (BRN); Zurich Airport (ZRH); EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg (BSL)

Distance to resort: 80km (50 miles); 100km (62 miles); 145km (90 miles)

Driving time: 1 hour; 1 hour 30 minutes; 1 hour 30 minutes

Nearest railway station: Meiringen

Distance to resort: Within the resort.

**Getting Around**

The town of Meiringen is small and is easily navigable on foot. Its slopeside location also allows easy access to the main gondola up to the ski area. Buses are available to neighbouring towns, while the free PostAuto Skibus (which leaves from the bus station opposite Meiringen Railway Station) connects to various slopes. Trains operate to numerous destinations throughout the region. Taxis are also available for hire (tel: 033 971 6633).

**Hotels**

There are various forms of accommodation in Meiringen, from chalets, self-catering apartments and guesthouses to hotels to meet all budgets. Most of the hotels in Meiringen are a short walk from the main gondola lift, while there are also slopeside options further up the mountains.

**Hotel Bären**

Just north of Meiringen in Hasliberg Hohfluh, Hotel Bären provides basic accommodation and on-site dining. A good option for families, the hotel has its own ‘mini zoo’ with a selection of animals from snow owls to ferrets.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Hasliberg Hohfluh

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Meiringen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

033 971 6022.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-restaurant-baeren.ch

**Hotel Viktoria**

Located slopeside at the Hasliberg-Reuti gondola station, Hotel Viktoria offers family-friendly accommodation with a panoramic roof terrace and a restaurant serving Swiss favourites.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Hasliberg-Reuti

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Meiringen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

033 972 3072.

**Website**

http://www.hotelviktoria.ch

**Alpin Sherpa Hotel**

The 56-room Alpin Sherpa Hotel can be found on Bahnhofstrasse, the main street in Meiringen, close to the shops and train station and a short walk from the gondola. A meeting room is available for guests who can also relax in the on-site sauna.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Bahnhofstrasse 3

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Meiringen 3860

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

033 972 5252.

**Website**

http://haslitalhotels.ch

**Das Sherlock Holmes Hotel**

Incorporating a restaurant, swimming pool and sauna, The Sherlock Holmes Hotel is the closest accommodation to the base of the gondola. The 3-star hotel provides comfortable rooms with balconies and views of the mountains surrounding the town.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Alpbachallee 3

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Meiringen 3860

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

033 972 9889.

**Website**

http://sherlock.ch

**Parkhotel du Sauvage**

Famed as the setting for the fictional Englischer Hof hotel in the Sherlock Holmes novels, the Parkhotel du Sauvage offers 4-star accommodation amid art nouveau elegance. Features of the 19th-century hotel, located on Banhnhofstasse, include a restaurant, bar and nightclub.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Bahnhofstrasse

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Meiringen 3860

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

033 972 1880.

**Website**

http://sauvage.ch

**Hotel Victoria**

This centrally located hotel is a short distance from both the train and bus stations in Meiringen. Featuring minimalist modern décor, Hotel Victoria offers gourmet dining with French and Asian flavours in its on-site restaurant.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Bahnhofplatz 9

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Meiringen 3860

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

033 972 1040.

**Website**

http://www.victoria-meiringen.ch