**Valloire**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

19

**Intermediate Runs**

55

**Advanced Runs**

11

**Total Runs**

85

**Lifts**

31

**Chairs**

17

**Drags**

12

**Gondola Cable Cars**

2

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

4.5m (15 ft).

**Overview**

Valloire is one of the first generation of French ski resorts, having grown from humble beginnings with a few small hotels and one of the world’s first ski lifts in the 1930s, to the major international ski centre that it is today with 150km (93 miles) of varied pistes.

Valloire’s history dates back much further than the ski era however, due to its strategic location on the Galibier Pass – one of the highest in France, and the meeting point of the northern and southern Alps. The area is now also an infamous and gruelling stage of the Tour de France cycle race each summer, while every January the resort hosts international snow and ice sculpture contests.

Over the decades the resort has retained its strong French identity, making it a good choice for skiers interested in mixing with local people and observing traditional culture. The resort has merged with 17 small hamlets along the valley road and boasts numerous atmospheric bars and restaurants, local artisan workshops and various quirky shops that have developed around the resort’s 17th-century baroque church.

**Location**

Valloire is located at the heart of the Vallée d'Or on the Galibier Pass, which runs through the Massif de la Maurienne in southeast France’s Savoie Alps.

**Website**

http://www.valloire.net

**Piste Map**

http://flv.valloire.net/valloire/plans\_interactifs/hiver/plan\_pistes\_valloire.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

Valloire is one of the highest traditional village resorts in France and, indeed, the whole of the Alps. Add this altitude to its 80-year history of providing snow sports, abundance of north facing slopes and a growing snowmaking system, and the resort is normally a safe bet for good snow cover all season long.

Valloire offers all kinds of ski terrain, from the wooded pistes at La Sétaz, to the wide open spaces of Gros Crey at 2,594m (8,510ft), with its excellent easy and intermediate runs on sunny slopes. The cable car to Le Crey du Quart allows skiers to explore the twin resort villages of Valmeinier that share the Galibier-Thabor ski area with Valloire proper.

Experienced skiers can opt for the Maurienne Valley pass, which allows a day in any one of more than a dozen ski areas (most of them smaller). Another possibility is to purchase a daily 'add-on' ticket, allowing cheap access to the Trios Vallées (Three Valleys) domain – the region’s popular resort of Val Thorens is reached by the Orelle gondola, just 30-minutes’ drive away.

But good skiers and boarders may not need to travel far for some excitement, as the challenging Olympic run on the Grandes Drozes is close to home; while the resort’s terrain park and pipe are also highly regarded.

Cross-country skiers also have plenty to explore, with 15km (9 miles) of trails and a choice of routes suitable for all abilities.

**Valloire**

**Resort**

1430

**Base**

1170

**Top**

2600

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Away from downhill skiing and snowboarding, those who are confident on their skis or board can try speed riding (tel: +33 6 1082 0169), which involves skiing or a boarding with an attached parasail.

One- or three-hour dog sledding trips with Run Arctic (tel: +33 6 1952 1119) are available for anyone aged 10 or older, while llama treks (tel: +33 6 2623 8324) provide a more unusual alternative.

A number of companies offer snowshoeing expeditions, including the École du Ski Français (ESF) (tel: +33 4 7959 0073; [www.esf-valloire.fr](http://www.esf-valloire.fr/)), which runs farm visits and night hikes as options.

Amongst the options in the village itself is a cinema (films in English and French), fitness centre (tel: +33 4 7983 3912), wellbeing centre (tel: +33 4 7920 3691) and an ice rink (tel: +33 4 7959 0418), where ice hockey is played.

**Family Fun**

Valloire is a great destination for families, particularly those with young children, as its old mountain feel and relative serenity make it a great place to explore.

Facilities here include the Le Aiglons nursery (tel: +33 4 7959 0398), which is open Sunday until Friday (from 0845 to 1700) and offers non-ski care for babies aged from six months to six years old.

Ski lessons are possible from the age of three with the ESF (tel: +33 4 7959 0073; [www.esf-valloire.fr](http://www.esf-valloire.fr/)) and École de Ski Valloire (tel: +33 4 7959 0518; [www.esivalloire.com](http://www.esivalloire.com/)) ski schools (although these usually only operate at peak holiday periods). For older children, the ESF offers the standard French national course, with tailored lessons according to age and ability.

The Les Loupiots play centre (tel: +33 4 7983 3985) is located on Rue des Grandes Alpes and offers weekly themed activities every Wednesday and during school holidays. Visitors can also explore one of a number of local farms, including the chance to see the cheese-making process at La Ferme du Pré Clos (tel: +33 4 7983 3787) on Tuesdays.

**Retail Therapy**

There are about 50 shops spread throughout the village; but the majority are either ski outlets or food retailers. The latter category includes butchers, greengrocers and half-a-dozen bakeries, including Le Fournil des Bergers (tel: +33 4 7959 0074), which produces particularly wonderful cakes and confectionary.

Gift shops worth a visit include La Cartepostalerie (tel: +33 4 7959 0194) with its excellent photographs of the local area and, further along the street, Le P'tit Savoyard (tel: +33 4 7983 3525) for its range of souvenirs.

**Splashing Out**

Valloire has a range of options for viewing the stunning scenery from high above the slopes. Scenic flights in a light aircraft are available from the Aéroclub de Valloire ([www.aeroclub-de-valloire.com](http://www.aeroclub-de-valloire.com)). Another option is paragliding, with tandem jumps offered all season (weather permitting) by Envergure (tel: +33 6 1082 0169; [www.parapente-speedriding.fr](http://www.parapente-speedriding.fr/)).

**Apres Ski**

Après-ski in Valloire comprises a dozen good bars and other night spots, ranging from relaxed wine bars to lively, atmospheric clubs.

For evening relaxation, Le Mast'Rock (tel: +33 4 7905 3452) offers live music, while Le Moussequif pub (tel: +33 4 7959 0958) has a large range of beers. Additionally, the Bar Restaurant Le Beau Sejour (tel: +33 4 7959 3785) has a south facing terrace that is wonderful on a a sunny day.

Night owls should head to the Le Slalom/Odyssée nightclub (tel: +33 6 1095 1283; www.[leslalomdiscotheque.noziris.com](http://leslalomdiscotheque.noziris.com/)), which offers late night revelry.

**Eating Out**

Given the resort’s location, it’s no surprise the 40 or so restaurants in Valloire are almost all purveyors of traditional French mountain cuisine.

La Poutre (tel: +33 4 7959 0875) is one of the best restaurants in the resort and famed for its speciality dish, ‘The Gallows’ which includes various meats such as duck and beef hanging above the table and flambéed in cognac. Le Chalet des Saveurs ( tel: +33 6 2583 3790) located behind the tourist office is also excellent for French favourites including foie gras, snails and a deliciously creamy tartiflette. Bistrot Chez Fred (tel: +33 4 7959 0832), with its wood-clad walls, is another cosy eatery serving popular Savoyard specialities.

With Italy only a few miles away, there are also a number of Italian options, including the popular La Pizza (tel: +33 4 7959 0914) that houses a wood-fire oven.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Chambéry Airport (CMF); Geneva International Airport (GVA).

Distance to resort: 112km (69 miles); 190km (118 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 40 minutes; 2 hours 20 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Shuttle buses and a road train circulate around the resort. These follow half a dozen different routes to various outlying areas and hamlets. All services are free of charge and operate daily, except Saturdays. Most run during the ski day only (between around 0800 and 1800 – except the main route between Les Verneys and Le Col, which operates until 1930).

**Hotels**

As with most French ski resorts, accommodation in Valloire is primarily based in apartment-style complexes; but because of its long-standing popularity, there are also more hotels than usual for a ski centre of its size in the country. Hotels in Valloire range from 1- to 3-stars, so those looking for ultra luxury tend to rent an apartment or chalet.

**Le Relais du Galibier**

This friendly 2-star hotel is run by the Rapin family and offers basic accommodation in a central location next to the chairlift.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Les Verneys

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Valloire

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73450

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7959 0045.

**Website**

http://www.relais-galibier.com

**Les Chalets de la Vallée d'Or**

A complex of nine traditional wooden chalets, Les Chalets de la Vallée d'Or features a good range of facilities, including a swimming pool, sauna and car parking. A good option for groups, accommodation is in the form of apartments for four to 10 people.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Route des Charbonnières

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Valloire

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73450

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7959 6126.

**Website**

http://www.odalys-vacances.com

**La Pulka**

A family-friendly complex located 150m (492ft) from the lifts and slopes, La Pulka affords beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. Guests here will enjoy eating in the two on-site restaurants; while evening entertainment, a kid’s club and its own cinema room are also provided.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Ternelia Chemins

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Valloire

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73450

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7959 0229.

**Website**

http://www.ternelia-chemins.com

**Grand Hôtel de Valloire et du Galibier**

This large slopeside 3-star establishment, the most highly-rated hotel in the resort, occupies an excellent position near the lifts and boasts a high-quality restaurant.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Rue des Grandes Alpes

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Valloire

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73450

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7959 0095.

**Website**

http://www.grand-hotel-valloire.com

**Les Fermes du Planet - Le Plane**

Sleeping between six and 12 people, Le Plane is a comfortable 4-star chalet located just 200m (656ft) from the lifts. The resort centre is 1.5km (0.9 miles) away, but a free shuttle operates from next to the chalet complex.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Valloire

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73450

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 6 2106 1620.

**Website**

http://www.les-fermes-du-planet.com

**Les Fermes du Planet - Caille**

This luxury 5-star chalet complex with wood-clad walls and soft furnishings can house between four and 12 people. Facilities here include a fitness centre with a sauna, hammam and hot tub.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Valloire

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73450

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 6 2106 1620.

**Website**

http://www.les-fermes-du-planet.com