**Alpe d'Huez**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Snow reliability

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

79

**Intermediate Runs**

39

**Advanced Runs**

17

**Total Runs**

135

**Lifts**

79

**Chairs**

23

**Drags**

41

**Gondola Cable Cars**

15

**Parks**

2

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

8.53m (28ft).

**Overview**

Although it doesn’t shout about it, Alpe d’Huez is actually one of the world’s largest ski areas – very few others can claim the 100,000 people per hour statistic that it’s more than 70 lifts can manage onto its 240 km (150 miles) of groomed piste.

There are still more impressive statistics – it’s upper runs at over 3,300m (10,800 ft) are some of Europe’s highest lift-served and open up a 2,000m (6,560 ft) skiable vertical, crowned by a glacier which gives snow surety all season long and is sometimes open for summer skiing. And then there’s the famous Sarenne black run, which at 16km (10 miles) is the planet’s longest groomed black trail, and now with snowmaking from top to bottom meaning its still accessible even if mother nature doesn’t play ball.

However don’t be fooled in thinking that Alpe d'Huez, which sits at the top of the most famous stretch of road in the Tour de France cycle race, is strictly an experts only resort. With plenty of après-ski fun to be had, as well as a wide selection of gentle slopes, the resort suits all levels of skier and the majority of winter holidaymakers.

**Location**

Alpe d'Huez is situated in the Grandes Rousses Mountains in the southern French Alps, high above the Oisans Valley.

**Website**

http://www.alpedhuez.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.sataski.com/en/winter/discover-the-domain/maps/

**Hit The Slopes**

The main slopes in Alpe d’Huez run in a long line across the resort, with those at the bottom most suited to beginners. Go higher however, and you’ll find runs to suit all ability levels.

A prime example of this is the Sarenne run from the top of the glacier, which at 16km (10 miles) is the longest black run in the world. Floodlighting and snow making were recently installed on the full length of the slope, meaning its opening is more reliable and evening ruins are possible. More challenging off-piste terrain from the glacier funnels through the legendary Tunnel on to the front face and leads to more steep powder.

Intermediates can cruise for kilometres, taking long, sweeping pistes down to the villages of Vaujany and Oz amongst others. Even the most moderate of skiers can take the gondolas that crisscross the slopes, creating a thrilling sense of achievement for first-timers. The almost self-contained Signal and Signal de l'Homme areas, on either side of the village, are good for family excursions and confident beginners.

The resort’s southerly sun-drenched slopes can cause unreliability in snow cover in early and late season, but the ski resort generally operates from early December until late April.

For further options, the lift pass also includes skiing in Les Deux Alpes and Serre Chevalier - tour representatives can arrange trips to these resorts.

**Alpe d'Huez**

**Resort**

1860

**Base**

1100

**Top**

3330

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There’s plenty to do in Alpe d’Huez for those who may find themselves growing sick at the sight of skis.

Alpe d’Huez boasts a skating rink (tel: +33 476 112 116), as well as an exceptional sports centre (tel: +33 476 112 141) with indoor and outdoor pools, tennis and squash courts, a climbing wall and more.

Outdoor activities in and around the village include an ice driving school, sleigh rides, toboggan runs, snowshoe excursions and ski joring (being towed on skis behind a pony).

Something more unique to the resort is its ice caves, which can be accessed via the Grandes Rousses lift for a small fee. These mystical caves are home to new gleaming ice sculptures every year, and provide a fascinating excursion for all ages.

More daring pursuits include paragliding with an instructor or speed riding, which involves skiing with an attached ‘wing’. Both activities are available from Alpe Vol Libre (tel: +33 6 2266 2771; [www.alpevolibre.com](http://www.alpevolibre.com)).

**Family Fun**

A family lift pass is a great money saver and enables families to ski together, whatever their ability. For beginners, the Easy Ski school (tel: +33 476 804 277; [www.mgm-international.com](http://www.mgm-international.com)) provides excellent guidance for English-speaking youngsters. The alternative, The École de Ski Français (ESF) (tel: +33 476 803 169; [www.esf-alpedhuez.com](http://www.esf-alpedhuez.com)) is also good, but can get crowded during the height of the season.

Crèche facilities are available from Les Intrépides (tel: +33 476 112 161), which takes children from three months to four years of age.

Off the slopes, free use of the excellent pool and skating rink for children enables endless hours of fun, while the little ones will be amazed by the resort’s twinkling ice caves.

**Retail Therapy**

There’s a wide range of shops in Alpe d'Huez, and a far bigger choice than at many French resorts, including a selection of ski equipment outlets, which become more attractive as the season wears on and the discounts get bigger. Apart from that, there are a couple of supermarkets, fashion shops and a number of delicatessens selling all manner of sausages, local cheeses, honey, wine, liqueurs and chocolates.

**Splashing Out**

Take to the air from the local aerodrome, Altiport Henri Giraud, where the Aeroclub du Dauphine flying school (tel: +33 476 113 581; [www.aeroclubdudauphine.fr](http://www.aeroclubdudauphine.fr)) give lessons – or visitors can simply opt for an excursion (maximum three adults or two adults, two children). From the same spot, there are also organised helicopter flights, where passengers can enjoy a leisurely ride taking in the view or be dropped off at the slopes of Les Deux Alpes.

**Apres Ski**

The size of Alpe d’Huez and its international appeal has helped it become one of the livelier destinations for après skiers. The party town reputation moved up a notch a few seasons ago when the famous French Folie Douce chain ([www.lafoliedouce.com](http://www.lafoliedouce.com)) opened its doors, bringing its mix of Austrian style dancing-on-the-table-in-your-ski-boots with the hedonism of an Ibiza club.

There are also plenty of bars and clubs for après-ski fun within Alpe d’Huez centre. The Underground Bar in Hotel Le Chamois (tel: +33 476 803 119) has a British theme, while Smithy’s Tavern (tel: +33 476 113 229; [www.smithystavern.com](http://www.smithystavern.com)) is a good place to nibble on Tex-Mex food while listening to live bands.

**Eating Out**

Alpe d’Huez now has more than 60 restaurants which include many small, family-run, traditional French eateries serving quality fare at reasonable prices,

La Cremaillere (tel: +33 476 806 038) is regarded by many as the best in town, with a great ambience, excellent service and fabulous food. The cosy La Petite Taverne (tel: +33 476 803 225; [www.lapetitetaverne-alpedhuez.com](http://www.lapetitetaverne-alpedhuez.com)) is another good choice, particularly for alpine favourites fondue and raclette. La Taniere (tel: +33 476 113 089) is another firm favourite for cheese-based cuisine.

In addition, there are plenty more traditional options to try alongside more modern additions, inducing creperies, several sushi bars, pizzerias, a Tex-Mex eatery and American-style burger joints.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Grenoble-Isère Airport (GNB); Chambéry Airport (CMF); Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport (LYS); Geneva International Airport (GVA).

Distance to resort: 100km (63 miles); 130km (80 miles); 150km (94 miles); 220km (137 miles)

Driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes; 2 hours; 2 hours 15 minutes; 2 hours 45 minutes

Nearest railway station: Grenoble.

Distance to resort: 65km (40 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 15 minutes (bus service).

**Getting Around**

Alpe d'Huez is built in a rough triangular shape on a moderately steep hill with pistes and ski lifts running along each side of the triangle, so you can ski down or take a lift up from most points of the village. You can also walk up and down (It’s roughly 1.5km/1 mile from the top to the bottom) along a network of paths and stairways.

Free buses operate around the resort. The bucket lift transports skiers across the resort during the day, but there are also free shuttles until 2200.

**Hotels**

The sprawling village of Alpe d'Huez is a mix of buildings in all shapes and designs, with most of the new developments in a pleasant chalet style. There are more hotels in Alpe d'Huez than usual for a high-altitude French resort, while there is also an enormous choice of apartments. The Les Bergers area offers a good selection of chalets, and there are also some new chalets at the Altiport above the resort.

**Hotel Le Chamois**

This pleasant, south-facing hotel in Vieil Alpe houses a restaurant and British-themed cellar bar. It also benefits from its convenient location, being just a short walk from the lifts.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Chemin de la Chapelle

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Alpe d'Huez

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38750

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 803 119

**Website**

www.holidayalps.com

**Le Chamois d'Or**

This is the standout luxury hotel in a resort where the hotels are mostly moderate. The 4-star Le Chamois d’Or is located right by the slopes and offers a pool, a Nuxe spa and great views.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Rond Point des Pistes

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Alpe d'Huez

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38750

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 803 132

**Website**

www.chamoisdor-alpedhuez.com

**Le Pic Blanc**

This big and modern purpose-built slopeside hotel in Les Bergers has a large spa, fitness area and swimming pool. The on-site restaurant offers panoramic views of the surrounding slopes.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Rue du Rif Briant

**Neighborhood**

Les Bergers

**Locality**

Huez

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38750

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 114 242

**Website**

www.hotel-picblanc-alpes.com

**Les Cimes**

A very popular chalet-style hotel, Les Cimes houses an on-site bar, restaurant, sauna and kids club.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Route de la Poste,

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Alpe d'Huez

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38750

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 110 000

**Website**

www.hotel-les-cimes.fr

**Le Petit Prince**

Located only 50m (165ft) from the slopes, Le Petit Prince has ski-in/ski-out facilities as well as a kids club, ski school and nanny services. All rooms have views facing the mountains.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Route de la Poste

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38750

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 803 351

**Website**

www.hotellepetitprince.eu

**Le Printemps de Juliette**

Housed within traditional, but beautifully renovated, stone-built farm buildings, Le Printemps de Juliette is located in old Huez village. The hotel benefits from an on-site restaurant, has four spacious rooms, and also has a large garden area within its grounds.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Avenue de l'Eglise Quartier de la Fruitière

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Huez

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

38750

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 111 313

**Website**

www.hotel-alpes-huez.com