**Catedral**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

28

**Intermediate Runs**

15

**Advanced Runs**

10

**Total Runs**

53

**Lifts**

38

**Chairs**

17

**Drags**

20

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

6m (20ft).

**Overview**

Catedral is not only the largest ski area in South America but also one of the three largest resorts in the entire Southern Hemisphere in terms of its large terrain area and its uplift – it can move an incredible 35,000 winter sportsmen and women up the mountain every hour.

The ski area is long established, having become Argentina’s first when it opened in 1938 – in part thanks to the large number of European settlers inhabiting the nearby city of San Carlos de Bariloche. The settlement was established in 1902 by German traders and is now a cosmopolitan city and ski town with a population of just over 100,000.

The views from Catedral – or Gran Catedral (Grand Cathedral) and Cerro Catedral (Cathedral Hill) as it is often dubbed – are regarded as among the best in the skiing world, with wonderful vistas across to the mountains above Lake Nahuel Huapi.

Catedral’s history is a colourful one. One notable moment was when the boat transporting the resort’s first cable car – which was ordered from Italy just before WWII – was sunk as it crossed the Atlantic and it never made it. A replacement was finally delivered five years after the war ended.

Since then, the ski area has gone from strength to strength and now offers a ski domain of world-class dimensions. As with other Southern Hemisphere resorts, it also capitalises on being operational at a time of year when the vast majority of the world’s other big name ski areas are closed for snow sports.

**Location**

Catedral is located close to the Chilean border (which can be reached via the Puyehue Pass) in the province of Rio Negro, in Patagonia. The resort is 15km (9 miles) from the city of San Carlos de Bariloche and is set within the Nahuel Huapi National Park in the foothills of the Andes.

**Website**

http://www.catedralaltapatagonia.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.catedralaltapatagonia.com/invierno/partediario.php?default\_tab=3

**Hit The Slopes**

Catedral has a mixed reputation for its snow cover, as its location, amongst several lakes, and its modest base elevation can mean rain on lower slopes when it’s snowing at the summit. As a consequence, average snowfall figures for the base of the mountain are around a quarter of those 1,000m (3,230ft) above.

Catedral is popular with beginners, who make up the majority of its clientele; many of whom arrive from the mostly snowless nation of Brazil. Nursery areas can be found at the top of the slopes in case snow cover is an issue lower down. And, once able to move around the slopes, novices have more than half of the runs on the mountain to themselves; including the longest, a 9km (6-mile) descent.

Intermediate skiers are able to zip around the mountain and make best use of the wide, open bowls and plateaus that boast more than a dozen runs.

Expert skiers will also not be disappointed, as there are slopes pitching at up to 60 degrees and 10 groomed black runs. There are also several hike-to areas for free-riding and some good tree skiing on the lower half of the ski area.

The ski area also features a 3,000sq m (32,300sq ft) terrain park with a range of jumps, an air bag and rail park suitable for all ability levels.

But it’s not all rosy. A current criticism is the lack of signage on the slopes (compared to big resorts of Europe and North American), so the advice is to familiarise yourself with the resort map before pulling on the skis.

**Catedral**

**Resort**

1030

**Base**

1300

**Top**

2180

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Catedral has a small amount of off-slope options available if you are staying near the base of the mountain, but those based in the small city of Bariloche nearby will find a rich variety of year round facilities and attractions.

Surrounding the resort, cross-country skiers are treated to 19km (12 miles) of prepared tracks for all standards, while snowshoe, snowmobile and snowcat tours take visitors on various picturesque routes through the national park.

Closer to home, sledging is a fun activity from the Parador lift’s Midway Station, snow tubing is popular, and downhill mountain biking over snow (known as Snow BMX) is a further possibility.

If you’re not already based there, the city of San Carlos de Bariloche is worthy of the short trip. Explore the quirky Civic Centre and the neogothic Cathedral of San Carlos de Bariloche or spend some time at its shops and cafés alongside Nahuel Huapi Lake.

**Family Fun**

A relaxed and friendly, family-oriented resort, Catedral operates a popular Kids Club (Paseo Place Amancay) at its main resort base, which has both indoor and fenced outdoor play and learning areas. It accepts children aged three to 14. On the slopes, there are numerous family-friendly trails too, and special lines in the terrain parks are designed especially for children.

Babies from as young as 45 days to three years old can also be cared for in the resort’s day care centre. This is equipped with cots, changing tables, bottles and has specially trained staff who supervise various fun activities.

**Retail Therapy**

Catedral’s base village has a small, covered shopping centre, Las Terrazas that covers 8,000 sq m (86, 111sq ft) and provides all key ski holiday essentials such as rental equipment, skiwear and a pharmacy. There are far more wide-ranging shopping opportunities in Bariloche, which has a selection of gift shops as well as supermarkets, fashion stores, galleries, photographic retailers and so on.

**Splashing Out**

Catedral is a year-round spa destination on top of its winter ski appeal. Relax with some full-blown pampering at the intimate, 12-room Aldebaran Hotel (tel: +54 2944 448 678; [www.aldebaranpatagonia.com](http://www.aldebaranpatagonia.com)) near Bariloche (30 minutes from Catedral). It’s highly regarded for its whole day spa offerings; including saunas, hot tubs, a heated pool and a range of massage treatments. Evening sessions are also available for those who prefer a day on the slopes first.

**Apres Ski**

Après-ski is lively at Catedral, especially after fresh snowfall; but Bariloche is the real ski town and the place to base yourself if you are looking for animated nightlife.

On the slopes, Punta Nevada (tel: +54 2944 460 263) is a popular hangout at the end of the ski day and features a wonderful terrace and restaurant.

In Bariloche, the cosy Argentinean brew pub Cerveceria Blest (tel: +54 2944 461 026; [www.cervezablest.com](http://www.cervezablest.com)) is one of the best in town. Similar in style, Berlina (tel: +54 2944 523 336; www.cervezaberlina.com) is spread over two floors and is highly regarded for the range and quality of its beers. Alternatively, head to Tiroler (tel: +54 2944 424 316) for a full-on Argentinean-Austro-German experience.

**Eating Out**

With more than 160 different places to eat in Catedral, Bariloche and its environs, you certainly won’t go hungry. In fact, the region has a foodie reputation that, coupled with the competition between so many providers, tends to drive standards up and costs down.

Nearly every kind of cuisine and dining experience is available in Bariloche. A refreshing stop is artisan ice cream parlour Helados Jauja (tel: +54 2944 437 888; [www.heladosjauja.com](http://www.heladosjauja.com/)), where favourite flavours include raspberry cream, double espresso and creamy caramel.

At the gourmet end of the scale, Butterfly (tel +54 2944 461 441, [www.thebutterflygroup.com.ar](http://www.thebutterflygroup.com.ar)) provides seven-course tasting menu extravaganzas to near universal acclaim.

There are many choices for local Argentinean cuisine, but Alto el Fuego (tel: +54 294 443 7015) is generally regarded as the best.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: San Carlos de Bariloche International Airport (BRC)

Distance to resort: 30km (18 miles).

Driving time: 25 minutes.

**Getting Around**

The Collectivo bus service from Bariloche provides a regular low-cost service to and from the ski slopes, running every 30 minutes. The service stops at Breschedt, Moreno Palacios and the Civic Center (Civico Square) in Bariloche en route. Alternatively, there are taxis available to hire for those seeking to travel independently.

The centre of Bariloche itself is pedestrianised and is easy to walk around.

**Hotels**

Catedral and Bariloche have a wide selection of accommodation to suit most needs. There is a glut of convenient slopeside accommodation in Catedral, while private transfers are available to the village from the hotels in Bariloche.

**Hostel Achalay**

A friendly, affordable and clean hostel in the heart of Bariloche, Hostel Achalay is three blocks from the central Civico Square and a 15-minute bus ride from the ski slopes.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Morales 564

**Neighborhood**

Edificio America

**Locality**

San Carlos de Bariloche

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

8400

**Country**

Argentina

**Telephone**

+54 294 452 2556

**Website**

www.hostelachalay.com

**Kospi Boutique Guesthouse**

Kospi Boutique Guesthouse has a friendly atmosphere and a reputation for excellent service. As well as being convenient for the shops and restaurants of Bariloche, it’s also just 100m (328ft) from the ski bus stop – it is handily one of the earlier stops on the route, so you can board before it gets crowded.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Mitre 1361

**Neighborhood**

Edificio America

**Locality**

San Carlos de Bariloche

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

8400

**Country**

Argentina

**Telephone**

+54 294 442 3407

**Website**

www.kospihouse.com.ar

**Altuen Hotel Suites & Spa**

A very highly regarded 3-star spa hotel on the edge of Bariloche, Altuen Hotel Suites & Spa is just a 10-minute transfer away from the ski slopes. Excellent spa facilities and a wine bar await guests here.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Avenida Bustillo 7625

**Neighborhood**

Edificio America

**Locality**

San Carlos de Bariloche

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

8400

**Country**

Argentina

**Telephone**

+54 294 446 4195

**Website**

www.altuenhotel.com.ar

**Knapp**

This family-friendly hotel has the benefit of being within a former ski club base building and thus is superbly located at the base of the ski runs, next to the nursery slopes. Known for its friendly service, it features a ski school office, ski rental shop and even a chocolate shop.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Cerro Catedral Base Station

**Neighborhood**

Edificio America

**Locality**

San Carlos de Bariloche

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

8400

**Country**

Argentina

**Telephone**

+54 294 446 0460

**Website**

www.knappcerrocatedral.com.ar

**Catalonia Sur Apartments & Spa**

Boasting superb spa facilities and a relaxing massage service, this luxurious lakeside accommodation is just a 10-minute drive from the ski slopes and five minutes from central Bariloche.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Calle Sauco 15

**Neighborhood**

Edificio America

**Locality**

San Carlos de Bariloche

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

8400

**Country**

Argentina

**Telephone**

+54 294 452 0789

**Website**

www.cataloniasur.com.ar

**Design Suites Bariloche**

Officially rated as 4.5-stars, this design-focused accommodation is the most highly rated hotel in the region. Located lakeside and just 2.5km (1.5 miles) from the resort, all suites have private hot tubs and facilities include an art gallery, restaurant, and a health club with a spa and swimming pool.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Avenida Bustillo

**Neighborhood**

Edificio America

**Locality**

San Carlos de Bariloche 8400

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

8400

**Country**

Argentina

**Telephone**

+54 294 445 7000

**Website**

www.designsuites.com