**Val d'Isère**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Summer skiing

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

83

**Intermediate Runs**

46

**Advanced Runs**

25

**Total Runs**

154

**Lifts**

86

**Chairs**

45

**Drags**

33

**Gondola Cable Cars**

8

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

6m (20ft).

**Overview**

Val d'Isère ski resort is a traditional French Alpine village with centuries of history and beautiful stone chalets, which contrasts starkly with neighbouring Tignes' purpose-built apartment blocks.

Skiing began here in the 1930s, but really took off after WWII and has continued to grow in popularity ever since.

Today, Val d'Isère is a lively resort with busy shops, restaurants and a buzzing nightlife that attracts a large smattering of British and Scandinavian skiers. The resort centre has been extensively redeveloped in recent years and is now largely pedestrianised.

Val d'Isère ski resort is also a leading competition venue. It held several events during the 1992 Winter Olympics and most recently was host venue of the 2009 Alpine World Ski Championships. Staging these two events, in addition to regular World Cup competitions, place it in an elite group of five resorts worldwide that have staged all three levels of world-class international competition.

Together with Tignes, Val d'Isère forms part of the 10,000-hectare (25,000-acre) Espace Killy ski area, home to some of France's best on- and off-piste terrain and one of the world’s biggest lift-served verticals.

**Location**

Val d'Isère is located in the southeastern French region of Savoie in the Western Alps, close to the Italian border.

**Website**

http://www.valdisere.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.valdisere.com/valdisere/pages/download/plan.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

The main ski season in Val d'Isère runs from early December until early May. Summer skiing is available on the Fornet glacier for just a few weeks in June and early-July.

A combination of mostly modern cable cars, gondolas, funiculars and chairlifts whisks skiers up from Val's centre, as well as from the nearby villages of La Daille, Le Laisinant and Le Fornet.

There are nursery slopes at the Solaise and La Daille bases, while Bellevarde is a good area for progressing with its wide-open, easy green runs and several ski schools to choose from.

There are some cruisey reds and blues from Bellevarde down to La Daille, including the Coupe du Monde OK run that suits intermediates looking for a challenge.

The Solaise area across the valley offers further greens, blues and reds, with an ‘up-and-over' chairlift to the furthest away terrain by the Col de l'Iséran.

Advanced skiers and riders, meanwhile, can speed down the black Face on Bellevard with its jarring moguls. But it’s off-piste terrain where Val d'Isère really comes good, with some of the best options in the world. Experienced off-piste skiers should try the Couloir des Pisteurs with its narrow descent, while those with less experience or bravery can head for the Pays Désert above Le Fornet.

Freestylers can play in the terrain park in the Bellevarde area with its jumps, rails, boardercross course and dedicated lifts.

**Espace Killy**

**Resort**

1850

**Base**

1550

**Top**

3450

**Val d'Isère**

**Resort**

1850

**Base**

1785

**Top**

3300

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Aside from downhill skiing, Val d'Isère has 21km (13 miles) of cross-country trails to enjoy, as well as an assortment of the usual ski resort activities of dog sledding, snowmobiling, ice climbing, snowshoeing and ice skating. Among the more unusual activities is the chance for visitors to have a go at biathlon, which involves cross-country skiing and shooting.

Indoors, there's an excellent new sports centre with a swimming pool complex. While a cinema can provide endless hours of entertainment after the slopes have closed.

For something a little different, sign up for a patisserie class at Maison Chevallot (tel: +33 479 061 609; [www.chevallot.com](http://www.chevallot.com)) with resident pastry chef Patrick Chevallot, who can help to equip customers with the skills needed to replicate delicious French pastries at home.

Art-lovers also have a good choice of small galleries, including the Gallerie Jane Griffiths (tel: +33 479 078 933; [www.galeriejanegriffiths.com](http://www.galeriejanegriffiths.com)), which showcases work from various artists.

**Family Fun**

Nursery care is provided by Le Petit Poucet (tel: +33 479 061 397; [www.garderielepetitpoucet.com](http://www.garderielepetitpoucet.com)), which caters for ages three and up (free pick-up is available from accommodation). Le Village des Enfants (tel: +33 479 400 981; [www.valdisere-levillagedesenfants.com](http://www.valdisere-levillagedesenfants.com)) accepts children from three to 13 for fun activities and ski lessons. For pushchairs, travel cots, high chairs and other bulky baby essentials, contact Hors Piste, which can rent the required items (tel: +33 479 060 660; [www.valdisere.com](http://www.valdisere.com)).

Family fun options include airboarding (a form of bodyboarding on snow), snake glissing (tobogganing on joined-up sledges), curling or snow football. Alternatively, take the kids to watch the cows being milked every day at 1800 at Ferme de l'Adroit (tel: +33 608 991 320; [www.fermedeladroit.com](http://www.fermedeladroit.com)).

**Retail Therapy**

Shopaholics will not be disappointed, with more than 70 shops in Val d'Isère. Among these are numerous ski and snowboard retailers and many well-known sports clothing outlets, including Quiksilver, Billabong, The North Face and Columbia. There's also the usual selection of newsagents, tobacconists and supermarkets.

Aside from these mountain essentials, there are various souvenir shops to peruse; or for that special gift head to one of three jewellers in the resort.

**Splashing Out**

Get behind the wheel of a BMW at Val's ice driving circuit, La Daille (tel: +33 404 062 123; [www.valdisere-ice-driving.com](http://www.valdisere-ice-driving.com)), which offers half-day or full-day tuition in the art of sliding a car masterfully around a track.

**Apres Ski**

Val d'Isère is renowned for its après-ski scene, being one of the livelier resorts after dark in the French Alps.

For some early evening relaxation, try the cocktails at Le Bananas (tel: +33 479 060 423) at the foot of the slopes; or unwind with musical entertainment at the stylish Café Face (tel: +33 479 062 980; [www.cafeface.com](http://www.cafeface.com)), now part of the infamous La Folie Douce franchise, which has live daily acts from 1700 to 0200.

Finish off the night with a turn on the dance floor at Le Graal (tel: +33 616 795 290; [www.graalclub.com](http://www.graalclub.com)) or the famous (and raucous) Dick's Tea Bar (tel: +33 620 178 954; [www.dicksteabar.com](http://www.dicksteabar.com)).

**Eating Out**

There's no shortage of restaurants in Val d’Isère, many of which dish up tasty regional cuisine.

La Raclette in Hôtel l'Avancher (tel: +33 479 060 200; www.[avancher.com](http://avancher.com)) is one of the best traditional options, having been serving customers its ‘Valaisanne’ raclette for more than 40 years. Additionally, La Gourmandine (tel: +33 479 411 111) serves tartiflette and raclette as well as gourmet quality burgers.

Val d’Isère has plenty of snack bars for those who just want to grab a quick bite. The Billabong Coffee Shop (tel: +33 479 060 954) is good for burgers, shakes and wraps. Or, if skied-out limbs are not in the mood for moving far, Flash Pizza (tel: +33 479 419 606), a highly-regarded pizzeria, does home delivery.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

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

Distances to resort: 145km (90 miles): 180km (112 miles); 210km (131 miles); 220km (137 miles).

Driving times: 2 hours; 3 hours; 3 hours; 3 hours.

Nearest railway station: Bourg-Saint-Maurice.

Distance to resort: 32km (20 miles).

Driving time: 40 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Most of Val d’Isère village is easy to explore on foot for those who are either staying in or visiting the centre. For those wishing to explore away from here, a free bus connects the outlying villages and different lift bases. In addition to the chairlift connection, there is a bus service between Val d’Isère and Tignes.

**Hotels**

Accommodation in Val d’Isère is all about chalets, with something to suit every need and budget. There are properties at every level of the market, including extremely luxurious options with their own saunas, hot tubs and even swimming pools. But there are also more than 30 hotels in Val d’Isère – most of which sit in the high-end category – as well as hundreds of apartments.

**Hotel La Toviere**

This recently renovated 3-star is located just across the road from the Funitel ski lifts in the La Daille area of the resort, a little outside the centre (shuttle bus or moderate walk away). Hotel La Toviere boasts friendly service, excellent food and pleasant rooms.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

La Daille

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Val-d'Isère

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73155

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 479 556 118

**Website**

www.hotel-latoviere.fr

**Residence Les Chalets de Solaise**

One of the more affordable options in the village, the 2-star Residence Les Chalets de Solaise is located close to the bus stop for shuttle to and from the lifts. The hotel also boasts an outdoor heated swimming pool.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Quartier de l'Illaz

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Val-d'Isère

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73155

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 479 416 300

**Website**

www.pierreetvacances.com

**Chalet Husky**

The private, catered, luxury Chalet Husky sleeps up to 14 guests in seven en-suite rooms. The accompanying facilities are astounding, with a large swimming pool (with infinity waterfall), a sauna, Jacuzzi and massage rooms as well as a ‘games room’ that features a climbing wall and an archery/rifle shooting range.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Petit Alaska

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Val-d'Isère

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73155

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+44 203 355 6690 (UK based)

**Website**

www.scottdunn.com

**Hôtel les Barmes de l'Ours**

This 5-star hotel has a ‘wow factor’ with its innovative décor. Amenities at les Barmes de l'Ours include a spa with a pool and Jacuzzi, three restaurants and a comfortable lounge bar.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Chemin des Carat

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Val-d'Isère

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73155

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 479 413 700

**Website**

www.hotel-les-barmes.com

**Hôtel Les Lauzes**

A pleasant chalet-style hotel close to the lifts, Hôtel Les Lauzes offers rooms with balconies and free Wi-Fi internet access.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Rue de l'Église

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Val-d'Isère

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73155

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 479 060 420

**Website**

www.hotel-lauzes.com

**Hôtel Tsanteleina**

This 4-star hotel in the village centre has been run by the same family since 1948. The hotel has an impressive spa, a cosy bar and a restaurant that serves a seafood buffet every Friday.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Olympique

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Val-d'Isère

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73155

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 479 061 213

**Website**

www.tsanteleina.com