

# About Morzine

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Morzine is the perfect location for a fantastic skiing holiday. It combines the aesthetics of a traditional, pretty, Savoyarde market town with that of a first class ski resort and it is suitable for families, large groups and couples alike. Moreover it is situated in the heart of the Portes du Soleil, one of the largest linked ski areas in the world. Morzine is dominated by attractive chalet-style buildings, spread across a river gorge, bordered by partially wooded slopes allowing skiing and boarding even in poor weather conditions.

Morzine enjoys the advantage of a micro-climate created by its proximity to Mont Blanc and is also linked to the snow-sure resort of Avoriaz. There are plenty of shops with souvenirs, skis and boards to hire or buy, supermarkets, delicatessens, ski clothes, quality brand name shops, pottery, arts and crafts. Morzine can be as busy or sedate as you would wish – pavement cafes serve café au lait and light snacks, restaurants serve traditional savoyarde and contemporary dishes and nightclubs stay open until 5am. In addition there is an ice skating rink with a top class ice hockey team for you to watch. There's even an Indian restaurant for those who can't miss their weekly curry!

There are activities in Morzine other than skiing and snowboarding. Tandem paragliding with a trained instructor will give you a better view of the mountains than any skier or boarder – and, arguably, a better rush of adrenalin. Should you wish to keep your feet on the ground however, a snow shoe excursion will again take you to places that skiers and boarders have never been. Other available activities include:- tobogganing, dog sled rides, hot air ballooning, helicopter rides, ice diving, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing or just simply long walks in the Pont d'Arèche.

## *About Skiing*

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Morzine is set in the heart of the Portes du Soleil the largest linked ski area in the world with over 650 km of pistes spread over 14 resorts, 8 in France and 6 in Switzerland. For beginners both [Morzine](#) and [Avoriaz](#) have great nursery slopes to learn on, backed up with a great selection of ski schools. Once you've mastered these slopes you can work your way around the [Portes du Soleil](#) circuit with all the connecting blue and red runs over 80kms over 14 resorts in France and Switzerland in one day!

Stretching between France and Switzerland, over 200 ski lifts will take you up to the 8 snowparks, 243km of cross country tracks and 650km of marked pistes that interconnect the 14 resorts, all accessible with a single ski pass. Even though parts of the ski area sit at a moderate altitude, it's northern situation (the most Northern in France) means that it often gets better snow than most other French resorts which are much higher. This factor along with the abundance of North facing slopes, means the snow lasts late in the season – (the lifts in Avoriaz closed on May 1st last season!) Also don't forget about the 520 snow cannons!

With the ski area being so large, there is a huge amount of varied skiing available in the Portes Du Soleil. 28 black runs, 107 red runs, 112 blue runs and 41 green runs.

Why not have a gentle ski over to Mont Chery for amazing view of the always impressive Mont Blanc or attempt the famous "Swiss wall", icy, steep and waist deep moguls! There is also plenty of accessible off piste skiing, such as the massive bowls down from Avoriaz and the tree runs down to Les Linderets

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## *About the Boarding*

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The Portes du Soleil is very freestyle orientated and boasts five board parks! Avoriaz is the most popular and is renowned for being one of the best parks in Europe, as well as a hang out for local pros like Nicolas Droz and the Armada crew. The park now hosts various major competitions throughout the season, so it has loads of different types of rails, and a good range of kickers and hips. It also has its own button lift running along the side. The superpipe (5 metre walls) now lies at the bottom of the Arare sector right by the village of Avoriaz. There's also a phat sound system pumping out hip hop all day long. The design is always changing but the set-up usually includes a couple of large kickers (10-20m), big hip, step-up, quarterpipe, c-rail, kinked rail, flat rails. There is now also beginners park - Snowpark du Chapelle and a snowskate park with smaller table tops and rails. This is located right near the town itself and you will see it as you get the lift up from Morzine. It is a good place to learn new tricks before taking them to the bigger jumps and rails, or to just mess around doing butters and stuff.

There are also snowparks in Chatel and Les Gets. They can be nice places to ride as it is a lot quieter than the other parks in the area, however they are limited for advanced riders. Chatel snowpark, known as the Smoothpark, has recently got much better and has a good selection of kickers and rails, including an s-rail and a see-saw rail!

In Les Gets there's also some good powder runs and freeriding terrain over the other side of the mountain. Get the lift up to Mont Chery and drop over the other side. Boarder's can go left from the chair and with the right conditions there's usually a nice cornice to drop off, leading into the main powder bowl. Free-riding around this side of the mountain can be amazing with good snow conditions..

All the other ski areas also offer loads of freeriding terrain, most of which you will just find as you go. Chatel/Linga and the surrounding areas are especially good for this, with some great runs to be had through the trees. Late season sees the opening of the luge ride at Chatel - you don't need to brake at all, just go flat out all the way down and you'll have the ride of your life!

## *About the Nightlife*

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Morzine's nightlife is excellent with many reasonably priced bars, pubs, clubs and restaurants – most of which are a mere 20 minute stagger from the chalets. For those who like to stay up late, there are two busy and lively nightclubs – Le Paradis and L'Opera Rock. There are almost too many bars to mention – Dixie Bar has Sky Sports for essential football and rugby matches and a strong English presence as well as live music. There is also the Caverne for post skiing drinks as well as Le Crépuscule and the Bowling Bar.

Morzine has a vast selection of restaurants ranging from a la carte through to bistro style eateries, pizzerias and take away burgers. There is even a "curry house" for those who can't live without their post-beer curry. Typically you can expect to pay around 30 Euros for a 3-course meal (without wine) in a decent restaurant and around 17 euros for a two course pizza meal. Try Le Grillon, Le Clin d'Oeil, La Chamade and Cafe Chaud for a decent Savoyarde meal and L'Etale is good for a pizza. If you want to push the boat out, then try the restaurant at Chalet Philibert – ex Four Seasons chef- or L'Armandier in St Jean d'Aulps. Both will give you a gastronomic experience that you will not forget, and it won't break the bank! Both are great for a special occasion – just let them know when booking.

## *About Non- Skiing Activities*

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For non-skiers Morzine has plenty to offer. For the sporty non-skier, there are squash courts, an indoor ice rink and a bowling alley. For those less inclined to break sweat, there is walking aplenty, whether into the town of Morzine, down the Dranse river to the Domaine Des d'Ereche or even go up a ski-lift into the mountains for some snow shoeing or lunch. Or why not pamper yourself with a sauna or solarium in town. Or go to see a film at one of the two cinemas. (English films shown in peak season)

Other activities for the non-faint of heart include paragliding, skidoo rides and helicopter rides. Whilst the not so brave can always take a horse drawn sleigh ride or simply stroll around the many shops, bars and restaurants. You can easily while the time away with a newspaper, pastry and a chocolat chaud (with or without a cognac) or even a well-timed glass of wine or vin chaud. Whatever you wish to do in Morzine, whether skiing or otherwise, a warm and friendly welcome is always guaranteed.

"On Behalf of Owner"