**Chamrousse**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

22

**Intermediate Runs**

13

**Advanced Runs**

6

**Total Runs**

41

**Lifts**

19

**Chairs**

7

**Drags**

11

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

2

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Chamrousse is a modern resort that has a special place in French hearts due to the many medals won by the country’s men and women at the resort during the 1968 Winter Olympics. But non-French guests also love the area with its sunny, laid-back atmosphere and close proximity to Grenoble, which is only 30km (19 miles) away.

The resort has two main base villages: Chamrousse 1650 (Recoin) and Chamrousse 1750 (Roche Béranger), which are linked by ski slopes, forests tracks and an efficient bus service. The slopes extend above and below the resort with spectacular 360-degree views from the highest point, Croix de Chamrousse at 2,250m (7,382ft).

Although a relatively modern resort, having been established in the 1950s, skiers have actually been enjoying the slopes where Chamrousse now sits for more than a century.

The resort reached worldwide fame in 1968 when it was the venue for six events at the Grenoble Winter Olympics, where Jean-Claude Killy became a ski legend by winning three gold medals. Since the games, Chamrousse has continued to modernise, most recently installing a high-speed gondola in 2010.

**Location**

Chamrousse is located at the southern end of the Belledonne mountain range, 30km (20 miles) away from Grenoble. The resort is in the Isère region of France, part of the southern French Alps.

**Website**

http://www.chamrousse.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.chamrousse.com/ski-map.html

**Hit The Slopes**

Chamrousse’s southerly location and south and west facing slopes would not usually provide the best combination for snow cover; but the resort’s 100-plus years of skiing has proven it to be a relatively reliable destination. This has also been enhanced in recent years with increasing investment in snowmaking.

The 90km (56 miles) of runs here provide something for all ability levels, from well thought-out beginner runs to the challenges of the Olympic men’s downhill course. But much of the terrain is composed of glorious wide, fast, intermediate and sunny slopes perfect for day-long cruising.

Chamrousse is a great choice for beginners with its easy-to-ride lifts and convenient slopeside access to facilities. The resort also affords good value for money with its ‘mini-area’ ski pass providing access to key, easy trails and the four drag lifts and two chair lifts that serve them.

For advanced skiers, the resort’s greatest challenge is the Casserousse couloir, with its 850m (2789ft) vertical descent. Accomplished skiers can test their avalanche awareness skills in Chamrousse’s ARVA Park at the top of the slopes, while there’s also night skiing on the floodlit Les Gaboureaux run.

Boarders and freestyle skiers will enjoy the resort’s Sunset Park in Chamrousse 1750, which contains a series of big airs and many rails, including rainbow and C-boxes. There are also boardercross and crossline courses with a series of woops and banks. For younger riders, the Kids’ Park offers mini boardercross, slopestyle, tables and a speed skiing course. A Sunset ski pass is available for skiers and boarders who only want to use the park, giving unlimited access to the required Bachat Bouloud chairlift for less than the cost of a regular day ticket.

Those who prefer to take things at a slower pace will love the 40km (25 miles) of cross-country tracks for all ability levels in the Nordic area.

**Chamrousse**

**Resort**

1650

**Base**

1450

**Top**

2250

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There are more activities than usual off the slopes compared to most ski resorts, particularly when it comes to outdoor pursuits. Among the variety of options are: snowmobiling, speed riding, dog sledding or driving on one of two ice circuits at the resort; while Chamrousse’s Nordic area has hiking and snowshoeing trails. Chamrousse 1650 is home to an ice skating rink and a bag jump, while the village puts on night-time sledging every Friday from 1615 – reservation is required (tel: 04 7689 9646).

In terms of indoor entertainment options, Chamrousse has a cinema and library, which visitors can join for the week. For a spot of pampering, try the local spa, which has a full range of treatments available.

**Family Fun**

Chamrousse is a relaxed and affordable resort for families, with the added bonus of most facilities being easily accessible.

Les Marmots (tel: 04 7689 9614) non-ski nursery can look after children from as young as three months old to six years. Additionally, the French Ski School (tel: 04 7689 9425; [www.esf-chamrousse.com.fr](http://www.esf-chamrousse.com.fr)) offers care with ski lessons tailored to the child’s age and ability, with the Piou Piou Club for those under-six and a separate grouping for six to 13 year-olds.

Among the non-ski activities for children is kids-only sledging in Chamrousse 1650.

**Retail Therapy**

Chamrousse has a selection of about 20 shops spread across the base villages; about half of these are snow sports shops, while there are also several food outlets in each village. A market is held in the resort every Tuesday, which alternates between Chamrousse 1650 and Chamrousse 1750.

Although not a resort for shopaholics, there are some nice souvenir outlets. Le Chalet (1184 rue des Martinets; tel: 04 7601 1984) supplies shoppers with crêpes, waffles and hot drinks while they browse the locally made products, including everything from t-shirts to home decoration. For a haircut experience with a difference, try L'esprit Chalet Karine Coiffure (avenue Henri Duhamel; tel: 04 7689 9353), which combines a lovely gift shop with a unisex hairdressing salon.

**Splashing Out**

Paragliding and speed riding are popular at Chamrousse. The former involves flying above the slopes suspended below a parascending sail accompanied by an instructor; the latter entails descending the slopes on skis or board with a small sail to enable really big air when a jump is made. Both are offered by the Corole paragliding school (469 rue des Gentians; tel: 04 7689 9366) and are available to all levels, from beginner to the already proficient.

**Apres Ski**

Après-ski in Chamrousse is generally limited to restaurants and low-key bars, but there are a handful of places open until late. Among the best, L'Iceberg Café (478 avenue du Père Tasse – beneath the shopping centre at Chamrousse 1750) is open until 0300 and provides pool tables, cocktails and a VIP lounge.

The resort organises a range of regular night-time activities, including toboggan runs from the top of the slopes at the start of the evening, and dance parties at the ice rink and cinema.

**Eating Out**

There are about 30 places to eat in and around Chamrousse, the majority of which are family-run establishments specialising in mountain favourites such as fondue, raclette, crêpes and the omnipresent pizza. Many have large, outdoor terraced dining areas; such is the resort’s reputation for sunshine – these are particularly popular towards the end of the season.

Among the more intimate locations, Le Chalet des Neiges (478 avenue du Père Tasse; tel: 04 7659 3982) serves traditional fare amidst a reproduction of an old wooden chalet. La Pierre Chaude (178 avenue Henri Duhamel; tel: 04 7689 9241; [www.pierre-chaude.com](http://www.pierre-chaude.com)) has a good reputation for its grilled meat dishes and mountain specialities. For crêpes, home-made chocolate and Breton draft cider, try Le Sorbier (Galerie Marchande; tel: 04 7651 0965).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Grenoble-Isere Airport (GNB); Chambéry Airport (CMF); Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport (LYS).

Distance to resort: 80km (50 miles); 90km (57 miles); 125km (78 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 20 minutes; 1 hour 30 minutes; 1 hour 50 minutes.

**Getting Around**

A free shuttle bus links the different parts of the resort from approximately 0800 to 2300, so there is little need for a car or taxi. The night bus allows resort guests to stay out later to experience the various entertainment and dining options on offer.

**Hotels**

The majority of accommodation in Chamrousse is in the form of apartments; however, there are some basic hotels, including some good family options. The highest graded property in the resort is currently three stars.

**L'Ecrin des Neiges**

A modern 3-star slopeside residence with apartment-style accommodation, L'Ecrin des Neiges has a small swimming pool and sauna area.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Roche Béranger

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Chamrousse 38410

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

08 2595 0202.

**Website**

http://monalisa.fr

**Hotel la Datcha**

This basic 100-room 2-star hotel is located 400m (437 yards) from the ski lifts and 600m (656 yards) from the town.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

84 Rue des Biolles

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Chamrousse 38410

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7689 9140.

**Website**

http://www.hotelladatcha.com

**L'Auberge du Virage**

This hotel is located 300m (328 yards) from the slopes and offers pleasant views of the valley. Facilities include a bar, fireplace and a south-facing terrace.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

10 Rue de la Cembraie

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Chamrousse 38410

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7689 9063.

**Website**

http://www.aubergeduvirage.com