**Grindelwald**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

16

**Intermediate Runs**

24

**Advanced Runs**

15

**Total Runs**

55

**Lifts**

27

**Chairs**

12

**Drags**

9

**Gondola Cable Cars**

6

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5.3m (17.4ft).

**Overview**

Grindelwald is one of the world's classic resorts with a ski history that dates back to the early 1880s, when a visiting English tourist strapped on his newfangled skis in his hotel room and heroically clomped out down the stairs, through the bar, and onto the snow.

Whether this was the oddest thing ever to have happened in the village, which was already nearing 700 years old at that point, is not known. However, it did begin a trend that led to the development of one of Switzerland's leading ski areas, the Jungfrau - which Grindelwald shares with its neighbour, Wengen.

The Jungfrau ski pass also covers Grindelwald's own slopes on First and the more distant pistes of Mürren across the valley, where the revolving restaurant famously featured in (and partly funded by) the James Bond film, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, can be found.

However good Grindelwald's resort facilities and skiing are, for many its biggest attraction is the truly awesome scenery that surrounds it, including the magnificent Eiger. This is one of the few cases where the word ‘awesome' is correctly used, and one of the reasons many regard the Jungfrau region as having the most stunningly beautiful scenery in skiing – and that's with plenty of tough competition.

**Location**

South of Lake Brienz and east of Wengen in the Jungfrau region, Grindelwald is within the Bernese Oberland administrative area of the Swiss canton of Bern.

**Website**

http://grindelwald.ch

http://www.jungfrau.ch

**Piste Map**

http://www.jungfrau.ch/en/winter/tourism/ski-area/grindelwald-first/weather-piste-information/railways-lifts/

**Hit The Slopes**

Skiers not wishing to take a day trip to a neighbouring resort can choose between Grindelwald's own First ski area or the larger Kleine Scheidegg and Männlichen sectors, which are shared with neighbouring Wengen and home to the infamous Lauberhorn downhill course that's an intimidating staple of the annual World Cup race circuit.

Just over half of the 160km (100 miles) of runs here are rated intermediate, but beginners have excellent nursery slopes in the Bodmi area that can be reached by a free bus from the resort centre. This has an easy-to-ride conveyor-type lift to make the first ascents as simple as possible.

Beyond the Lauberhorn, experts have several black runs to enjoy, including the aptly named Oh God (piste 27); the resort's toughest. There can be good off-piste skiing too after fresh snow on the Eiger's glaciers and the mountain guides can take accomplished skiers to the best and safest spots.

Beginner and intermediate snowboarders and slopestyle skiers can make the most of First ski area’s White Elements park, but there are more limited options for expert snowboarders who may want to head to nearby Mürren.

There are also more than 15km (9.5 miles) of cross-country trails for Nordic skiers to exploit, which although relatively little compared with many resorts in the Alps, is more than neighbouring Mürren and Wengen.

The ski season in Grindelwald generally runs from mid-December until mid-April.

**Grindelwald**

**Resort**

1034

**Base**

945

**Top**

2505

**Jungfrau**

**Resort**

XXX

**Base**

584

**Top**

2971

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Indoor attractions in Grindelwald include a local museum, several games rooms, a bouldering area, indoor rope park, ice skating and curling rink at the sports centre (Dorfstrasse 110; tel: 033 854 1230; [www.sportzentrum-grindelwald.ch](http://www.sportzentrum-grindelwald.ch)). The sports centre is also home to the resort’s public indoor pool with a 70m-long (240ft) slide, as well as a spa with saunas and steam baths. Several of the larger hotels also have swimming pools, saunas and fitness facilities that are open to non-residents.

Outdoor activities include sleigh rides and the world longest (15km/9 mile-long) sledge run. Then there’s tubing, marked and cleared winter hiking routes (80km/50 miles), snowshoe trails (20km/12 miles), cross-country tracks (25km/16 miles), and winter climbing and ski touring courses.

For extreme sport junkies, there’s adrenaline-inducing heli-skiing or tandem paragliding – the latter offering stunning views of the Jungfrau region and beyond.

**Family Fun**

The Sunshine nursery (tel: 033 854 1290) in the Intersport Rent Network building (at the top of the Männlichen cable car) can look after babies from a month old, and can arrange collection from accommodation. In addition, the Swiss Ski and Snowboard School’s (tel: 033 854 1280; [skischool-jungfrau.ch](http://skischool-jungfrau.ch)) team of experienced mothers provides drinks, small snacks and nappies free of charge.

Once ready to progress to snow sports, Snowli Children's Club (tel: 033 854 1280; [www.grindelwaldsports.ch/en/snowli-kids-club-bodmi.html](http://www.grindelwaldsports.ch/en/snowli-kids-club-bodmi.html)) – organised by the local Swiss Ski School in the Bodmi area at Terrassenweg – accepts children aged three and over during the week.

Off the slopes, a rare facility is the resort's free games and toy library, which was established in 1996 by a few local ladies.

**Retail Therapy**

With 60 shops to choose from, Grindelwald is one of the better choices for shopping-focused skiers in the region. Beyond sports and souvenir shops, there's a good selection of fashion boutiques and jewellers in the resort centre. Before leaving, don't forget to purchase some of the local cheese from one of the well-stocked delicatessens in the resort.

**Splashing Out**

Receive VIP treatment on the slopes by hiring a private ski instructor and guide from Privat Ski (tel: 079 555 6699; [www.privat-ski.ch](http://www.privat-ski.ch)). Guides will collect clients from their accommodation and treat them to exclusive service and attention, including VIP access to the First ski lifts.

**Apres Ski**

Besides hotel bars, Grindelwald has a good selection of night spots and can provide a full-on après-ski experience. The Espresso Bar in the Hotel Spinne (Dorfstrasse 136; Tel: 033 854 8888; [www.spinne.ch](http://www.spinne.ch)) is one of the most popular bars in town. A younger crowd will be found at Avocado (Dorfstrasse 158; Tel: 079 955 2704; [www.avocadobar.com](http://www.avocadobar.com)). For those looking to stay out a little later, the Mescalero Disco, also in Hotel Spinne, sometimes has live acts.

**Eating Out**

There is an excellent choice of around 50 restaurants in Grindelwald that can be subdivided into the usual categories of Swiss, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, fast food and gourmet. It’s possible to add to this a ‘cheese' category, with a choice of seven restaurants specialising in cheese dishes.

A handful of restaurants can be classed as gourmet havens. Among these, the restaurant in Hotel Aspen (Aspen 1; tel: 033 854 4000; [www.hotel-aspen.ch](http://www.hotel-aspen.ch)) offers high-quality food, including one of the best fondues in town. Other options include the Hotel Eiger (Dorfstrasse 133; tel: 033 854 3131; [www.eiger-grindelwald.ch](http://www.eiger-grindelwald.ch)) with its Swiss and international cuisine; and the atmospheric La Marmite at Hotel Kirchbühl (Kirchbühlstrasse 23; tel: 033 854 4080; [www.kirchbuehl.ch](http://www.kirchbuehl.ch)).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Bern-Belp Airport (BRN); Zurich Airport (ZRH); Geneva International Airport (GVA).

Distances to resort: 70km (44 miles); 196km (122 miles); 210km (130 miles).

Driving times: 1 hour 5 minutes; 2 hours 35 minutes; 3 hours.

Nearest railway station: Grindelwald.

Distance to resort: Within the town.

**Getting Around**

Much of the resort can be accessed on foot, but a bus service circulates around the wider area. There are also bus, funicular rail and gondola or cable-car links to points of interest, such as Europe's highest railway station (Jungfraujoch), and neighbouring towns.

**Hotels**

The main village is made up of old, traditional chalet-style buildings that offer everything from luxurious hotel-style comforts to more modest choices. There are also plenty of apartments for those looking for self-catering options, while for the budget conscious, a choice of hostels and cheaper bed and breakfast hotels is available in Grindelwald and its surrounding mountains.

**Grand Regina - Alpin Well & Fit Hotel**

This lavish 5-star hotel offers a luxurious spa with six different types of sauna and various massages. Guests here can also enjoy gourmet dining in the hotel’s Pendule d'Or restaurant, while other facilities include an indoor pool and a fitness room.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Dorfstrasse 80

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

3818 Grindelwald

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

033 854 8600.

**Website**

http://www.grandregina.ch

**Hotel Alpenhof**

A cosy and peaceful slopeside hotel with a wonderful view from its south-facing rooms, Hotel Alpenhof is located a few minutes’ walk from the village centre.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Kreuzweg 36

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

3818 Grindelwald

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

033 853 5270.

**Website**

http://www.alpenhof.ch

**Hotel Glacier**

A highly affordable chalet hotel just three minutes from resort centre, Hotel Glacier has an excellent on-site restaurant serving traditional local cuisine.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Endweg

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

3818 Grindelwald

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

033 853 1004.

**Website**

http://www.glacierhotel.ch