**La Plagne**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

10

**Intermediate Runs**

101

**Advanced Runs**

18

**Total Runs**

129

**Lifts**

80

**Chairs**

34

**Drags**

37

**Gondola Cable Cars**

9

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

2

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

6m (20ft).

**Overview**

La Plagne is one of the world's largest and most diverse ski resorts. Its own ski area, which has 225km (140 miles) of pistes stretching over 2,000m (6,562ft) down from the Bellecôte Glacier, is one of the biggest; but this almost doubles in size thanks to the recent lift link with Les Arcs across the valley. This combined Paradiski area is in the world’s top five in terms of size and is accessed by the spectacular double-decker Vanoise Express cable car.

Although marketed as one resort, La Plagne has 10 separate base villages that are as varied as its skiing. The lower and most architecturally attractive villages include Montalbert, Champagny en Vanoise and Montchavin-Les Coches, which are based on original settlements. Modern developments up to 800m (2,640ft) above include Belle Plagne, Plagne Centre, Plagne 1800, Plagne-Bellecôte, Aime la Plagne, Plagne Soleil and Plagne-Villages. Each village has its own facilities, access to the whole area and ski-in/ski-out access to most accommodation.

**Location**

La Plagne is located in the southeastern French region of Savoie in the western Alps, close to the Swiss and Italian borders. It is located within the Tarentaise Valley and is part of the Paradiski ski area.

**Website**

http://www.la-plagne.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.paradiski.com/skiplan/

**Hit The Slopes**

La Plagne's huge ski area encompasses runs of all kinds for all ability levels. Its high-altitude glacier skiing and extensive snowmaking ensures conditions are normally good throughout the season, which runs from mid-December until late April.

Intermediate skiers in particular will enjoy the variety, with the 2,000m (6,600ft) vertical drop ensuring some of the world's longest ski runs (up to 15km/9 miles long). These begin in the vast snow bowls at the top of the ski area and continue down through the long motorway pistes to the exciting trails cut through the forest below.

There are multiple nursery areas throughout the domain for beginners, and most resort bases have an easy route option. The 10 green runs provide a good choice for beginners to hone their newly found skills, while there are numerous blue runs for the slightly more adventurous.

With the size of the terrain, it’s also no surprise there's plenty for advanced skiers both on and off piste. There are 18 black runs – with the majority of the steepest terrain in Le Biolley – while the toughest red is the 3.5km (2.2-mile) Emile Allais in La Roche.

Freestylers also have lots to entertain them, with terrain parks and three boardercross courses at Belle Plagne, Montchavin-Les Coches and Champagny en Vanoise. There are also two halfpipes to enjoy.

**La Plagne**

**Resort**

1250

**Base**

1970

**Top**

3250

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Despite its vast size, La Plagne's multi-base structure means there is no one big village with a major focus of facilities. For example, there are ice rinks, toboggan hills and several games rooms spread throughout the different villages.

Specialist activites include bowling at Belle Plagne, squash in Plagne 1800, climbing in Plagne Centre, ice climbing in Champany en Vanoise, paintballing at Plagne Bellecôte and dog-sledding in Plagne Montalbert and the high altitude villages. There’s also a 1.5km-long (0.9-mile) sledging piste at Plagne Centre, which goes from the top of the floodlit Colorado chairlift. For something a little more unusual, there’s the opportunity to drive a piste groomer accompanied by a pro on a closed circuit (tel: 04 7909 7979).

For soothing post-ski relaxation, head to the new l’Espace Paradisio (tel: 04 7909 3320; [www.espace-paradisio.com](http://www.espace-paradisio.com)) complex at Montchavin-Les Coches that incorporates spa and plunge pools, Turkish baths, sauna, hot tubs, and a health and beauty parlour.

**Family Fun**

Virtually all of La Plagne's villages have their own non-ski nursery for babies and toddlers, with special ski kindergarten from age three. Most also have a small selection of restaurants and off-slope attractions for families, including family-friendly ice rinks at Montchavin-Les Coches and the higher altitude resorts.

Montchavin-Les Coches has accommodation and family facilities that are recognised at a national level, and has been rewarded for its family focus with the Family Plus label every year since 2006 – this label is granted for providing comprehensive services for children aged 18 months and above.

**Retail Therapy**

Although there are reported to be more than 200 shops in La Plagne, these are spread between the 10 centres, so there's an average of around 20 or so in each village; however, most of these are focused on convenience, skiwear and equipment. La Plagne is therefore not a shopping mecca, but there are a number of interesting shops selling local delicacies. Among these is the delightful La Table de Berger (tel: 04 7909 1909) in Plagne Centre, a treasure trove of cheeses, hams and saucisson (dry cured sausage).

**Splashing Out**

Ride La Plagne's 1.7km-long (1.1-mile) Olympic bobsleigh run (which reaches speeds of up to 134kph/83mph) either as a passenger on a taxi bobsleigh experiencing g-forces of up to 3g on some bends. Alternatively, try a more sedate self-steering bob raft at slower speeds (80kph/50mph). Bookings can be made through the resort’s information office (tel: 04 7909 1273; [www.la-plagne.com](http://www.la-plagne.com)).

**Apres Ski**

The larger altitude resorts, particularly Plagne Centre, tend to be the liveliest; but traditional villages such as Plagne-Montalbert also have an increasing number of bars and restaurants – these can become busy with British and Irish guests, who tend to eat out whereas local guests prefer to eat and drink in their apartments. Each resort has at least one lively night spot.

There are 10 late-night bars and two nightclubs spread through the resort. Among them, Scotty’s Bar (Immeuble Le Christiana; tel: 06 8437 5559), Le Vega (Galerie du Pelvoux; tel: 04 7909 0061) and Le Luna Bar (Place de la cheminée; tel: 04 7909 0150; [www.lelunabar.com](http://www.lelunabar.com)) are popular in Plagne Centre; while Le Cosy Bar (tel: 04 7909 0183) and La Souris Verte (tel: 04 7924 4598) offer good options in Plagne Bellecôte.

**Eating Out**

La Plagne has nearly 100 restaurants spread around the various ski areas and villages. Most are traditional French establishments, but there are several other options, including pizzerias.

The atmospheric Le Trappeur's (tel: 04 7909 7764) in Plagne-Montalbert serves good quality, traditional French food in wood-clad surrounds. L'Arlequin (tel: 04 7909 0529) in Aime La Plagne is the place to head for pizzas and local specialities.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Chambéry Airport (CMF); Geneva International Airport (GVA); Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport (LYS).

Distance to resort: 120km (75 miles); 149km (93 miles); 180km (113 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes; 2 hours; 2 hours 30 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Aime la Plagne.

Distance to resort: 17km (11 miles).

Driving time: 20 minutes.

**Getting Around**

All of La Plagne's villages are compact enough to be able to walk around, and all are predominantly pedestrianised. A free shuttle bus service circulates between La Plagne's various resort villages throughout the day and evening. Several of the resorts are also linked by gondola lifts, so it's possible to move between them on foot as well as skis.

**Hotels**

As a consequence of the resort’s dispersed nature, the accommodation in La Plagne is spread between the villages and varies in style and price. The prettier centres are Plagne-Montalbert, Champagny en Vanoise and Montchavin-Les Coches, which have a majority of guest houses and traditional lodges. The other bases are more modern, with larger apartment blocks for those looking for self-catering options.

There are no 5-star hotels in La Plagne, but the beautiful chalets throughout the area provide the perfect accommodation for those looking for more opulent lodgings.

**Mercure Belle Plagne 2100**

Mercure Belle Plagne 2100 is a recently renovated 3-star hotel in a Savoyard-style building in the heart of Belle Plagne. This slopeside hotel offers superb views, a kids' club (in the school holidays) and health and fitness centres.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Lieu dit La Montagne des Génisses

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Belle Plagne

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7909 1209.

**Website**

http://www.mercure.com

**UCPA Le France**

Newly refurbished, this UCPA-run apartment complex has a games room and bar, and is a good option for groups.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Mâcot

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

73214 Plagne Centre

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7909 0681.

**Website**

http://www.ucpa-plagnelefrance.com

**Hôtel le Carlina**

The cosy, 4-star Hôtel le Carlina boasts a luxury spa, indoor pool and restaurant in Belle Plagne.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Belle Plagne

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

73210 La Plagne

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7909 7846.

**Website**

http://www.carlina-belleplagne.com

**Hôtel Deux Domaines**

Fusing modern design and traditional charm, this 4-star hotel features 40 rooms and 22 suites. Guests here can make use of underground parking, children’s nursery and wellness area; while daily five-course menus and provided at the on-site restaurant.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Belle Plagne

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

73210 La Plagne

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7923 2774.

**Website**

http://www.espritski.com

**Hôtel Araucaria**

Housing a restaurant, sauna and beauty salon, the 3-star Hôtel Araucaria is nestled at the foot of the slopes in Plagne Centre, close to the village’s bars and restaurants.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Plagne Centre

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

73214 La Plagne

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7909 2020.

**Website**

http://www.araucaria-hotel.com

**Cap Vacances La Plagne**

The resort-style Cap Vacances La Plagne is a good choice for families with its clubs for children of various ages. The resort’s restaurant provides enviable panoramic views of Plagne-Montalbert’s slopes.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Plagne-Montalbert

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

73210 La Plagne

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7955 3023.

**Website**

http://www.capvacances.fr