**Les Deux Alpes**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Summer skiing

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

72

**Intermediate Runs**

18

**Advanced Runs**

14

**Total Runs**

104

**Lifts**

50

**Chairs**

25

**Drags**

20

**Gondola Cable Cars**

5

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

7m (23ft).

**Overview**

Les Deux Alpes, one of France's earliest ski resorts, is a big, lively village with old hotels juxtaposed with modern developments – most of which provide affordable accommodation. The skiing takes place on both sides of the valley, with lifts never more than a few steps from the main street.

The Pied Moutet base ski area is small, while the main slopes escalate high up to the glacier area, making Les Deux Alpes one of the world's highest resorts. The downside is that the ski area is quite narrow and everyone funnels down the same way.

Les Deux Alpes is known for its off-piste opportunities, but there are enough challenging slopes for all abilities to explore. The resort’s accessibility to other nearby ski areas also means there are a whole host of options available to skiers. Further options can be explored when using the all-encompassing Milky Way Pass, which includes also skiing in the Italian resorts of Sestriere and Sauze d’Oulx.

**Location**

Les Deux Alpes sits high in the Isére department, between France's northern and southern Alps.

**Website**

http://www.les2alpes.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.2alpes.com/pages/fr/19/plan-des-pistes-et-domaine-skiable.html

**Hit The Slopes**

Wonderful views are afforded from the blue runs on Glacier du Mont de Lans, the highest point of the ski area in Les Deux Alpes. The glacier, which also boats a number of blacks, off-piste opportunities and a connection the nearby resort of La Grave, is reached via the underground funicular and draglifts.

There are 225km (140 miles) of pistes here, so there’s plenty for downhill skiers but also an impressive amount of off-piste skiing – although it's sometimes hard to find – as well as a terrain park to enjoy.

A 250m-long (273 yards) conveyor lift with a glass cover over its entire length was installed in the mid-mountain Les Crêtes area at 2,100m (6,900ft) ahead of the 2012/12 season. This has created a great beginners area (that is also accessed from resort by the new Le Diable chairlift) providing a snowsure place to learn with beautiful views of the mountains. But queues for the gondola then gridlock on the easy slopes above can be commonplace. The trick is to get past this by going up to the Toura area, where skiers and boarders can hit the runs (and off-piste terrain) down towards La Fee; or head further up to the bottom of the glacier for some decent cruising.

Away from the resort, La Grave, Alpe d'Huez, Serre Chevalier and the 400km (250 miles) of the Milky Way lift pass – which extends from Montgenèvre in France to the 2006 Winter Olympic resorts of Sestriere and Sauze d'Oulx over the border in Italy – are all included on the same lift pass, and provide plentiful opportunities for all levels of ability.

As one of France’s highest resorts, snow cover is generally reliable, particularly in the glacial area – some of the lower slopes are aided by snowmaking facilities. The season runs from early December to late April.

**Les Deux Alpes**

**Resort**

1600

**Base**

1300

**Top**

3600

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Les Deux Alpes is a nice place to explore off the slopes, and there’s a huge range of activities beyond skiing and boarding. The active will enjoy the outdoor pool, ice rink (free on the lift pass) and a couple of sports centres with pools, squash and other sports facilities. The resort is also home to bowling alleys, a climbing wall, paragliding, helicopter flights, snowshoeing, sleigh rides and an abundance of picturesque mountain walks.

On the mountains, visitors can take a snowcat tour or visit a spectacular cave of ice carvings created 3,200m (10,500ft) up on the glacier. The sport of speed riding, which involves descending the slopes with a small parasail attached in order to get some really big air, is also available here.

Beyond the resort, take the gondola down to Venosc, a pretty, traditional village where there are delightful artisan workshops and donkey rides.

**Family Fun**

Les Deux Alpes has been awarded the Family Plus Mountain certification by the French government for the range and quality of its facilities for families.

Unique fun activities here include the 'ice glider' (dodgem cars on ice) at the ice rink and the 'robocoaster' avalanche simulator. There are also regular firework displays, sledging and a visit to the local donkey farm.

There are several ski schools in Les Deux Alpes. Among them, the British-run European Ski & Snowboard School (102 avenue de la Muzelle; tel: 04 7679 7455; [www.europeanskischool.co.uk](http://www.europeanskischool.co.uk/)) offers lessons in English only and is excellent for children (from age four). Away from the slopes, the Bonhomme de Neige centre (21 rue des Sagnes; tel: 04 7679 0262) can provide non-ski childcare from age six months to 12 years.

**Retail Therapy**

There are plenty of shops in Les Deux Alpes, including a number of clothes stores with racks of knock-down fleeces and snow-friendly accessories, as well as trendier spots such as Quiksilver (82 Avenue de la Muzelle).

The sweet-toothed should head to La Marjolaine chocolate shop (114 avenue de la Muzelle), which sells exquisite, handcrafted delights. While, for savoury delicacies, Le Montagnard Gourmand (Place des Arcades) and Le Vieux Chalet (85B Avenue de la Muzelle) are well-stocked with local meats, cheese, wines and drinks, as well as the local liqueur *génépi*.

**Splashing Out**

Take a helicopter ride to Alpe d'Huez either for a day's skiing or simply for the wonderful views of Mont Blanc. Alternatively, book a guide and go heli-skiing over the boarder in Switzerland or Italy. Both experiences are available through SAF Helicoptères (tel: 04 7908 0091; [www.saf-helicopters.com](http://www.saf-helicopters.com/)).

**Apres Ski**

There is a huge selection of après-ski bars in Les Deux Alpes, most of which offer similar raucous and relatively unsophisticated nightlife. These include the British-themed Pub Le Windsor (70 avenue de la Muzelle; tel: 04 7679 2295) and Smithy's Tavern (7 rue du Cairou; tel: 04 7611 3679; [www.smithystavern.com](http://www.smithystavern.com/)), a cavernous restaurant, bar and party spot that attracts a lively crowd. Motown Café (61 Avenue de la Muzelle; tel: 04 7680 5547) in the centre of the resort is another good choice, especially for cocktails, live music and an all-round cool vibe.

Those seeking to let their hair down into the early hours can head to nightclubs L'Avalanche (5 rue du Cairou) and L'Opéra (20 La Meije), which both attract a lively gathering of skiers and boarders.

**Eating Out**

There are around 70 places to eat in Les Deux Alpes, serving everything from classic French cuisine to cheap and cheerful fare.

Of the former, La Porte d’A Cote (70 avenue de la Muzelle; tel: 04 7680 5002) serves quality food at decent prices and is good for a family meal; while Le Cellier (3 Place de Venosc) and Le Paellou (107 Allee la Muzelle; tel: 04 7680 5154) specialise in hearty, traditional food.

For high-class gastronomy, try Le Raisin d’Ours (98 avenue de la Muzelle; tel: 04 7679 2956; [www.leraisindours.fr](http://www.leraisindours.fr/)), which offers good value set menus composed of exquisitely presented dishes.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

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

Distances to resort: 120km (75 miles); 130km (80 miles); 160km (100 miles); 230km (143 miles).

Driving times: 2 hours; 2 hours; 2 hours 30 minutes; 3 hours 10 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Grenoble.

Distance to resort: 70km (44 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes (bus service).

**Getting Around**

Les Deux Alpes is a rather sprawling resort, so free buses are available to transport visitors and locals around. Helicopter transfers are available to some neighbouring ski areas.

**Hotels**

There is a wide choice of affordable hotels in Les Deux Alpes housed within a variety of buildings, from 1960s blocks to more sympathetic modern buildings and traditional chalets. Most accommodation is in the form of catered chalets and apartments or 2- and 3-star hotels. There are, however, a growing number of 4-star hotels in the resort, signifying its gradual move upmarket each season.

**Hôtel La Farandole**

This 4-star chalet hotel in the centre of town is near the lifts and has south-facing rooms and suites with views down the valley. Its on-site restaurant offers simple buffet-style dining, and there is an expansive terrace with stunning mountain views to enjoy.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

18 Rue du Cairou

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Venosc

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7680 5045.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-la-farandole.com

**Hôtel Adret**

Hôtel Adret is situated in a quiet spot at the entrance to town, just 50m (165ft) from the nearest lift. A convenient shuttle service operates from here to the ski school meeting point, and guests can make use of the swimming pool and sauna.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

1 Chemin de la Sea

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Les Deux Alpes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7679 2430.

**Website**

http://www.adret-hotel.com

**Hôtel Côte Brune**

A charming little place in the centre of town, near the bottom of the slopes, Hôtel Côte Brune has a friendly bar and on-site restaurant serving hearty traditional French food. Post-ski aches can be eased at the on-site spa with its steam room, sauna and Jacuzzi.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

6 Rue des Côtes Brunes

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Les Deux Alpes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7680 5489.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-cotebrune.com

**Hôtel de la Valentin**

An intimate, family-friendly 2-star hotel with 27 bedrooms, Hôtel de la Valentin includes a restaurant and wellness area with a sauna, hot tub and fitness room.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

40 avenue de la Muzelle

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Les Deux Alpes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7679 2243.

**Website**

http://www.les2alpesleisure.com

**Chalet Mounier**

Run by the Mounier family since 1879, Chalet Mounier is a wonderful 4-star hotel with 44 bedrooms. Each room is different, but every one is decorated in a modern mountain style. The on-site Le P’tit Polyte restaurant is led by Michelin-starred chef, Benoit Lorlut.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

2 rue de la Chapelle

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Les Deux Alpes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7680 5690.

**Website**

http://www.chalet-mounier.com