**St Moritz**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Non-skiers

Snow reliability

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

18

**Intermediate Runs**

61

**Advanced Runs**

9

**Total Runs**

88

**Lifts**

56

**Chairs**

19

**Drags**

26

**Gondola Cable Cars**

11

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

3m (10ft).

**Overview**

St Moritz is the world's original ski resort and has long been the most famous. As well as playing host to kings, presidents, fur-clad movie stars and private jets, this illustrious resort has also staged Olympic Games, Alpine Ski World Championships and world-class horse races on its frozen lake. The resort also delights in offering all manner of imaginable luxuries in its ‘5-star deluxe' hotels and private clubs.

But, as with its twin town of Aspen in the USA, it's a mistake to think St Moritz ski resort is exclusively for the rich and famous. Yes, they keep a few places just for themselves (and quite a few of the others price out mere mortals), but St Moritz can be done on a budget. The huge Engadin ski domain isn't the cheapest lift ticket in Europe, but it's not the most expensive either; and affordable dining and lodging is there for those who look hard enough.

**Location**

St Moritz is located in the Engadin Valley in southeastern Switzerland, close to the borders of Italy to the south and Austria to the east.

**Website**

http://www.engadin.stmoritz.ch

http://www.stmoritz.ch

**Piste Map**

http://www.engadin.stmoritz.ch/files/wintercontent/aktivit%C3%A4ten/Skigebiet\_Uebersichtskarte.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

St Moritz is part of the Engadin ski region, which includes multiple ski areas above the Engadin Valley, an overall domain that covers 350km (219 miles) of pistes.

The main ski area directly above the resort is Corviglia, which is reached by a state-of-the-art funicular, complete with solar panels to help generate power. There are runs for all ability levels here and a cable car carries on further to Piz Nair, from which it’s possible to see the steep start of the men’s World Cup downhill course.

The second nearest ski area is Corvatsch, a short bus ride away above Silvaplana-Surlej. These slopes offer the highest skiing in the region and more challenging terrain for better skiers.

A third ski area, Diavolezza, a 30-minute bus ride the other way, has some of the region's toughest runs, including a 10km-long (6-mile) descent over the glacier back down to Morteratsch in the valley below.

The ski area's altitude and extensive snowmaking mean it is snowsure throughout the season. There used to be a small summer ski area on the glacier, but climate change and lack of interest put paid to that in 1999. The season here generally runs from mid-October until end of May.

**St Moritz**

**Resort**

1856

**Base**

1716

**Top**

3303

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Nearly two-thirds of visitors to St Moritz in winter have no intention of skiing or boarding. They are happy to take the lift up to a gourmet restaurant, go on a sleigh ride along the frozen lakes or, if they time it right, perhaps watch a horse race, polo or a cricket match on the ice.

St Moritz has the famous Cresta Run ([www.cresta-run.com](http://www.cresta-run.com)) toboggan route, which is men only – due to old-fashioned chauvinism or chivalry, depending on your point of view. It also has the only bobsleigh run still ‘handmade' out of natural ice each winter, which hosts international races and can claim to be the world's largest ice sculpture.

Other things to do in St Moritz include visits to the various spas, museums and galleries, a trip to the cinema or casino, or a game of indoor tennis or squash.

**Family Fun**

There are non-skiing childcare facilities in several of the hotels in St Moritz, typically operating between 0900 and 2100 with a break for lunch. Among these, the nurseries in the Kulm Hotel (Via Veglia 18; tel: 081 836 8000; [www.kulmhotel-stmoritz.ch](http://www.kulmhotel-stmoritz.ch)) accept children from age three; while the Kempinski Hotel (Via Mezdi 27; tel: 081 8383 838; [www.kempinski.com](http://www.kempinski.com)) can look after kids aged three months to 12 years. Badrutt's Palace Hotel (Via Serlas 27; tel: 081 837 1000; [www.badruttspalace.com](http://www.badruttspalace.com)) and the Hotel Schweizerhof (Via da Bagn 54; tel: 081 873 0707; [www.schweizerhofstmoritz.ch](http://www.schweizerhofstmoritz.ch)) also have day nurseries.

The local ski schools accept children in special all-day classes on the slopes from age three, with indoor periods for younger participants. Several of these schools will pick up children from various points around the resort.

**Retail Therapy**

St Moritz is the ultimate destination for serious shoppers. In fact, arguably more people travel here for the shopping than for the skiing. There are more than 150 shops in St Moritz in total, including designer boutiques such as Armani, Versace, Cartier, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Gucci and Bulgari along Via Serlas. For delectable chocolates, head to Confiserie Hauser (Via Traunter Plazzas 7; tel: 081 837 5017; [www.hotelhauser.ch](http://www.hotelhauser.ch)).

**Splashing Out**

In St Moritz's case, not splashing out is the challenge. Party animals should spend an evening in the famous King's Club in the 5-star Badrutt's Palace hotel (Via Serlas 27; tel: 081 837 1000; [www.badruttspalace.com](http://www.badruttspalace.com)). This swanky nightclub stays open until sunrise (or whenever it feels like closing) and customers here are likely to be mixing with celebrities and lesser-known royalty.

**Apres Ski**

St Moritz has a wide range of bars and clubs, including some of the most infamously exclusive (and thus expensive) nightspots in skiing. But there are also regular places for après-ski in St Moritz too.

The Sunny Bar in Kulm Hotel (Via Veglia 18; tel: 081 836 8000; [www.kulmhotel-stmoritz.ch](http://www.kulmhotel-stmoritz.ch)) is a good place to peruse Cresta Run memorabilia; while Stübli in Hotel Schweizerhof (Via dal Bagn 54; tel: 081 837 0707; [www.schweizerhofstmoritz.ch](http://www.schweizerhofstmoritz.ch)) is animated and often hosts live music.

Head to the Corvatsch ski area on Friday evening for the weekly Snow Night. This involves Switzerland's longest floodlit ski slope re-opening from 1900 through to 0200 with a party atmosphere.

**Eating Out**

There are approaching 100 restaurants in St Moritz, and though best known for the gourmet standards of its numerous sophisticated restaurants, it can cater for all tastes. Indeed, visitors here will find Chinese, Swiss, Thai, Japanese, French and Italian eateries dotted throughout the resort.

La Carnotzet in the Hotel Laudinella (Via Tegiatscha 17; tel: 081 836 0000; [www.laudinella.ch](http://www.laudinella.ch)) is a good choice for local specialities, with cheese for its raclette provided by a local farm.

Cà d'Oro in the Kempinski Hotel (Via Mezdi 27; tel: 081 838 3081; [www.kempinski.com](http://www.kempinski.com)), with its Italian-Mediterranean cuisine, is one of the 20-plus gourmet restaurants listed in the Gault Millau guide.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Samedan Airport (SMV); Milan Linate Airport (LIN); Zurich Airport (ZRH); Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP).

Distance to resort: 8km (5 miles); 180km (112 miles); 210km (130 miles); 220km (137 miles).

Driving time: 15 minutes; 3 hours; 3 hours 10 minutes; 3 hours 20 minutes.

Nearest railway station: St Moritz.

Distance from resort: Within the resort.

**Getting Around**

Buses and trains link the various villages and the ski areas on the Engadin pass. Horse-drawn sleighs can be hired to act as taxis.

**Hotels**

The glitzy resort has its fair share of luxurious accommodation to suit its well-heeled visitors, with over half the hotels in St Moritz being either 4- or 5-star rated – the highest concentration in Switzerland. Most of the accommodation is in the form of modern buildings, with some chalet-style offerings.

**Hotel Piz**

Centrally located, this high-quality bed and breakfast accommodation is close to all facilities, including the sports centre. The restaurant has a stylish wood-clad restaurant that serves local dishes and pizza.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Via dal Bagn 6

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Moritz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

081 832 1111.

**Website**

http://www.piz-stmoritz.ch

**Kulm Hotel**

The world's original winter holiday hotel – having welcomed its first winter guests 150 years ago – Kulm Hotel is rated ‘beyond 5-star' and includes a glut of restaurants and bars, with the chance to even eat at the ‘chef’s table’. The on-site wellness centre offers a range of top quality massages and treatments.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via Veglia 18

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Moritz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

081 836 8000.

**Website**

http://www.kulmhotel-stmoritz.ch

**Hauser's Hotel**

This central 3-star hotel has been run by the Hauser family for more than 50 years. The hotel has its own confectionary shop selling mouth-watering cakes, pastries and chocolates.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via Traunter Plazzas 7

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Moritz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

081 837 5050.

**Website**

http://www.hotelhauser.ch