**Tignes**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Summer skiing

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

22

**Intermediate Runs**

107

**Advanced Runs**

26

**Total Runs**

155

**Lifts**

89

**Chairs**

45

**Drags**

34

**Gondola Cable Cars**

10

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

6m (20ft).

**Overview**

Tignes ski resort is one of France's highest skiing destinations, which contributes to it being snowsure throughout the season. In fact, thanks to the 3,456m (11,339ft) Grande Motte glacier, the resort offers almost year-round skiing, closing only for a few weeks in May/June and September.

This largely purpose-built ski resort may lack the traditional architectural appeal of neighbouring Val d'Isère, but the variety of runs and excellent lift network more than make up for this lack of charm.

Tignes is split into several villages. There are three main settlements: Val Claret is the highest – and therefore the closest to the funicular station – and provides access to the glacier; Tignes-le-Lac is the bustling resort centre; while adjacent Le Lavachet provides a scattering of accommodation and bars lower down. Further down the valley, there is the quieter Tignes 1800 (which has recently been redeveloped and was previously called Tignes les Boisses), and its more traditional neighbour Tignes les Brévières.

Together with Val d'Isère, Tignes forms part of the 10,000-hectare (25,000-acre) Espace Killy ski area, which provides opportunities for all levels of skier and boarder with more than 300km (187 miles) of pistes.

**Location**

Tignes ski resort is located in the southeastern French region of Savoie in the Western Alps, close to the Swiss and Italian borders.

**Website**

http://www.tignes.net

**Piste Map**

http://www.tignes.net/en/skiing-in-tignes/ski-run-map-28.html

**Hit The Slopes**

The main winter season runs from early December until early May, but skiing doesn’t stop there. The glacier is open for summer skiing from mid-June to late August and then re-opens a few weeks later in mid- September right through to the following May. Tignes is now the only French outdoor ski area fully open in October and November and has the longest ski season in France.

Tignes alone offers an enormous variety of terrain, but add Val d'Isère into the mix and visitors can easily ski a different zone every day of the week. Lift passes are available for Tignes only or the entire Espace Killy area with its 300km (187 miles) of linked piste. Most of Tignes' ski area is served by state of the art lifts accessed by hands-free passes, meaning queues are usually kept down too.

Complete beginners can take advantage of the free Rosset chairlift, around which their first lessons take place on the nursery slopes of Tignes-le-Lac and Le Lavachet. There is a good choice of ski schools in the resort, including the École du Ski Français (ESF) in Tignes-le-Lac and Val Claret (tel: 04 7906 3028; [www.esf-tignes.com](http://www.esf-tignes.com/)) and Evolution 2 (tel: 07 6091 2031; [www.evolution2.com/tignes](http://www.evolution2.com/tignes)) in Tignes-le-Lac.

Intermediates have a huge choice of blue and red cruisers on either side of the valley or up on the glacier. For experts, Sache is an epic black run (when snow conditions are good), descending from the 2,478m (8,130ft) Aiguille Percée down to Tignes les Brévières (1,550m/5,085ft).

The off-piste skiing in Tignes is fantastic, but the less experienced should head first to Le Spot, a specially marked off-piste zone. Skiers and boarders can seek advice from the 'ski patrol' at the chalet, then practise using avalanche transceivers. The Naturides (ungroomed, but patrolled black runs) are a good next step, before progressing on to unpatrolled terrain.

Tignes ski resort is particularly good for snowboarding as there are relatively few flat areas (unless you head over to Val d'Isère) and plenty of wide, groomed trails. There's a good terrain park under the Palet chairlift, with jumps and rails for all levels, plus beginner and advanced halfpipes and a boardercross course.

**Tignes**

**Resort**

1550

**Base**

1550

**Top**

3450

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Outdoors, visitors can try ice diving, dog sledding, skijoring (being pulled along on skis or snowboard by a horse), ice skating on the lake or mountain biking on snow. Then there's horse riding, ice climbing, paragliding and even an ice-driving circuit. The most unique attraction at this resort, however, is the ice grotto at the top of the Grande Motte funicular with its glistening ice sculptures.

Back at the base is the Tignespace sports centre (tel: 04 7940 0440), which offers basketball, football, volleyball, tennis, squash and a climbing wall. The on-site auditorium is a good place to hear live music or see staged performances, so keep an eye out for regular events and concerts. Alternatively, catch the latest big screen hit at the cinema in Val Claret or attempt a ‘strike’ or two at the bowling alley in Le-Lac.

All ages will enjoy splashing about in Le Lagon (tel: 04 7940 2995), an indoor aquatic and wellness centre incorporating a 25m (82ft) pool, ‘fun pool’ with water slides, bubble beds and waterfalls, and a lavish spa.

**Family Fun**

The dedicated children's ski school Les Marmottons (tel: 04 7906 5167; [lesmarmottons.com](http://lesmarmottons.com/)) has its own specially marked areas and accepts children from age two-and-a-half to 10. Lessons are available in English. Caro Nonou (tel: 06 6153 9698) in Tignes-le-Lac can provide non-ski childcare.

In the evenings, the children's toboggan runs are always a big hit, while Le Lagon's (tel: 04 7940 2995) ‘fun pool’ can keep the kids happy throughout the day.

**Retail Therapy**

Tignes is no shopping mecca, but there are a reasonable number of ski and souvenir shops in which to seek out the perfect accessory or gift.

Visitors here can hunt for bargains in the ubiquitous Intersport sports shops (Tignes-le-Lac and Val Claret) with rack upon rack of ski gear and clothing. Snowboarders will also enjoy checking out specialist stores Snowpark (Galerie du Palafour; tel: 04 7906 5500) in Tignes-le-Lac and Black Cats (Place du Curling; tel: 04 7906 4246) in Val Claret.

There are a few fashion and souvenir shops in Tignes-le-Lac to explore, including Anthracite (le Rond Point des Pistes; tel: 04 7906 5849) in Val Claret for children’s wear and Boutique Berlingo in Tignes-le-Lac (tel: 04 7906 3857) for gifts.

**Splashing Out**

Take to the skies with a helicopter sightseeing flight over Tignes and the Espace Killy as a whole, which boasts magnificent mountain scenery. Flights are available through Evolution 2 (Rue de la Poste; tel: 04 7908 3529; [www.evolution2.com](http://www.evolution2.com/)).

**Apres Ski**

The nightlife scene is livelier over in Val d'Isère, but there are still enough venues for fun après-ski in Tignes. In Le Bec Rouge, Jam Bar (tel: 04 7900 2105) is popular with snowboarders and is open until 0100, while Jack's Club (tel: 04 7906 5484) has late-night dancing until 0500.

Up in Val Claret, Grizzly's Bar (tel: 04 7906 3417) and Couloir (tel: 04 7906 3264) provide more relaxed alternatives, with their selections of wines and cocktails respectively.

**Eating Out**

Many hotels offer half-board deals, but for those on a bed and breakfast rate or in an apartment, there are plenty of affordable restaurants in Tignes serving traditional Savoyard cooking or international favourites.

For those who wish to dine in style, head to Le Caveau (tel: 04 7906 5232) in Val Claret, or enjoy the views from the Hôtel L'Arbina's restaurant in Tignes-le-Lac (tel: 04 7906 3478; [www.hotel-arbina.com](http://www.hotel-arbina.com/)).

Alternatively, head up the mountain via funicular or snowcat for a traditional Savoyard dinner, then ski or sledge back down by torchlight. Further details are available from the tourist office (tel: 04 7940 0440).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

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

Distance to resort: 140km (88 miles); 175km (109 miles); 220km (137 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 50 minutes; 2 hours 50 minutes; 3 hours.

Nearest railway station: Bourg-Saint-Maurice.

Distance to resort: 31km (19 miles).

Driving time: 35 minutes.

**Getting Around**

The centre of Tignes is car free, so visitors must therefore leave their vehicle in a car park. There are lifts within walking distance of most accommodation; otherwise hop on the free ski buses that connect the different parts of Tignes (except Tignes les Brévières).

**Hotels**

There is a good choice of accommodation close to the slopes, mostly made up of catered chalets and a wide selection of apartments in all price ranges. The few hotels in Tignes are concentrated in Tignes-le-Lac and are mostly 2- to 4-star rated.

**Hôtel Le Dôme**

Linked to the other villages by a free bus service, the 2-star Hôtel Le Dôme has 14 rooms, a cosy restaurant serving local dishes and a small bar. Parking is available on-site.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Tignes 1800

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7922 6591.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-ledome-tignes.com

**Hôtel Le Lévanna**

Located at the foot of the slopes in Tignes-le-Lac, the pretty wood-clad Hôtel Le Lévanna has a restaurant with a terrace and a cosy bar. This conveniently located 3-star hotel also has parking space for guests.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Tignes-le-Lac

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7906 3294.

**Website**

http://www.levanna.com

**Hôtel Le Ski d'Or**

This 4-star hotel has modern rooms with balconies, as well as an on-site spa area with a sauna, hammam and Jacuzzi. The on-site restaurant serves gourmet local fare every day, as well as a seafood buffet on Thursdays, while the bar is a good spot for a relaxing drink at the end of the ski day.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Tignes Val Claret

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7906 5160.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-skidor.com

**Les Suites du Nevada**

Having recently been upgraded, this is Tignes’ first 5-star hotel. Situated in Val Claret, the all-suite accommodation here is complemented by a luxury spa, a chic bar and a gourmet eatery.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Tignes Val Claret

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 7941 6830.

**Website**

http://www.les-suites-du-nevada.com