**Verbier**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

19

**Intermediate Runs**

20

**Advanced Runs**

15

**Total Runs**

54

**Lifts**

34

**Chairs**

12

**Drags**

11

**Gondola Cable Cars**

11

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5.8m (19ft).

**Overview**

The iconic Swiss resort of Verbier, with its world-class terrain and legendary après-ski, remains among the top ski destinations in the Alps.

Compared with some Swiss resorts, Verbier is a relative newcomer to the ski scene: although there had been winter visitors here from the 1930s, serious skiing only really took off in the 1970s when it linked up with other local villages La Tzoumaz, Bruson, Nendaz, Siviez, Thyon and Veysonnaz to create the nation's largest ski region: Les 4 Vallées (The Four Valleys).

Despite this relatively late start to life as a ski resort, Verbier today numbers among Europe's most famous; it is best known for offering some of the world's toughest runs and most exciting off-piste skiing. And although quite a sizeable resort that was largely purpose-built in the post-war era, its chalet-style architecture provides all the charm of a large, traditional mountain village.

**Location**

Verbier is situated on the eastern side of the Val de Bagnes, within the Valais canton. This French-speaking part of Switzerland is in the southwest of the country, close to the borders with France and Italy.

**Website**

http://www.verbier.ch

http://www.verbierbooking.ch

**Piste Map**

http://www.verbier.ch/images/flash/planhiverA\_1012\_.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

Verbier is the main gateway to Les 4 Vallées ski area that features a sophisticated network of cable cars and gondolas providing easy access to 410km (255 miles) of marked runs, as well as some of Europe's best lift-served off-piste skiing. Queues for these lifts are normally minimal, although there can be bottlenecks in busy areas.

The resort’s high altitude and extensive snowmaking facilities means snow cover is not normally a problem throughout the season, especially on the Mont-Fort Glacier. As such, the ski season in Verbier – and Les 4 Vallées as a whole – runs from mid-November until late April.

Beginners and intermediates are well catered for in Les 4 Vallées with various schools, including the Swiss Ski School (tel: 027 775 3363; [www.verbierbooking.ch](http://www.verbierbooking.ch)) that offers introductory courses in skiing and snowboarding. There are nursery slopes for beginners and some easy runs at Savoleyres, La Chaux and Lac des Vaux to explore once they have mastered the basics.

Experienced skiers and boarders will enjoy some of Europe's steepest descents, including the infamous Mont-Fort and the World Cup downhill run in neighbouring Nendaz. There are also the demanding mogul fields, powder bowls and couloirs of vertiginous Tortin, Chassoure and Mont Gelé (classified as unpatrolled ‘itinerary routes', though technically off-piste).

Some of the ski schools offer advanced freeride clinics and heli-skiing. There is also a superb terrain park for boarders to enjoy.

**Verbier**

**Resort**

1500

**Base**

1400

**Top**

3330

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Winter sports enthusiasts can explore extensive marked winter hiking trails or opt to have a go at ice climbing, dog-sledding, curling, ice skating and tobogganing in Verbier and its surrounds.

Non-skiers can visit the resort's Alpine Museum (rue de la Bérarde) at le Hameau, and spend time in the village with its galleries, cinema, shops, tea rooms, swimming pool complex and spa facilities. For a more structured itinerary, there’s the option to join in the tourist office's themed walks and visits to local sights.

For those craving something a little more adrenaline-inducing, there’s an opportunity to see the slopes from above on a paragliding trip, or to explore the mountains on a guided climbing tour.

**Family Fun**

Verbier offers good facilities for families, with considerable reductions on lift pass prices (children under six are free). Most ski schools offer tuition for children. The Swiss Ski School's kids’ club (Chemin des Moulins; tel: 027 775 3363; [www.esecure.ch/verbier](http://www.esecure.ch/verbier)) has its own drag lift and takes children from three years upwards.

Other family facilities include nursery slopes, a 10km-long (6 miles) toboggan run from the top of Savoleyres to La Tzoumaz, a children’s playground, adventure trails and climbing walls.

Childcare options include Les Schtroumpfs (Chemin des Moulins 3; tel: 027 77165 85) for little ones aged from three months to three years, and Arc-en-Ciel (tel: 027 771 4469) nurseries from 18 months upwards.

**Retail Therapy**

Verbier has an extensive selection of more than 70 shops, including small fashion boutiques, specialised wine shops, art galleries and independent shops selling local products – the most exclusive establishments are mostly in Place Centrale and Rue de Médran. There is also the usual ski resort offering of grocers, convenience stores and ski rental shops in Verbier.

**Splashing Out**

For the ultimate in money-no-object Alpine chic, stay at The Lodge (tel: 027 775 2244; [www.thelodge.virgin.com](http://www.thelodge.virgin.com)); an exclusive hideaway located in the wooded fringes of the resort. Rustic, but luxurious, this chalet-hotel sleeps 18 (plus six children in the Kid's Bunk room), and boasts its own mini ice rink, indoor and outdoor pools, tailor-made cuisine and a stylish spa to soothe aching muscles after a day on the slopes.

**Apres Ski**

Verbier is as well known for its partying as its demanding skiing. In fact, the intoxicating mix of fashionable bars, traditional-style pubs and cosmopolitan clubs (open until the small hours) creates one of the most exciting après-ski scenes in the Alps. Friday and Saturday, in particular, are the big nights out due to a massive influx of well-heeled weekenders from Geneva and London.

Popular watering holes include Le Fer à Cheval (rue de Médran; tel: 027 771 2669 ; [www.feracheval.ch](http://www.feracheval.ch)), Pub Mont-Fort (Chemin de la Tinte 10; tel: 027 771 9062 ; [www.pubmontfort.com](http://www.pubmontfort.com)) and The Farinet (place Centrale 6; tel: 027 771 66 26 ; [www.hotelfarinet.com](http://www.hotelfarinet.com)).

After dinner, rub shoulders with celebrities and Verbier's beautiful people into the early hours at The Farm Club (route de Verbier; tel: 027 775 40 00; [www.hotelnevai.com](http://www.hotelnevai.com)), an Alpine institution has thrilled clubbers for more than 40 years.

**Eating Out**

Restaurants in Verbier offer everything from light mountain snacks to gourmet cuisine. Many of the best eateries here feature the hearty cuisine and fine wines of the Valais region.

On the slopes, dine at Cabane du Mont-Fort (tel: 027 778 1384; [www.cabanemontfort.ch](http://www.cabanemontfort.ch)) for nourishing soups and sandwiches; head to much-loved La Marmotte (Les Planards 6; tel: 027 771 6834) for fantastic rösti; or savour regional dishes at the celebrated Chez Dany (Hameau de Clambin 10; tel: 027 771 2524).

In the village itself, Au Vieux-Verbier (rue de Médran; tel: 027 771 1668) serves traditional Swiss mountain fare, while Le Caveau (place Centrale; tel: 027 771 2226), specialises in fondue and raclette.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Geneva International Airport (GVA).

Distance to resort: 161km (101 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours.

Nearest railway station: Le Châble.

Distance to resort: 8.5km (5 miles).

Driving time: 15 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Verbier is small enough to explore on foot, but free buses also run throughout the resort every five to 15 minutes during the day. There are no bus connections with the other resorts in Les 4 Vallées, for which taxis should be ordered.

**Hotels**

Verbier is very much a chalet town, with something for everyone. There are more luxury chalets here than you’ll find anywhere else (including several 5-star options). Given the size of Verbier, there are surprisingly few apartments and guesthouses; although nearby Le Châble has inexpensive bed and breakfast options for those on a budget. There are also a number of hotels in the resort, including a selection of 4-star, as well as a few simpler accommodation choices.

**The Lodge**

Sir Richard Branson's Alpine escape opened in 2007 and is available for exclusive weekly hire for up to 18 guests in nine stunning rooms and suites. Among the incredible facilities here are an indoor pool, ice rink, disco and driver on call 24 hours a day.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Chemin de Pléndazeu 3

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Verbier

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

027 775 2244.

**Website**

http://www.thelodge.virgin.com

**Hôtel de la Poste**

A popular and comfortable 3-star chalet hotel near the resort centre, Hôtel de la Poste features an indoor swimming pool and a homely restaurant.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Rue de Médran 12

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Verbier

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

027 771 6681.

**Website**

http://www.hotelposteverbier.ch

**The Bunker**

An underground hostel in a converted atomic bomb shelter, The Bunker offers cheap and basic dormitory-style accommodation. The hostel also allows guests free use of the pools and ice rink at the neighbouring sports centre.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Rue de la Piscine

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bagnes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

027 771 6601.

**Website**

http://www.centre-sportif-verbier.ch