**Les Deux Alpes**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Summer skiing

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

64

**Intermediate Runs**

18

**Advanced Runs**

10

**Total Runs**

92

**Lifts**

47

**Chairs**

21

**Drags**

20

**Gondola Cable Cars**

6

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

7m (23ft).

**Overview**

One of France’s longest established and most southerly ski areas, Les Deux Alpes is one of the world’s big hitters, with 225km (140 miles) of piste served by over 40 lifts, and over 2,000m (6,500ft) of skiable vertical. All of this is topped off by granting keen skiers access to Europe’s largest skiable glacier.

Behind these headline facts, Les Deux Alpes 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, one of three in France that re-opens for summer skiing and boarding. The downside of the layout though 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.

**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.les2alpes.com/en/ski-area.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 boasts 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, but also an impressive amount of off-piste skiing and 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) a few seasons ago. This has created a great beginners area, providing a snowsure place to learn with beautiful views of the mountains.

Quieter slopes are available near the Toura area, with runs (and off-piste terrain) down towards La Fee; or head further up to the bottom of the glacier for some decent cruising. Alternatively, a new blue run opened ahead of the 2015/16 season which, after great effort and expense, provides a much needed easy route back down to the resort.

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.

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 courts and other sports facilities. The resort also offers bowling alleys, a climbing wall, paragliding excursions, helicopter flights, snowshoeing trails, 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 local donkey petting farm.

There are several ski schools in Les Deux Alpes. Among them, the British-run European Ski & Snowboard School (tel: +33 4 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 (tel: +33 4 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, as well as trendier spots such as Quiksilver (82 Avenue de la Muzelle) offering designer gear.

The La Marjolaine chocolate shop (114 avenue de la Muzelle), 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: +33 479 080 091; [www.saf-helicopters.com](http://www.saf-helicopters.com/)).

**Apres Ski**

There is a huge selection of après-ski bars in Les Deux Alpes catering to all crowds.

Notable establishments include the British-themed Pub Le Windsor (tel: +33 476 792 295) and Smithy's Tavern (tel: +33 476 11 3679; [www.smithystavern.com](http://www.smithystavern.com/)), a cavernous restaurant, bar and party spot that attracts a lively crowd. Motown Café (tel: +33 476 805 547) 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 60 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 (tel: +33 476 805 002) serves quality food at decent prices and is good for a family meal; while Le Cellier (3 Place de Venosc) and Le Paellou (tel: +33 476 805 154) specialise in hearty, traditional food.

Other good choices include Casa Nostra (tel: +33 476 792 910), which receives consistent rave reviews for its beautiful meals and evening specials, including the regular sushi night. The intimate Chez Le Gaulois (70 avenue de la Muzelle) is also great, especially for its fondue and other regional French specialities.

For high-class gastronomy, try Le Raisin d’Ours (tel: +33 476 792 956; [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.

**Hotel Les Cimes**

A 4-star chalet hotel located in a quieter part of the resort, Hotel Les Cimes is just a short walk from the nearest chairlift and 100m (330ft) from the slopes. The hotel has a proud reputation for excellent food and high service standards.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Route de la poste

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Les Deux Alpes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 38860

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 270 038

**Website**

www.hotel-les-cimes.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 run 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**

F 38860

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 805 690

**Website**

www.chalet-mounier.com

**Lutins Hotel**

Located in the heart of the resort, the Lutins Hotel is situated within walking distance of the lifts. The hotel houses simple yet spacious rooms with free Wi-Fi. A continental breakfast is included in the room rate.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

84 avenue Muzelle

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Venosc

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 38860

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 792 152

**Website**

www.hotel-les-lutins.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**

F 38860

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 792 430

**Website**

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**

F 38860

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 805 489

**Website**

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**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

40 avenue de la Muzelle

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Les Deux Alpes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 38860

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 476 792 243

**Website**

www.les2alpesleisure.com